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J. CLARK SALYER WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Upham, North Dakota

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
Calendar Year 1981

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

MAY 18 1982

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Kuntz WPA - a typical unit in the J. Clark Salyer
Wetland Management District. KJB.

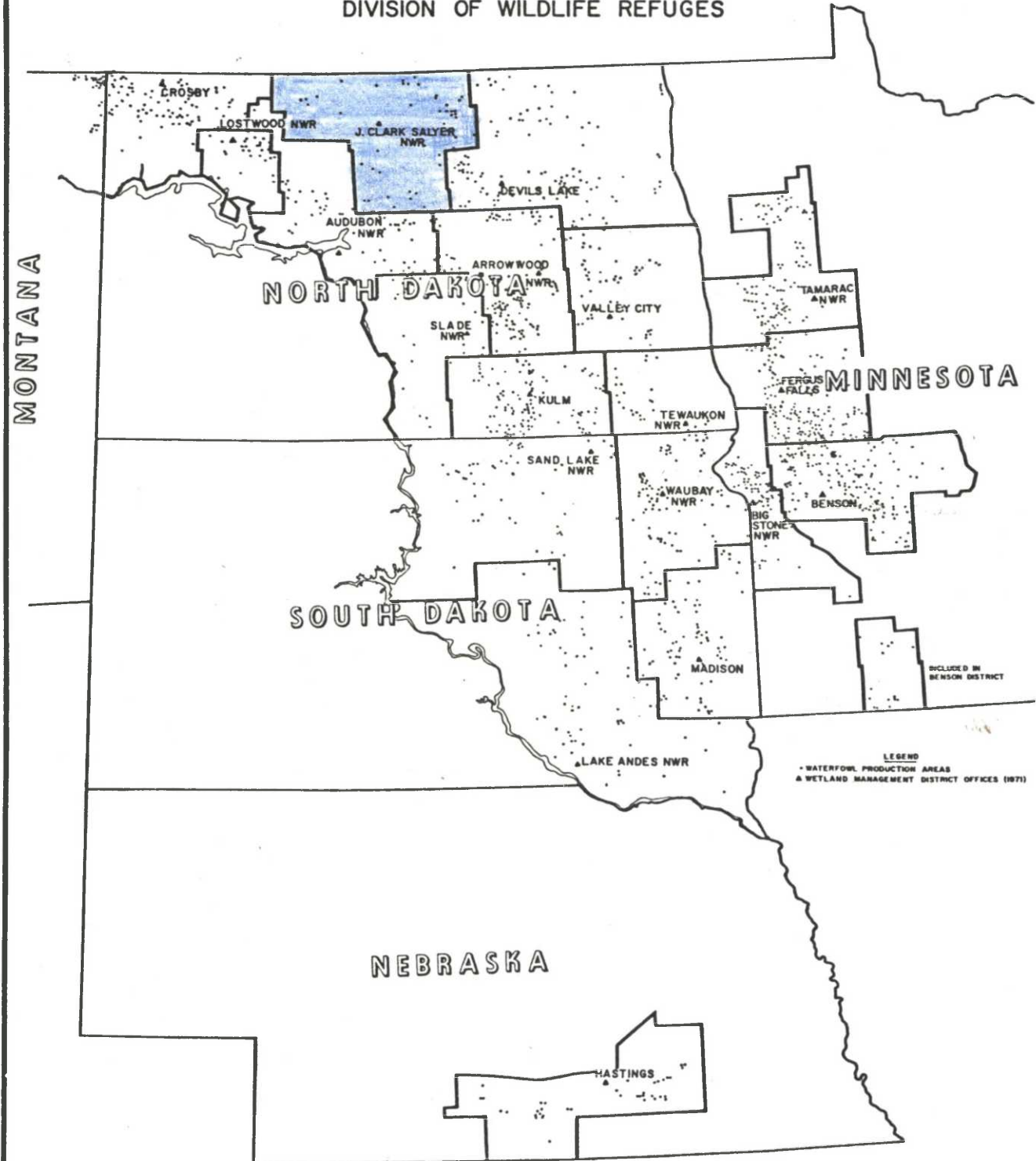
Staff Photo in J. Clark Salyer NWR Narrative Report

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Review and Approvals

<u>Kevin J. Brennan</u>	<u>3-11-82</u>	<u>Darold T. Walls</u>	<u>3/15/82</u>
Submitted By	Date	Complex Office Review	Date
<u>Lytle J. Schommer</u>	<u>4/8/82</u>	<u>Maureen J. Smith</u>	<u>5/13/82</u>
Area Office Review	Date	Regional Office Review	Date

