

Calendar No. 504

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1856

AN ACT

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a volunteer pilot project at one national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, and for other purposes.

JULY 28, 1998

Reported with an amendment and an amendment to the title

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105TH CONGRESS
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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

JULY 28, 1998

Reported by Mr. CHAFEE, with an amendment and an amendment to the title
[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a volunteer pilot project at one national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Ref-
5 uge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Act of
6 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**
2 **FOR WILDLIFE.**

3 (a) **PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEERS AT NATIONAL**
4 **WILDLIFE REFUGES.**—Section 7(b)(2) of the Fish and
5 Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(2)) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following: “Any gift or bequest
7 made for the benefit of a particular national wildlife refuge
8 or complex of refuges shall be disbursed only for the bene-
9 fit of that refuge or complex of refuges.”.

10 (b) **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUN-**
11 **TEERS.**—Section 7(e)(2) of that Act (16 U.S.C.
12 742f(e)(2)) is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “awards and recognition,” after
14 “lodging,”; and

15 (2) by inserting “without regard to their place
16 of residence” after “volunteers”.

17 (c) **VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EN-**
18 **HANCEMENT.**—Section 7 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 742) is
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(d) **VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**
21 **ENHANCEMENT.**—(1) The purposes of this subsection are
22 the following:

23 “(A) To encourage the use of volunteers in the
24 National Wildlife Refuge System.

1 “(B) To facilitate partnerships between the Na-
2 tional Wildlife Refuge System and partner organiza-
3 tions.

4 “(C) To promote participation by individuals,
5 organizations, and communities in understanding
6 and conserving the fish and wildlife resources, lands,
7 and facilities of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
8 tem.

9 “(D) To enhance the availability of interpretive
10 and educational materials and services for the enjoy-
11 ment of visitors to national wildlife refuges.

12 “(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the
13 Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a pilot project at
14 1 national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and
15 Wildlife Service region, under which the Secretary shall
16 employ a full-time volunteer coordinator for each refuge.

17 “(3)(A) Subject to the compatibility requirements of
18 the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
19 of 1966 and this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior
20 may enter into a cooperative agreement (as that term is
21 used in chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code) with
22 any partner organization, academic institution, or State
23 or local government organization, for the conduct of a
24 project on a national wildlife refuge, under which—

1 “(i) there will be provided enhanced opportuni-
2 ties for private citizens to volunteer with a national
3 wildlife refuge in their local communities and con-
4 tribute to stewardship of the resources on that ref-
5 uge;

6 “(ii) a partner organization, academic institu-
7 tion, or State or local government organization will
8 develop, produce, publish, distribute, or sell edu-
9 cational materials and products pertaining to a na-
10 tional wildlife refuge approved by the Secretary,
11 under conditions specified by the Secretary;

12 “(iii) a partner organization, academic institu-
13 tion, or State or local government organization will
14 construct, maintain, operate, or improve a facility on
15 a national wildlife refuge necessary for the sale or
16 distribution of educational materials, products, pro-
17 grams, and services pertaining to national wildlife
18 refuges;

19 “(iv) a partner organization, academic institu-
20 tion, or State or local government organization will
21 provide visitor services, facilities, or activities within
22 a national wildlife refuge, under terms that require
23 that the net profits from such services, facilities, or
24 activities shall be used exclusively for projects and

1 programs that benefit the refuge and are consistent
2 with the purposes for which it was established; or

3 ~~“(v) there will be carried out within a national~~
4 ~~wildlife refuge, on a Federal/non-Federal cost shar-~~
5 ~~ing basis, habitat restoration and improvement, bio-~~
6 ~~logical monitoring, research, public education and~~
7 ~~recreation, construction of facilities, or other~~
8 ~~projects.~~

9 ~~“(B) Any Federal funds used to fund a project under~~
10 ~~a cooperative agreement under this paragraph—~~

