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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES APPROVED

Acquisition of 4,219 acres of land in seven States for migratory waterfowl purposes has been approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis announced today.

The announcement followed a meeting of the Commission of which Secretary Douglas McKay is chairman. The Commission postponed action on the acquisition of 1,015 acres of land in two areas. The leasing of 2,559 acres of land was approved. The lands to be acquired and leased will be additions to existing migratory waterfowl refuges.

The refuges to which the acquisitions have been approved are: Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado; Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Kansas; Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota; Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon; Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Vermont; Santee National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina and Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Washington.

Action was postponed on suggested acquisitions to McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon and to certain areas within the Quivira purchase unit in Kansas. Land leased is on the Long Lake Refuge, Malheur Refuge and on Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

As of June 30, 1955, total acreage included in migratory bird refuge lands in continental United States was 4,567,765 acres. This included 25,455 acres acquired during the fiscal year 1955 from duck stamp revenues. Additional acquisitions are contemplated to keep up with the increasing demand.

The total acreage in all national refuge lands as of June 30, 1955, was 17,908,682 compared with ~~17,409,968~~ 17,409,968 acres 14 months previously.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission consists of Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, Chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson; Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks; Senator A. Willis Robertson of Virginia; Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio; Representative August H. Andresen of Minnesota; Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri and Arthur A. Riemer, Chief, Branch of Lands, Fish and Wildlife Service, who serves as Commission secretary.

The Commission operates in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 which authorized appropriations for the establishment of a Federal system of refuges of migratory birds. Appropriations under this Act, together with funds from the sale of Federal duck stamps and from other sources have resulted in the most extensive bird refuge system in the world.

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