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES



J. CLARK SALYER WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

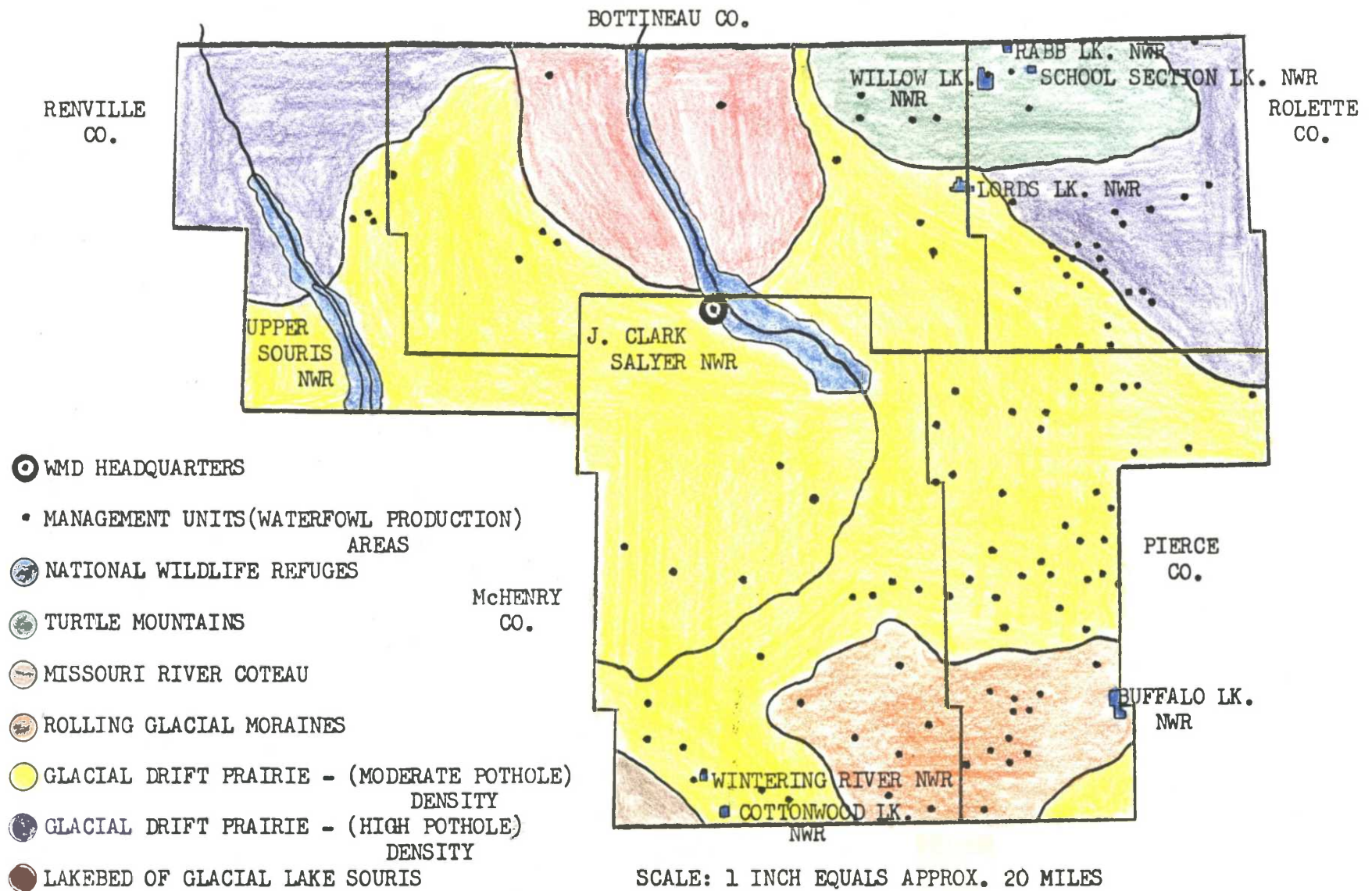


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A. HIGHLIGHTS

This year has been quite eventful for the Wetland Management District. Action involving the Cook Easement and Russell Diversion Drain were propelled to the Secretarial Level, with the events surrounding Hurricane Lake bound to get there. .

On January 6, 1981, we were surprised to receive an offer to donate a wetland easement to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Mr. James Cook of Investment Rarities Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This easement donation covered 147 acres of wetlands on a 200-acre tract of land. This is the first and only easement obtained by the Service in North Dakota since July of 1977.

On September 8, 1981, the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Incorporated filed suit against the North Dakota State Water Commission, State Engineer, Pottineau County Water Management Board and a group of local landowners in an attempt to close the Russell Diversion Drain. Russell drains a 22-square mile area running into J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge and has plagued the refuge with flooding and poor quality water since 1970. The suit contends that the drain is illegal because the required downstream flowage easements were not obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and that an analysis of the downstream impacts was not made as required by state law.

Late in the year, the Pierce, Rolette, Towner and Benson County Water Management Boards filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an attempt to drain Hurricane Lake in Pierce County. The suit contends that the Service is obstructing the drainage of the lake by requiring mitigation for its downstream wetland easements. More importantly this suit seeks to void the entire Fish and Wildlife Service's wetland easement program.

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The winter of 1980-81 was quite mild similar to the 1979-80 winter. Although a low of -37° was recorded at Belcourt on February 11 we had no prolonged cold spells typical of North Dakota winters. Precipitation was below normal by 1.1 inches until June when sporadic showers began throughout the Wetland Management District. Additional fall rains in 1980 put the district's wetlands in poor to moderate condition for breeding waterfowl. Wetlands in central Pierce County, for example, were saturated most of the summer and fall. As a result of these fall rains we were the wettest region in the entire Pothole Country.

Mild temperatures stayed on through November with the early December snowfalls coming before the ground froze. As a result easement flights will be delayed until the spring of 1982.

C. LAND ACQUISITION1. Fee Title

The status of our fee title acquisition is as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Fee Total Acres</u>	<u>1981 Increase Acres</u>	<u>Goal Acres</u>
Bottineau	2,155*	0	3,550
McHenry	4,112*	0	7,950
Renville	250	0	750
Pierce	10,492*	12	10,200
Rolette	<u>5,183*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,600</u>
Total	22,192	12	29,050

*These figures include a total of 3,633 acres which were withdrawn from the Bureau of Land Management for management by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The acreages of withdrawn lands by county are as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Bottineau	7
McHenry	244
Pierce	3,276
Rolette	<u>106</u>
Total	3,633

Fee title acquisition for the district is 64 percent complete as of December 31, 1981.

Two tracts totaling 12 acres was transferred from the North Dakota Highway Department to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These tracts were mitigation for wetland easements destroyed by the construction of an additional lane on U.S. Highway 2.

In April of 1978 all fee acquisition in North Dakota stopped and was tied to the doomed Garrison Diversion Irrigation Project by then Governor Link. The current Governor Olson has taken the same position.

In 1978 a law suit was initiated against the State of North Dakota by the Federal Government with regard to several state laws hindering easement acquisition. In 1980 this suit was extended to cover fee acquisitions when the original U.S. District Court Judge ruled in favor of the Federal Government. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis has sided with the judge declaring the state laws as arbitrary and caprecious to the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program. The Court of Appeals has also denied a request for a restraining order stopping the Service from acquiring additional wetlands while the state appeals. While the Service now has the authority to acquire fee tracts none have been acquired due to funding and political constraints. The State of North Dakota has since appealed *to the U.S. Supreme Court.

2. Easements

On July 9, 1981, the Service accepted the first wetland easement in North Dakota since July of 1977. This easement was donated by Mr. James Cook of Investment Rarities Incorporated of Minneapolis, Minnesota under Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of August 8, 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)), as amended by Section 4 of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of November 8, 1978. This easement covers 146 acres of Type III and 1 acre of Type I wetlands on a 200-acre tract of land. Coincidentally this easement lies stratigically along the route of the proposed White Spur Drain. This drain in the final planning stages would have destroyed 2,308 acres of Type III wetlands and 395 acres of Type I wetlands. The donated easement is located such that construction of the project is nearly impossible. Either the watershed above the wetland will be cut off or the wetland will be drained by the construction of the White Spur Drain.



