

landowner to build the road at the parcel's border.

Approached by the Trust for Public Land [TPL] in August, 1995, the landowner expressed interest in selling the parcel, should another parcel of comparable value be made available. TPL this month wrote to the landowner to express willingness to work toward a rapid, all-cash acquisition of the property to preserve the land's valuable natural resources.

Clearly, the range of efforts to conserve Waihee Marsh are wide in scope.

My bill seeks to allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire and add the Waihee Marsh to the existing Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex managed out of Haleiwa on Oahu. Establishment of a new on-site management office would not be necessary because Haleiwa staff would visit the wetland on a rotating basis, along with the Pearl Harbor and James Campbell National Wildlife Refuges on Oahu and the Kakahaia National Wildlife Refuge on the Island of Molokai.

This palustrine wetland contains bird habitat mainly in its interior, which is subject to prolonged ponding during rainy seasons and overgrown at the edges with introduced vegetation that serves as a buffer for the inner wetlands. Waihee Marsh is also framed by embankments to protect the wetland from surrounding man-made developments.

In addition to having conservation value, the wetland provides flood control for nearby areas of Waihee and Kaalaea. It also captures and retains stormwater runoff to preserve coral ecosystems and water quality of the adjacent Kaneohe Bay.

Passage of my bill will allow FWS to fulfill several management priorities it has recognized, which would restore and maintain Waihee Marsh as a healthy, naturally-functioning wetland: First, dredging of sediments to improve water quality and recreate suitable waterbird habitat, second, predator control to humanely trap cats, mongooses and rats; prevent entry of dogs by fences, and prevent predator access to nesting sites, third, removal of introduced plant species which have overgrown parts of the wetland, and fourth, general habitat improvement to create and maintain a mosaic of waterbird habitats such as shallow mudflats, deeper open water areas, dense vegetative areas and other natural wetland features.

FWS has also found possibilities of educational benefits through establishment of outlooks along the adjacent Kamehameha Highway and student field-trips. Because Waihee Marsh was once farmed by Native Hawaiians, the analysis of archaeological and cultural sites would contribute to the study of Hawaii's indigenous people.

I strongly urge the enactment of H.R. 1772. Conservation of Waihee Marsh has unanimous support from the community, Federal, State, and local government, and environmental interests, and would play an important role in Hawaii's efforts to combat its endangered species crisis.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND,
San Francisco, CA, April 22, 1996.

Hon. PATSY MINK,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MINK: I am writing to commend you on your efforts through H.R. 1772 to secure the protection of the important wetland habitat of Waihee Marsh on Oahu.

As you know well, the 36-acre Waihee Marsh area contains some of the last remaining unprotected habitat for the federally listed Hawaiian moorhen and provides critical feeding grounds and nesting cover for a wide diversity of other migratory and residential species. Additionally, the marsh, which is subject to periodic flooding, also provides essential filtration of waters flowing to the coral reefs and estuarine areas of nearby Kaneohe Bay. Public management of this property therefore would not only preserve and enhance the resources of the marsh itself, but will also contribute substantially to the restoration of this larger ecosystem, a major environmental goal towards which your recent work with us (and the federal/state/local investment of over \$6 million) to protect the 2.5 miles of Kaneohe Bay shoreline of the Marks Estate also plays a major role. With the progress to date in this effort, and the current threat of incompatible activity and development at Waihee Marsh, the time is right for consideration of H.R. 1772.

As you also know, the Trust for Public Land is prepared to take an active role, to the extent we can, in assisting in the acquisition of these private lands if such assistance is necessary. In any event, we appreciate the commitment and leadership you have shown in this effort, and look forward to the ultimate preservation of this vital wetland area.

Sincerely,

ALAN FRONT,
Vice President.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I second the remarks of the gentlewoman from Hawaii, all of Hawaii except for Honolulu.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentlewoman on the fine job she has done in putting this bill together and in helping us to bring it to the floor.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 1772, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge, introduced by my colleague from Hawaii, Representative PATSY MINK.