11 ~~“(i) may be used only for expenses directly re-~~
12 ~~lated to the project; and~~

13 ~~“(ii) may not be used for operation or adminis-~~
14 ~~tration of any non-Federal entity.~~

15 ~~“(C) A partner organization, academic institution, or~~
16 ~~State or local government organization shall not receive~~
17 ~~preferential treatment in any application process to pro-~~
18 ~~vide visitor services, products, or facilities in a national~~
19 ~~wildlife refuge.~~

20 ~~“(D) Any facility or permanent improvement con-~~
21 ~~structed pursuant to this subsection shall be the property~~
22 ~~of the United States Government.~~

23 ~~“(4)(A) Amounts received by the Secretary of the In-~~
24 ~~terior as a result of activities under paragraph (3) shall~~
25 ~~be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury.~~

1 “(B) Amounts in the account referred to in subpara-
2 graph (A) that are attributable to activities at a particular
3 national wildlife refuge or complex of refuges shall be
4 available to the Secretary of the Interior without further
5 appropriation—

6 “(i) for materials, training, and other uses re-
7 lated to volunteer activities at the refuge or complex
8 of refuges; or

9 “(ii) to carry out cooperative agreements under
10 this subsection applicable to the refuge or complex
11 of refuges.

12 “(5) For the purposes of this subsection, the term
13 ‘partner organization’ means an organization—

14 “(A) the mission of which is to promote under-
15 standing and conservation of the fish and wildlife,
16 cultural, or historic resources of a particular na-
17 tional wildlife refuge or a complex of related national
18 wildlife refuges;

19 “(B) that draws its membership primarily from
20 communities near that refuge or complex of related
21 national wildlife refuges; and

22 “(C) that is described in section 501(c)(3) of
23 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
24 taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.

1 “(6) In addition to amounts available under para-
2 graph (4)(B), there are authorized to be appropriated to
3 the Secretary of the Interior for each of fiscal years 1998,
4 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003—

5 “(A) \$1,000,000 for carrying out activities
6 under this subsection and subsection (e); and

7 “(B) \$1,050,000 for pilot projects under para-
8 graph (2) among the United States Fish and Wild-
9 life Service Regions.”.

10 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(c)(6) of
11 that Act (16 U.S.C. 742f(e)(6)) is amended by striking
12 “\$100,000 for the Secretary of the Interior and”.Strike
13 all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

14 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

15 This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Ref-
16 uge System Volunteer and Partnership Enhancement Act
17 of 1998”.

18 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

19 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

20 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System (re-
21 ferred to in this Act as the “System”); consisting of
22 more than 500 refuges and 93,000,000 acres; plays
23 an integral role in the protection of the natural re-
24 sources of the United States;

1 (2) the National Wildlife Refuge System Im-
2 provement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57; 111
3 Stat. 1252) significantly improved the law governing
4 the System, although the financial resources for im-
5 plementing this law and managing the System re-
6 main limited;

7 (3) by encouraging volunteer programs and do-
8 nations, and facilitating non-Federal partnerships
9 with refuges, Federal funding for the refuges can be
10 supplemented and the System can fully benefit from
11 the amendments made by the National Wildlife Ref-
12 uge System Improvement Act of 1997; and

13 (4) by encouraging refuge educational pro-
14 grams, public awareness of the resources of the Sys-
15 tem and public participation in the conservation of
16 those resources can be promoted.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

18 (1) to encourage the use of volunteers to assist
19 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the
20 management of refuges within the System;

21 (2) to facilitate partnerships between the Sys-
22 tem and non-Federal entities to promote public
23 awareness of the resources of the System and public
24 participation in the conservation of those resources;
25 and

1 (3) to encourage donations and other contribu-
2 tions by persons and organizations to the System.