Easement 422x Bottineau County donated by Mr. James Cook.
KJB

Easement acreages obtained up to December 31, 1981 are shown below:

<u>County</u>	<u>Acquired in 1981</u>	<u>Easement Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Goal Acres</u>
Bottineau	147	26,294	33,550
McHenry	0	23,391	28,900
Renville	0	12,366	16,700
Pierce	0	36,163	38,150
Rolette	0	19,893	23,350
Total	147	118,107	140,650

Easement acquisition is 84 percent complete for J. Clark Salyer WMD.

3. Other

Six tracts in McHenry County currently public domain lands under Bureau of Land Management authority were proposed for inclusion in the Small Wetlands Program. These tracts would be managed under a Memorandum of Understanding yet to be worked out. An inspection of these six tracts revealed them to be manageable units. These tracts showed good waterfowl use when inspected. Increased waterfowl production and use, along with preservation of several unique ecosystems, could be achieved if these units were put under Service management for an extended period of time.

Assistance was given the Washington Office of Migratory Birds in reviewing expiring Water Bank Contracts in the WMD.

D. PLANNING

2. Management Plan

As usual an annual amendment to our Controlled Burning Plan was prepared and submitted.

3. Public Participation

Visits were made to all 5 county commissions to present reviews of Service programs. Commissioners aired their views and asked a variety of questions. Weed spraying and road mowing was the top items.

Contacts were made with county agents and Soil Conservation Service personnel in the 5-county WMD. These contacts provide for an insight into the local attitudes toward Service programs in the WMD. This station is under-manned and lacks funding to fully accomplish needs in this area.

E. ADMINISTRATION

Although the WMD and J. Clark Salyer NWR are administered out of the same office the WMD status has been separated out for purposes of this report.

1. Personnel

The WMD has a full-time Wetlands Manager along with a Biological Technician position split with the refuge. Two summer students were hired and worked exclusively on the WMD for the summer months. In addition maintenance personnel perform a variety of duties either on or directly related to the WMD.

We were fortunate to obtain the service of a good YACC crew for the summer to help on our fencing program. Contrary to past experience and popular belief this crew worked hard and well. This crew bailed us out of a shortfall in funds to hire additional help for our fencing program.

Manday trends for the WMD are shown below:

	<u>Permanent</u>			
	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-Time</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>YACC</u>
FY-78	1.69 (439 MD)	0	0	0
FY-79	1.25 (325 MD)	0	0	.16 (42 MD)
FY-80	1.58 (412 MD)	0	3 (163 MD)	.40 (103 MD)
FY-81	1.66 (432 MD)	0	2 (180 MD)	.89 (228 MD)

2. Funding

Due to a change in emphasis, funding has increased on the WMD. However, the WMD is still under-manned and underfunded for a 22,192 fee acre and 118,000 easement wetland acre station. The WMD has a wide assortment of problems related to this funding including: trespass, poor habitat conditions, junk piles, weed problems, etc. Funding in FY-81 was especially good for the WMD due to a BLHP fencing package which was used to shore up operations and maintenance short falls.

Funding for the past four years is given below:

<u>Program</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>
Migratory Birds	\$30,492	\$22,230	\$33,119	\$43,160
Mammals & Nonmigratory Birds	\$793	\$3,613	\$2,000	\$2,600
Interpretation & Recreation	\$3,969 ¹	\$1,945 ²	\$5,000 ³	\$676 ⁴
BLHP	<u>\$12,000</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>\$38,000</u>	<u>\$56,520</u>
Total	\$47,254	\$31,788	\$78,119	\$102,956

¹Purchases made under the BLHP program includes 5,000 lbs. of dense nesting cover seed and a share in the purchase of a fire truck to be used for both the refuge and WMD.

²In addition \$297,000 was spent on a new office to house both the refuge and WMD along with \$32,690 for a front-end loader which the WMD will use occasionally.

³Purchases made included fencing materials, post pounder, native grass seed, dense nesting cover seed and a Bean sprayer to be shared with the refuge.

⁴Purchases include dense nesting cover seed, native grass seed, fencing materials, sign posts, metal detector along with a spray truck (4x4), grass drill and small tractor which will be shared by the refuge

3. Safety

Safety is coordinated with J. Clark Salyer NWR. Defensive driver courses were attended by the Wetlands Manager and other station personnel as mandated. Fireproof coveralls were purchased for all personnel involved in controlled burning.

4. Technical Assistance

A variety of requests for assistance were received: wild rice establishment, shelterbelt planting and writing an Environmental Assessment for establishment of a tennis court in the city of Upham.

5. Other Items

A proposal to move the WMD to the city of Rugby was submitted to the Area Office. This proposal met with favorable attention, as long as no new major funding is needed. This move was proposed to put station activities within closer reach of 75 percent of WPA's and 66 percent of the wetland easements. In addition a new public contact would result in better coordination with the State Game and Fish Department and various USDA agencies.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

The assault on all types of habitat on private lands within the WMD continues. Burning of wetlands and plowing of native prairie were the two most noted this year.

Drainage of private wetlands has been documented during aerial easement flights since 1976. Those in violation of North Dakota drainage laws are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quarter Sections with Drainage</u>
1976	542
1977	-
1978	144
1979	86
1980	17

Even though these cases are in violation of state law, this law is not enforced. This drainage has a double negative impact on the wildlife resource in that not only are the wetlands lost but the accumulated waters that have been drained cause periodic flooding of habitat on J. Clark Salyer NWR on the lower end of the watershed.

In addition the removal of shelterbelts and tree clearing in the Turtle Mountains has been on the increase, destroying some of the only remnants of cover left in many areas.

2. Wetlands

There are no water control structures on Service lands within the WMD. In general the wetlands are allowed to fluctuate according to mother nature's whims.

3. Forests

There are eight WPA's in the Turtle Mountains with the main cover being native aspen. Twenty acres have been cut on Lundy WPA in a checkerboard pattern of one-acre plots. This management is designed to improve habitat for upland wildlife such as ruffed grouse and white-tailed deer. The cutting is being done in cooperation with Metigoshe State Park which uses the wood for campfires.

Numerous shelter belts occur on WPA's throughout the drift prairie and are used as winter cover by upland game species.

