

and that vacancy filled in accordance with subsection (b).

**(f) Reimbursement of expenses**

Members of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties of the Foundation.

**(g) General powers**

(1) The Board may complete the organization of the Foundation by—

(A) appointing officers and employees;

(B) adopting a constitution and bylaws consistent with the purposes of the Foundation and the provisions of this chapter; and

(C) undertaking of other such acts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The following limitations apply with respect to the appointment of officers and employees of the Foundation:

(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers and employees of the Foundation shall be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) The first officer or employee appointed by the Board shall be the Secretary of the Board who (i) shall serve, at the direction of the Board, as its chief operating officer, and (ii) shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish and wildlife conservation.

(Pub. L. 98-244, § 3, Mar. 26, 1984, 98 Stat. 107; Pub. L. 101-593, title I, §110(b), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2959; Pub. L. 103-232, title I, §103(a)(1), (b), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 336; Pub. L. 106-408, title II, § 203(a), (b), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1777, 1778; Pub. L. 110-281, § 2, July 21, 2008, 122 Stat. 2617.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 110-281 added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Foundation shall have a governing Board of Directors (referred to in this chapter as the ‘Board’), which shall consist of 25 Directors appointed in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, each of whom shall be a United States citizen.”

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-408, §203(a), added subsec. (a) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (a). Text read as follows: “The Foundation shall have a governing Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to in this chapter as the ‘Board’), which shall consist of 15 Directors, each of whom shall be a United States citizen and—

“(1) six of whom must be knowledgeable or experienced in fish and wildlife conservation; and

“(2) 4 of whom must be educated and experienced in the principles of fish and wildlife management.

The membership of the Board, to the extent practicable, shall represent diverse points of view relating to fish and wildlife conservation. The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of the Board. Appointment to the Board shall not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States for the purposes of any Federal law.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-408, §203(b), added subsec. (b) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (b). Text read as follows: “By December 31, 1984, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to in this chapter as the ‘Secretary’) shall appoint the Directors of the Board. The Directors shall be appointed for terms of six years; except that the Secretary, in making the initial appointments to the Board, shall appoint three Directors to a term of two years, three Directors to a term of four years, and three Directors to a term of six years. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled within sixty days of said vacancy in the manner in which the original appointment was made. No individual may serve more than two consecutive terms as a Director. The Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere before appointing any Director of the Board.”

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-232, §103(b), substituted “15 Directors” for “nine Directors” in introductory provisions and “4” for “three” in par. (2).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-232, §103(a)(1), inserted at end “The Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere before appointing any Director of the Board.”

1990—Subsec. (g)(2)(A). Pub. L. 101-593 struck out “, except that no individual so appointed may receive pay in excess of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule” after “General Schedule pay rates”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-232, title I, §103(a)(2), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 336, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply to appointments of Directors of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation made after the date of the enactment of this Act [Apr. 11, 1994].”

INITIAL TERMS OF SIX NEW DIRECTORS

Pub. L. 103-232, title I, §103(c), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 336, provided that: “Of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation first appointed pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b)(1) [amending this section], notwithstanding the second sentence of section 3(b) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(b))—

“(1) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 2 years;

“(2) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 4 years; and

“(3) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 6 years;

as specified by the Secretary of the Interior at the time of appointment.”

COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS

Pub. L. 103-232, title I, §103(d), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 337, provided that: “The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the additional members of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation authorized by the amendment made by subsection (a) [(b)] [amending this section], by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Apr. 11, 1994].”

AUTHORITY OF BOARD NOT AFFECTED

Pub. L. 103-232, title I, §103(e), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 337, provided that: “The authority of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to take any action otherwise authorized by law shall not be affected by reason of the Secretary of the Interior not having completed the appointment of Directors of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b)(1) [amending this section].”

**§ 3703. Rights and obligations of Foundation**

**(a) In general**

The Foundation—

(1) shall have perpetual succession;

(2) may conduct business throughout the several States, territories, and possessions of the United States and abroad;

(3) shall have its principal offices in the District of Columbia or in a county in the State of Maryland or Virginia that borders on the District of Columbia; and

(4) shall at all times maintain a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the Foundation.

