



Interest in establishing a refuge in this area dates back many years. When the accelerated refuge acquisitions program began in 1958, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife--which will administer the refuge--placed the Merritt Island area high on its list of proposed refuges. Purchase of the area by NASA paved the way for the establishment of the refuge which is expected to meet the need for a major waterfowl refuge on the east coast of Florida.

Secretary Udall, in announcing the agreement, pointed out that this is a fine example of how an area acquired for one purpose can be managed to serve additional purposes.

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