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OREGON WILDLIFE REFUGE ENLARGED BY PUBLIC LAND WITHDRAWAL

Addition of 23.5 acres to McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton. A public land order withdraws the area for use by the Fish and Wildlife Service to enlarge the refuge.

This action represents the first enlargement of McKay Creek Refuge since its creation by executive order in 1927, Secretary Seaton said. Located in Umatilla County in northeastern Oregon, the refuge was established on 1,813 acres of land acquired by the Bureau of Reclamation for the McKay Creek Reservoir.

Primary purpose of McKay Creek Refuge is to provide feeding and resting grounds for migratory waterfowl wintering in the area. Crop depredation is not a serious problem, although the natural supply of feed is extremely limited. Production of additional feed on part of the newly withdrawn refuge area will serve to further reduce the possibility of damage to crops on private land.

The portion of the acreage added to the refuge which is not used for crop production will be devoted to parking space. McKay Creek Reservoir is a popular fishing and boating site.

Issuance of the public land order withdrawing the 23.5 acres was requested by the Fish and Wildlife Service, with the concurrence of the Bureau of Land Management.

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