

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
Fish Springs Refuge
April 22, 1965

I. INTRODUCTION

Erratic is the word to describe weather conditions during the month. The high for the period was 80° with the low being 13°. Clear skies and warm temperatures quickly changed to gusty winds & overcast skies with rain or snowfall. Roads into the refuge from the East were covered with foot deep snow and drifts up to 4 ft. on 4/12-13. However the refuge total was only .50" precipitation for the month.

With the milder weather, total water output has dropped slightly from 38.6 cfs to 34.8 cfs. Pool levels are still being maintained but evaporation and transpiration losses are beginning to show up.

The waterfowl population is holding stable with a total of 3186 birds on the refuge. These are scattered throughout all pools and nesting is evident. Canada geese number approximately 100 at this time and to date 5 nests with eggs have been observed.

Shorebirds and waders began showing up this month and their numbers are increasing daily.

II. ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With high winds and pools being newly flooded, constant watch was kept on dikes, structures, and ditches. Some erosion from wave action was noted around control structures so several days were spent rip-rapping exposed areas. Wind blown weeds and debris clogged ditches so that several days were expended cleaning and mowing along main canals.

Our experimental farming project under S & M planning started this period with levelling and preparing the soil for planting. Gates and turnouts are to be installed for flood type irrigation.

715 bushel of barley was delivered by the Mallard Express from Washita and was deposited in one wing of our hanger which is improvising as a temporary grain bin. This grain is now being hand fed in strategic locations throughout the refuge to see how a feeding program will be received.

A pre-fab building of somewhat ancient vintage was picked up on surplus at Dugway and is now being put together and will be used for miscellaneous storage.

Routine repairs and maintenance checks were carried out this period on vehicles and equipment.

III. PROBLEMS * None

IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A group of 21 adults and children, members of the Utah Nature Study Society, visited the refuge on Saturday, April 17, 1965. They were briefed with a short history of the area and the management plans and objectives of the refuge. The group was then guided on a tour of the refuge by Maintenanceman Layland and Refuge Manager Yoder.

Robert G. Yoder
Refuge Manager