

Public Law 95-616
95th Congress

An Act

Nov. 8, 1978
[H.R. 2329]

To improve the administration of fish and wildlife programs, and for other purposes.

Fish and Wildlife
Improvement Act
of 1978.
16 USC 742a
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978".

SEC. 2. FISH AND WILDLIFE COOPERATIVE UNITS ASSISTANCE.

The first section of the Act of September 2, 1960 (74 Stat. 733; 16 U.S.C. 753a) is amended—

(1) by striking out "technical personnel" and inserting in lieu thereof "scientific personnel"; and

(2) by inserting immediately after "respective units," the following: "to the provision of assistance (including reasonable financial compensation) for the work of researchers on fish and wildlife ecology and resource management projects funded under this subsection".

16 USC 742l.

SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

(a) **LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM.**—(1) In order to provide for and encourage training, research, and development for the purpose of improving fish and wildlife law enforcement and developing new methods for the prevention, detection, and reduction of violation of fish and wildlife laws, and the apprehension of violators of such laws, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each—

(A) establish and conduct national training programs to provide, at the request of any State, training for State fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel;

(B) develop new or improved approaches, techniques, systems, equipment, and service to improve and strengthen fish and wildlife law enforcement; and

(C) assist in conducting, at the request of any appropriate State official, local or regional training programs for the training of State fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel.

Such training programs shall be conducted to the maximum extent practicable through established programs.

(2) There are authorized to be appropriated beginning with fiscal year 1980 such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of subsection (b), and the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each require reimbursement from the States for expenditures made pursuant to subsections (b)(1)(A) and (C).

(b) **LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, the personnel, services and facilities of any other Federal or State agency to the extent he deems it necessary and appropriate for effective enforcement of any Federal or State laws on lands, waters, or interests therein under his jurisdiction which are administered or managed for fish and wildlife purposes and for enforcement of any laws administered by him relating to fish and

wildlife. Persons so designated by either Secretary, who are not employees of another Federal agency—

(1) shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relating to hours of work, competitive examination, rates of compensation, and Federal employee benefits, but may be considered eligible for compensation for work injuries under subchapter III of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code; 5 USC 8191.

(2) shall be considered to be investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States for the purposes of the tort claim provisions of title 28, United States Code;

(3) may, to the extent specified by either Secretary, search, seize, arrest, and exercise any other law enforcement functions or authorities under Federal laws relating to fish and wildlife, where such authorities are made applicable by this or any other law to employees, officers, or other persons designated or employed by either Secretary; and

(4) shall be considered to be officers or employees of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce, as the case may be, within the meaning of sections 111 and 1114 of title 18, United States Code.

(c) DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED OR FORFEITED PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fish, wildlife, plants, or any other items abandoned or forfeited to the United States under any laws administered by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce relating to fish, wildlife, or plants, shall be disposed of by either Secretary in such a manner as he deems appropriate (including, but not limited to, loan, gift, sale, or destruction).

(d) DISCLAIMER.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate any law enforcement agreement or delegation made by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce with respect to fish and wildlife matters prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) REFUGE RECREATION ACT.—Section 4 of the Act of September 28, 1962 (76 Stat. 654, 16 U.S.C. 460k-3), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "The provisions of this Act and any such regulation shall be enforced by any officer or employee of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service designated by the Secretary of the Interior."

(f) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION ACT.—The final sentence of section (4) (f) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd (f)) is amended to read as follows: "Any property, fish, bird, mammal, or other wild vertebrate or invertebrate animals or part or egg thereof seized with or without a search warrant shall be held by such person or by a United States marshal, and upon conviction, shall be forfeited to the United States and disposed of by the Secretary, in accordance with law."

(g) BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE.—Section 6(b) of the Act of April 23, 1928 (45 Stat. 449; 16 U.S.C. 690e) is amended by striking at the end thereof the term "and disposed of as directed by the court having jurisdiction." and inserting in lieu thereof the term "and disposed of as directed by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with law."

