



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

*Office
Dec
11/25/55*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release NOVEMBER 25, 1955

REFUGE OUTLIVES ITS STATUS

Because Lenore Lake National Wildlife Refuge no longer is of major significance in Federal management of that part of the Pacific Flyway, management of the refuge has been assigned to the State of Washington, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today.

? ~~The Department will retain title to the refuge lands and will be able to~~
~~reassume management of the refuge if the need arises, the Secretary said.~~ He added that changes during recent years in the Pacific Flyway pattern have made management of the refuge of greater local importance than national.

While Lenore Lake Refuge has been a Federal project since 1932, the lake itself has always been the property of Washington State. The lake covers 2,700 acres, not quite half of the area included within the refuge boundaries.

The Fish and Wildlife Service actively manages 12 other wildlife refuges in the State of Washington. These refuges contain a total of 80,000 acres.

Under the terms of the agreement Washington State will assume responsibility for management practices and guarantees to protect the nesting resources of the islands within the lake.

Sun Lakes State Park, one of central Washington's best recreational spots, is immediately adjacent to the refuge area. Moses Lake, one of Washington's many State refuges, is nearby. Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, now being developed, is about 75 miles away. Numerous reservoirs and canals which have been created by the irrigation projects add considerably to the waterfowl feeding grounds of the area.

X X X