4. Croplands

Farming operations are carried out on WPA's to establish dense nesting cover or native grasses for upland nesting species of waterfowl.

Dense nesting cover is established by allowing cooperating farmers to hay off and break out deteriorated cover, then seeding DNC with a nurse crop.

During the 1981 crop year acreages on the following WPA's were seeded to DNC with a nurse crop:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Ghost Valley	48
Twin Lake	40
Gustafson	15
Juntenum	5
Cruden	16
Volk	72
Kuntz	<u>35</u>
Total	231

The DNC mix included the following pounds of pure live seed:

5.0 lbs. Intermediate Wheatgrass (Oahe)
 3.0 lbs. Tall Wheatgrass (Alcar)
 2.0 lbs. Alfalfa (Ranger)
.5 lbs. Sweet Clover (Yellow Blossom)

10.5 lbs./acre

A fall inspection revealed fair-good catches on all units.

Cooperative farming was preformed on the following units in preparation for seeding in 1982 and 1983:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Crop</u>
Alymer Lake	132	Wheat & Sunflowers
Regstad	34	Flax
Ox Creek	55	Summerfallowed
Foster	34	Flax
Mikes Peak	<u>29</u>	Durum
Total	284	

Only one unit, Round Lake (37 acres), was hayed off and broke out for seeding to dense nesting cover in 1982. This was due to the lack of funds to purchase seed in 1982. Fifty-nine acres on Beatty WPA was hayed off and scarified to rejuvenate DNC seeding. A fall inspection revealed a poor stand of legumes and grasses. This unit will be coop farmed in 1982.

All 1980 DNC seedings looked very good during the growing season, providing excellent duck nesting cover along with good winter cover for upland species of wildlife.



1980 dense nesting cover seeding on Horseshoe Lake WPA. KJB.

Most other DNC seedings older than 1980 looked fair. Many of our older seedings are going downhill rapidly with no funds to replace them.

5. Grasslands

Native grasses are seeded on former croplands for a variety of reasons including (1) poor soil types unsuitable for DNC rotation, (2) small

to medium size tracts surrounded by native prairie which can be managed together, (3) subirrigated sites and (4) lack of local coop farmers to work on units.

The following units were seeded in 1981.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Grass Seeded</u>
Zurcher	86	Warm Season
Kuntz	35	Cool Season
Spichker	96	Cool & Warm Season
Horseshoe Lake*	<u>12</u>	Switch Grass
Total	229	

*This seed was supplied by the SCS plant materials specialist in a cooperative effort to establish a seed source in the WMD.

The following units were farmed in anticipation of seeding to native grasses in the future.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Seeding Year</u>
Horseshoe Lake	52	1982
Brudvik	7	1982
Mikes Peak	17	1982
Mikes Peak	27	1983
Long Lake	49	1983
Herd Lake	81	1983
Round Lake	24	1984
Boyer	31	1984
R. Gilje	8	1984

7. Grazing

In an effort to rejuvenate native grass species 80 acres on Boreson WPA was grazed for 1½ months with 70 AUM's. Response to this manipulation was fair.

8. Haying

One hundred and twenty acres on Mikes Peak WPA was hayed in trade for a number of food stacks furnished for upland game.

9. Fire Management

Prescribed burning was undertaken on two units this past spring as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Acres Burned</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Holsten Slough	100	Cattail control
Foss	40	Rejuvenate native seeding

A wildfire broke out on Volk WPA south of Belcourt burning four quarters of high quality DNC. This seems to be an annual event on Volk. Our level of initial attack readiness may be described as zero for most WPA's.



Aftermath of wildfire on Volk WPA. KJB.

10. Pest Control

2,4-D was sprayed on all known stands of leafy spurge on WPA's within the WMD. These efforts are just controls since leafy spurge is impossible to eradicate.

11. Water Rights

As discussed in the highlights a suit has been filed against the Service by the Towner, Pierce, Benson and Rolette County Water Management Boards in an attempt to drain Hurricane Lake. The suit contends that the FWS is obstructing the construction of a drain downstream from the lake by asking for mitigation of its wetland easements. (These easements are in the Devils Lake WMD.)

Also impacted by the drainage but not mentioned in the suit is a 537-acre Waterfowl Production Area on the north end of the lake. The water level of this WPA is dependent upon the level of Hurricane Lake; significant damage (namely drainage) will result on the WPA if no protection is provided the area (eg. dikes) if the lake is drained.



Hurricane Lake WPA threatened with drainage.



Large flock of geese feeding adjacent to Hurricane Lake this past fall.

This suit is also a major threat to the Service's wetland easements in the Prairie Pothole Region in that it seeks to have our easements declared void. The following five points are sought in the case.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this court:

1. Declare that land subject to a wetlands easement is not "real or personal property of the United States, including natural growth, in any area of the (National Wildlife Refuge) System."
2. Declare that the conveyance of wetlands easement does not deprive a water resource district board of managers of any statutory power to act on any land within the district.
3. Declare that FWS easements lack the degree of definiteness necessary for the creation of an easement and are, accordingly, void or mere licenses.
4. Enjoin the Defendants from interfering with plaintiffs' actions to improve the outlet channel for Hurricane Lake.
5. Grant such other relief as may be appropriate.



Easement wetlands throughout the Prairie Pothole Region such as this one are threatened with drainage if the Hurricane Lake suit is lost.

In 1977 the Soil Conservation Service Boundary Creek Drainage Project PL 566 bypassed Holsten Slough Waterfowl Production Area. The SCS and FWS agreed that the project was not to alter Holsten Slough WPA. In typical SCS style the water supply was denied the WPA and the outlet lowered to drain the WPA. Current negotiation between the SCS and Bismarck Area Office have resulted in an agreement whereby the FWS will channelize and dike though the entire WPA in hopes of restoration.



Holsten Slough WPA in the spring of 1964.



Holsten Slough WPA in the spring of 1979.

13. Wetland Easement Monitoring

Easement enforcement has required less mandays in the past two years. Our problems have turned from drainage by landowners to filling by oil companies. Work on twelve 1980 violations was completed with four remaining to be taken care of this spring.

Of the 16 violations 8 involved oil well sites. Most oil companies are willing to work with the Service to avoid easement wetlands, if they are aware of the easements. A process of notifying each company that applies for a permit has streamlined enforcement to a degree, but violations still occur. These violations not only involve preparation of a drilling pad but also access roads, pumping of water for the drilling of wells and locating batteries.



