Mursutive reppert Jameary 1, 1972 to Deceber 31, 2972

fotura Pereomnal<br>Theee rwhugen are mannged frow the histional Buton Range oftiee.


Burean of Sporta Fiabmbla and Madilfo Min and Mildifo Servioe Malese, Monten
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# HINRPIPS AAD PABLO MATIONAL WILDLTFE EXFUGRS 

Marrative Report<br>January 2, 1972 to Deoembor 31, 1972

## I. General

## A. Weather Conditions

Weather conditions for Minepipe and Pablo are similar to the Hational Bieon Range. Temperatures were low the last part of Junuary, carly Pobruary, and early Deocmber, otherwise they wore mild and seasonable. Procipitation was genersily bolow normal for wuch of the year. Por epecific data oee mational Bison Hange narrative.
B. Hobitat Conditions

1. Hater

Water levels on both Minepipe and Pablo fluctuate in reaponse to irrigation noeds in the valley. During 1972 these Rluctuations were near"normal". The loval on Hinopipe mas alightiy above normal during diamary, and from April through July, and slightly below normal during the remainder of the year.

Minepipe sem Irosen over the first part of the year. By March 14 , the ice mas melting buck from the ohoreline.

Mater levole for Pablo were generuliy below normal daring the period January through August, and slightly above normal durring soptember through December.

Pollowing is table of the 1972 guage readings for the firet of each month.

|  | Mnenine | Pable |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 3001.8 | 3187.4 |
| Peberamy | 3001.8 | 3187.4 |
| Mareh | 3002.4 | 3188.0 |
| April | 3005.2 | 3191.7 |
| May | 3006.9 | 3201.8 |
| dupe | 3008.5 | 3205.1 |
| July | 3000.9 | 3203.5 |
| 4uguet | 3006.0 | 3201.3 |
| September | 2999.7 | 3199.6 |
| October | 2997.0 | 3194.4 |
| foveiber | 2997.7 | 3193.3 |
| December | 2999.8 | 3198.8 |

## 2. Dood and Cover

Both food anci cover ware abundant for all species. Although neither Miropipe or Pablo Refuges produce amough food for adgrating bivds adjoining state omed lands have ample grein tieldis with grew browse and standing grain crops.

Upland game birds (primarily pheagant) congregate in heary stande of oattalls especially during fall and winter. Some old stands of shelterbalts at Pablo also furnich winter cover for phameants and Itumarian (grey) partiridec. Pheseant populations have continued to decrease over the jears and loss of habitat doee not appear to be the total probleri. Hoperully with additlomal restrictions on agricultural cheaicals and crain treating phemeant production will improve.

Kentucky bluegrass is the dominate upland grass. It provides poos nesting cover oven when ungrased. County burning lave reotrict agricultural burning enough to discourage use of borning for a management tool. Also buruting of vegotation to produce matorfowl habitat is not in general accopted by the publle. We are planning to continue restricting grasing as an anoual prectice. Poseibly eora fortilising will help increase vigor of regetation and give more cover.

## II. WIIDLIF:

## A. Mimatory Birds

2. Waterfoni
a. Mingoins

Whistling smans were flret sem on the area on Februacy 13. Poak muber observed mas 200 on Maroh 26. Noat of them laft withia a fer dayt. Two to soven birde ware present until June. Fall flighte of sians over Now the refuge. Only a fou individual hirds stopped.

Canada geese ware present throughout the year. Peak popaLation for the year mas 892 on October 19.

Vosting by Canada geose mas vory succeseful this year. Pollowing is anmary data from nesting eurveys.

|  | Mests | Egge | Egra/2leat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Tound | 31 | 187 | 6.03 |
| Saecesarul Hests | 24 | 151 | 6.29 |
| 如 ${ }^{\text {acceanful Mests }}$ | 7 | 36 | 5.14 |

Of 151 eggo in the successful nests 113 hatched, or $4.7 /$ nest. Ono nest of 14 efts was observed, out of which nine hatched. (see photo action)

Total production for the year sacs 173 birds, an all time high. A summary of goose production for the Refuge since 1951 is as follows:


At the beginning of the year $(1 / 3 / 72)$ there ware 12,000 mallards. By the end of January this number had dropped to 8,000. Freezing conditions forced the birds from the lofuge with no ducks present during February. Thawing conditions in March caused the binds to return. By the 9th of March there ware 3,000 mallards, 800 pintail, 162 American widgeon, 10 looter scaup, 34 common merganser, and 179 common goldeneye. By the and of the month redhead, canvasback, shoveler and brifnohead had also returned.

