



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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UTAH MEN WILL HEAD BEAR
RIVER BIRD REFUGE PROJECT

David H. Madsen, State Fish and Game Commissioner of Utah, has been appointed superintendent of the new migratory-bird refuge authorized to be established at Bear River Bay, Utah, under the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Bill recently approved by President Coolidge. Mr. Madsen is president of the Western Association of Game Commissioners and has been prominently identified with the conservation of wild life for a number of years. Fully familiar with wild-fowl conditions in his State, he has been one of the strongest advocates for the reflooding of the Bear River marshes and the creation of a refuge there as a means of preventing the annual mortality of birds in the region. Mr. Madsen will take up his new duties on July 2.

The construction work necessary for the reflooding of Bear River marshes, as provided by the act, will be performed under the direction of L. M. Winsor, Bureau of Public Roads engineer stationed at Logan, Utah. He has been engaged for a number of years on irrigation projects in the West and through his long experience in the Division of Agricultural Engineering of the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture is well fitted for the work. Mr. Winsor during the summer of 1927 made a careful study for the Bureau of Biological Survey of conditions at Bear River Bay.

The second deficiency bill, which became a law during the closing hours of the 70th Congress, carried an item of \$200,000 for the construction of such dikes, spillways, buildings, and improvements as may be necessary for the establishment of a refuge for migratory wild fowl in this region so well fitted as feeding and breeding grounds, and to acquire the land and water rights needed for the purpose. This is part of the \$350,000 appropriation authorized in the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Act. Plans for the preliminary work of the acquisition of lands and for engineering operations are being developed by the Bureau of Biological Survey, which will administer the refuge when it is established.

The Bear River marshes, on Bear River Bay, comprise the greatest wild-fowl area of the kind in the Rocky Mountain region and form the gathering place for millions of wild ducks and geese during their north and south migrations. The new law seeks to improve conditions at Bear River Bay so as to prevent a recurrence of the enormous losses of migratory wild fowl, especially ducks, that have resulted from the concentrated alkaline waters there. The building of dikes and other improvements to store fresh water now flowing into Salt Lake, in order to reflood the Bear River marshes, will not only eliminate the death areas but will also afford a feeding and breeding ground for great numbers of the birds. Instead of a death trap, the area will become a supply point for the surrounding States, producing vastly increased numbers of wild fowl.

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