

Union Calendar No. 514

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2956

[Report No. 116–629]

To provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife
Refuge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2019

Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. TAKANO) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 8, 2020

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 23, 2019]

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside
County Wildlife Refuge.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in*
5 *this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), acting through the*
6 *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish as*
7 *a national wildlife refuge the lands, waters, and interests*
8 *therein acquired under section 4. The national wildlife ref-*
9 *uge shall be known as the Western Riverside County Na-*
10 *tional Wildlife Refuge (in this Act referred to as the “Wild-*
11 *life Refuge”).*

12 *(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Wildlife Refuge*
13 *shall be—*

14 *(1) to conserve, manage, and restore wildlife*
15 *habitats for the benefit of present and future genera-*
16 *tions of Americans;*

17 *(2) to conserve species listed as threatened or en-*
18 *dangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973*
19 *(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the California Endangered*
20 *Species Act (California Fish and Game Code 2050–*
21 *2068), or which is a covered species under the West-*
22 *ern Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Con-*
23 *servation Plan;*

24 *(3) to support the recovery and protection of*
25 *threatened and endangered species under the Endan-*

1 *gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);*
 2 *and*

3 *(4) to provide for wildlife habitat connectivity*
 4 *and migratory corridors within the Western Riverside*
 5 *County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan*
 6 *Area.*

7 *(c) NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Sec-*
 8 *retary shall publish notice of the establishment of the Wild-*
 9 *life Refuge in the Federal Register.*

10 **SEC. 2. BOUNDARIES.**

11 *The Secretary shall include within the boundaries of*
 12 *the Wildlife Refuge the lands and waters within the Western*
 13 *Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation*
 14 *Plan Area (as depicted on maps and described in the Final*
 15 *Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Con-*
 16 *servation Plan dated June 17, 2003) that are owned by the*
 17 *Federal Government, a State, or a political subdivision of*
 18 *a State on the date of enactment of this Act.*

19 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION.**

20 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the establishment of the Wild-*
 21 *life Refuge and thereafter, the Secretary shall administer*
 22 *all federally owned lands, waters, and interests in the Wild-*
 23 *life Refuge in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge*
 24 *System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et*
 25 *seq.) and this Act. The Secretary may use such additional*

1 *statutory authority as may be available to the Secretary*
2 *for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish*
3 *and wildlife and natural resources, the development of com-*
4 *patible wildlife dependent outdoor recreation opportunities,*
5 *and the facilitation of fish and wildlife interpretation and*
6 *education as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry*
7 *out the purposes of this Act and serve the objectives of the*
8 *Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Con-*
9 *servation Plan.*

10 **(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS REGARDING NON-**
11 *FEDERAL LANDS.—The Secretary may enter into coopera-*
12 *tive agreements with the State of California, any political*
13 *subdivision thereof, or any other person—*

14 *(1) for the management, in a manner consistent*
15 *with this Act and the Western Riverside County Mul-*
16 *tiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, of lands*
17 *that are owned by such State, subdivision, or other*
18 *person and located within the boundaries of the Wild-*
19 *life Refuge;*

20 *(2) to promote public awareness of the natural*
21 *resources of the Western Riverside County Multiple*
22 *Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area; or*

23 *(3) to encourage public participation in the con-*
24 *servation of those resources.*

1 **SEC. 4. ACQUISITION AND TRANSFERS OF LANDS AND**
2 **WATERS FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

3 (a) *ACQUISITIONS.*—*In addition to lands and waters*
4 *acquired pursuant to section 2, the Secretary may acquire*
5 *by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds,*
6 *or exchange the lands and water, or interest therein (includ-*
7 *ing conservation easements), within the boundaries of the*
8 *Wildlife Refuge, except that the lands, water, and interests*
9 *therein owned by the State of California and its political*
10 *subdivisions may be acquired only by donation.*

11 (b) *TRANSFERS.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The head of any Federal de-*
13 *partment or agency other than the Department of the*
14 *Interior that has jurisdiction of any Federal property*
15 *located within the boundaries of the Wildlife Refuge*
16 *as described by this Act shall, not later than 1 year*
17 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to*
18 *the Secretary an assessment of the suitability of such*
19 *property for inclusion in the Wildlife Refuge.*

20 (2) *ASSESSMENT.*—*Any assessment under para-*
21 *graph (1) shall include—*

22 (A) *parcel descriptions and best existing*
23 *land surveys for such property;*

24 (B) *a list of existing special reservations,*
25 *designations, or purposes of the property;*

1 (C) a list of all known or suspected haz-
 2 ardous substance contamination of such prop-
 3 erty, and any facilities, surface water, or
 4 groundwater on such property;

5 (D) the status of withdrawal of such prop-
 6 erty from—

7 (i) the Mineral Leasing Act; and

8 (ii) the General Mining Act of 1872;

9 and

10 (E) a recommendation as to whether such
 11 property is or is not suitable for inclusion in the
 12 Wildlife Refuge.

13 (3) INCLUSION IN WILDLIFE REFUGE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, not
 15 later than 60 days after receiving an assessment
 16 submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), determine
 17 if the property described in such assessment is
 18 suitable for inclusion in the Wildlife Refuge.

19 (B) TRANSFER.—If the Secretary deter-
 20 mines the property in an assessment submitted
 21 under paragraph (1) is suitable for inclusion in
 22 the Wildlife Refuge, the head of the Federal de-
 23 partment or agency that has jurisdiction of such
 24 property shall transfer such property to the ad-

1 *ministrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the*
2 *purposes of this Act.*

3 (4) *PROPERTY UNSUITABLE FOR INCLUSION.*—

4 *Property determined by the Secretary to be unsuitable*
5 *for inclusion in the Wildlife Refuge based on an as-*
6 *essment submitted under paragraph (1) shall be sub-*
7 *sequently transferred to the Secretary for purposes of*
8 *this Act by the head of the department or agency that*
9 *has jurisdiction of such property if such property be-*
10 *comes suitable for inclusion in the Wildlife Refuge as*
11 *determined by the Secretary in consultation with the*
12 *head of the department or agency that has jurisdic-*
13 *tion of such property.*

14 (5) *PUBLIC ACCESS.*—*If property transferred to*
15 *the Secretary under this subsection allows for public*
16 *access at the time of transfer, such access shall be*
17 *maintained unless such access—*

18 (A) *would be incompatible with the pur-*
19 *poses of the Wildlife Refuge;*

20 (B) *would jeopardize public health or safe-*
21 *ty; or*

22 (C) *must be limited due to emergency cir-*
23 *cumstances.*

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