Breeding paly count e in Jun s indicated a low breeding popupintion. Onis 43 pair wore observed, mostly mallard (14) and sechead(15). Prom breeding pair counts and brood carvers, prodiction mas estimated to be 221 birds. These consist ted of 95 millard, 17 pintail, 22 blue-winged teal, 8 shoveler, 20 wood duck and 59 redhead.

The fall migration was spread out more than usual with the mild autumn weather. Peak population of ducks occurred during the lat part of October only slightly more than 17,000 birds, month mallard and widgeon.

## b. Pablo

Whistling man ware observed on only two occasions - two birds on June 1, and eight birds on November 16.

Canada geese were first observed on March 30, when four were present. Their numbers built up during the summer as nonbreeding birds moved onto the area. On July 31, there were 190 birds present. The peak number occurred on August 25, when 1,000 birds were present. Their numbers declined during the fall to 578 on November 28. All birds left when the area froze over in December. No production was noted on the area.

Ducks were absent from Pablo until the latter part of March when the ice opened up. The peak spring population was about 3,200 birds on March 30. Number of birds present dropped to a low of 200 on June 15. No breeding pair counts were made so production was besed on brood counts only. These counts indicated 16 gadwall, 28 pintail, 7 shoveler, and 26 redhead were produced. Peak fall population of 8,500 occurred on September 8.

## 2. Marsh and Water Birds

Western grebes were abundant on Ninepipe throughout the summer. An estimated 200 were produced, most of them in one group of 70-plus nests in a three acre area on Ninepipe. First observations were on May 20, and they were last seen on October 19.

Great blue herons were present year around. Nesting on Ninepipe is increasing. In 1970 there were 52 active nests, in 1971 there were 54 active nests. This year there were 83 active nests. On April 6, fifteen nests were inspected. They contained a total of 69 eggs. Production for the year was estimated to be 380 young. Two Canada goose nests in old heron nests were abandoned, presumably due to all the heron activity.

All observations of sandhill cranes were made on, or adjacent to, Ninepipe this year. Two cranes were observed on the area April 6. Observations of two birds were made in the general area throughout the remainder of the summer. Seven cranes were observed on September 8 and 28 .

## B. Upland Game Birds

Ring-necked pheasant population was down. Counts on adfacent State managed lands indicated a $50 \%$ reduction from last jear. Pheasant habitat on both Ninepipe and Pablo is quite limited. Populations fluctuate depending on activities on adjacent State and private lands such as hunting, crop harvest, etc. Kontana Fish and Game released 300 female and 60 male pheasants adjacent to the Refuge in February and another 300 birds in September.

## C. Blz Came Animals

A IEN white-tail deer obearvations moce race along the south pert of Minopipe and on stete land inmediateiy north of the Rerage.
D. Pur Andrale Prodatoren Bodents and othor Matmer.

Maskut poptinetionw contine low. There men no trapping on dither Hinopipe or Pablo this year.

Coyoter ware obewred on Minopipe during the epring. At least one dea vas present on State land juet north of Iinepipe.

## 

Marik haviel wore common throughout the jear. Red-tall batice, rough-leged baike and smeneons hatks ware Prequently obearved on Pablo. One ooprey mas alghted on Boptenber 8.
\$o golden angles were seen on aither aren this ytar. Bald aglea increased both in numbers and daye of obecrvation over lat year. A surmary of bald ancle obecrvations is at followet

Minemipe
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Junamy 3
Jutmary 21
Haceh 2
tovenber 16
Hilvenbar 28
Deoumber 5

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2
$7 \quad 4$
$8 \quad 7$

Pablo
Ad닌 Thertrye 2

2 4
2
1

4 pair of great borned oris nested on, and on pair adjacent to, Pablo. two young mere proctuced in each nest.
F. Othar Bixila

It wnerni obenvations.
G. 12h

Base fikhing through the ice on Minopipe me very good if darmary and Fobinury, It many as 100 flsherrem covild be counted
 of baces wore token. Serevel in the 5 pound claes.

