

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Fish Springs Refuge

March 25, 1964

- I. Introduction: March came in like a lion and gives every indication of going out in the same manner. During the month, numerous cold fronts passed through the refuge bringing strong North winds and six separate snow storms. The intervening periods between fronts were taken up with strong South winds. It has been a miserable month.

Waterfowl populations continue to increase with a high of 2,800 birds being recorded. The mallard, canvasback, and redhead populations are nearly all paired and pairing is becoming more noticeable in the other species. Pairing is well underway within the refuge goose flock. Production potential looks good in both the captive and released flocks.

II. Activities and Accomplishments

Maintenance: Work was completed on major repairs to the covered goose pen. The captive goose flock was trapped and the yearlings separated from the adult flock. Artificial nesting sites were constructed to encourage nesting and a portion of the pen was burned to develop tender green feed. The annual fur harvest program terminated with the removal of 422 muskrats which were sold by the trapper for \$458.70. The post season banding program was completed with 455 ducks and 25 coots banded. During periods of inclement weather, much routine maintenance was accomplished on the buildings and equipment.

Force Account Construction: We commenced construction of the numerous rizers that will be used for water control within the farming sloughs. Sixty-seven yards of large boulders were cleaned from bar barrow pits and placed in critical erosion areas at various water control structures. Fifty rods of fence stays were installed and water gaps constructed to complete construction on the sheep drift fence. Work was started on a road bed that will connect I and G pool dikes. The Sprinklers Incorporated of Salt Lake City installed a sprinkler system to provide water for 19,000 sq. ft. of lawns. Utility Engineers installed a new 10 stage submersible pump and electrode controls to replace our inadequate water supply system. The new system is a great improvement over the old.

Contract Construction: Work on contract #312 was suspended twice during the month. The immediate completion of this work is mandatory for much of our farming program, and we are anxious for good weather to arrive. The sub-contractor has completed F dike except for final shaping. Good progress was made on the pad for ditch F-3 - 15.

Problems: Last fall, A dike was given a gravel coating on the face to prevent wave erosion. As A pool was filled at the time, we were unable to reslope, the overhang caused previous wave erosion. With the overhang still present, large waves were able to under cut the gravel coating. The gravel did force the water to cut to a slope and remove the majority of the overhang. Much of the gravel coat was moved down slope to form a berm. Subsequent wave action is pulling this gravel down to cover the exposed dike and it appears that the situation is stabilized. The situation on A pool has caused us to revamp our procedure for gravelling the dike faces. On the remaining dikes, we will place the majority of the gravel at the toe of the dike to prevent development of an overhang.

Mr. Robert Schick visited the refuge and informed us that he planned to enter into extensive operations of the peat mine lease.

Public Relations: None