



FOCUS: Identifying correct paraphrases of information from a longer passage.

Continue



DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and then answer the question that follows.

Continue

Wildlife Refuges



Reading > Lesson 5: Sentence Restatement Questions > Exercise 5.2

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Continue

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first U.S. federal wildlife refuge at Pelican Island, Florida, to help protect birds such as the brown pelican from extinction. Since then, the National Wildlife Refuge System has grown to include 544 refuges with 81 percent of the area devoted to refuges in Alaska. More than 35 million Americans visit these refuges each year to hunt, fish, hike, or watch birds and other wildlife.

More than three-fourths of the refuges serve as vital wetland **sanctuaries** for protecting migratory **waterfowl**. One-fifth of U.S. endangered and threatened species have habitats in the refuge system, and some refuges have been set aside for specific endangered species. These areas have helped Florida's key deer, the brown pelican, and the trumpeter swan to recover.

Conservation biologists call for setting aside more refuges for endangered plants. They also urge Congress and state legislatures to allow abandoned military lands that contain significant wildlife habitat to become national or state wildlife refuges.

According to a General Accounting Office study, activities considered harmful to wildlife occur in nearly 60 percent of the nation's wildlife refuges. A 2002 study by the National Wildlife Refuge Association found that invasive species are **wreaking havoc** on many of the nation's wildlife refuges. Too much hunting and fishing (allowed on nearly two-thirds of the refuges) and use of powerboats and off-road vehicles can take their toll on wildlife populations in heavily used refuges.

In 1997, the U.S. Congress passed the National Refuge System Improvement Act (NRSIA). It calls for ensuring that the biological diversity and integrity and environmental health of the system are maintained. The NRSIA also directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the effects of surrounding areas on refuges and to develop research and management partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and neighboring landowners.



Reading > Lesson 5: Sentence Restatement Questions > Exercise 5.2

Review

Continue

1 Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the **highlighted** sentence in the passage? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- ☐ The U.S. Congress requires that NRSIA work with a range of business providers to protect and preserve locations that are close to animal refuges.
- ☐ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must develop areas around refuges, conduct ongoing research, improve management and form working relationships with other groups.
- ☐ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to collaborate with others on issues and activities related to refuges, as well as to assess the impact of locations that border refuges.
- ☐ The passage of the NRSIA resulted in a number of changes to refuge management, including a need for cooperation among various organizations and increased research.

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