



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1940

### REFUGES UNDER FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WILL HAVE UNIFORM NAMES

President Roosevelt has signed an Executive Order designating 252 refuges administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service as National Wildlife Refuges, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today. The order affects all but 12 of the areas in the 13,635,000-acre system of bird and mammal sanctuaries that extends from Puerto Rico to Alaska and Maine to Hawaii.

In recommending the uniform naming of areas administered by the Service, Secretary Ickes explained that the new designation will indicate the national character of the wildlife refuges. The former varying designations did not indicate that the areas are owned and administered by the Federal Government.

Previously, Federal wildlife refuges had been identified variously as Reservations, Bird Reservations, Migratory Waterfowl Refuges, Migratory Bird Refuges, and Game and Wildlife Preserves. It was pointed out that though an area is sometimes established primarily for the benefit of a single species or of a group of animals, all wildlife is protected on the refuge. Thus "National Wildlife Refuge" is considered a more appropriate name.

No confusion is expected in the change of title of the 252 areas affected because the local, or identifying, portion of the name remains as before. The

Pelican Island Bird Refuge in Florida, for example, becomes the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lower Souris Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in North Dakota changes to Lower Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

Twelve refuges administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service will not change title under the Executive Order. These are: Alaska Railway Muskrat and Beaver Refuge and Curry Bird, Game, and Fish Refuge, Alaska; Kofa Game Range and Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Arizona; Desert Game Range and Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, Nevada; Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, North Dakota; Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota; National Bison Range and Fort Peck Game Range, Montana; Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma; and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah.

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