



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Establishment of the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge in Cartaret County, North Carolina, was approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission at its meeting on June 13, the Department of the Interior reported today. The authorized acreage is 16,214. Acquisition will be financed from duck stamp revenue when and as the various properties are secured.

The Commission approved also the acquisition of 5,016 acres in four existing refuges: Shiawassee, Saginaw County, Michigan, 4,123 acres; Piedmont, Jones and Jasper Counties, Georgia, 426 acres; Bombay Hook, Kent County, Delaware, 350 acres; and Lake Andes, Charles Mix County, South Dakota, 117 acres.

The Cedar Island refuge was selected for its great potential as a waterfowl area. Development will be concerned with the conversion of vast areas of needle-rush to more productive marsh and aquatic vegetation. The developed refuge will provide protection and improved habitat for puddle ducks, diving ducks and Canada geese. It will also be a demonstration area to develop management techniques which will be useful in managing similar types of private and public marsh areas.

The authorization at Shiawassee is a reconsideration of approval given in 1958. Approval was given in 1953 and 1958 for the acquisition by the Federal Government of 8,529 acres, as the Federal portion of a joint Federal-State venture. Because of the changing costs of lands new approval of the unacquired area was requested and granted.

Acquisition at Piedmont represents a change in management plans in that refuge was created in 1939 on lands acquired from the Rural Resettlement Administration and from land exchanges. It was primarily an area for turkey, deer and other species of upland game. In the mid-1950's the need for more waterfowl habitat in that area was noted and waterfowl areas were developed. The acquisition of the 426 acres, the first duck stamp authorization on the refuge, is another

step in converting portions of the refuge to increased waterfowl use. The Bombay Hook purchase will provide additional land for providing waterfowl feed and to act as a buffer between populated areas and the ponds used by the migratory birds. The Lake Andes purchase will round out a boundary area which was formerly used in commercial hunting operations.

Ex Officio members of the Commission in attendance at the meeting were: Norman Wilder, Director of Conservation, Delaware; Jack Crockford of Georgia, representing the Game and Fish Commission; Ernest Vaughn of Maryland, Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fish, Maryland; Woodrow Price, designated to represent Clyde P. Patton, Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina; Lester N. Berner, Chief of the Game Division, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota; L. A. Davenport, Department of Conservation, Michigan.

The present membership of the Commission includes: Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman; Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges; Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska; Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana; Representative Frank L. Karsten of Missouri; and Representative Leon H. Gavin of Pennsylvania.

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