The Waihee Marsh, also called the Kahalu'u wetland, is located on the windward side of Oahu. Acquisition of Waihee Marsh is vital to the integrity of the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge [Refuge]. The purpose of the refuge is to protect and manage a network of wetlands throughout Oahu for the recovery of endangered waterbirds, migratory birds, and other values of natural wetlands. Specifically, Waihee Marsh is identified as a priority wetland site in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional wetlands concept plan: Emergency Wetlands Resource Act [USFWS 1990]. Throughout Hawaii there has been a substantial cumulative loss of wetlands.

I would like to point out to my colleagues in the House that the natural environment of Hawaii is one of our planet's most significant treasures. The islands are home to more unique species than any place of similar size on the Earth. Yet, Hawaii has the most alarming concentration of species teetering on the brink of extinction. While Hawaii makes up only 0.2 percent of the land area we account for nearly 75 percent of the Nation's historically documented plant and bird extinctions of the United States. Currently, more than one-

fourth of the 959 animals and plants on the U.S. endangered and threatened species list come from Hawaii.

Under H.R. 1772 Waihee Marsh would be rehabilitated and managed for the recovery and support of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, such as the endangered Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian moorhen and Hawaiian duck, which are all protected under the Endangered Species Act. Also, wetlands in Hawaii provide habitat for several species of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

I want to mention to my colleagues that the importance of Waihee Marsh is not limited to plants and animals. This has been an issue that has been worked from the grassroots. I commend all the hard work put in by the local communities. The Waihee Marsh is important for the surrounding communities because it naturally serves as a flood control holding area and the vegetation contributes to the control of shoreline erosion for nearby residential areas. Also, the marsh serves as a filter to protect water quality and coral reef communities in Kaneohe Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this is a worthwhile piece of legislation that deserves the full support of all my colleagues.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1772, introduced by our colleague from Hawaii, PATSY MINK, to add some 36 acres of wetlands to the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge complex.

It is my understanding that these wetlands are essential habitat for a number of native Hawaiian birds and migratory waterfowl.

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has apparently been interested in acquiring the entire Waihee Marsh wetlands for a number of years, the purchase costs have been prohibitive.

This bill will simply tell the Secretary of the Interior that he may obtain these lands for inclusion in the refuge without providing any money to buy them.

While I intend to support H.R. 1772, I do so with the stipulation that if these wetlands are purchased by the Federal Government, all private property owners must be willing sellers and they must be fully compensated for their land interests.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1772.

Mr. SEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SEXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1772, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMAGANSETT NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1836) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, NY, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1836

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE AMAGANSETT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY.**—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge, the area known as the Shadmoor Parcel, consisting of approximately 98 acres (as determined by the Secretary) located along the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to municipal park land in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York.

(b) **MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED INTERESTS.**—Lands and interests acquired by the United States under this section shall be managed by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY].

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LONGLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 1836, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, NY, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge. This legislation was introduced by Congressman MICHAEL FORBES on June 14, 1995. An identical bill was proposed by New York Senators PATRICK MOYNIHAN and AL D'AMATO on November 17, 1995.

These measures would allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire a 98-acre ocean-front parcel of land in Montauk, East Hampton Town, NY, known as Shadmoor. The land would be added to the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge, which is part of the Long Island Refuge complex located 10 miles to the west. The town of East Hampton owns a 20-acre parcel of land adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Shadmoor property.

Currently, title to the Shadmoor property is held by private individuals who are interested in developing a housing project on this site. In fact, the owners are proposing to build 14 homes and have a development permit pending before the town of East Hampton.

