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UPPER KLAMATH WILD LIFE REFUGE
ESTABLISHED IN SOUTHERN OREGON

By recent Executive order, President Coolidge has set aside for use as a refuge and breeding ground for birds and wild animals an area in southern Oregon embracing certain unappropriated public lands near the upper end of Upper Klamath Lake. The new reservation will be known as the Upper Klamath Wild Life Refuge and will be administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

All the lands involved have been withdrawn for reclamation purposes in connection with the Klamath irrigation project in Oregon and California and, as with other reclamation projects set aside as wild-life refuges, are primarily under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior. The reservation of these lands as a bird refuge therefore is subject to use by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation and other purposes.

About 5,200 acres are included in the refuge, which extends as a rather long narrow strip between the Crater National Forest, embracing the high mountain range bordering this part of the Klamath River Valley on the west, and Upper Klamath Lake. The refuge area consists mainly of marshland containing a dense growth of tules, sedges, and other aquatic vegetation

and affording abundant cover for the nesting wild fowl of the region. The marshes and the more open water areas also included will provide important feeding and resting grounds for migratory waterfowl, especially wild ducks and geese.

The establishment of the refuge will be of great importance to the waterfowl of the region, in view of the fact that there has been such extensive drainage of marsh areas in that general section in connection with the reclamation of lands for agricultural purposes. The reservation will be of great interest to conservationists generally as well as to sportsmen who are familiar with the drainage operations that have led to the practical elimination of Lower Klamath Lake, embracing about 80,000 acres and formerly one of the most important breeding grounds for resident waterfowl and feeding and resting grounds for migratory waterfowl in western North America. The creation of the refuge at Upper Klamath Lake will in a way serve to offset the disappointment that many felt because of the impracticability of reflooding Lower Klamath to save it as a wild-fowl haven.

The development of wild-life refuges in this general section will provide for the needs of the birds on an important migration route near the Pacific coast. The new refuge will also extend needed protection to fur-bearing animals. It is unlawful, within the reservation, wilfully to set on fire any timber, underbrush, or grass, or after building a fire to leave it without totally extinguishing it, or to hunt, trap, capture, or wilfully disturb any wild animal or bird or the eggs of any wild bird, except under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

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