

**PAHRANAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**Legal and Management History of Lands**

Refuge history especially the legal history, is researched early in the CCP planning process to determine refuge purposes, verify land status, and document refuge history. The following represents research in progress for the Pahrnagat NWR. Refuge purposes are highlighted.

Date	Legal Document	Direction/Background
February 19, 1963	Memorandum Number 3 (MBCC)	<p>“The area has a long history of waterfowl use, mostly during migration but also heavy use during favorable winters”</p> <p>“Changes in cropping pattern -- from small grain production to hay an pasture, and in irrigation practices have tended to reduce waterfowl habitat values”</p> <p>“Establishment of a refuge in the Pahrnagat Valley will assure maintenance of habitat well located to serve waterfowl using this part of the Flyway. The area has an adequate water supply which, with land quality and topography, affords opportunity for further development.”</p> <p>“The principal water areas will be Upper and Lower Pahrnagat Lakes. Supplementing these will be seasonal impoundments, the number and size of which will be dependant on the development of groundwater. Waterfowl food crops will be grown on about 400 acres of land presently farmed. Grazing will be continued as a management practice necessary to maintain range and pasture lands in optimum condition foe waterfowl use. In addition to improving wildlife habitat, the grazing fees collected will contribute to the local economy and sharing of revenue with the County will reduce the effect of refuge establishment on the tax base. It is estimated that peak populations of 30,000 ducks, 500 geese and 50 swans will use the refuge during migration”</p> <p>Project consists of one private ownership, Buckhorn Investment Company [3,891.96 acres] and 933.91 acres of public land.</p>
February 19, 1963	Minutes of the MBCC Meeting	“The purchase was approved.”

May 9, 1963	63 FR 5229	Proposed withdrawal and reservation of 719.55 acres “for the management of migratory birds and other wildlife”
March 19, 1964	Public Land Order 3348	Withdrawal of 1,311.41 acres for use of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as part of the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge. EO 7373, which established the Desert Game Range, was revoked, so far as it applied to these lands. [no purpose mentioned]