Before oil well drilling activity. Note Type III wetlands in right foreground and background. KJB.



After oil well drilling both wetlands were damaged.
KJB.

A 1978 easement violation on 521x, 1 Pierce County was finally closed this past summer. This violation was submitted civilly through the Solicitor's Office.

Due to the mild fall, ditching activities were being observed right up to snowfall. As a result easements will be flown in the spring of 1982.

G. WILDLIFE

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

Two bald eagles were sighted on March 26 near Willow City, North Dakota.

Various peripheral species were recorded in the WMD as follows: 1 - ferruginous hawk on Seil WPA 5-27 and 1 - savannah sparrow on Holsten WPA 5-5.

3. Waterfowl

The first spring waterfowl recorded in the district were 25 mallards near Russell, North Dakota on March 3. The migration continued to build to a peak on March 29 when large numbers of snow and blue geese moved through.

As we moved into nesting season water conditions were below the past 10-year average by about 10 percent. A total of 516 pairs was counted during our annual pair count census. This data indicated a production of about 5,186 young on fee acres in the WMD. Recent finding by Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center indicate that our production figures are highly questionable and need refinement.



Seven broods were recorded on this bay of a wetland.
Boreson WPA. KJB.

Canada geese are found breeding in various locations throughout the WMD. Pairs were recorded on Freeland, Sandhill Crane, Meyer and Mikes Peak WPA's this year.

During late summer heavy rainfalls occurred in northcentral Bottineau County flooding grain in the fields. Mallards, pintails and widgeons were attracted to the area with around 50,000 birds recorded as a peak.

Aerial censuses were flown weekly in the WMD during the months of October and November.

Peak concentration of waterfowl on WPA's were noted as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Snow-Blue Geese</u>	<u>Canadian Geese</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Swans</u>
Horseshoe Lake	1,200	150	200	700
Round Lake	8,500	700	8,000	35
Kittleson	100	-	-	-
Hurricane Lake	20,000	3,000	5,000	100
Boreson	7,500	-	-	150
Twin Lakes	5,200	-	-	-
Red Lake	160	-	350	-
Rush Lake	-	150	-	-

The mild fall allowed waterfowl to stay into November somewhat later than usual.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

With better water conditions sightings of birds in this category were up by about 387 percent from 1980.

The following species and numbers were recorded in the WMD during our spring pair counts: pied-billed grebe - 10, black-crowned night heron - 14, eared grebe - 156, western grebe - 7, American bittern - 4, and sora - 5.

Western grebes, a rare breeder, were noted nesting on Mikes Peak, Kilgore Lake, Aylmer Lake, and Round Lake WPA's.

Sandhill cranes stage in southern Pierce County each fall. Several WPA's receive extensive use. Over 300 were recorded on Sandhill Crane WPA in early September.

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns and Allied Species

During spring pair counts the following numbers and species were recorded: wilsons phalarope - 28, killdeer - 8, willet - 5, common tern - 1, black tern - 51, upland plover - 3, marbled godwit - 7, avocet - 11, ring-billed gull - 10, least sandpiper - 4. This is one-half the number of species recorded in 1980. This drop is due to the loss of mudflats caused by the 1980 drought.

6. Raptors

On March 24 a golden eagle was recorded on Horseshoe Lake WPA.

Pairs of nesting swainson's hawk were recorded on Zurcher and Abel WPA's. Nesting marsh hawks were noted on Spichke, Mikes Peak and Holsten Slough WPA.

7. Other Migratory Birds

Mourning doves are found throughout the WMD and seem to have a productive year every year. Nesting on WPA's seems to be concentrated in old farm sites where shelterbelts provide suitable habitat.

8. Game Mammals

White-tail deer are found throughout the WMD and use WPA's as centers of activity in many cases. A doe was noted on Spichke, three bucks on Holsten Slough, a doe with fawn on Twin Lakes and five bucks on Kilgore Lake WPA's.

Moose are found in the Turtle Mountain portion of the district in small numbers. Sightings are common and no doubt some WPA's in the "hills" receive use.

Antelope populations are slowly climbing after the devastating winter of 1978-79. A herd of about 10-15 occurs in the southwestern part of the district. These animals occasionally can be found on WPA's in the area.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

a. Resident Birds

Sharptail grouse were formerly found throughout the WMD and seem to be on the increase. A survey of Horseshoe Lake and Freeland WPA's revealed numerous dance grounds in the vicinity. Grouse broods were noted on Sisk and Allard WPA's.

Ruffed grouse occur on WPA's in the Turtle Mountains. Spring drumming counts run by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department indicated the population is down by 34 percent from 1980.

Hungarian partridge numbers are up nine percent from 1981. With the mild winters of 1980 and 1981 these little imports are thriving throughout the WMD where even the smallest amount of cover occurs.



Partridge brood near Round Lake WPA.

Pheasants are on the increase throughout the WMD mainly due to private stockings and two successive mild winters. This bird seems to titillate the public's desire to provide wildlife by stocking, as numerous clubs and individuals are releasing pheasants. Unfortunately the winter of 1982 looks bad and most of this work will be rendered fruitless come spring.

b. Furbearers

Included in this category are red fox, coyote, muskrat, mink, beaver, raccoon, skunk and weasel.

Red fox numbers have increased from a low in 1979 when pelt prices were extremely high. Dens were noted on Christensen Lake, Holsten Slough, Ghost Valley and Horseshoe Lake WPA's.

Muskrat numbers appear to be remaining steady. The number of houses seems to be the same as 1980.

A female mink with six young was noted on Mikes Peak WPA.

No census records are kept of the other species. Superficial observation show no drastic changes in any of these populations.

12. Wildlife Propagation and Stocking

With increased interest in stocking pheasants has come requests to stock WPA's. These birds are stocked basically on a put and take basis in cooperation with local clubs or individuals and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Our only expense is in providing the land base and an occasional food stack which benefits other resident wildlife. Pheasants were stocked as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number of Birds</u>
Boreson	25
Holsten	25
Aylmer Lake	90

H. PUBLIC USE1. General

Four news releases were made this year regarding the WMD. Several talks were also given to various clubs and organizations.

A leaflet for the WMD was printed this year. It shows the locations and names of each of the WPA's throughout the district. This leaflet has been very beneficial to the public use program of the WMD. The Realty Division in the Denver Regional Office designed the proof for this leaflet.

