

quisition of title thereto; but no payment shall be made for any such lands until the title thereto shall be satisfactory to the Attorney General: *Provided*, That the acquisition of such lands or interests therein by the United States shall in no case be defeated because of rights-of-ways, easements, exceptions, and reservations which, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, will not interfere materially with the use of such properties for the purposes of sections 696 to 696b of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-164, §2, Aug. 22, 1957, 71 Stat. 412.)

**§ 696b. Authorization of appropriations; limitation**

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated from time to time out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such amounts as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of sections 696 to 696b of this title. The Secretary shall not utilize more than \$2,035,000 from appropriated funds for the acquisition of land and interests in land for the purposes of sections 696 to 696b of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-164, §3, Aug. 22, 1957, 71 Stat. 413; Pub. L. 89-669, §10(b), Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 930.)

AMENDMENTS

1966—Pub. L. 89-669 increased from \$35,000 to \$2,035,000 the limitation on funds for acquisition of land, provided for such acquisition “for the purposes of sections 696 to 696b of this title”, and struck out sentence which provided that exchange by the Secretary of lands and interests therein shall not be considered an expenditure from appropriated funds for acquisition of land.

**§§ 697, 697a. Omitted**

CODIFICATION

Sections, Pub. L. 87-119, Aug. 3, 1961, 75 Stat. 243, which established the Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the laws and regulations relating to national wildlife refuges, have been omitted because of the limited scope of the subject matter. The Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge, was included within and made a part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge by Pub. L. 107-91, §5(b), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 896, set out in the table of National Wildlife Refuges under section 668dd of this title.

**§ 698. Big Thicket National Preserve**

**(a) Establishment**

In order to assure the preservation, conservation, and protection of the natural, scenic, and recreational values of a significant portion of the Big Thicket area in the State of Texas and to provide for the enhancement and public enjoyment thereof, the Big Thicket National Preserve is hereby established.

**(b) Location; boundaries; publication in Federal Register**

The Big Thicket National Preserve (hereafter referred to as the “preserve”) shall include the units generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Thicket National Preserve”, dated October 1992, and numbered 175-80008, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the offices of the Superintendent of the preserve. After advising the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives, in writing, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the “Secretary”) may make minor revisions of the boundaries of the preserve when necessary by publication of a revised drawing or other boundary description in the Federal Register. The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, but no later than six months after October 11, 1974, publish a detailed description of the boundaries of the preserve in the Federal Register. In establishing such boundaries, the Secretary shall locate stream corridor unit boundaries referenced from the stream bank on each side thereof and he shall further make every reasonable effort to exclude from the units hereafter described any improved year-round residential properties which he determines, in his discretion, are not necessary for the protection of the values of the area or for its proper administration. The preserve shall consist of the following units:

Big Sandy Creek unit, Polk County, Texas, comprising approximately fourteen thousand three hundred acres;

Menard Creek Corridor unit, Polk, Hardin, and Liberty Counties, Texas, including a module at its confluence with the Trinity River, comprising approximately three thousand three hundred and fifty-nine acres;

Hickory Creek Savannah unit, Tyler County, Texas, comprising approximately six hundred and sixty-eight acres;

Turkey Creek unit, Tyler and Hardin Counties, Texas, comprising approximately seven thousand eight hundred acres;

Beech Creek unit, Tyler County, Texas, comprising approximately four thousand eight hundred and fifty-six acres;

Upper Neches River corridor unit, Jasper, Tyler, and Hardin Counties, Texas, including the Sally Withers Addition, comprising approximately three thousand seven hundred and seventy-five acres;

Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall unit, Hardin and Jasper Counties, Texas, comprising approximately thirteen thousand three hundred acres;

Lower Neches River corridor unit, Hardin, Jasper, and Orange Counties, Texas, except for a one-mile segment on the east side of the river including the site of the papermill near Evandale, comprising approximately two thousand six hundred acres;

Beaumont unit, Orange, Hardin, and Jefferson Counties, Texas, comprising approximately six thousand two hundred and eighteen acres;

Loblolly unit, Liberty County, Texas, comprising approximately five hundred and fifty acres;

Little Pine Island-Pine Island Bayou corridor unit, Hardin and Jefferson Counties, Texas, comprising approximately two thousand one hundred acres;

Lance Rosier Unit, Hardin County, Texas, comprising approximately twenty-five thousand and twenty-four acres;

Village Creek Corridor unit, Hardin County, Texas, comprising approximately four thousand seven hundred and ninety-three acres;