3 **SEC. 3. GIFTS TO PARTICULAR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REF-**
4 **UGES.**

5 Section 7(b)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956
6 (16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(2)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “(2) Any” and inserting the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(2) USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BE-
10 QUESTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(B) GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS TO
14 PARTICULAR REFUGES.—

15 “(i) DISBURSAL.—Any gift, devise, or
16 request made for the benefit of a particu-
17 lar national wildlife refuge or complex of
18 geographically related refuges shall be dis-
19 bursed only for the benefit of that refuge
20 or complex of refuges and without further
21 appropriations.

22 “(ii) MATCHING.—Subject to the
23 availability of appropriations and the re-
24 quirements of the National Wildlife Refuge
25 Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.

1 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law,
2 the Secretary may provide funds to match
3 gifts, devises, and bequests made for the
4 benefit of a particular national wildlife ref-
5 uge or complex of geographically related
6 refuges. With respect to each gift, devise,
7 or bequest, the amount of Federal funds
8 may not exceed the amount (or, in the case
9 of property or in-kind services, the fair
10 market value) of the gift, devise, or be-
11 quest.”.

12 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER ENHANCEMENT.**

13 (a) **PILOT PROJECTS.—**

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Subject to the availability of
15 appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior shall
16 carry out a pilot project at 2 or more national wild-
17 life refuges or complex of geographically related ref-
18 uges in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service
19 region, but not more than 20 pilot projects nation-
20 wide.

21 (2) **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.—**Each pilot
22 project shall provide for the employment of a full-
23 time volunteer coordinator for the refuge or complex
24 of geographically related refuges. The volunteer co-
25 ordinator shall be responsible for recruiting, training

1 and supervising volunteers. The volunteer coordina-
2 tor may be responsible for assisting partner organi-
3 zations in developing projects and programs under
4 cooperative agreements under section 7(d) of the
5 Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (as added by section
6 5) and coordinating volunteer activities with partner
7 organizations to carry out the projects and pro-
8 grams.

9 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
11 Interior shall submit a report to the Committee on
12 Resources of the House of Representatives and the
13 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the
14 Senate evaluating and making recommendations re-
15 garding the pilot projects.

16 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this subsection \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 1999 through 2002.

20 (b) AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUN-
21 TEERS.—Section 7(c)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of
22 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)(2)) is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “awards (including nominal
24 cash awards) and recognition,” after “lodging;” and

1 (2) by inserting “without regard to their places
2 of residence” after “volunteers”.

3 (c) SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.—Section 7(e) of the
4 Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(e)) is
5 amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(6) SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.—The Sec-
8 retary of the Interior may establish a Senior Volun-
9 teer Corps, consisting of volunteers over the age of
10 50. To assist in the recruitment and retention of the
11 volunteers, the Secretary may provide for additional
12 incidental expenses to members of the Corps beyond
13 the incidental expenses otherwise provided to volun-
14 teers under this subsection. The members of the
15 Corps shall be subject to the other provisions of this
16 subsection.”.

17 **SEC. 5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.**

18 Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16
19 U.S.C. 742f) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
20 ing:

21 “(d) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION OF PARTNER ORGANIZA-
23 TION.—In this subsection, the term ‘partner organi-
24 zation’ means an organization that—

1 “(A) draws its membership from private
2 individuals, organizations, corporations, aca-
3 demic institutions, or State or local govern-
4 ments;

5 “(B) is established to promote the under-
6 standing of, education relating to, and the con-
7 servation of the fish, wildlife, plants, and cul-
8 tural and historical resources of a particular
9 refuge or complex of geographically related ref-
10 uges; and

11 “(C) is described in section 501(e)(3) of
12 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is ex-
13 empt from taxation under section 501(a) of
14 that Code.

15 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
17 Interior may enter into a cooperative agreement
18 (within the meaning of chapter 63 of title 31,
19 United States Code) with any partner organiza-
20 tion, academic institution, or State or local gov-
21 ernment agency to carry out 1 or more projects
22 or programs for a refuge or complex of geo-
23 graphically related refuges in accordance with
24 this subsection.

