

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release May 7, 1974

McGarvey 202/343-5634

## FEDERAL WETLAND ACQUISITION FUNDS FOR WISCONSIN

Federal funds totaling \$1 million are being made available to acquire waterfowl nesting and breeding areas in Wisconsin, an important duck breeding state, Director Lynn A. Greenwalt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

This is part of a new program to broaden Federal-State cooperation. Money is available from the revenue generated by the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, more popularly called the Federal "duck stamp." Federal law requires that sportsmen purchase a duck stamp before they hunt waterfowl. Revenue from the sale of these stamps is used to acquire waterfowl habitat.

Wisconsin consistently has ranked in the top three in the Mississippi Flyway in duck stamp sales. This new approach to Federal-State cooperation was suggested to the Fish and Wildlife Service by Wisconsin and several other States in 1973. Wetlands preservation was a program suited to cooperative efforts and was included as a pilot program.

This acquisition effort will be a joint venture between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Representatives from both agencies will jointly select areas to be purchased. Wisconsin personnel will complete the initial phases of acquisition. The Fish and Wildlife Service will take title to these lands; however, the subsequent management of the areas will be on a cooperative basis under Federal criteria.

Federal and State officials will seek to identify and purchase brood-rearing habitat and associated upland nesting cover in 22 top-priority counties. Wetlands will be selected on the basis of their importance to waterfowl production and susceptibility to drainage.

Lands acquired are normally open to hunting. Acquisition insures preservation of these important wetlands as viable waterfowl production areas.

x x x