The serving of notice to, or service of process upon, the agent required under paragraph (4), or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed as service upon or notice to the Foundation.

**(b) Seal**

The Foundation shall have an official seal selected by the Board which shall be judicially noticed.

**(c) Powers**

To carry out its purposes under section 3701 of this title, the Foundation shall have, in addition to the powers otherwise given it under this chapter, the usual powers of a corporation acting as a trustee in the District of Columbia, including the power—

(1) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely or in trust, of real or personal property or any income therefrom or other interest therein;

(2) to acquire by purchase or exchange any real or personal property or interest therein, subject to subsection (e);

(3) to invest any funds provided to the Foundation by the Federal Government in obligations of the United States or in obligations or securities that are guaranteed or insured by the United States;

(4) to deposit any funds provided to the Foundation by the Federal Government into accounts that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States;

(5) to make use of any interest or investment income that accrues as a consequence of actions taken under paragraph (3) or (4) to carry out the purposes of the Foundation;

(6) to use Federal funds to make payments under cooperative agreements entered into with willing private landowners to provide substantial long-term benefits for the restoration or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources on private land;

(7) unless otherwise required by the instrument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, retain or otherwise dispose of any property or income therefrom;

(8) to borrow money and issue bonds, debentures, or other debt instruments;

(9) to sue and be sued, and complain and defend itself in any court of competent jurisdiction, except that the Directors of the Foundation shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence;

(10) to enter into contracts or other arrangements with public agencies and private organizations and persons and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out its function; and

(11) to do any and all acts necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.

For purposes of this chapter, an interest in real property shall be treated as including, among other things, easements or other rights for preservation, conservation, protection, or enhancement by and for the public of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational, or recreational resources. A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted by the Foundation even though it is encumbered, restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private persons if any current or future interest therein is for the benefit of the Foundation.

**(d) Certain lands, waters, and interests not subject to condemnation**

No lands or waters, or interests therein, that are owned by the Foundation and are determined by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, as the case may be, to be valuable for purposes of fish and wildlife conservation or management shall be subject to condemnation by any State or political subdivision, or any agent or instrumentality thereof.

**(e) Acquisition, management, and disposal of real property**

(1) The Foundation may only use Federal funds for the acquisition of interests in real property if—

(A) the interest is a long-term property interest, and

(B) the Foundation notifies the Federal agency that administers the program under which the funds were provided of the proposed acquisition, and the agency does not object in writing to the proposed acquisition within 60 calendar days after the date of the notification.

(2) The Foundation shall convey to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion within the National Wildlife Refuge System any real property acquired by the Foundation in whole or in part with Federal funds if the Director, within one year after the date on which the property was acquired by the Foundation, requests the conveyance in writing.

(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Foundation may—

(i) convey to another person any real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal funds and not conveyed under paragraph (2); and

(ii) grant or otherwise provide Federal funds to another person for purposes of assisting that person to acquire real property in whole or in part with such funds.

(B) The Foundation may only make a conveyance or provide Federal funds under subparagraph (A) if—

(i) the conveyance or provision is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation and management of fish and wildlife and in a manner that will provide for appropriate public access and use; and

(ii) the Foundation notifies the Federal agency that administers the Federal program

under which the funds were provided of the proposed conveyance or provision of Federal funds, and the agency does not object in writing to the proposed conveyance or provision of Federal funds within 60 calendar days after the date of the notification.

(4) All real property acquired by the Foundation in whole or in part with Federal funds and held by it shall be administered for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife and in a manner that will provide for appropriate public access and use.

(5) RECONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Foundation shall convey at not less than fair market value any real property acquired by the Foundation in whole or in part with Federal funds if the Foundation notifies the Federal agency that administers the Federal program under which the funds were provided, and the agency does not disagree within 60 calendar days after the date of the notification, that—

(A) the property is no longer valuable for the purpose of conservation or management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources; and

(B) the purposes of the Foundation would be better served by use of the proceeds of the conveyance for other authorized activities of the Foundation.

**(f) Establishment of national whale conservation endowment fund**

(1) In carrying out the purposes under section 3701(b) of this title, the Foundation may establish a national whale conservation endowment fund, to be used by the Foundation to support research, management activities, or educational programs that contribute to the protection, conservation, or recovery of whale populations in waters of the United States.