1 “(B) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—Subject
2 to the requirements of the National Wildlife
3 Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16
4 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law,
5 and such terms and conditions as the Secretary
6 determines to be appropriate, the Secretary
7 may approve projects and programs for a ref-
8 uge or complex of geographically related refuges
9 that—

10 “(i) promote the stewardship of re-
11 sources of the refuge through habitat
12 maintenance, restoration, and improve-
13 ment, biological monitoring, or research;

14 “(ii) support the operation and main-
15 tenance of the refuge through constructing,
16 operating, maintaining, or improving the
17 facilities and services of the refuge;

18 “(iii) increase awareness and under-
19 standing of the refuge and the National
20 Wildlife Refuge System through the devel-
21 opment, publication, or distribution of edu-
22 cational materials and products;

23 “(iv) advance education concerning
24 the purpose of the refuge and the mission
25 of the System through the use of the ref-

1 uge as an outdoor classroom and develop-
2 ment of other educational programs; or

3 “~~(v)~~ contribute financial resources to
4 the refuge, under terms that require that
5 the net revenues be used exclusively for the
6 benefit of the refuge, through donation of
7 net revenues from the sale of educational
8 materials and products and through en-
9 couragement of gifts, devises, and be-
10 quests.

11 “~~(C)~~ FEDERAL FUNDING AND OWNER-
12 SHIP.—

13 “~~(i)~~ MATCHING.—Subject to the avail-
14 ability of appropriations and the require-
15 ments of the National Wildlife Refuge Ad-
16 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd
17 et seq.) and other applicable law, the Sec-
18 retary may provide funds to match non-
19 Federal funds donated under a cooperative
20 agreement under this paragraph. With re-
21 spect to each project or program, the
22 amount of funds provided by the Secretary
23 may not exceed the amount of the non-
24 Federal funds donated through the project
25 or program.

1 “(ii) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Any
2 Federal funds used to fund a project or
3 program under a cooperative agreement
4 may be used only for expenses directly re-
5 lated to the project or program and may
6 not be used for operation or administration
7 of any non-Federal entity.

8 “(iii) OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES.—
9 Any new facility, improvement to an exist-
10 ing facility, or other permanent improve-
11 ment to a refuge constructed under this
12 subsection shall be the property of the
13 United States Government.

14 “(D) TREASURY ACCOUNT.—Amounts re-
15 ceived by the Secretary of the Interior as a re-
16 sult of projects and programs under subpara-
17 graph (B) shall be deposited in a separate ac-
18 count in the Treasury. Amounts in the account
19 that are attributable to activities at a particular
20 refuge or complex of geographically related ref-
21 uges shall be available to the Secretary of the
22 Interior, without further appropriation, to pay
23 the costs of incidental expenses related to vol-
24 unteer activities, and to carry out cooperative

1 agreements for the refuge or complex of ref-
2 uges.”.

3 **SEC. 6. REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.**

4 Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16
5 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 5) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(e) REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCE-
8 MENT.—

9 “(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior shall develop guidance for ref-
12 uge education programs to further the mission of
13 the National Wildlife Refuge System and the pur-
14 poses of individual refuges through—

15 “(A) providing outdoor classroom opportu-
16 nities for students on national wildlife refuges
17 that combine educational curricula with the per-
18 sonal experiences of students relating to fish,
19 wildlife, and plants and their habitat and to the
20 cultural and historical resources of the refuges;

21 “(B) promoting understanding and con-
22 servation of fish, wildlife, and plants and cul-
23 tural and historical resources of the refuges;
24 and

1 “(C) improving scientific literacy in con-
2 junction with both formal and nonformal edu-
3 cation programs.