(h) MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT.—(1) The final sentence of section 5 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 706) is amended

to read as follows: "All birds, or parts, nests, or eggs thereof, captured, killed, taken, sold or offered for sale, bartered or offered for barter, purchased, shipped, transported, carried, imported, exported, or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulation prescribed thereunder shall, when found, be seized and, upon conviction of the offender or upon judgment of a court of the United States that the same were captured, killed, taken, sold or offered for sale, bartered or offered for barter, purchased, shipped, transported, carried, imported, exported, or possessed contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any regulation prescribed thereunder, shall be forfeited to the United States and disposed of by the Secretary of the Interior in such manner as he deems appropriate."

Regulations.
16 USC 712.

(2) In accordance with the various migratory bird treaties and conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary to assure that the taking of migratory birds and the collection of their eggs, by the indigenous inhabitants of the State of Alaska, shall be permitted for their own nutritional and other essential needs, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, during seasons established so as to provide for the preservation and maintenance of stocks of migratory birds.

Regulations.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded August 16, 1916, the convention between the United States and the United Mexican States for the protection of migratory birds and game mammals concluded February 7, 1936, the convention between the United States and the Government of Japan for the protection of migratory birds in danger of extinction, and their environment concluded March 4, 1972, and the convention between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the conservation of migratory birds and their environment concluded November 19, 1976.

(i) **MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP ACT.**—The final sentence of section 6 of the Act of March 16, 1934 (48 Stat. 452, 16 U.S.C. 718f) is amended to read as follows: "Any bird or part thereof taken or possessed contrary to this Act shall, when seized, be disposed of by the Secretary in accordance with law."

(j) **TITLE 18.**—(1) Section 3112 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out "court" and inserting in lieu thereof "Secretary".

(2) Section 1114 of such title 18 is amended by inserting immediately before "or of the Department of Labor" the following: ", the Department of Commerce."

SEC. 4. FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) is amended—

(1) by striking out paragraphs (4) and (5), and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(4) take such steps as may be required for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources including, but not limited to, research, development of existing facilities, and acquisition by purchase or exchange of land and water, or interests therein.";

(2) by inserting "and" immediately after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (3); and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following two new subsections:

“(b) (1) In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept any gifts, devises, or bequests of real and personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude, if such terms are deemed by the Secretary to be in accordance with law and compatible with the purpose for which acceptance is sought.

“(2) Any gifts and bequests of money and proceeds from the sales of other property received as gifts or bequests pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury and shall be disbursed upon order of the Secretary for the benefit of programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(3) For the purpose of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes, property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, accepted under this subsection shall be considered as a gift or bequest to the United States.

“(c) (1) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each recruit, train, and accept, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for, or in aid of programs conducted by either Secretary through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are each authorized to provide for incidental expenses such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence of such volunteers.

“(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relative to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

“(4) For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of title 28 of the United States Code, a volunteer under this subsection shall be considered a Federal employee.

“(5) For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5 of the United States Code, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under this subsection shall be deemed employees of the United States within the meaning of the term ‘employees’ as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply. 5 USC 8101.

“(6) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$100,000 for the Secretary of the Interior and \$50,000 for the Secretary of Commerce for each of the fiscal years 1980, 1981, and 1982.”. Appropriation authorization.

SEC. 5. MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) Section 5 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior may—

“(1) purchase or rent such areas or interests therein as have been approved for purchase or rental by the Commission at the price or prices fixed by the Commission; and

“(2) acquire, by gift or devise, any area or interests therein; which he determines to be suitable for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds. The Secretary may pay, when deemed necessary by him and from moneys authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this Act (A) the purchase or rental price of any such area or interest therein, and (B) the expenses incident to the location, examination, survey, and acquisition of title (including options) of any such area or interest therein. No lands acquired, held, or used by the United States for military purposes shall be subject to any provisions of this Act.”

(b) Section 10(a) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 715i(a)) is amended by striking out “Mexico and Canada” and inserting in lieu thereof “Mexico, Canada, Japan, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics”.

(c) Section 11 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 715j) is amended by inserting “and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.)” after “this Act”, by striking out “and” after “(39 Stat. 1702)” and inserting in lieu thereof a comma, and by inserting immediately before the period at the end thereof a comma and the following: “the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction, and their Environment concluded March 4, 1972, and the Convention between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Environment concluded November 19, 1976”.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1966.