The Shadmoor parcel does contain one of the largest populations of New York State's most endangered plant, a flowering plant that lives in only 12 places in the world; 4 of these locations are on Long Island. In addition, this property contains six other rare plants and historic World War II coastal de-

fenses. The Shadmoor property consists of maritime shrub land, freshwater wetlands, and maritime grasslands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been interested in this property for a number of years. In fact, the Shadmoor parcel was targeted for acquisition in the Service's 1991 Northeast Coastal Areas study. To date, they have lacked the financial resources to buy this 98-acre parcel of land. On November 3, 1995, the East Hampton Town Board approved a resolution expressing their commitment to share the acquisition cost of the Shadmoor property with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service hopes to pursue acquisition in partnership with the town and private land protection groups.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of Federal lands that have been acquired for the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife. Totalling about 91.7 million acres, the System provides habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 165 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The first wildlife refuge was established by President Theodore Roosevelt at Pelican Island, FL, in 1903 to protect egrets, herons, and other birds that were being killed to provide feathers for the fashion industry.

The Shadmoor property will provide a useful addition to the System, and I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct. As a matter of fact, there is probably not much left to be said, which has probably been noticed by the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES].

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Maine and my colleague from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1836 has been described quite adequately, and I take the well today to urge the adoption of H.R. 1836, legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to move forward in the purchase of Shadmoor and make it a part of the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important activity, one that I think is of eminent importance, given the fact that the Town of East Hampton has before it an application to develop this esthetic, historical and ecologically delicate property, something I think that we do not want to see certainly in my part of the world. The Shadmoor property, which has been described as a 98-acre dramatic ocean front property, is critical to the area of Montauk that this parcel rests on.

It is fitting, I think, also to recognize that Theodore Roosevelt, who began the national refuge system, spent some time on this parcel. In fact in 1898, when the 10th Black Cavalry returned from Cuba with the Rough Riders, they deployed from this site. So there is some ironic association between this parcel and of course the individual who started the whole national refuge system.

The Amagansett Wildlife Refuge would be well served to have this important parcel included. Not only is this parcel the siting of some habitat of plant species that are rather rare, and my colleague has already alluded to the fact that the sandplain gerardia, one of New York State's rarest plants, there are only five places left on Long Island where this rare species of plant is located. Of course Shadmoor is one of those critically located sites.

Shadmoor also is home to six State rare species, including the grasslead ladies tresses orchid and the New England blazing star. Shadmoor, as I said, was the site of the deployment of the 10th Black Cavalry as well as the site during World War II where bunkers were built that can still be seen today.

This legislation is critically important. I think, before we go too further, I would like to recognize first of all some individuals who have been laboring long and hard to try to preserve Shadmoor in perpetuity. Certainly I think the Nature Conservancy, Sara Davidson and Stuart Lowry from the Nature Conservancy on Long Island. Also Carol Morrison and Rau Fridel of the Concerned Citizens of Montauk. And of course the Town Board and Town of East Hampton have all championed the preservation of Shadmoor.

It is critical that this legislation receive approval not just by the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate but that it be signed into law. I believe that, thanks to the support of director Mollie Beatty of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that we have moved forward and that it is highly likely that we can get this included in the Amagansett Wildlife Refuge.

This important parcel obviously needs to be preserved. Long Island and New York State have received almost no Federal dollars over the last 20 years for the acquisition of lands to protect endangered species. Nationally few dollars have been used to protect the habitat of critically imperiled plant species. Preserving 98 acres of dramatic ocean front at Montauk, Long Island will be an important addition to this whole national refuge system.

I thank both the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] my good friend, for moving this legislation forward and for making it possible for the House to take into consideration this legislation today.

I urge its adoption.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I was wrong. There was more to be said. I agree with this gentleman, too.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House H.R. 1836, introduced by our colleague from New York, MIKE FORBES, to add a 98-acre ocean-front parcel of land in Montauk, NY, to the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge.

During our committee's deliberations on this bill, a local supervisor and a group of concerned citizens testified in strong support of protecting this property called Shadmoor, which is essential habitat for several highly endangered plants.