4 “~~(2)~~ REFUGE PROGRAMS.—Based on the guid-
5 ance developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary
6 of the Interior may develop or enhance refuge edu-
7 cation programs as appropriate, based on the re-
8 sources of individual refuges and the opportunities
9 available for such programs in State, local, and pri-
10 vate schools. In developing and implementing each
11 program, the Secretary should cooperate with State
12 and local education authorities, and may cooperate
13 with partner organizations in accordance with sub-
14 section (d).”.

15 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16
17 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 6) is amended by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
21 Interior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e),
22 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to promote volunteer pro-

grams and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.”

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Refuge*
3 *System Volunteer and Partnership Enhancement Act of*
4 *1998”.*

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

6 (a) *FINDINGS.*—*Congress finds that—*

7 (1) *the National Wildlife Refuge System (referred*
8 *to in this Act as the “System”), consisting of more*
9 *than 500 refuges and 93,000,000 acres, plays an inte-*
10 *gral role in the protection of the natural resources of*
11 *the United States;*

12 (2) *the National Wildlife Refuge System Im-*
13 *provement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57; 111 Stat.*
14 *1252) significantly improved the law governing the*
15 *System, although the financial resources for imple-*
16 *menting this law and managing the System remain*
17 *limited;*

18 (3) *by encouraging volunteer programs and do-*
19 *nations, and facilitating non-Federal partnerships*
20 *with refuges, Federal funding for the refuges can be*
21 *supplemented and the System can fully benefit from*
22 *the amendments made by the National Wildlife Ref-*
23 *uge System Improvement Act of 1997; and*

1 (4) *by encouraging refuge educational programs,*
 2 *public awareness of the resources of the System and*
 3 *public participation in the conservation of those re-*
 4 *sources can be promoted.*

5 **(b) PURPOSES.**—*The purposes of this Act are—*

6 (1) *to encourage the use of volunteers to assist*
 7 *the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the*
 8 *management of refuges within the System;*

9 (2) *to facilitate partnerships between the System*
 10 *and non-Federal entities to promote public awareness*
 11 *of the resources of the System and public participa-*
 12 *tion in the conservation of those resources; and*

13 (3) *to encourage donations and other contribu-*
 14 *tions by persons and organizations to the System.*

15 **SEC. 3. GIFTS TO PARTICULAR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REF-**
 16 **UGES.**

17 *Section 7(b)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
 18 *(16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(2)) is amended—*

19 (1) *by striking “(2) Any” and inserting the fol-*
 20 *lowing:*

21 **“(2) USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS.—**

22 **“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any”;** *and*

23 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

24 **“(B) GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS TO**
 25 **PARTICULAR REFUGES.—**

1 “(i) *DISBURSAL.*—Any gift, devise, or
2 *bequest made for the benefit of a particular*
3 *national wildlife refuge or complex of geo-*
4 *graphically related refuges shall be dis-*
5 *bursed only for the benefit of that refuge or*
6 *complex of refuges and without further ap-*
7 *propriations.*

8 “(ii) *MATCHING.*—Subject to the avail-
9 *ability of appropriations and the require-*
10 *ments of the National Wildlife Refuge Ad-*
11 *ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd*
12 *et seq.) and other applicable law, the Sec-*
13 *retary may provide funds to match gifts,*
14 *devises, and bequests made for the benefit of*
15 *a particular national wildlife refuge or*
16 *complex of geographically related refuges.*
17 *With respect to each gift, devise, or bequest,*
18 *the amount of Federal funds may not exceed*
19 *the amount (or, in the case of property or*
20 *in-kind services, the fair market value) of*
21 *the gift, devise, or bequest.”.*

22 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER ENHANCEMENT.**

23 (a) *PILOT PROJECTS.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the availability of
25 *appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior shall*

1 *carry out a pilot project at 2 or more national wild-*
2 *life refuges or complex of geographically related ref-*
3 *uges in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service*
4 *region, but not more than 20 pilot projects nation-*
5 *wide.*

