

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2462

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge
in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2000

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National
Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the
6 Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is 1 of the
7 last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley
8 that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of
9 the river;

6 (3) Cat Island is important habitat for several
7 declining species of forest songbirds and supports
8 thousands of wintering waterfowl;

9 (4) Cat Island supports high populations of
10 deer, turkey, and furbearing mammals, such as mink
11 and bobcats;

12 (5) forested wetland on Cat Island—

13 (A) represents 1 of the most valuable and
14 productive wildlife habitats in the United
15 States; and

16 (B) has high recreational value for hunt-
17 ers, fishermen, birdwatchers, nature photog-
18 raphers, and others; and

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
4 Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge established by
5 section 3(a).

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
8 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
9 ice.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF REFUGE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a unit of the
12 National Wildlife Refuge System to be known as the “Cat
13 Island National Wildlife Refuge” in West Feliciana Par-
14 ish, Louisiana.

15 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The Refuge shall consist of the
16 land and waters (including any interest in the land or wa-
17 ters) acquired by the Secretary for the Refuge under—

18 (1) subsection (d); or
19 (2) any other law.

20 (c) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
21 shall publish a notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

22 (1) in the Federal Register; and
23 (2) in publications of local circulation in the vi-
24 cinity of the Refuge.

25 (d) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall seek to ac-
26 quire for inclusion in the Refuge, by purchase, exchange,

1 or donation, approximately 36,500 acres of land and adja-
2 cent waters (including interests in the land or adjacent
3 waters) of Cat Island, Louisiana, as depicted on the map
4 entitled "Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge, Proposed",
5 dated February 8, 2000, which shall be available for in-
6 spection in the appropriate offices of the United States
7 Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES OF REFUGE.**

9 The purposes of the Refuge are—

10 (1) to conserve, enhance, and restore the native
11 bottomland community characteristics of the lower
12 Mississippi alluvial valley (including associated fish,
13 wildlife, and plant species);

14 (2) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to
15 maintain and assist in the recovery of animals (such
16 as the Louisiana black bear) and plants that are
17 listed as endangered species or threatened species
18 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
19 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

20 (3) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitats
21 as necessary to contribute to the migratory bird pop-
22 ulation goals and habitat objectives as established
23 through the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
24 under the North American Wetlands Conservation
25 Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.);

1 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all
3 land and waters (including any interest in land or waters)
4 acquired under section 3(d) in accordance with—

5 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Ad-
6 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

7 (2) Public Law 87-714 (commonly known as
8 the “Refuge Recreation Act”) (16 U.S.C. 460k et
9 seq.); and

10 (3) the purposes of the Refuge described in sec-
11 tion 4.

12 (b) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
13 may use such additional statutory authority as is available
14 to the Secretary to conduct projects and activities at the
15 Refuge in accordance with this Act, including projects or
16 activities to conserve or develop—

17 (1) wildlife and natural resources;

18 (2) water supplies;

19 (3) water control structures;

20 (4) outdoor recreational activity programs; and

21 (5) interpretive education programs.

22 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**

23 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
24 retary such sums as are necessary for—

25 (1) the acquisition of interests in land and wa-
26 ters described in section 3(d)(1); and

