



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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KLAMATH MARSH AREA BECCMES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Transfer of 14,641 acres of Klamath Indian tribal lands in Klamath Marsh, Oregon, to the Fish and Wildlife Service was announced today by the office of Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton. The area is known as the Klamath Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Private holdings totaling 585 acres already have been acquired.

The transaction was completed following the announcement by Secretary Seaton that the amount of the purchase price, \$476,401, was available from the duck stamp receipts. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will make appropriate distribution of the funds. Approximately 1,000 acres in Wocus Bay, an area of traditional and ceremonial importance to the Indians, was not included in the transfer.

The refuge was authorized by Acts of Congress in 1954 and 1958 which provided for termination of Federal jurisdiction over the Klamath Indian tribe. The Congress provided that title to the area be taken in the name of the United States as soon as the Secretary of the Interior determines that funds for the purchase price are available from duck stamp receipts. Such determination has been made and formal notice will appear in an early issue of the Federal Register.

Klamath Marsh, located in the upper part of the Klamath Basin, serves large numbers of waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. The preservation of this marsh is considered essential to meet the minimum requirements of the waterfowl using the flyway.

Management plans for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are centered around the maintenance of the permanent marsh as a primary nesting ground for several species of diving ducks presently in short supply, as well as for other waterfowl characteristic of the Pacific Flyway.

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