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★ news release

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PLAN APPROVED FOR NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A general plan providing for establishment of a new National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota on land and water areas acquired by the Army Corps of Engineers as a part of the Oahe Reservoir Project has been signed by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

When fully developed, the strategically located Pocassee Refuge is expected, during spring and fall migration periods, to be host to approximately 250,000 ducks, 40,000 geese, large numbers of sandhill cranes, and perhaps a few of the rare whooping cranes.

The Pocassee National Wildlife Refuge is a 2,540-acre tract encompassing Lake Pocassee, a small lake that is separated by its dam from the main body of Oahe Reservoir. It is east of the Reservoir and about three miles south of the North Dakota State line.

Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance and Walter F. Fillmore, Director of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, had previously signed the general plan providing for the new refuge. The plan includes provision for setting aside 75 of the 2,540 acres as a public use and recreational area with the Corps of Engineers administering the recreational development.

General plans on Federal water-development projects are provided for by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to permit the conservation and development of fish and wildlife habitat in connection with these projects.

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