

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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FEDERAL REFUGE FOR PEND OREILLE DEER ESTABLISHED IN STEVENS COUNTY, WASH.

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A Federal refuge for the protection and perpetuation of the Pend Oreille, or Idaho, white-tailed deer and other forms of wildlife has been established by a recent Executive order of President Roosevelt in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties, Wash. It lies in a timbered mountainous section in northeastern Washington and has been named the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge.

The new refuge eventually will contain about 65,000 acres. A 27,000-acre tract that lies within the refuge area has been assigned to the U. S. Biological Survey from the Northeast Washington Submarginal Land Project for administration as a wildlife refuge and game-management demonstration area. Negotiations for the acquisition of the other lands within the boundary limits are under way.

Officials of the Biological Survey hope to build up the herd of Pend Oreille deer on the refuge so that surplus animals will be available for restocking purposes elsewhere. The refuge is well adapted to their management, as many remain there the year round, spending spring and summer in the mountains and fall and winter on the lowlands. Their general range includes southeastern British Columbia, eastern Washington, northern Idaho, western Montana, and northeastern Oregon. In many sections, however, their local ranges have been greatly limited by logging and farming. Sportsmen and conservationists for some time have urged the establishment of a Federal refuge for these deer, one of the largest subspecies of North American whitetails.

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A variety of other wildlife, including Rocky Mountain mule deer, black bears; blue, ruffed, and Franklin's grouse; minks, muskrats, martens, and beavers also inhabits the refuge. Waterfowl migrating along the Pacific flyway make good use of the small lakes, potholes, and streams, and a great many remain to nest.

As the refuge will be managed as a combined wildlife sanctuary and game-management project, Survey biologists will check wildlife populations and food and cover conditions at regular intervals. Surplus wildlife will be removed in restocking other refuges or suitable areas, or through controlled hunting, trapping, and fishing in conformity with Washington State laws and regulations of the State Game Commission. Refuge areas adjoining forests and lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service will be administered cooperatively so that wildlife-management practices may be effectively coordinated with forest improvement, fire protection, and public grazing.

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