8. Hunting

This is by far the largest public use in the WMD making up 90 percent of the total visits. Pressure this year was greatest on Hurricane Lake, Long Lake (Rolette County) and Mikes Peak WPA's.

10. Trapping

Trapping is our second highest use with nearly every unit receiving some sort of use.

15. Off-Road Vehicling

In an effort to curtail this use on Volk WPA a road closure order was obtained from the Maryvale Township Board. This order closed $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of road that has FWS lands on either side and dead ends. In time the road will be barricaded.

17. Law Enforcement

Throughout the year most areas are inspected once or twice. Any problems are immediately looked into and corrected.

During waterfowl hunting season a general patrol was conducted throughout the district.

18. Youth Programs

Under the YACC program additional manpower was acquired by the WMD. Three to four YACC enrollees were used throughout the summer on our fencing crew. This group of individuals proved to be very industrious and accomplished a lot. Help with backlogged WMD office duties was acquired with YACC enrollee Audrey Blada of Newburg, North Dakota.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. New Construction

The one BLHP program designed specifically for the J. Clark Salyer WMD was undertaken this year. This package involved the construction of fence on 30 miles of boundary. Due to a shortfall in funds, materials were bought for most of the work, with the work to be funded in the future. The following fencing was accomplished.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Kittilson	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wheeler	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Denbigh	$\frac{3}{4}$
Sandhill Crane	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bluestem	1
Seil	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
West Ghost Valley	2
Ghost Valley	$\frac{1}{2}$
Avocet	$\frac{3}{4}$
Total	15 $\frac{3}{8}$

This fencing is designed to eliminate a variety of trespass violations including cows, vehicles, farm machinery and snowmobiles.

In an effort to conserve gas our two summer students - Jay Peterson and Jeff Keller were located on Round Lake WPA in a mobile trailer house. For the month we had use of the trailer, this arrangement worked well.

A 3-wheeler and a trailer designed by our mechanic, Ray Badke, helped cut costs by providing a vehicle that could fence "anywhere". This trailer was used to transport the 3-wheeler to the work site. When unloaded, the 3-wheeler pulled the trailer as a mechanism for unwinding fence, hauling steel posts and other materials.



Another time, gas and money saving arrangement was this 3-wheeler and trailer used by our fencing crew.

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement

A John Deere 2040 with loader was purchased for the district and refuge. Also purchased was a Traux grass drill and 1½-ton spray truck which are both shared with the refuge.

6. Energy Conservation

See New Construction section.

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Cooperative Programs

Reviews for Ecological Service was performed on two road projects, one 404 permit and one sewage lagoon.

3. Credits

Kevin J. Brennan wrote this report. Wanda Vohs typed and assembled this report.

K. FEEDBACK

WETLANDS ARE BEING LOST. Within the WMD the attack on the wetland base is at an all time high and we are doing little or nothing about it. Of significance here at J. Clark Salyer is that everytime a wetland is drained a double negative is done to wildlife. Not only is the wetland lost to the myraid of wildlife using it, but the waters it once stored tumble down the watershed to the Souris and add to the catastrophic floods occurring regularly on J. Clark Salyer NWR. What is equally frightening is that this drainage is becoming organized at county levels and challenging FWS rights on easements, WPA's and refuges. Completed projects such as Boundary Creek (20,000 wetland acres lost), Oak Creek and Russell Diversion (716 wetland acres lost) have given these people the impetus to attack the resource on other fronts. Hurricane Lake (3,000 wetland acres), Brander Drain (over 2,000 wetland acres) and White Spur (3,000 wetland acres) have been activated and may become realitites.

Success with those drains will lead to the following drains on the planning tables.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Wetland Acres</u>
Tolley Flats	12,500
Rush, Round & Horseshoe Lake	5,500
Barton Slough	160
Island Lake	1,000
Seven Mile Coulee	160
Ox - Oak - Willow Creek	20,000

The facts speak for themselves; there is truly a crisis occuring here in the Souris River Basin with regards to the wetland resource. We hope that the Service can stand up to the occasion.

While other stations' complain about decaying equipment, facilities and funding this station looks around and says at least they have them to complain about. The wetland program needs an infusion of funds and manpower to bring it into the decaying catagories, and additional funds and manpower to truly make our WPA's bloom into waterfowl producing areas. As an example this station has between 500 - 1,000 acres of upland habitat on withdrawn public domain lands that is annually trespass overgrazed.

Since this section is to limelight the good, as well as the bad, I see the bright spot in the wetland program as the field personnel who have tolerated the situation through the years . . . not only those at this station but others throughout the prairie pothole country who have weathered the storm, maintaining their initiative to protect the resource.

Lords Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This easement refuge in Bottineau County consists of 1,915 acres closed to hunting on a large brackish lake. Two diversion dikes push water through a feeder canal to the lake from a branch of Willow Creek. Water levels in 1981 were close to the past 5-year average. A peak of 17,700 snow geese was recorded in October. This refuge has very irregular boundaries which results in some crippling losses. As a result of posting the area in 1978 (the first year since about 1975) and contacting all the landowners, only one sign was missing in 1981. A new water level gauge was installed during the year, as the old one was damaged by ice actions. This unit is well known for its large fall concentrations of snow geese.



Large concentration of snow geese this past spring over Lords Lake.

Willow Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This easement refuge of 2,619 acres is located in the Turtle Mountains of Rolette County. The FWS owns 228 acres of the refuge purchased under the small wetlands acquisition program. The Service prohibits hunting within the boundaries and also maintains water rights on the large lake found thereon.

A cabin, garage and outhouse is located on a 2-acre tract owned by the Service. Under a cooperative agreement with North Dakota State University - Bottineau Branch this site plus the adjacent 228 acres is used for Environmental Education projects.

The boundaries were checked and posted as needed this fall.

A new water gauge with a connecting pipe was established along the west-northwest shore of the lake by Cal Henry, Bismarck Area Office Engineer and Gary Eslinger, Biological Technician.

On March 19 one sharp-tail grouse was seen on this area. On April 28 a great blue heron along with 200 white pelicans and cormorants were noted.

As island in the southwest corner of the lake has a white pelican and cormorant rookery which was again active this year.

Rabb Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This 260-acre easement refuge is located adjacent to the Canadian border in the northwestern corner of Rolette County.

