



Under full development, the Department estimates the Kootenai Refuge marshes will again attract the large numbers of migrant waterfowl that frequented them before they were drained. Peak waterfowl numbers during migrations should reach 40,000 ducks and 6,000 geese. In addition, the refuge marshes should produce some 7,000 young ducks annually, the Department added.

The Commission also approved the addition of 4,787.93 acres to three existing refuges and reapproved the purchase of 20,448.25 acres for four other refuges. Refuges for which additions were approved were: Willamette Refuge, Marion County, Oregon--2,857.64 acres; Mark Twain Refuge, Pike County, Missouri--1,911.76 acres; and Lake Woodruff Refuge, Volusia County, Florida--18.53 acres.

Action by the Commission affecting Willamette is of considerable interest to conservationists, the Department explained. The refuge is in the heart of the Willamette Valley, an area of intensive and highly diversified farming. The locale also is the major wintering ground of the western Canada goose. The total number of geese is estimated at 21,000, most of which winter in the Willamette area.

Purchases of land for four refuges that had been previously approved, but delayed by increased land costs, were: the Prime Hook Refuge, Sussex County, Delaware--10,285.9 acres--of primary importance in the Atlantic Flyway where natural waterfowl habitat is being rapidly destroyed and land values are soaring; the Ottawa Refuge, Lucas and Ottawa Counties, Ohio--1,441.43 acres--one of the best waterfowl habitats remaining in Ohio; Yazoo Refuge, Washington County, Mississippi--5,530.29 acres--strategically important to restoring the southward flight pattern of Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway; and Browns Park, Moffat County, Colorado--3,190.63 acres--to restore what was once a fine waterfowl production area.

Members of the Conservation Commission are Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges, United States Senators Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska and Lee Metcalf of Montana, and United States Representatives Frank L. Karsten of Missouri and George A. Goodling of Pennsylvania. Ex officio members who attended the June 24 meeting in Washington were Norman G. Wilder, Director, Delaware Board of Game and Fish Commissioners; Harry R. Woodward, Director, Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department; William E. Towell, Director, Missouri Conservation Commission; Robert L. Salter, Assistant Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Dale E. Whitesell, Chief, Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and Robert U. Mace, Oregon Game Commission.

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