October 8, 1936.

DIVISION OF GAME MANAGEMENT

Quarterly report on Wild Life and activities Appurtenant thereto, from July 1, 1936 to September 30, 1936.

REPORT OF WILD LIFE ON PRESERVE

BUFFALO

A. Condition of herd: GOOD

1. On hand July 1, 1936........486
   a. July Births.............. 0
   July Deaths.............. 1
   b. August Births............ 0
   August Deaths............ 0
   c. September Births........ 0
   September Deaths........ 0

2. On hand Sept. 30, 1936........485

B. About the middle of July the Albino and the 5 cows that was bred to him last year and 2 additional young cows were put in the Sheep Pasture and as yet have not been taken out but will be within the next week or two. I have made application to have 100 head removed from the present herd this fall, by either grant to someone that would care to take them alive or by the usual method of sale for slaughter, and I am not sure but what I will make application for the removal of an additional 50 head if the unusually dry weather continues. We have not had enough rain to start the grass so far this fall and, of course, the summer was unusually dry so that forage is not any too plentiful, but I will decide this matter in the near future and make a request according to range conditions.

BISON

A. Condition of herd: EXCELLENT

1. On hand July 1, 1936........108
   a. July Births............ 11
   July Deaths............ 0
   b. August Births........... 0
   August Deaths........... 0
   c. September Births........ 5
   September Deaths........ 0

2. On hand Sept. 30, 1936........124
Nothing particular to report regarding the Elk herd as we have had no loss. We have reported 16 calves to date but feel that we will have several more to report as soon as we have time to make a thorough search for them.

**MOUNTAIN SHEEP**

A. Condition of herd: **FAIR**

1. On hand July 1, 1936... 39
   a. July births.............. 0
   July Deaths................ 3
   b. August Births............ 0
   August Deaths............. 1
   c. September Births........ 2
   September Deaths.......... 1

2. On hand Sept. 30, 1936..... 34

B. We were successful in saving 7 lambs by use of the treatment with Bacterin, and would have saved more but we were not very successful in collecting them from the pasture before the disease got in its work. The few that were outside of the sheep pasture were almost impossible to catch, however, we did manage to get part of them.

**MULE DEER**

A. Condition of herd: **EXCELLENT**

1. On hand July 1, 1936... 159
   a. July Births.............. 30
   July Deaths........... 0
   b. August Births............ 0
   August Deaths........ 0
   c. September Births........ 0
   September Deaths........ 0

2. On hand Sept. 30, 1936..... 189

B. We feel sure that we will be able to report a number of additional fawns before the end of this month as the does are just lately beginning to bring the fawns out in the open where we will be able to make a more accurate count.

**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

A. Condition of herd: **VERY GOOD**

1. On hand July 1, 1936..... 38
   a. July Births.............. 0
   July Deaths............. 0
   b. August Births............ 0
   August Deaths........ 0
   c. September Births........ 5
   September Deaths........ 0

2. On hand Sept. 30, 1936..... 45
B. We have just lately been able to discover 5 additional fawns which will bring the births for this season up to 9 and the total of the herd up to 43, and expect more fawns will be discovered as soon as weather conditions are such that we can locate them along Mission Creek east of headquarters. (Will you please change the September monthly animal census to read "total 43" instead of "38"?)

PREDATORY AND FUR BEARING ANIMALS ON REFUGE

A. Coyotes have been noted about as usual and the trapper has been making every possible effort to keep them reduced to where they will not cause any damage, and 5 have been shot by Young while he was on patrol. Beavers are holding their own in nice shape and I have every reason to believe that there is no danger of them becoming eliminated from the Refuge.

REPORT OF BIRDS

A. Game birds, song and insectivorous birds are well up to normal and I have noted no appreciable loss in any of the species. Weather conditions were very favorable to a good hatch. It is generally considered that the Pheasants in this particular vicinity suffered a considerable loss due to the unusually hard winter and will not be as plentiful this season as they were last. In fact, I believe I can note a slight decrease on the refuge from the number we had last season.

REPORT ON REPTILES

A. We killed less than 200 rattlesnakes this season, but one rattler was killed at the assistant's house in the cellar-way and one killed at the front gate of the headquarters house which seems to indicate that they are moving in on us.

B. I am happy to report that no one at this station was bitten during the season, although several of the boys had mighty close calls.

GRAZING

A. Since my last quarterly report we have had less than one-half inch of rainfall, consequently our forage has suffered from the drouth and especially so since this was the warmest season on record for the past 50 years in this particular territory, so I cannot make such an enthusiastic report regarding the grazing conditions. However, if rain should come in the near future, before the weather becomes too cold, for the grass to grow we might have a slight improvement but I am afraid our chances for this good luck are rapidly decreasing.