The FWS controls the hunting rights within the boundaries, along with protection for a natural lake. The refuge is covered with aspen and green-ash forest, the dominant habitat type of the Turtle Mountains. There is an adjacent State Game Management Area which, along with Rabb Lake, provides excellent migratory habitats for diving ducks, especially canvasbacks. This unit was checked and reposted as needed this past fall.

A water gauge was established on the northwest side of the lake, as the old one had been pushed out by ice action.

School Section National Wildlife Refuge

This 680-acre unit in Rolette County is 61 percent timber and 39 percent water. The lake is fished heavily, but has become marginal in recent years due to increased eutrophication.

The FWS maintains only the hunting rights and the right to maintain a water elevation of 89.6 on the lake.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department owns 640 acres of this unit while the other 40 is in private ownership.

This unit provides excellent diving duck habitat, as do the Willow Lake and Rabb Lake NWR's, which are 5-7 miles away. The upland provides good ruffed grouse and white-tailed deer habitat.

A new road construction project running along the north side of the lake was inspected this past fall. A portion of lake was to be filled with a "fishing platform to keep people off the road shoulder". The final decision was left up to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

This unit also had a new water gauge installed along with the boundary being checked and reposted as needed.

Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This easement refuge is located along the southern overflow valley to ancient glacial Lake Souris. The easement refuge consists of 2,070 acres of which the FWS owns 24 acres. When the refuge was established, a spillway and rubble masonry culvert were placed in the county road to create the lake. A relief spillway, diversion dike and a diversion ditch were installed to provide additional waters to the lake from an adjacent watershed.

The local sportman club in the 1960's repaired the spillway with concrete and raised the lake level two feet.

Since this refuge is a large lake, as many of our easement refuges are, it is stocked with fish by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and receives fishing pressure year-round. The upper end of this lake is an excellent marsh which is owned by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

The majority of this unit was posted this past fall. A dispute had erupted in 1980 with one landowner as to whether his land was within the refuge or not. The old posting boundaries were followed with the understanding that if crippling losses began the boundary would be changed.

Currently the local sportman's club wants to raise the water level of the lake; various matters will have to be settled before this can be done.

A United Pentecostal Church Camp has a special use permit on a 2.5-acre fee tract along the southeast shore. An inspection of the tract this past spring revealed few boundary markers.

Cottonwood Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This easement refuge consists of 1,031 acres with a large lake located inside the boundaries. When this refuge was established a diversion ditch, relief spillway and outlet spillway were constructed. Since that time the relief spillway was blown out and the outlet spillway has been repaired by the Butte Sportsmen's Club.

An inquiry was received from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department about raising the level of this lake. Since it is basically a fisheries lake few problems can be seen.

This unit receives fishing pressure mainly from the locals.

The elevation of the outlet spillway was surveyed and will be used in the future to measure water levels.

Wintering River National Wildlife Refuge

Wintering River NWR is located in southern McHenry County and consists of 239 acres of which the FWS owns 160. This unit is the only easement refuge in the WMD which consists of interspersed Type IV wetland habitat rather than open water or Type V. This unit has a diversion ditch and dike creating the 157-acre marsh. This unit receives use by all the prairie nesting ducks. Several pieces of native prairie exist on portions of the land owned by FWS. Much of the refuge is lowland prairie.

An inspection of this unit in the spring revealed that the natural spillway had eroded over the years and that the marsh dried up early each year. The area was surveyed and staked.

A new dike with a gabbion spillway was put in this past fall by maintenance man Latendresse, biological technician Eslinger and YACC enrollee Shelkey. In addition the feeder canal was cleaned out to allow water to flow uninhibited into the marsh.



New dike and spillway on Wintering River NWR. KJB.

Although this unit is small it provides needed habitat and protection for wildlife in these days of intensive land use.

