



# United States Department of the Interior

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Midcontinent Ecological Science Center  
4512 McMurtry Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80525-3400

July 12, 2000

In Reply Refer To:  
USGS/BRD/MESC

SRES: RF315.000

Wayne King  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Regional Office, Region 6  
PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Wayne:

Enclosed are copies of the documents we have found so far relating to the establishment of Arapaho NWR; the information will probably be useful for our meeting on Tuesday. We are still trying to find a copy of the Congressional record where the refuge was formally approved.

Sincerely,

Dave Hamilton  
Ecologist

Enclosures: Arapaho NWR proposal and approval documents

MBCC - Meeting  
August 15, 1967

9/26/67  
came on line

AUG 22 1967

Hon. Wayne H. Aspinall  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Aspinall:

By letter dated July 24, 1967, you were informed that the proposal to purchase a 4,433-acre ranch ownership to initiate the Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County, Colorado, would be presented to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for consideration on August 15. We are pleased to report that this proposal was approved at that meeting.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK  
Director

cc:

Regional Director, Albuquerque, New Mexico

FW FOC

Legislative Counsel

Congressional Liaison

LA - Colorado - Arapahoe

✓ MBCC Project File - Arapahoe

Directorate Reading File

RE:BJSchaefer:chs 8-18-67

Identical Letters to:

Sen. Gordon L. Allott

Sen. Peter H. Dominick

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

X

MBCC - Meeting  
August 15, 1967

REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

THE NEW ARAPAHOE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, COLORADO, AND INCREASED  
VALUES ON OURAY, UTAH, AND QUIVIRA, KANSAS, APPROVED BY MBCC AS  
RECOMMENDED. COPY OF PROGRAM WILL FOLLOW.

(SGD) F. G. SPODEN, JR.

F. G. Spoden, Jr.

cc:

Confirmation Copy  
MBCC Project File - Arapahoe  
MBCC Project File - Ouray  
MBCC Project File - Quivira

RE: BJSchaefer:ehs 8-15-67

F. G. Spoden, Jr., Chief, Div. of Realty  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

4676

August 15, 1967 1:00 P.

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 2

ARAPAHOE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO

SUMMARY

TYPE OF PROPOSAL : New Refuge (Key ownership only)

LOCATION : Situated within Colorado's North Park,  
5 miles south of Walden; 150 miles  
northwest of Denver.

ACRES : 4,433.07 (eventual total area about  
17,730, including 820 of State land  
and 4,215 of public land).

NUMBER OF OWNERSHIPS : One key ownership within the proposed  
refuge boundary is presented at this time.

RECOMMENDED PRICE : \$905,000.00 Per Acre: \$204.15  
LAND: \$870,000.00  
IMPROVEMENTS: 35,000.00

STATE APPROVAL : June 5, 1967, by Game, Fish and Parks  
Commission.

PURPOSE OF REFUGE : Production habitat for ducks and geese.

PUBLIC ATTITUDE : There have been no public meetings  
covering this proposed refuge. Contacts  
have been made with county officials and  
landowners in the county with favorable  
results. All contacts during the field  
appraisal were favorable. Representative  
Wayne N. Aspinall has been kept advised  
of this proposal.

ACQUISITION PROBLEMS : None foreseen at this time.

## ARAPAHOE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO

#### HISTORY

The proposed Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge is located on the Illinois River in North Park, Jackson County, Colorado, two miles south of the town of Walden. North Park, since its settlement in the 1880's, has been noted as a major waterfowl production area in the intermountain region. Prior to settlement and the development of the livestock production industry, the many stream bottoms and meadows in the area flooded annually with snowmelt and spring runoff to provide excellent waterfowl nesting habitat. This natural pattern has been somewhat changed with the management of these meadows for hay production. Flooding is now controlled to reduce ponded areas and fall and winter grazing all but eliminates the vegetation necessary for nesting cover in the developed meadows.

The primary nesting species in this area is the mallard with lesser numbers of gadwall, cinnamon teal, and shoveler. This is also one of the few places in the State of Colorado where nesting canvasback and scaup are found, as well as redhead and ruddy ducks.

#### JUSTIFICATION

The Arapahoe Refuge will be a primary waterfowl production unit serving both the Pacific and Central flyways. The excellent water supply will permit the development and management of waterfowl breeding habitat which will provide a stable and predictable annual duck crop equal to that produced on the highly successful Monte Vista Refuge in Southern Colorado. Based on data gathered by the Colorado Game and Fish Department, it is estimated that 2,000 ducks per square mile, or a total of over 25,000 per year, can be produced on developed habitat within this refuge.