Trout flahing on Prilo mae fair curing nost of the jurp.

Both areas were posted "Closed to Trespass" by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, who own the land on which the reservoirs are built. When we protested through B.I.A. that we had authority to administer "refuge programs" on the areas including public use, the signs were taken down. They were later replaced with signs stating fishing was prohibited without tribal permit. We again pointed out that a fishing plan was a part of our Refuge program. The second set of signs were removed. There are still many unanswered questions as to what the Bureau's easement really contains.
H. Keptiles and Amphibians

Painted turtles occur on Ninepipe in large numbers.
I. Disease

Nothing to report.
III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT aND Mhintenance
H. Physical Development

1. Ninepipe and Pablo

No major rehabilitation projects were initiated this year. Minor repairs included posting to conform with fishing and hunting regulations, maintaining the fences and the small picnic area.
B. Plantings

None.
C. Collections and Receipts

Grazing fees collected by B.I.A.
D. Control of Vegetation

Spot spraying was done on Canadian thistle it Ninepipe and Pablo. Approximately 20 acres totil was sprayea. in mixture of 2 4-D amine at the rate of 2 pounds acia equivilent per acre. Results appeared to be about $70 \%$ kili. a smail patch of dalmation toadflax was found at Pablo. This was also sprayed with similar results. (See map for location.)


## 8. Planned Burning

None.
F. Lirna

Hone.

A. Gxating

Ocwing on both arane is conaldored modurste. period of ube is between May 15 and Boptmber 15, Pens are wallected by BoI.A. for 100 Ams ot Mineptpe, and 400 Atars at Pablo, at $\$ 1$ par AUS.

Honts.



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In cooparation mith Montan Floh and Came gh Ganodn geare werw banded at inimpipe on daan 22. Tin ago-ber compoatition of the mandins mat


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Ago-ax componition of mallards bended mat
Hatching Inat Artwe Hitohting Ywar

| Malo | 69 | 275 | - | 24. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fexale | 59 | 146 | - | 199 |
|  | 122 | 381 |  | 44 |

Two wood ducks were captured and banded during the mallard banding operation. Both birds were hatching year birds, one male, one female. The mundreds of pintail captured during the operation were released unbanded.


## NATIDNAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

PUBLIC USE REPDPT

## ACT HZS BY MJNTH

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$\because V$ I\＆OMASNTAL BUUCATION
＊SUATISWーWILOLIFF WILDLANDS

a．VISITS TU REFUGE


## NATIONAL WILOLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

AVERAGE MONTHLY WATERFOWL POPULATIONS

## NINEPIPE

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MAY 1972－ 1UG 1972

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
WILOLIFE USE QEPORT ANNUAL WATESFOWL PRODUCTION

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> NATIONAL WILDLIFE QEFUGE SYSTEM

WILDLIFE USE REPDRT
WILDLIFE USE FOR FIRST HALF OF FY73
(EXCLUDING WATERFOWL)

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LINE CODE JUL-SEP 72 OCT~DEC 72 JAN-MAR 73 APR-JUN 73 FY TOTAL PROOUCED HARVESTED POPULATION
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RED-TAILED HAWK
ROURH-LEGGED HAWK
BALD EAGLE
SHORT-EAREO OWL
GREAT HORNEU OWL

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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7110020 | 460 | 0 |
| 7110040 | 2670 | 0 |
| 7110060 | 1100 | 0 |
| 7110070 | 370 | 600 |
| 7110530 | 20000 | 0 |
| 7110540 | 25000 | 3500 |
| 7110690 | 1000 | 0 |
| 7110770 | 1200 | 0 |
| 7111200 | 460 | 0 |
| 7111940 | 20800 | 3960 |
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GUUZLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

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GÄEAT BLUE HERON

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GREATER SANDHILL CRANE SORA

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(1). VISITS TO REFUGE

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ACT HRS EY MDATHO
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äCREATIGA-MLLULIFE WILOLANDS

$6010.1-7 \%$