6 (2) *VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.—Each pilot*
7 *project shall provide for the employment of a full-time*
8 *volunteer coordinator for the refuge or complex of geo-*
9 *graphically related refuges. The volunteer coordinator*
10 *shall be responsible for recruiting, training and su-*
11 *pervising volunteers. The volunteer coordinator may*
12 *be responsible for assisting partner organizations in*
13 *developing projects and programs under cooperative*
14 *agreements under section 7(d) of the Fish and Wild-*
15 *life Act of 1956 (as added by section 5) and coordi-*
16 *nating volunteer activities with partner organizations*
17 *to carry out the projects and programs.*

18 (3) *REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the*
19 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the In-*
20 *terior shall submit a report to the Committee on Re-*
21 *sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
22 *mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Sen-*
23 *ate evaluating and making recommendations regard-*
24 *ing the pilot projects.*

1 (4) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—
2 *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
3 *this subsection \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years*
4 *1999 through 2002.*

5 (b) *AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS.*—
6 *Section 7(c)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
7 *U.S.C. 742f(c)(2)) is amended—*

8 (1) *by inserting “awards (including nominal*
9 *cash awards) and recognition,” after “lodging,”; and*

10 (2) *by inserting “without regard to their places*
11 *of residence” after “volunteers”.*

12 (c) *SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.*—*Section 7(c) of the*
13 *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) is amend-*
14 *ed by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:*

15 “(6) *SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.*—*The Secretary*
16 *of the Interior may establish a Senior Volunteer*
17 *Corps, consisting of volunteers over the age of 50. To*
18 *assist in the recruitment and retention of the volun-*
19 *teers, the Secretary may provide for additional inci-*
20 *idental expenses to members of the Corps beyond the*
21 *incidental expenses otherwise provided to volunteers*
22 *under this subsection. The members of the Corps shall*
23 *be subject to the other provisions of this subsection.”.*

1 **SEC. 5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.**

2 *Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
3 *U.S.C. 742f) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

4 *“(d) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.—*

5 *“(1) DEFINITION OF PARTNER ORGANIZATION.—*

6 *In this subsection, the term ‘partner organization’*
7 *means an organization that—*

8 *“(A) draws its membership from private in-*
9 *dividuals, organizations, corporations, academic*
10 *institutions, or State or local governments;*

11 *“(B) is established to promote the under-*
12 *standing of, education relating to, and the con-*
13 *servation of the fish, wildlife, plants, and cul-*
14 *tural and historical resources of a particular ref-*
15 *uge or complex of geographically related refuges;*
16 *and*

17 *“(C) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the*
18 *Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt*
19 *from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.*

20 *“(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—*

21 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the*
22 *Interior may enter into a cooperative agreement*
23 *(within the meaning of chapter 63 of title 31,*
24 *United States Code) with any partner organiza-*
25 *tion, academic institution, or State or local gov-*
26 *ernment agency to carry out 1 or more projects*

1 or programs for a refuge or complex of geo-
2 graphically related refuges in accordance with
3 this subsection.

4 “(B) *PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.*—Subject
5 to the requirements of the National Wildlife Ref-
6 uge System Administration Act of 1966 (16
7 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*) and other applicable law,
8 and such terms and conditions as the Secretary
9 determines to be appropriate, the Secretary may
10 approve projects and programs for a refuge or
11 complex of geographically related refuges that—

12 “(i) promote the stewardship of re-
13 sources of the refuge through habitat main-
14 tenance, restoration, and improvement, bio-
15 logical monitoring, or research;

16 “(ii) support the operation and main-
17 tenance of the refuge through constructing,
18 operating, maintaining, or improving the
19 facilities and services of the refuge;

20 “(iii) increase awareness and under-
21 standing of the refuge and the National
22 Wildlife Refuge System through the develop-
23 ment, publication, or distribution of edu-
24 cational materials and products;