Canada goose nesting in North Park has been eliminated by agricultural practices associated with hay production. Canada geese will be reintroduced through the use of captive flocks, nesting structures and water management. This contribution to the continental population can provide a recreational opportunity to hunters in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

The lands presented at this time comprise the initial segment of a refuge ultimately proposed to be approximately 17,730 acres in size. The entire area consists of 820 acres of State land, 4,215 acres of public domain and 12,695 acres of private lands. The 4,433.07 acres presented here are in a single ranch ownership situated in the meadows along the Illinois River. The ranch is the key to the whole proposal and by itself forms a manageable unit that can contribute materially to the waterfowl production in the flyway.

Arapahoe

Future acquisitions for the refuge will be presented to the Commission as agreements are negotiated with the private landowners. The State lands will probably have to be leased on an interim basis until an exchange can be negotiated. The public domain lands would be reserved for the refuge.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT      The ultimate development and management objectives of this area are to provide a maximum of marsh habitat suitable for nesting and brooding of waterfowl. Existing irrigation ditches and structures can be used to supply proposed developments. Low contour dikes can be built at nominal costs to create marshlands of excellent quality. The ranch buildings and facilities will serve as an excellent initial headquarters site.

Present haying and grazing operations are incompatible with optimum waterfowl production due to the complete utilization of emergent vegetation and the actual destruction of nests and young by equipment and livestock. These operations will be modified under refuge management programs in order to increase waterfowl production.

Recreational opportunities will be enhanced with the presence of a Refuge, particularly fishing on the Illinois River which has been restricted for many years in private ownership. Waterfowl hunting opportunities will be limited due to the normal early migration of waterfowl out of North Park but resident game hunting of sage grouse and to some extent deer and elk are anticipated.

USE AND OWNERSHIP      The ranch lands being acquired at this time comprise the wintering area for a large cattle operation owned and operated by two brothers and their respective families. Hay production on the mountain meadows supplies adequate forage for the wintering of about 1,500 head of cattle. The cattle are grazed on State and Federal leased lands in the spring, summer, and fall. About 500 head of yearlings averaging 811 pounds are marketed yearly.

Arapahoe

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF  
THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT  
ARAPAHOE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

TRACT NO. : 18, a-c ACRES: 4,433.07  
COUNTY : Jackson STATE: Colorado  
DESCRIPTION : As shown on attached map.  
OUTSTANDING RIGHTS : Public roads, telephone and electric lines,  
irrigation canals and ditch rights-of-way.  
Oil, gas and other minerals outstanding in  
third parties. Patent reservations.  
RESERVATIONS : Ranching reservation to 7/1/69. Ten-year  
oil and gas reservation.  
SOIL COVER TYPES : Irrigated Hay - 50%; Irrigated Pasture - 18%;  
Sagebrush - 32%.

SUMMARY OF APPRAISED VALUES AND RECOMMENDED PRICE

<u>Tract No.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Appraised Value and Recommended Price</u>			
		<u>Land</u>	<u>Improvements</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>P/A</u>
18,a-c	4,433.07	\$870,000	\$35,000	\$905,000	\$204.15

Arapahoe

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management  
[CO-930-1430-01; COC-12610]

Public Land Order No. 7302; Withdrawal of Public Lands for  
Addition to the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.  
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**SUMMARY:** This order withdraws from surface entry and mining 1,720 acres of public lands and transfers administrative jurisdiction to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a 50-year period. This action will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to administer the lands as a part of the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge. The lands have been and remain open to mineral leasing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 11, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Doris E. Chelius, BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7076, 303-239-3706.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described public lands are hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1994)),

[[Page 65284]]

but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, and administrative jurisdiction transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service as an addition to the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 7 N., R. 79 W.,  
    sec. 19, SE\1/4\NE\1/4\  
T. 7 N., R. 80 W.,  
    sec. 10, NE\1/4\NE\1/4\  
    sec. 11, N\1/2\NW\1/4\  
    sec. 13, SW\1/4\SW\1/4\ and W\1/2\SE\1/4\  
    sec. 14, NW\1/4\NW\1/4\



sec. 15, NE\1/4\NE\1/4\  
T. 8 N., R. 79 W.,  
sec. 8, S\1/2\  
sec. 9, S\1/2\  
sec. 17.  
T. 8 N., R. 80 W.,  
sec. 12, S\1/2\NE\1/4\.

The areas described aggregate 1,720 acres in Jackson County.

2. This withdrawal and transfer of administrative jurisdiction places these lands under the management of the Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 668dd (1994).

3. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1994), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: November 26, 1997.  
Bob Armstrong,  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.  
[FR Doc. 97-32421 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P