

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPROVES SAN PABLO BAY REFUGE

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved purchase of a new Federal wildlife preserve in the San Francisco Bay area--the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge--Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today.

The Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which administers the national wildlife refuge system, presently is negotiating with California agencies and private owners for acquisition for the refuge, as announced by Secretary Hickel on September 25. The area consists of about 12,000 acres of some of the best remaining waterfowl habitat in California.

The salt marshes, tidal flats and open water of the tract are excellent wintering habitat for canvasback ducks and other waterfowl. The site also is home for many thousands of shore and song birds, plus mammals, including seals.

Also at its October 1 meeting in Washington, the Commission approved a 632-acre addition to the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County, Colorado. Arapaho, which ultimately will consist of nearly 30,000 acres, lies along the Illinois River in North Park, a major waterfowl production area in the intermountain region.

The Commission passes on proposed land acquisitions from funds collected through the sale of duck stamps. Its members are Secretary Hickel (chairman), Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Senator Joseph Tydings of Maryland, Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts, and Representative John Dingell of Michigan.

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