



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

November 1, 1935

SAND LAKE, IN SOUTH DAKOTA
MADE HAVEN FOR WATERFOWL

The Sand Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, a strip of land 17 miles long and 2 to 4 miles wide along the James River in northeastern South Dakota has been established by Executive Order. The refuge is being developed and administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, primarily as a breeding and resting ground for waterfowl but also as a protected area for pheasants, prairie chickens, and Hungarian partridges.

Situated in Brown County, 18 miles from Aberdeen, the county seat, and between Columbia on the south and Hecla on the north, the Sand Lake Refuge covers 23,103 acres of former marsh land. In late years, however, the area has become practically useless to waterfowl as a result of extended drought. Three good-sized lakes still remain. Sand Lake, from which the refuge takes its name, covers 1,348 acres in the southwest part of the sanctuary. Mud Lake, near the center of the refuge, and Sandell Lake, lying a short distance to the southwest, have water acreages of 300 acres and 250 acres respectively.

In developing the refuge, the Survey will make the impoundment and conservation of water its primary objective. Control works will be set up to raise the level of Sand Lake, thereby re-creating nesting marshes and making some water available below the lake during dry times. The James is a flowing stream here only during spring run-offs. The maintenance of a constant water level in Sand Lake also will benefit the adjoining farm land by increasing the sub-soil moisture.

A CCC camp on the area is engaged in food and cover planting, rip-rapping, boundary fencing and marking, and in the construction of nesting islands, park roads, and truck trails.

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