While it is unclear how much it will cost the Federal Government to purchase this tract of land, I am encouraged by the fact that the local community in the Town of East Hampton, NY, has voted to share in the acquisition costs. This is a positive step in the right direction.

I am prepared to support H.R. 1836 based on this innovative cost-sharing commitment and the stipulation that those private citizens who now own Shadmoor are fully compensated for their property prior to its inclusion in the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge complex.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1836 and I compliment Congressman MIKE FORBES for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 1836, the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge Act, which was introduced by Representative MICHAEL FORBES.

H.R. 1836 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire a 98-acre ocean-front parcel of land in Montauk, East Hampton Town, NY, known as Shadmoor.

This parcel contains one of the largest populations of New York State's most endangered plant, the sandplain gerardia.

The Shadmoor property represents valuable habitat for this endangered plant. I urge all Members to support the legislation.

Mr. STUDDS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill. H.R. 1836.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1836, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AUTHORIZATION INCREASE

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2660) to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2660

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR THE TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

Section 5(1) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge", approved June 28, 1980 (Public Law 96-285, 94 Stat. 597), as amended by section 2 of Public Law 99-191 (99 Stat. 1327), is amended to read as follows:

"(1) beginning October 1, 1995, not to exceed \$20,000,000 to the Department of the Interior; and".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES].

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 2660, a bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge. This bill was introduced by Congressman JIM MCCRERY on November 17, 1995. It will increase the amount that is authorized to be appropriated, for the acquisition of land, in the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in Talulah, LA.

The Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge was established on June 28, 1980, by Public Law 96-285 to preserve the largest remaining privately owned bottom land and hardwood tract in the Lower Mississippi River Delta. The act has authorized \$20 million for land acquisition, through the Department of the Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The diverse habitat at the Tensas River Refuge supports a tremendous variety of wildlife, including the largest white-tailed deer herd in Louisiana, bald eagles, numerous species of small mammals and birds, and the Louisiana black bear. The Tensas River population is one of only two known populations of this subspecies in existence.

The wetlands, lakes, and bayous in the refuge provide habitat for an equally diverse variety of aquatic life including fish, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans, and the American alligator. This aquatic habitat is particularly important because the Tensas River is the only major waterway in the Louisiana delta that has not been extensively altered by channelization.

To date, Congress has appropriated \$20 million for land acquisition at the

refuge, but additional funds may be necessary to complete the acquisition process. H.R. 2660 authorizes an additional \$20 million for land acquisition, subject of course to appropriations. The bill will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire the remaining critical lands necessary to complete the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

At present, the National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of 508 refuges, which are located in all 50 States and 5 U.S. territories. These units range in size from a single acre refuge in Minnesota, to the 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. In the last decade, 81 refuges and approximately 3.6 million acres have been added to the System.

The Tensas River Refuge is an important component in this nationwide system, and I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill and, I hesitate to add, costs a little bit more than the Boston Harbor Island so I can assume we are going to get enormous support when the time comes. It is an excellent bill, and I urge Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. MCCRERY].

(Mr. MCCRERY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] for yielding me this time. I do not intend to use all of it. Mr. JONES eloquently stated the reasons for introduction of the bill and reasons for Members to vote for it today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SAXTON and the ranking member, Mr. STUDDS, from the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans for their willingness to support this bill and for their work in bringing it to the floor today.

The Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is a case study in responsible environmental policy. Created in 1980, the refuge now includes some 64,000 acres in Madison and Tensas parishes in northeastern Louisiana and represents a commitment to preserving the largest single tract of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Mississippi River Delta. Widely supported in the community, the refuge has been constituted entirely from land acquired through donations or by purchases from willing sellers.

The bottomland forests in the refuge provide habitat for a diverse array of greenery. In addition, over 400 animal species make their home in the Tensas Refuge. Among endangered species, the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon make occasional appearances. Of particular note, the Tensas Refuge is the home of the largest remaining population of the Louisiana Black Bear.