

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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TWO WILDLIFE REFUGES COMPLETED; NEW ONE AUTHORIZED IN MONTANA

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved purchase of tracts to complete two national wildlife refuges in Minnesota and Ohio and also approved a new refuge in Montana. Federal wildlife refuges are managed by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service.

The refuges which are being completed are Ottawa, along Lake Erie 15 miles east of Toledo, and Tamarac in northwestern Minnesota.

The new area, to be known as Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, will have 2,546 acres 60 miles north of Missoula. It is in the flood plain of the Swan River above Swan Lake and between the Swan Mountain Range to the east and Mission Range to the west.

Development of the area as a refuge will lead to stabilization of water levels and increased nesting and feeding habitat. It will provide protection and increased production for the valley's goose flock.

Swan River provides excellent wood duck habitat; upwards of 1,000 have been noted at one time. Other ducks include redhead, scaup, mallard, pintail, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, and ruddy ducks. Annual production of over 1,200 ducks and 100 Canada geese is anticipated for the refuge.

Elk and mule deer winter on the area, and white-tailed deer are year-long residents. Moose and wolverine are reported as wintertime visitors. Muskrats and beaver occur in abundance.

The Swan River and its tributaries provide some of the best trout fishing in the country. Dolly Varden, little redbfish, rainbow and cutthroat trout are taken in the lake and river.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission decides on proposed land acquisitions employing funds collected through the sale of duck stamps and advances authorized by the Congress against future duck stamp sales. Its members are Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton (chairman), Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts, and Representative John Dingell of Michigan.