

Aug 1937 - Mar. 1938

Camas M. W. Refuge
Hamern, Idaho
April 14, 1938

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Camas, Idaho
(Reports)
WPK

Camas Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
General Report

Period: August 1-Sept. 30, 1937

Lands-Approximately 6800 of 10400 acres were owned by the United States.

Special Use-Permits totaling \$4107.50 and allowing grazing, putting up hay, winter feeding same, harvesting alfalfa and clover seed and cropping a small acreage (in grain) were in force during this period. Permits allowed pasturage of 775 head of cattle during this period. Approximately 1000 tons of alfalfa hay and 600 tons of wild hay (including sweet clover) were put up.

Water-Camas Creek did not run at anytime this quarter. Some water stood in the creek in Secs. 1 & 12, T.7N., R.35E and above 2 beaver dams in Sec. 18, T.7N., R.36E. Sandhole Lake remained at a fairly constant level. Rays Lake had a fairly large water area as of August 1 but by the end of September was almost entirely mud flat.

Wild life-During ^{this} quarter a maximum of 40 antelope ranged in Secs. 11, 12 & 13, T.7N., R.35E. 2 or 3 moose were frequently reported as having been seen around Rays Lake and 2 elk are reported to have ranged north and west from Rays Lake. 2 colonies of beaver were noted along Camas Creek in Sec. 18, T.7N., R. 36E. Chinese pheasants were generally distributed. Sage hens were particularly numerous in Secs. 6, 19 & 30. T.7N., R. 35E. and were generally distributed elsewhere.

Shore birds were numerous around Rays Lake, particularly avocets, Wilson snipe, godwits, & Killdeer. At various times during this period White pelicans, great blue herons, bitterns, black crowned night herons, (little white herons,) and glossy ibis were noted on the refuge.

One mallard nest with 5 newly hatched young was found 5/8 mile from Rays Lake on August 5. As late as August 15 very young broods were noted on some of the pot holes.

Development: Arrangements had been made by District Agent T.B. Murray for the cutting of 5000 lodgehole pine

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posts on the Targhee National Forest at a point 60 miles from the refuge. These posts were cut during August by 3 L.A. laborers with considerable assistance from Mr. Murrays' WPA organization.

One shack near Rays Lake was razed by ~~Mr.~~ Jr. Dist. Agent Morris' WPA force, partly to keep the material from being carried off and partly to supply material for the completion of Predator and Rodent Control storage cabins in the general region.

Period: October 1-December 31, 1932

Lands: Title to one 40 acre tract vested in the United States during this period.

Special Use: Some hay was put up on the refuge lands during this quarter. S.E. Brown harvested a little clover seed under his permit. G.T. Jones threshed a little alfalfa on the north end of the Cartier Ranch but did not get enough seed to pay costs.

Approximately 400 cattle were on the refuge during this period.

Water: Camas Creek did not flow past the headquarters. On December 16-17 a small flow came into the north end of the refuge. During the latter part of October the water table began to rise slowly and there was a very slight flow in the lower portion of the creek. Rays Lake was dry except for two holes in the East end. The Deadline Lake area (ponds along Jackettes' Ditch in the southwest part of the refuge) had slightly more water than during the late summer.

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Wild life: Antelope left the refuge in late October and early November. During this same period the sagehens bunched up in several areas. A count of these bunches indicated that there were about 600 of these birds on the area. In the early part of November sagehens and Pheasants were noted running together, particularly around the Cartier Ranch Buildings.

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BWM*

A maximum of 10,000 ducks were on the refuge during this quarter. The bulk of these favored the pond areas below Jackettes' Wells although a number frequented Sandhole Lake.

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Law Enforcement: Advice as to the issuance of executive proclamation on Camas Refuge was not received until

October 28. The water areas on title vested lands were immediately posted. Information given to the press (Salt Lake Tribune & Idaho Falls Post-Register) designated certain water areas as having been acquired by the government and therefore closed to hunting. These areas were all posted. Title status of lands within boundary precluded any strict enforcement of trespass regulations and as it happened, the press notices and posters were effective in preventing hunting on acquired lands.

The weather during the open season, November 1-30 was cold, foggy & rainy. The smaller sloughs were frozen over by the end of the season. Very few hunters came near the area.

Development: During November two laborers were employed, under letter of authorization, and 1800 fence posts were hauled to the refuge. Weather and road conditions were unfavorable for this work, there being 10 inches of snow in the woods when it was discontinued.

A WPA project got under way on December 6. Lack of tools and equipment made it necessary to confine the work largely to cleaning up the headquarters site and razing superfluous buildings thereon. A portion of the material salvaged was used in the erection of a temporary garage. Existence of a concrete floor (poultry house) governed the location of the garage. Some of the worst holes in the road from the Cartier Ranch to Highway 91 were graveled, the gravel being obtained from a public pit.

The project started out with 25 men. At the end of December 44 were employed.

Period: January 1-March 31, 1938

Lands: During this quarter title to some of the remaining unacquired lands within the refuge boundary was acquired by the entering of preliminary judgments (and final judgments in 2 cases) in condemnation.

