

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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COMMISSION APPROVES ADDITIONS TO TWO MAJOR REFUGES

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved purchase of additions to two well-known national wildlife refuges--3,110 acres for Okefenokee in Georgia and 234 acres for the J. N. "Ding" Darling Refuge in Florida.

Okefenokee is one of the oldest and most primitive swamps in America, a home for endangered alligators, and a sanctuary for white ibises, sandhill cranes, wood ducks, bears and other wildlife. Parts of Okefenokee are open to the public for sightseeing, fishing, picnicking, photography, and recreation.

The J. N. "Ding" Darling Refuge, on Sanibel Island in Florida, was named for the famous conservationist-cartoonist and Pulitzer prize-winner who died in 1962. It provides feeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl, colonial birds and shore birds, and also hosts several endangered wildlife species. The refuge will be developed and managed to encourage annual wintering populations of ducks.

Members of the Commission are Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel (chairman), Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Representative John Dingell of Michigan, and Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts.

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