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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release APRIL 8, 1959

COMMISSION AUTHORIZES TWO MORE WILDLIFE REFUGES

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission today approved the establishment of two new migratory bird refuges and the acquisition of 25,178 acres of land for these and other refuges, the Department of the Interior announced.

Purchases, when made, will be financed through the receipts from the sale of duck stamps required to be purchased by all waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 years.

The new refuges are Mackeys Island National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina and Virginia, 7,856 acres and Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in California, 6,049 acres.

The established refuges for which additional lands were authorized and the acreages approved for acquisition are: Lake Zahl, North Dakota, 2,478 acres; Tewaukon, North Dakota, 3,845; Monte Vista, Colorado, 3,602; Martin, Maryland, 536; Lake Andes, South Dakota, 619; Columbia, Washington, 20 acres; Missisquoi, Vermont, 173 acres; Pea Island, North Carolina, 12 acres.

Mackeys Island is in Currituck County in North Carolina and Princess Anne County in Virginia. It attracts and holds a wintering population of greater snow geese—a protected species. Proposed development will increase the attractions of the area for waterfowl.

The Modoc Refuge is located in the Pit River Valley in Modoc County, California. The area has a nesting population of Great Basin geese. It also produces some ducks. Peak populations in the past two years have been 10,000 geese and 25,000 ducks. Under proper management waterfowl use is expected to increase to a peak of 25,000 geese and 75,000 ducks.

After the acquisition has been approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, actual purchases are made over a period of time by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The law establishing the Commission provides for an ex officio member from each State in which a proposed acquisition is located.

The members of the Commission and the ex officio members for today's meeting are:

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman
Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture
Honorable Lewis L. Strauss, Secretary of Commerce
Honorable Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., Senator from Missouri
Honorable Roman L. Hruska, Senator from Nebraska
Honorable Frank M. Karsten, Representative from Missouri
Honorable Leon H. Garvin, Representative from Pennsylvania
Mr. Albert J. Rissman, Commission Secretary

Ex Officio Members

Honorable George D. Aiken, Senator from Vermont; Mr. Ben Glading, Chief, Game Management, Fish and Game Commission, California; Mr. J. D. Hart, Deputy Director, Department of Game and Fish, Colorado; Mr. Ernest A. Vaughn, Director, Department of Game and Inland Fish, Maryland; Dr. George A. Selke, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Conservation; Mr. O. L. Woodhouse, Member, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; Dr. I. G. Bue, Commissioner, North Dakota Game and Fish Department; Mr. Lester M. Berner, Chief, Game Division, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; Mr. Chester F. Phelps, Executive Director, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia; Mr. Wesley A. Hunter, Administrative Assistant, Department of Game, Washington.

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