



waterfowl land will be made available to North and South Dakota State game and fish agencies. For management, all 147,000 acres will have an assured water supply from project canals and laterals. This means that these waterfowl lands, in the heart of the best waterfowl production area in the 48 contiguous United States, will produce a full crop of ducks every year, even during serious droughts, Secretary Udall added.

Secretary Udall also praised Congressional action in providing for establishment of five major waterfowl refuges in connection with Corps of Engineers projects authorized under the Omnibus Act. The legislation will permit the acquisition of about 88,000 acres for waterfowl. The water areas created at the projects will form the nuclei of the refuges.

"Waterfowl enthusiasts and conservationists throughout the Nation are the beneficiaries of the broad-gauged Congressional action that authorized these projects," Secretary Udall said.

He noted that waterfowl migrate throughout the Nation, and that ducks produced on a water project in North Dakota and Minnesota are likely to provide pleasure as well to people all the way to Texas or Louisiana. Secretary Udall said that migratory waterfowl and other migratory birds are a responsibility of the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior, in accordance with International treaties.

Projects involved in the Omnibus Act are:

	<u>State</u>	<u>Acreage of National Wildlife Refuge Land</u>
Bigstone-Whetstone	Minnesota	10,100
John Redmond	Kansas	22,265
St. Francis River	Arkansas	13,500
John Day Lock & Dam	Washington and Oregon	29,370
Red River Backwater	Louisiana	<u>12,800</u>
		88,035

Secretary Udall said the Omnibus Act also assures better fishing in several areas.

At the existing John Martin Reservoir on the Arkansas River in Colorado, Congress directed the Corps of Engineers to establish and maintain a permanent pool in the reservoir for fish and wildlife. This will prevent the periodic drying up of the John Martin Reservoir and the consequent wholesale destruction of fish life.

The Omnibus Act authorized the Corps of Engineers to construct gate structures in the main levees along the lower Mississippi River. These structures will permit introduction of controlled amounts of fresh water from the river into the

brackish coastal marshes along the Gulf of Mexico. This fresh water will greatly enhance the productive capacity of the marsh for fish and shellfish, and will improve its quality for waterfowl.

The Auburn-Folsom South Unit, authorized by the Congress for addition to California's Central Valley Project, will provide substantial benefits for fishery and recreation resources. This Unit, like Garrison, will be built by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Unit will provide water for temperature control in the American River downstream from the existing Folsom Dam, these benefiting salmon and steelhead trout. Construction of Auburn-Folsom South Unit will also make possible the stabilization of water levels in Folsom Reservoir to improve fishing and general recreational values. About 5,600 acres of land to be acquired or withdrawn from other public land uses by the Bureau of Reclamation will be made available to the California Fish and Game Department for big-game management.

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