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PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Pablo, Montana

Annual Narrative Report  
Calendar Year 1978

National Wildlife Refuge System  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## PERSONNEL

### Permanent, Full Time

Robert C. Brown, Refuge Manager	GS-12
*Milton K. Haderlie, Assistant Manager	GS- 9
Gary A. Hagedorn, Assistant Manager	GS- 9
**Joseph R. Quiroz, Outdoor Recreation Planner	GS- 7
***Robin Magaddino, Assistant Manager Trainee	GS- 5
Susan I. McCollum, General Clerk	GS- 5
Victor B. May, Maintenance Foreman	WS- 6
Grant Hogge, Engineering Equipment Mechanic	WG-10
Ernest W. Kraft, Maintenance	WG- 9

### Permanent, Subject to Furlough

Edward G. Krantz, Maintenance	WG- 7
****William J. Lampshire, Maintenance	WG- 7
Robert L. Middlemist, Maintenance	WG- 7

### YACC Employment

Shelly J. Kerr - E.O.D. - 11-6-78  
Bernard L. Hertz - E.O.D. - 11-13-78

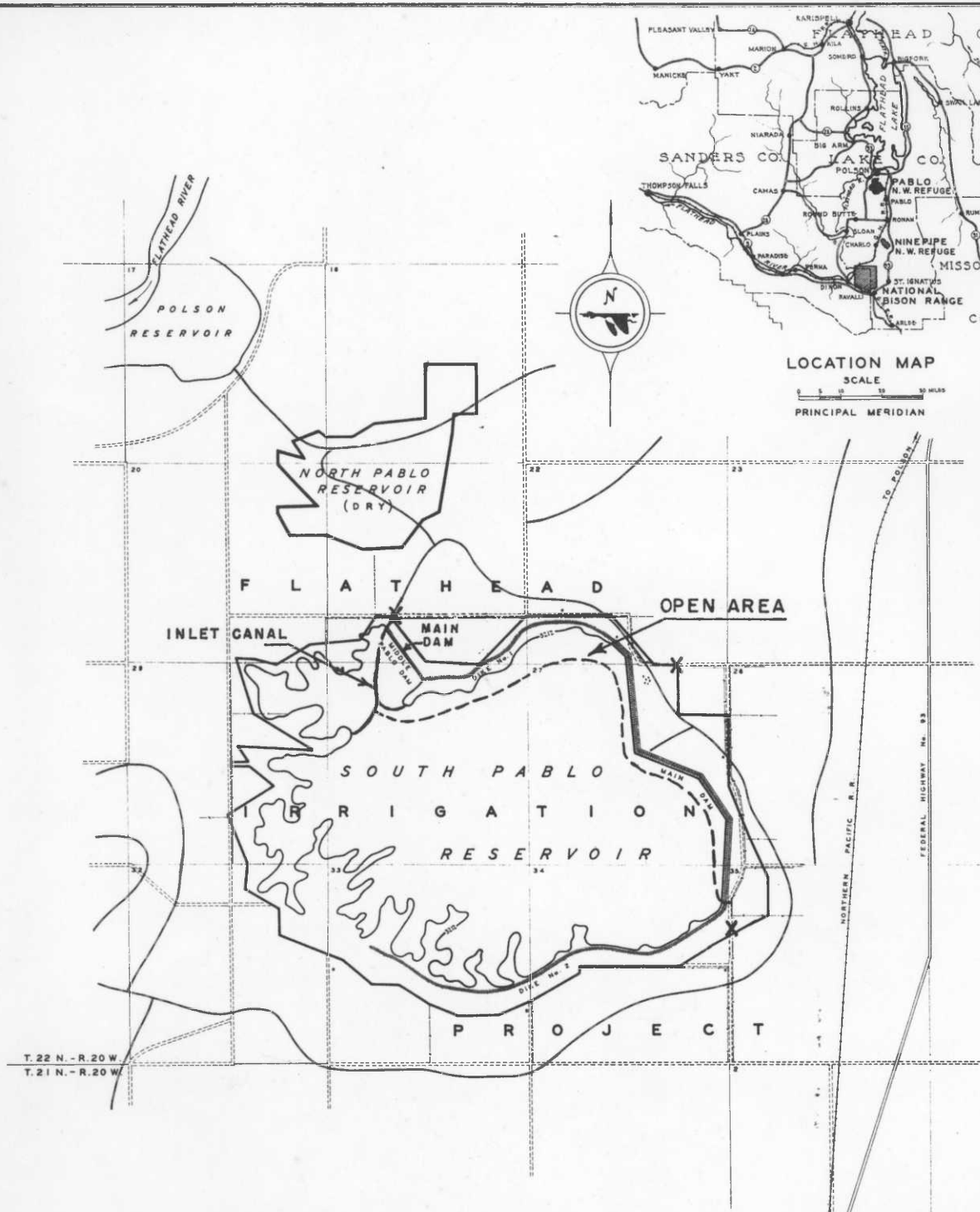
\*Transferred to Kofa Game Range - 10-22-78  
\*\*E.O.D. - 4-2-78  
\*\*\*Promoted to Assistant Manager - GS-7 - 12-17-78  
\*\*\*\*Retired - 7-19-78

