

Land Management Research Demonstration

2002

Refuge becomes one of first Land Management and Research Demonstration sites.

As part of the 1998 Keystone Conference, the Refuge System's "Fulfilling the Promise" to improve its role as a model for land management techniques that maintain and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, developed a promise to designate Land Management Research and Demonstration (LMRD) sites throughout the Refuge System. These sites will showcase successful management techniques and develop and validate new techniques through applied research. The Service envisions these as places that will serve as learning centers and training grounds for land managers, where people both inside and outside the Service can come to see land management practices happening on the ground. Neal Smith NWR applied for status as one of the first sites in the United States. We were thrilled to find out in late FY2002 that the Refuge had indeed been selected as one of eight sites to be funded in 2003.

2007

October 2007

Drobney participated in the LMRD/RRB/BMT meeting in Washington D.C. from October 1-5. Several topics were discussed including introduction of the LMRD focus programs, networking among LMRD Biologists, discussion of important biological issues for the FWS, and interaction with Dan Ashe, Andy Loring, Geoff Hasket, Brian Czech, and Jim Kurth.

Reaction to the LMRD program was positive by RRBs and by WO staff, and included discussion of additional funding for the program. This meeting was the first time the LMRDs (Tom Roffe absent) have had the opportunity to meet and develop plans on a national scale. Plans were made to provide hard copy of a PowerPoint presentation to Ken Stansell as requested by him.

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Additional topics of discussion included global climate change, science initiatives, Strategic Habitat Planning, structured decision making, development of the Biological Leadership Team (RRBs and a member each from LMRD and BMT), adaptive management, among other topics.

2008

May 2008

Two LMRD interns began work on May 20, including Michelle Fuhrer, and Barbara Kagima, who has worked on the refuge doing bison research. LMRD intern work thus far has included getting the LMRD Trimble GPS up and running, and recording the limits of the burn on Thorn Valley Unit, one of the Thistle Suppression research units. Disk plates are being installed in those plots that were missed in initial marking events. A database is being developed for all of the research history for Neal Smith NWR that can be used on the website.

Drobney and members of the Thistle Research group worked on development of SSP funding for 2009-2010 thistle suppression research work.

June 2008

LMRD interns continue to work on development of the research database and other items to be applied to the LMRD Website.