(2)(A) In a manner consistent with subsection (c)(1), the Foundation may—

(i) accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift, devise, or bequest made to the Foundation for the express purpose of supporting whale conservation; and

(ii) deposit in the endowment fund under paragraph (1) any funds made available to the Foundation under this subparagraph, including any income or interest earned from a gift, devise, or bequest received by the Foundation under this subparagraph.

(B) To raise funds to be deposited in the endowment fund under paragraph (1), the Foundation may enter into appropriate arrangements to provide for the design, copyright, production, marketing, or licensing, of logos, seals, decals, stamps, or any other item that the Foundation determines to be appropriate.

(C)(i) The Secretary of Commerce may transfer to the Foundation for deposit in the endowment fund under paragraph (1) any amount (or portion thereof) received by the Secretary under section 1375(a)(1) of this title as a civil penalty assessed by the Secretary under that section.

(ii) The Directors of the Board shall ensure that any amounts transferred to the Foundation under clause (i) for the endowment fund under paragraph (1) are deposited in that fund in accordance with this subparagraph.

(3) It is the intent of Congress that in making expenditures from the endowment fund under paragraph (1) to carry out activities specified in that paragraph, the Foundation should give priority to funding projects that address the conservation of populations of whales that the Foundation determines—

(A) are the most endangered (including the northern right whale (*Eubaleana glacialis*)); or

(B) most warrant, and are most likely to benefit from, research management, or educational activities that may be funded with amounts made available from the fund.

**(g) Consultation**

In carrying out any action on the part of the Foundation under subsection (f), the Directors of the Board shall consult with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Marine Mammal Commission.

**(h) Expenditures for printing services or capital equipment**

The Foundation shall not make any expenditure of Federal funds in connection with any one transaction for printing services or capital equipment that is greater than \$10,000 unless the expenditure is approved by the Federal agency that administers the Federal program under which the funds were provided.

**(i) Notice to Members of Congress**

The Foundation shall not make a grant of Federal funds in an amount greater than \$10,000 unless, by not later than 30 days before the grant is made, the Foundation provides notice of the grant to the Member of Congress for the congressional district in which the project to be funded with the grant will be carried out.

(Pub. L. 98-244, § 4, Mar. 26, 1984, 98 Stat. 108; Pub. L. 100-240, §§1(b), 2(a), (b)(1), Jan. 11, 1988, 101 Stat. 1785, 1786; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(b) [title IX, §903], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-50, 2681-120; Pub. L. 106-408, title II, §§203(c)(1), 204(a)-(c), (e)-(g), 206, Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1779, 1780; Pub. L. 109-363, title II, §203, Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2075.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 109-363 substituted “grant of Federal funds in an amount greater than \$10,000” for “grant of funds”.

2000—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(a), inserted “or in a county in the State of Maryland or Virginia that borders on the District of Columbia” after “the District of Columbia”.

Subsec. (c)(3), (4). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(b)(2), added pars. (3) and (4). Former pars. (3) and (4) redesignated (7) and (8), respectively.

Subsec. (c)(5). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(b)(2), added par. (5). Former par. (5) redesignated (9).

Pub. L. 106-408, §203(c)(1), substituted “Directors of the Foundation” for “Directors of the Board”.

Subsec. (c)(6) to (11). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(b), added par. (6) and redesignated former pars. (3) to (7) as (7) to (11), respectively.

Subsec. (e)(1)(B). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(c), added subpar. (B) and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: “the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Director’) consents to the acquisition in writing.”

Subsec. (e)(3)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(e), added cl. (ii) and struck out former cl. (ii) which read as follows:

“the Director finds that conveyance or provision of Federal funds meets the requirements of clause (i) and consents to it in writing.”

Subsec. (e)(5). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(f), added par. (5) and struck out former par. (5) which read as follows: “The Foundation shall convey at not less than fair-market value any real property acquired by it in whole or in part with Federal funds if the Foundation and the Director determine, in writing, that—

“(A) the land is no longer valuable for the purposes of fish and wildlife conservation or management, and

“(B) the purposes of the Foundation would be better served by the use of the Federal funds for other authorized activities of the Foundation.”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 106-408, §204(g), added subsec. (h). Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 106-408, §206, added subsec. (i).

