



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1946.

The establishment of Tishomingo and Hagerman National Wildlife Refuges in the Panhandle area of Texas and Oklahoma has been announced by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug.

Both of the new waterfowl resting grounds are part of the huge Texoma Lake area formed by construction of Denison Dam on the Red and Washita Rivers under direction of the U. S. Army Engineers, and are strategically located on a major flight lane of ducks, geese and other migratory wildfowl. Twenty-three thousand acres are provided by the new refuges. Many tons of food plant seeds have already been sowed in order to produce sufficient forage for the immense numbers of wildfowl expected to visit the area during the late fall and winter months.

"Tishomingo and Hagerman will help fill a serious gap in the present refuge system," said Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "The need for additional wintering grounds for ducks and geese is critical."

It is expected that hunting in the areas surrounding the refuges will be improved as a result of concentrating increased numbers of birds during the fall season. The Service is cooperating with the State Game Departments of Texas and Oklahoma in the introduction of marsh and aquatic plants for the development of additional waterfowl feeding grounds nearby. Public fishing will be permitted in the refuge waters in accordance with state laws.

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