

Public Law 96-267
96th Congress

An Act

To establish the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.

June 9, 1980

[H.R. 6727]

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

Bon Secour
National
Wildlife Refuge,
establishment.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

SECTION 1. The Congress finds that—

- (1) Alabama's shore near the mouth of Mobile Bay contains highly significant and varied wildlife habitat and supports important aquatic nurseries;
- (2) the area is a critical resting and feeding site for birds of two flyways on their pilgrimages to and from Central and South America;
- (3) nationally endangered and threatened species, such as the brown pelican, bald eagle, and several species of sea turtles, as well as many more species identified by the State to be of special concern, are indigenous to this ecosystem;
- (4) this habitat should be preserved to ensure the well-being of these and other species, to serve as a living laboratory for scientists and students and to provide wildlife-oriented recreation for the public.

16 USC 668dd
note.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. For purposes of this Act—

- (1) the term "refuge" means the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge;
- (2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior; and
- (3) the term "selection area" means those lands and waters in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama, depicted on the map entitled "Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Selection Area," dated March, 1980 and on file at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE

SEC. 3. (a) SELECTION.—(1) Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall—

- (A) designate approximately ten thousand acres of land and water within the selection area as land which the Secretary considers appropriate for the refuge; and
- (B) publish in the Federal Register a detailed map depicting the boundaries of the land designated under subparagraph (A), which map shall be on file and available for public inspection at offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Publication in
Federal
Register.

(2) The Secretary may make such minor revisions in the boundaries designated under paragraph 1(B) of this subsection as may be appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Act or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the refuge.

(b) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall acquire (by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange) lands, waters, or interests therein, within the boundaries designated under subsection (a)(1)(B).

Publication in Federal Register.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, by publication of a notice to that effect in the Federal Register, whenever sufficient property has been acquired under this section to constitute an area that can be effectively managed as a refuge.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall administer all lands, waters, and interests therein, acquired under this Act in accordance with the provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) to conserve an undisturbed beach-dune ecosystem which includes a diversity of fish and wildlife, and their habitat. The Secretary may utilize such additional statutory authority as may be available to him for the conservation and development of wildlife and natural resources, the development of outdoor recreation opportunities, and interpretive education as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of the refuge.

Appropriation authorization.

SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior, not to exceed—

(1) \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1980, and ending September 30, 1981, \$8,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1981, and ending September 30, 1983, and \$9,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1983 and ending September 30, 1985, for the acquisition of the refuge; and

(2) \$1,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1980, for the development of the refuge.

These sums are to remain available until expended.

Approved June 9, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

- HOUSE REPORT No. 96-895 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).
- SENATE REPORT No. 96-740 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).
- CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):
 - May 5, considered and passed House.
 - May 22, considered and passed Senate.