1998—Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 105-277 added subsecs. (f) and (g).

1988—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 100-240, §1(b), inserted “and abroad” after “United States”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 100-240, §2(b), inserted “, subject to subsection (e)” after “therein”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 100-240, §2(a), added subsec. (e).

#### CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS—NATIONAL WHALE CONSERVATION

Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(b) [title IX, §902], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-50, 2681-119, provided that: “Congress finds that—

“(1) the populations of whales that occur in waters of the United States are resources of substantial ecological, scientific, socioeconomic, and esthetic value; “(2) whale populations—

“(A) form a significant component of marine ecosystems;

“(B) are the subject of intense research;

“(C) provide for a multimillion dollar whale watching tourist industry that provides the public an opportunity to enjoy and learn about great whales and the ecosystems of which the whales are a part; and

“(D) are of importance to Native Americans for cultural and subsistence purposes;

“(3) whale populations are in various stages of recovery, and some whale populations, such as the northern right whale (*Eubaleana glacialis*) remain perilously close to extinction;

“(4) the interactions that occur between ship traffic, commercial fishing, whale watching vessels, and other recreational vessels and whale populations may affect whale populations adversely;

“(5) the exploration and development of oil, gas, and hard mineral resources, marine debris, chemical pollutants, noise, and other anthropogenic sources of change in the habitat of whales may affect whale populations adversely;

“(6) the conservation of whale populations is subject to difficult challenges related to—

“(A) the migration of whale populations across international boundaries;

“(B) the size of individual whales, as that size precludes certain conservation research procedures that may be used for other animal species, such as captive research and breeding;

“(C) the low reproductive rates of whales that require long-term conservation programs to ensure recovery of whale populations; and

“(D) the occurrence of whale populations in offshore waters where undertaking research, monitoring, and conservation measures is difficult and costly;

“(7)(A) the Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has research and regulatory responsibility for the conservation of whales under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.); and

“(B) the heads of other Federal agencies and the Marine Mammal Commission established under section 201 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972

(16 U.S.C. 1401) have related research and management activities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 or the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

“(8) the funding available for the activities described in paragraph (8) [(7)] is insufficient to support all necessary whale conservation and recovery activities; and

“(9) there is a need to facilitate the use of funds from non-Federal sources to carry out the conservation of whales.”

#### DRAW DOWN OF FEDERAL FUNDS; EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Pub. L. 102-440, title III, §304, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2235, which provided that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation could continue to draw down Federal funds when matching requirements had been met, that interest earned on funds already drawn down was to be used to fund all activities as approved by the Board of Directors, and that Foundation subgrantees would be exempt from the audit reporting and compliance requirements of OMB Circular A-133, for all grants of \$100,000 or less, was repealed by Pub. L. 106-408, title II, §204(d), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1779.

### § 3704. Administrative services and support

#### (a) Provision of services

The Secretary may provide personnel, facilities, and other administrative services to the Foundation, including reimbursement of expenses under section 3702 of this title, not to exceed then current Federal Government per diem rates, for a period of up to five years from March 26, 1984.

#### (b) Reimbursement

The Foundation may reimburse the Secretary for any administrative service provided under subsection (a). The Secretary shall deposit any reimbursement received under this subsection into the Treasury to the credit of the appropriations then current and chargeable for the cost of providing such services.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to continue to provide facilities, and necessary support services for such facilities, to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation after March 26, 1989, on a space available, reimbursable cost basis.

(Pub. L. 98-244, §5, Mar. 26, 1984, 98 Stat. 109; Pub. L. 100-240, §3, Jan. 11, 1988, 101 Stat. 1786; Pub. L. 100-653, title IX, §903, Nov. 14, 1988, 102 Stat. 3834.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-653 inserted provision at end authorizing Secretary of the Interior to continue to provide facilities and necessary support services to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation after Mar. 26, 1989, on space available, reimbursable cost basis.

Pub. L. 100-240 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and struck out “, and may accept reimbursement therefor, to be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the appropriations then current and chargeable for the cost of providing such services” after “March 26, 1984”, and added subsec. (b).

### § 3705. Volunteer status

The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce may accept, without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations, the services of the Foundation, the Board,