There remain to be settled Tracts 52, 56, 59, 66 & 76. before all land within the refuge boundary is acquired. Of these tracts 52 and 66 are to be settled in April. Tracts 56 and 59 are exterior tracts and the most important (to the refuge), Tract 56, is in the hands of the District Judge for a decision as to value. The acquisition of this tract will afford some opportunity for water development. Tract 76 is only 40 acres but lies almost entirely within acquired lands and Warm Creek flows through it. Its acquisition will eliminate a trespass problem and may afford opportunity for water development along Warm Creek.

Special Use: Hay on the north end of the Cartier Ranch was sold by permittee G.T. Jones to Denning and Clark, sheep operators. Sheep were moved onto the refuge early in January. Feeding was confined to specified areas and a minimum of damage to the refuge occurred. During the latter part of February the sheep were confined to the lambing pens. 2200 sheep were on the refuge. Mr. Jones sold the hay below the buildings to Mr. Russell Hillman and about 400 cattle came onto the refuge early in January. In order to secure water feeding was done along Camas Creek in Secs. 1 & 12, T. 7N., R. 35 E. and Secs. 6 & 7, T. 7N., R. 36 E. Beyond an accumulation of manure along the creek when the stock sought shelter and some damage to brush cover from the same source, no damage resulted from feeding. It just happens that the surplus manure is handy to some sand ridges which are likely to blow (result of several years of overgrazing) and it is intended to cover the ridges with manure.

On the south part of the Cartier Ranch feeding of cattle was confined as much as possible to high ridges. An appreciable amount of trampling of brush occurred in this area. After completion of 2 headgates some short road grades and some ditches it was noted that there is danger of considerable damage to any ditches or dikes which might be constructed in the future.

Water: Camas Creek flowed into the north end of the refuge early in March. There was no flow at the headquarters until March 15. This flow lasted until March 22 when a cold snap cut it off. A heavy snowfall on March 20-21 followed by a fairly rapid thaw filled a number of potholes throughout the refuge.

A considerable water area developed in Rays Lake.

Wild life: Approximately 300 pheasants wintered on the refuge, chiefly in the shelter afforded by the brush growth along the creek. The relatively open winter favored these birds.

During January only about 50 ducks were on the refuge. These were found on the open ponds below Jackettes' Wells. In late February ducks started coming in from the south. These were largely mallards, pintails and blue wing teal. A few buffleheads and 4 Harlequin ducks were noted on Deadline Lake. By the middle of March quite a large number of birds were on the refuge. The bulk of the ducks consisted of mallards and pintails. A relatively large

number of canvas backs and redheads were noted as well as a scattering of bluebills, teal and buffleheads. On March 16, 30 Whistling swan and 300 Canada geese were counted on Sandhole Lake. On March 20 swan had increased to 100. At the end of the quarter every slough on the area had a number of ducks on it and Sandhole Lake had a large number of swan and geese in addition to ducks.

Development: The WPA project continued during this quarter. 50 men were employed January 1-15. After that the force was cut to 25, but was increased to 50 on March 28.

During January the work consisted largely of clean-up of the headquarters site, razing of buildings, maintenance of the road to the highway and peeling of fence posts.

During February the above jobs continued and in addition considerable fence repair was undertaken in the south part of the refuge.

During March attention was concentrated on water structures. Existing structures in the north end were repaired and two headgates were started in the south end. One of these is located in Sec. 18 at a point below the decreed Toomey Ditch diversion, the other just above Rays Lake in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30, T.7N., R. 36E. Structures undertaken are temporary although to get something that would hold, considerable rock and earth were used. Material needed was increased in one case because of placing the headgate at the site of a previous diversion which was in about the widest part of the creek. This location was believed advisable to reduce any argument which might arise as to the installation of this structure.

A number of spill boxes & small gates were built for installation in ditches.

Lack of equipment, particularly transportation, hampered this work. Weather and ground conditions during March made it almost impossible to get around in the south part of the refuge.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard J. Sargeant

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Assistant Refuge Manager

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Development: The WPA project continued during this quarter. 30 men were employed January 1-15. After that the force was cut to 25, but was increased to 30 on March 28.

During January the work consisted largely of clean-up of the headquarters site, rearing of buildings, maintenance of the road to the highway and peeling of fence posts.

During February the above jobs continued and in addition considerable fence repair was undertaken in the south part of the refuge.

During March attention was concentrated on water structures. Existing structures in the north and south end. One of these is located in Sec. 18 at a point below the deeded Toomey Ditch diversion, the other just above Rays Lake in NW Sec. 30, T. 7N., R. 30E. Structures undertaken are temporary although to get something that would hold, considerable rock and earth were used. Material needed was increased in one case because of placing the headgate at the site of a previous diversion which was in about the west part of the creek. This location was believed advisable to reduce any argument which might arise as to the installation of this structure.

A number of spill boxes & small gates were built for installation in ditches.

particularily transportation, damaged and growing conditions during March. It is possible to get ground in the south

Respectfully submitted,
Edward J. Sargent
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