### Review and Approvals

<u>Robin Magaddino, Acting Manager</u>	<u>Burton D. Pounds</u>
Submitted by	Area Office
Date 2/22/79	Date 3/16/79
<u>National Bison Range</u>	<u>Maurin L. Plunk</u>
Refuge	Regional Office
	Date 3/28/79

JEH

Complex Office



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

GENERAL MAP  
**PABLO**  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
LAKE COUNTY  
**MONTANA**

SCALE  
0 1/4 1/2 1 MILE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 1938  
REVISED APRIL 1963

**LEGEND**

- REFUGE BOUNDARY —————
- FENCE LINES ————
- PRIMARY ROADS —————
- SECONDARY ROADS - - - - -
- TRAILS - - - - -
- CANALS & DITCHES ————
- ENTRANCE X
- FISHING AREA BOUNDARY - - - - -

PABLO

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## I. GENERAL

### A. Introduction

Pablo NWR is located two miles northwest of Pablo, Montana and approximately 18 miles north of the Bison Range. Like Ninepipe, it is a small waterfowl unit of 2,500 acres superimposed over an irrigation reservoir operated by the Flathead Irrigation Project. There are nearly 500 acres of upland surrounding the 1,900 acre lake with 100 acres farmed under a BIA permit to Indians.

### B. Climate and Habitat Conditions

Weather is similar to that listed for the Bison Range. Generally, as all through the Flathead Valley, a good wet year was experienced. Water levels of lake normally fluctuate considerably during the irrigation season, but requests for early water did not materialize so water levels remained fairly stable all year. Following is a table of this year's monthly water level readings.

January	3201.2	May	3210.0	September	3207.5
February	3201.2	June	3210.8	October	3205.8
March	3203.3	July	3209.4	November	3205.5
April	3206.6	August	3205.8	December	3205.5

## II. CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

### A. Maintenance

Minor fence repair were made and a new gateway constructed across the dike road.

### B. Wildfire

None occurred this year.

## III. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

### A. Croplands

The small acreage farmed under an agreement with BIA was planted to barley. Some wildlife use of waste grain was realized.



## B. Grasslands

Soil Conservation personnel ran a quick site condition survey around the Pablo Reservoir. As with Ninepipe, the only grasslands are basically within the high water mark. The small areas of native grasslands surveyed were of insufficient size to warrant any special management. Dominant grass species were brome, poa, and alta fescue.

## C. Wetlands

Water level management of the reservoir is under the control of the Flathead Irrigation District and depends on spring runoff from the Mission Mountains and the demand for irrigation. Better than average water condition, spring and summer rains reduced the demand for release of irrigation water and provided a more stable water level.

# IV. WILDLIFE

## A. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

Occasionally a bald eagle or two may use the area.

## B. Migratory Birds

### 1. Waterfowl

Canada geese pairs started showing up on waterfowl area in late March and by mid-April 8 pairs were observed on Pablo. Good nesting habitat is limited on this area and only 4 broods were observed in May and June with production estimated at 25 young. This compared favorably with the last ten year average of 16 young geese.

Fall waterfowl counts showed a peak population of 2,250 Canada geese on September 15, 1978.

Mallards and pintails were the first ducks to utilize Pablo in March. The population increased to a spring peak of 1,400 by mid-April. The most abundant species were wigeon, mallard, pintail, canvasback, and common merganser.

### 2. Marsh and Water Birds

Double-crested cormorants from the nesting colony at

Ninepipe spend almost all their time on Pablo during the end of the summer and fall.

3. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

Ten black terns were sighted on Pablo in October. These birds are not common in this area, but are sighted more and more frequently.

4. Raptors

Osprey were seen throughout the summer. One bird was breaking limbs off of a dead tree for nesting material, but a nest could not be found.

V. INTERPRETATION AND RECREATION

A. Information and Interpretation

1. On-Refuge

Many local bird watchers use the area weekly during the summer and spring. Accurate use data has not been available in the past because of the remote location of the refuge. Local area school groups have been encouraged to visit the area in biological field trips.

2. Off-Refuge

The refuge has received some exposure during regular presentations to various groups.

B. Recreation

1. Wildlife Oriented

Fishing continues to be the only type of consumptive recreation both in summer and winter. The refuge is closed to all entry during waterfowl hunting season.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Cooperative Program

Pablo NWR was included in the cooperative goose management program between the Service and Montana Fish and Game Department. This study concerned with the management of the valley resident flock of geese, will continue in an informal fashion after the regular study ended in 1978.



B. Items of Interest

Manager Brown - Sections I, II, III, and VI  
Assistant Manager Magaddino - Section IV  
Public Use Special Quiroz - Section V  
YACC Employee Kerr typed and assembled report.