PROTECTION

A. The range has been quite well guarded due to the fact that work projects have been carried on in various parts of the Refuge during the past quarter. Nevertheless, I believe the Indians are getting a few deer along the Jocko River side, which is, of course, their usual procedure and as soon as the rush is over with the camp operations, and possibly before that time, we are going to make a concerted effort to apprehend some of the culprits as they are prone to operate during the big game open season. I had a report just last week that a fisherman found 3 green deer hides in the brush along the Jocko River and, of course, we have reason to believe that these deer were killed within the boundary of the Refuge,
taken down into the brush and skinned and then the meat carried away, as we are sure there are no deer normally along the Jocko River that might be killed outside of the Refuge.

FIRE PREVENTION

We were very fortunate in getting through the fire season without having any fires, but we kept up our vigil and had all fire guards and fire stations in first class condition to aid in lessening the amount of loss in case we would have had lightning strike or a fire set by some other means. At this late date we hardly expect it possible for a fire to cause any damage on the range. The fire prevention equipment around headquarters is in first class condition and ready to be used in case it is needed, and every care is taken to reduce any hazards that might contribute to the loss of any buildings.

IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

A. The program for the camp operations for the seventh period was almost 100% completed at the end of September. The only project that fell short was that of Combination Buildings which will be completed now during our overtime period of operation at a cost of less than $200.00.

B. During the Seventh Period we completed the following:

1- 6 car garage building.
29 miles of road maintained and gravelled.
Approximately 10 miles of new road constructed.
Both bridges over Mission Creek were completely rebuilt.
600 cu. yards of Riprapping on Mission Creek.
16,000 acres covered by Rodent control crew poisoning Rodents.
About 35 acres cleared for Fire Hazard Reduction and approximately 200 cedar posts and 100 cords of firewood salvaged.
13-3/4 miles fire guards reconstructed and Oiled.
1- Stone entry gate built.
1- Steel cattle guard built at Entry gate.
50 miles of fence maintained.
Filled borrow pits with about 3000 yards of dirt.
Developed a camp ground, built stone stove, 3 tables, 2 latrines.
Also piped water into the camp ground, pipe laid 3 ft. under the ground and about 1000 feet of pipe was used.
300 yards of gravel spread around hdqrs. buildings.
Painted all buildings at this station except new addition to Slaughter-house and Sub-station.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

During the past quarter we have had 187 cars of visitors which were taken out on the refuge, also quite a number of other cars came at times when they could not be accomodated, but there were very few complaints, as soon as they appreciated the fact that we were very busy with camp operations and had no guides available except on the regular visiting days.

Congressman Thom, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee made an official visit to this station during the past quarter, as did Mr. Morrell of the Forest Service, also Mr. Fred Moore, Regional Director for Region 5, and all
were very well pleased with our station. The Paramount Picture people were here and took 3000 ft. of moving picture film of the Bison herd, which will be used in the picture known as the "Plainsman" starring Gary Cooper. This picture will probably be released about December 1, 1936. The Paramount people informed me that this picture will cost approximately a million dollars to produce. Mr. Sweet, a member of the staff of the New York Life Insurance Co. was here and took several hundred feet of moving pictures of the Bison. Both, Mr. Sweet and the Paramount people thought we had a very fine set up and seemed to be very appreciative of the treatment they received while here.

Mr. McConnell of New York City, accompanied by Mr. Rockwell of the American Museum of Natural History visited this station during the last quarter. They were in search of suitable specimens to be used in a group to be placed in a new building at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Mr. Rockwell said he was thoroughly convinced that we had one of the finest, if not the finest herd of Bison in the United States, and said he would make every effort to obtain his group from this herd.

The new camp ground which was developed has been used by several of the visitors, but it was really not in as much demand as I expected it would be, probably due to the fact that most of the visitors came in just before the hours of leaving on the tours out over the range.

I attended the meeting of the State Veterinary Medical Association at Kalispell in July, which meeting was very instructive.

BIRD REFUGES.

Since Mr. Girard reported to take charge of the NinePipe and Pable Migratory waterfowl refuges I have had very little contact with them, so really have nothing to report regarding the Refuges. However, I will say that the waterfowl seem to have had a very good year in this territory and from all reports, ducks and geese have made a pretty good increase this season. I think Mr. Girard has made complete reports of conditions at the Refuges and he seems to be very enthusiastic regarding the importance of these areas as Migratory waterfowl Refuges.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Norton
U.S. Game Management Agent