Section 4(d)(1)(A) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking out “; and” at the end thereof and inserting in lieu thereof “unless the Secretary finds that the taking of any species of migratory game birds in more than 40 percent of such area would be beneficial to the species; and”.

SEC. 7. MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP ACT.

(a) Section 2 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718b) is amended by striking out “September” in the sixth sentence thereof and inserting in lieu thereof “June”.

(b) Section 3 of such Act is amended by inserting immediately after “treaty” the following: “or convention”.

SEC. 8. CRAB ORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

The second sentence of section 2 of the Act of August 5, 1947 (61 Stat. 770; 16 U.S.C. 666g), is amended to read as follows: “Such lands as have been or may hereafter be determined to be chiefly valuable for industrial purposes shall be leased for such purposes at such time and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe. All moneys received or collected in connection with such leases shall be subject to the provisions of the Act of June 15, 1935, as amended (49 Stat. 383; 16 U.S.C. 715s).”

SEC. 9. BALD EAGLE PROTECTION ACT.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1904 (16 U.S.C. 668a) is amended by deleting the period at the end thereof and adding the following: “*Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to such regulations as he may prescribe, may permit the taking of golden

eagle nests which interfere with resource development or recovery operations.”.

SEC. 10. WATERFOWL HABITAT CONSERVATION IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

(a) The Act of August 27, 1954 (68 Stat. 879) is amended by deleting the last sentence of section 6 and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “If and when available, such water shall be delivered from the Central Valley project to the contracting entity, and the cost of furnishing the water shall not be reimbursable or returnable under the Federal reclamation laws: *Provided*, That, in order for the delivery of such water to continue on a nonreimbursable or nonreturnable basis—

“(a) the public organizations or agencies contracting with the Secretary of the Interior, excluding the State of California, shall deliver annually to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Service’), at no cost to the United States, not less than three thousand five hundred acre-feet of water during the period October 1 through November 30, inclusive, and not less than four thousand acre-feet of water during the period May 1 through September 30, inclusive, if available: *Provided*, That such amounts of water and times of delivery may be changed upon approval of the Secretary of the Interior;

“(b) the public organizations or agencies, excluding the State of California, shall construct, operate, and maintain any water conveyance facilities necessary to deliver the water referred to in section 6(a) of this Act to a point or points within the boundaries of such public organization or agency as designated by the Service, or to such points as may be mutually agreed upon by the public organization or agency and the Service. The Service shall be responsible for delivering the water from such point or points to appropriate locations within lands under its jurisdiction;

“(c) any contract entered into by the Secretary of the Interior and any public organization or agency pursuant to this Act shall provide that in the event the public organization or agency for any reason fails to carry out the obligations imposed upon it by said contract or by this Act, the rights of use of any facilities referred to in subsection (b), and the rights to all water contracted for by the organization or agency pursuant to this Act shall revert to the Secretary of the Interior for migratory waterfowl purposes in accordance with the laws of the State of California; and

“(d) in accordance with existing or future contracts, the use of lands located within the boundaries of the public organizations or agencies shall be restricted by covenants requiring that such lands be used only for the purpose of waterfowl and wildlife habitat conservation or other uses as may be mutually agreed upon by the public organizations or agencies and the Service.”.

(b) The Act of August 27, 1954 (68 Stat. 879), is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

16 USC 695j-1.

“SEC. 8. The Secretary is hereby authorized to negotiate amendments to existing contracts to conform said contracts to the provisions of this Act.”

Approved November 8, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 95-29 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) and No. 95-1730 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 95-1175 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works) and No. 95-1277 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 123 (1977): Feb. 28, considered and failed of passage in House.

Vol. 124 (1978): Jan. 19, considered and passed House.

Sept. 25, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 26, passage vitiated; reconsidered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 15, House agreed to conference report; receded from disagreement and concurred in Senate amendment No. 32 with amendments; Senate agreed to conference report, and concurred in House amendments to Senate amendment No. 32; receded from Senate amendment No. 33.