

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY
MODIFICATION ACT

DECEMBER 12, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6427]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6427) to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act”.

SEC. 2. RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

Section 3(a)(1) of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act (Public Law 106-300; 114 Stat. 1055) is amended by striking “map entitled ‘Red River National Wildlife Refuge—Selection Area’, dated September 5, 2000” and inserting “map entitled ‘Red River National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Boundary’ and dated March 21, 2022”.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6427 is to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Red River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was created when the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act was signed into

law on October 13, 2000.¹ The Refuge consists of nearly 50,000 acres of Federal lands and waters, stretching about 120 miles along portions of the Red River between Colfax, Louisiana, and the Arkansas state line. Every year, approximately 80,000 waterfowl utilize the Refuge as a place for feeding and resting, and over 200 species of neotropical migratory songbirds stop over at the Refuge.

In 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed a Strategic Action Plan for Waterfowl Management in the Southeast, which established the Waterfowl Working Group to increase waterfowl management efficiency on NWRs. In 2020, the Group finalized consistent waterfowl targets across the southeast region for waterfowl and sandhill cranes and found that the current land of the Red River NWR does not produce enough food for the number of birds that visit, and the Refuge would need to expand.²

H.R. 6427 modifies the Red River NWR's acquisition boundary to allow for the conveyance of a 3,300-acre tract of privately owned land. This expansion will help address the food deficit for waterfowl. In addition, FWS anticipates additional benefits, such as local economic benefits through partnerships with local farmers, enhanced public access within and outside the Refuge, and substantial waterfowl distribution throughout the region.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6427 was introduced on January 19, 2022, by Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. On March 29, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On December 8, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) offered an amendment designated Grijalva amendment #1. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held on March 29, 2022.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

¹Pub. L. 106-300.

²Hagy, H., R. Wilson, J. Stanton, and Z. Cravens. 2020. A Process for Establishing Waterfowl Conservation Objectives for National Wildlife Refuges in the Southeast Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/175323>.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as well as clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received the following materials for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues of Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules in the House of Representatives Week of December 12, 2022						
Bill Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects	Link to Published Estimates	Suspension Bill Text at docs.house.gov
H.R. 1082	Sam's Law	None	Increase by Less Than \$500K			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr3082-SUS.pdf
H.R. 2551	Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act	None	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58057	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr2551-SUS.pdf
H.R. 5715	To reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart U. Udall Trust Fund, as amended	Increase by at Least \$500K	None	Increase direct spending by \$1 million over the 2023-2032 period		https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr5715-SUS.pdf
H.R. 6427	Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act, as amended	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr6427-SUS.pdf
H.R. 6611	To authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes, as amended	Reduce by Less Than \$500K	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr6611-SUS.pdf
H.R. 7077	Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act	None	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58561	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr7077-SUS.pdf
H.R. 7496	To direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733	None	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58772	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr7496-SUS.pdf
H.R. 7952	Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act	Reduce by Less Than \$500K	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117hr7952-SUS.pdf
S. 7	A bill to make a technical amendment to the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s7-SUS.pdf
S. 314	Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act	None	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57071	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s314-SUS.pdf
S. 789	RESPECT Act	None	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57422	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s789-SUS.pdf
S. 1466	Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States Program Act	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s1466-SUS.pdf
S. 2991	Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2022	Increase by Less Than \$500K	None		https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57773	https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s2991-SUS.pdf
S. 5050	Paul D. Wellstone Building Act of 2022	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/billshtml/eh/20221212/BILLS-117s5050-SUS.pdf

Source: Congressional Budget Office

The Committee adopts as its own any finalized additional materials of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office regarding the bill, should such materials be made available before House passage of the bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the *Congressional Record* upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

* * * * *

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF REFUGE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of approximately 50,000 acres of Federal lands, waters, and interests therein within the boundaries depicted upon the [map entitled “Red River National Wildlife Refuge—Selection Area”, dated September 5, 2000] *map entitled “Red River National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Boundary” and dated March 21, 2022.*

(2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary shall make such minor revisions of the boundaries of the Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the Refuge.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary shall keep the map referred to in paragraph (1) available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Refuge are the following:

(1) To provide for the restoration and conservation of native plants and animal communities on suitable sites in the Red River basin, including restoration of extirpated species.

(2) To provide habitat for migratory birds.

(3) To provide technical assistance to private land owners in the restoration of their lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take effect on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity of the area within the boundaries referred to in that paragraph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired by the United States within those boundaries to constitute an area that can be efficiently managed as a National Wildlife Refuge.

* * * * *

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.

○