



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JUNE 7, 1959

STATE WATERFOWL HABITAT--AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF FEDERAL AID

During the 20-year period ending June 30, 1958, the Federal Aid program for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of waterfowl habitat, and for research on waterfowl problems amounted to nearly \$57 million, the Department of the Interior reports.

Of this amount \$42.3 million, or three-fourths, represented Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) funds apportioned to the States; the remaining one-fourth was State matching money. Other State money expended in waterfowl management and research is not reflected in this Federal Aid activity data.

The \$42.3 million was utilized by the States--together with their matching money--as follows: acquisition \$14.2; development, operation and maintenance \$22.5; research \$5.6.

Under the acquisition phase of the program, the States acquired fee title to 672,543 acres, plus additional acreage on lease. The cost of the acquisition was nearly \$19 million which includes the States' matching share but does not include any State funds in excess of the matching money.

This State program is part of a general plan under which the various States and the Federal Government are making an effort to acquire title to sufficient waterfowl habitat to assure an annual harvest of ducks and geese for generations to come.

At the present time States, Flyway Councils, and the Fish and Wildlife Service are evolving a more definite long-range plan of acquisition. An increase in the price of the Federal duck stamp from \$2 to \$3 and the earmarking of all of the duck stamp money (after the cost of printing) for the selection and acquisition

of waterfowl habitat is the Federal answer to the urgent need of acquiring such habitat while there is still an opportunity. A large part of the State acquisition effort in the past has been--and in the future will continue to be--under the Federal Aid program.

Federal aid for the restoration of wildlife is financed by an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. Excise tax income is apportioned on a formula based upon hunting license holders and area of each State, with reimbursement at the rate of \$3 Federal allotment to \$1 State matching funds. The program is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service. It came into existence in 1938 as the result of legislation popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act.

At the close of fiscal year 1958, Minnesota with 100,900 acres acquired in fee title, led all other States in that type of acquisition. This includes the 52,000-acre Roseau area, the largest State-purchased duck habitat under the program in the country.

Arkansas, with 82,680 acres in fee title, ranked second; Wisconsin third, with 57,663 acres; Michigan fourth with 41,130 acres; Oregon had 27,000 acres; Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota, each have purchased more than 20,000 acres; California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Texas, between 10,000 and 20,000 acres. Alabama, Connecticut and Wyoming each purchased less than 1,000 acres of waterfowl habitat. Florida, Louisiana and West Virginia had spent their Federal Aid allotments otherwise and show no acquisitions through Federal Aid funds. Other States purchased various amounts from 1,000 to 10,000 acres.

Bureau data listing expenditures of the Federal Aid apportionment by States put Kansas at the top in that category. The Federal share of the Kansas waterfowl program over the past two decades was \$2,676,000. California was second with \$2,530,000 as the Federal share of its program; then comes Iowa with \$2,353,000; Illinois, Michigan and New York with slightly more than \$2 million and Oregon with slightly less than that amount. Wisconsin follows with \$1,710,000; Minnesota with \$1,560,000; Missouri with \$1,434,000; Arkansas \$1,285,000, and Nevada with \$1,218,000. Expenditures in other States varied from \$3,600 in West Virginia to \$903,000 in Indiana and a similar amount in Montana.

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife officials point out the number of acres acquired in fee title is not a conclusive measure of waterfowl conservation effort, nor is the amount of Federal Aid money expended. In some States the need for waterfowl habitat is not as great as in others; in some, land is cheaper than in others; some States choose to use their Federal Aid money for other approvable activities, and in some States there just isn't the money that there is in other States. Vermont is a "small" State as far as the Federal Aid apportionment is concerned. It has acquired 4,026 acres of habitat in seven areas near Lake Champlain and has expended \$463,000 of its Federal Aid funds in acquisition and development. This represents more than 60 percent of its entire apportionment, twice the national average.

Florida has the biggest waterfowl area in the country under lease. This is 700,000 acres in Conservation pools 2 and 3 in the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District. Mississippi, with leased acreages on Corps of Engineers flood control projects, directs its efforts toward development and operations rather than acquisition. Some States have irrigation or flood control projects which offer opportunity for waterfowl development and which make acquisition less necessary.

New York and Kansas are good examples of how States adapt their expenditure programs to their needs. Kansas has acquired by fee title 26,030 acres with Federal Aid money. Nearly 20,000 acres of this is the well known Cheyenne Bottoms. In the development of this area, Kansas has spent the bulk of its funds. New York, on the other hand, has purchased 14,613 acres using \$271,000 Federal Aid money for part of the purchase cost. But the bulk of its \$2,176,000 allotment which it is directing to waterfowl work has gone for development, operation and maintenance. Besides the 12 major areas which have been purchased and are being developed, New York has completed 827 small marshes averaging 6.4 acres and 1,202 potholes averaging 0.4 acres.

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