1 “(iv) *advance education concerning the*
2 *purpose of the refuge and the mission of the*
3 *System through the use of the refuge as an*
4 *outdoor classroom and development of other*
5 *educational programs; or*

6 “(v) *contribute financial resources to*
7 *the refuge, under terms that require that the*
8 *net revenues be used exclusively for the bene-*
9 *fit of the refuge, through donation of net*
10 *revenues from the sale of educational mate-*
11 *rials and products and through encourage-*
12 *ment of gifts, devises, and bequests.*

13 “(C) *FEDERAL FUNDING AND OWNER-*
14 *SHIP.—*

15 “(i) *MATCHING.—Subject to the avail-*
16 *ability of appropriations and the require-*
17 *ments of the National Wildlife Refuge Ad-*
18 *ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd*
19 *et seq.) and other applicable law, the Sec-*
20 *retary may provide funds to match non-*
21 *Federal funds donated under a cooperative*
22 *agreement under this paragraph. With re-*
23 *spect to each project or program, the*
24 *amount of funds provided by the Secretary*
25 *may not exceed the amount of the non-Fed-*

1 *eral funds donated through the project or*
2 *program.*

3 *“(ii) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Any*
4 *Federal funds used to fund a project or pro-*
5 *gram under a cooperative agreement may be*
6 *used only for expenses directly related to the*
7 *project or program and may not be used for*
8 *operation or administration of any non-*
9 *Federal entity.*

10 *“(iii) OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES.—*
11 *Any new facility, improvement to an exist-*
12 *ing facility, or other permanent improve-*
13 *ment to a refuge constructed under this sub-*
14 *section shall be the property of the United*
15 *States Government.*

16 *“(D) TREASURY ACCOUNT.—Amounts re-*
17 *ceived by the Secretary of the Interior as a result*
18 *of projects and programs under subparagraph*
19 *(B) shall be deposited in a separate account in*
20 *the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are*
21 *attributable to activities at a particular refuge*
22 *or complex of geographically related refuges shall*
23 *be available to the Secretary of the Interior,*
24 *without further appropriation, to pay the costs*
25 *of incidental expenses related to volunteer activi-*

1 *ties, and to carry out cooperative agreements for*
2 *the refuge or complex of refuges.”.*

3 **SEC. 6. REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.**

4 *Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
5 *U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 5) is amended by add-*
6 *ing at the end the following:*

7 *“(e) REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCE-*
8 *MENT.—*

9 *“(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the*
10 *date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of*
11 *the Interior shall develop guidance for refuge edu-*
12 *cation programs to further the mission of the Na-*
13 *tional Wildlife Refuge System and the purposes of in-*
14 *dividual refuges through—*

15 *“(A) providing outdoor classroom opportu-*
16 *nities for students on national wildlife refuges*
17 *that combine educational curricula with the per-*
18 *sonal experiences of students relating to fish,*
19 *wildlife, and plants and their habitat and to the*
20 *cultural and historical resources of the refuges;*

21 *“(B) promoting understanding and con-*
22 *servation of fish, wildlife, and plants and cul-*
23 *tural and historical resources of the refuges; and*

1 “(C) *improving scientific literacy in con-*
2 *junction with both formal and nonformal edu-*
3 *cation programs.*

4 “(2) *REFUGE PROGRAMS.—Based on the guid-*
5 *ance developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of*
6 *the Interior may develop or enhance refuge education*
7 *programs as appropriate, based on the resources of*
8 *individual refuges and the opportunities available for*
9 *such programs in State, local, and private schools. In*
10 *developing and implementing each program, the Sec-*
11 *retary should cooperate with State and local edu-*
12 *cation authorities, and may cooperate with partner*
13 *organizations in accordance with subsection (d).”.*

14 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 *Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
16 *U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 6) is amended by add-*
17 *ing at the end the following:*

18 “(f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
19 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-*
20 *rior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e), \$2,000,000*
21 *for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004.”.*

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to promote volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.”.