STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1092

By: Kirby, Benson, Bonny, Cotner, Glover, Isaac, Langmacher, Leist, Maddox (Jim), Mitchell, Smith (Bill), Todd and Widener

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress and the President of the United States to ensure that the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge will remain open with full access to recreational opportunities; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge located twenty miles northwest of Lawton, Oklahoma, has been officially designated as a wildlife refuge since 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is the only national wildlife area in Oklahoma which offers an array of recreational activities including camping, hiking, auto and bike tours, rock climbing, elk hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge also holds Mount Scott, one of Oklahoma's most prominent mountains and legendary sites, which boasts many tales of ancient spirits, Spanish gold and buried outlaw loot; and

WHEREAS, the Holy City of the Wichita's Easter service, the longest running passion play in the United States, has been presented annually since 1926 in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, because of the variety and number of attractions, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge draws 1,000,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, as a result of a recent lawsuit settlement, the United States Department of Interior has agreed to examine all the national parks and recreational areas to determine their compatibility with various federal laws and acts as well as to assess secondary recreational uses of the federal parks and recreational areas in relation to the specific primary legal purposes of the federal parks and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these assessments and reevaluations, various portions of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge or certain recreational activities presently allowed to be conducted within the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge may be restricted or limited; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans are concerned and sensitive to the needs to assess and determine the impact of public demands on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge with relation to preserving game animals and bird habitats and breeding grounds; and

WHEREAS, this concern and sensitivity was molded and forged due to the availability of and accessibility to state and national parks by Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is an integral part of Oklahoma's heritage and a key link in maintaining Oklahoma's close relationship with the land and wildlife resources of this state; and

WHEREAS, the continued accessibility and availability of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge to the people of Oklahoma as well as visitors to this state is of great importance to this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

The Oklahoma State Legislature memorializes the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to ensure that the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is allowed to remain open with full access and availability to recreational opportunities now currently existing within the wildlife refuge.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

44-2-9478 KSM