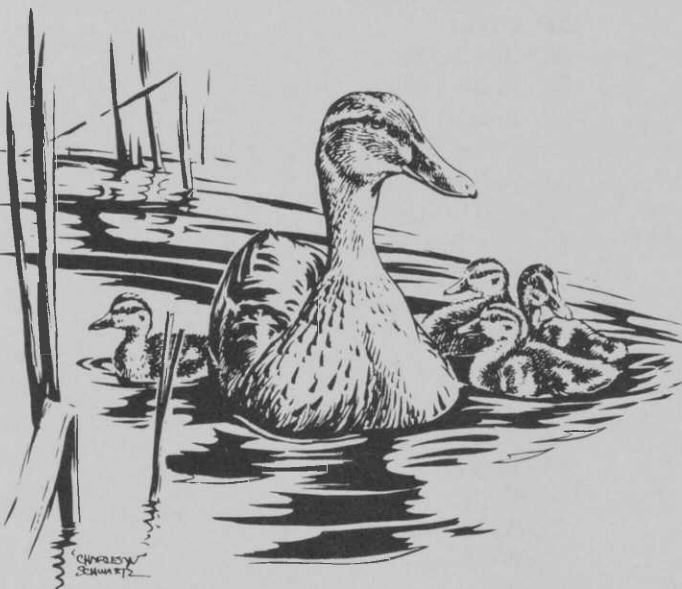


RENVILLE COUNTY

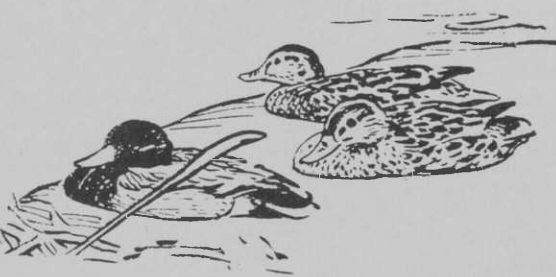
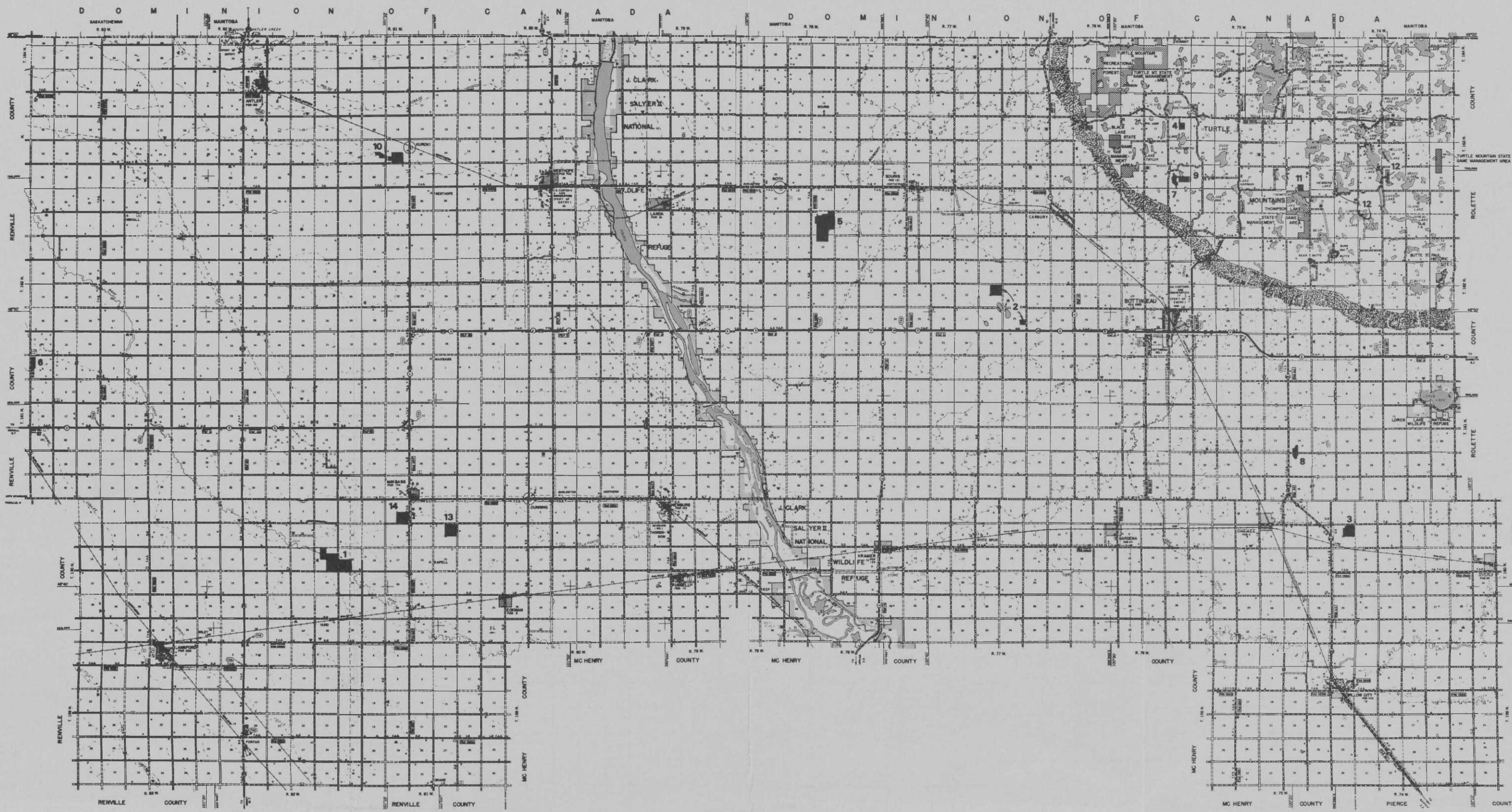


RENVILLE COUNTY WPA's

1. Brudvik
2. Gehringer
3. Mortensen

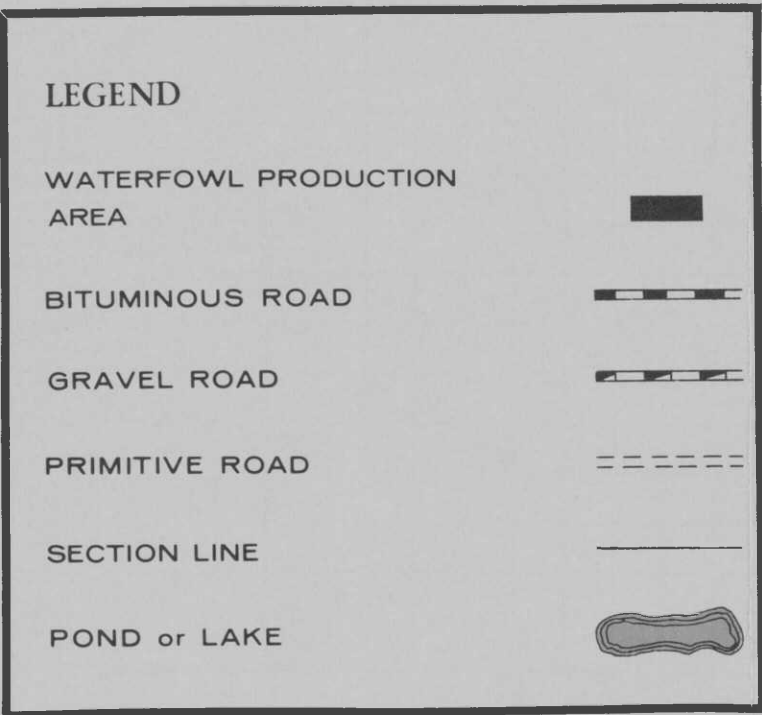


BOTTINEAU COUNTY



BOTTINEAU COUNTY WPA's

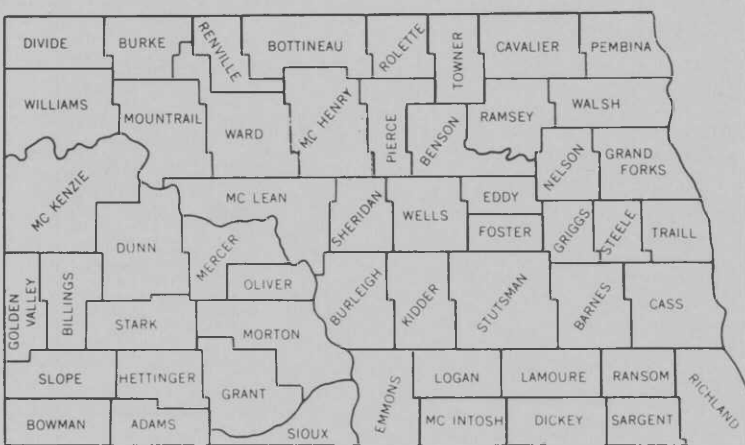
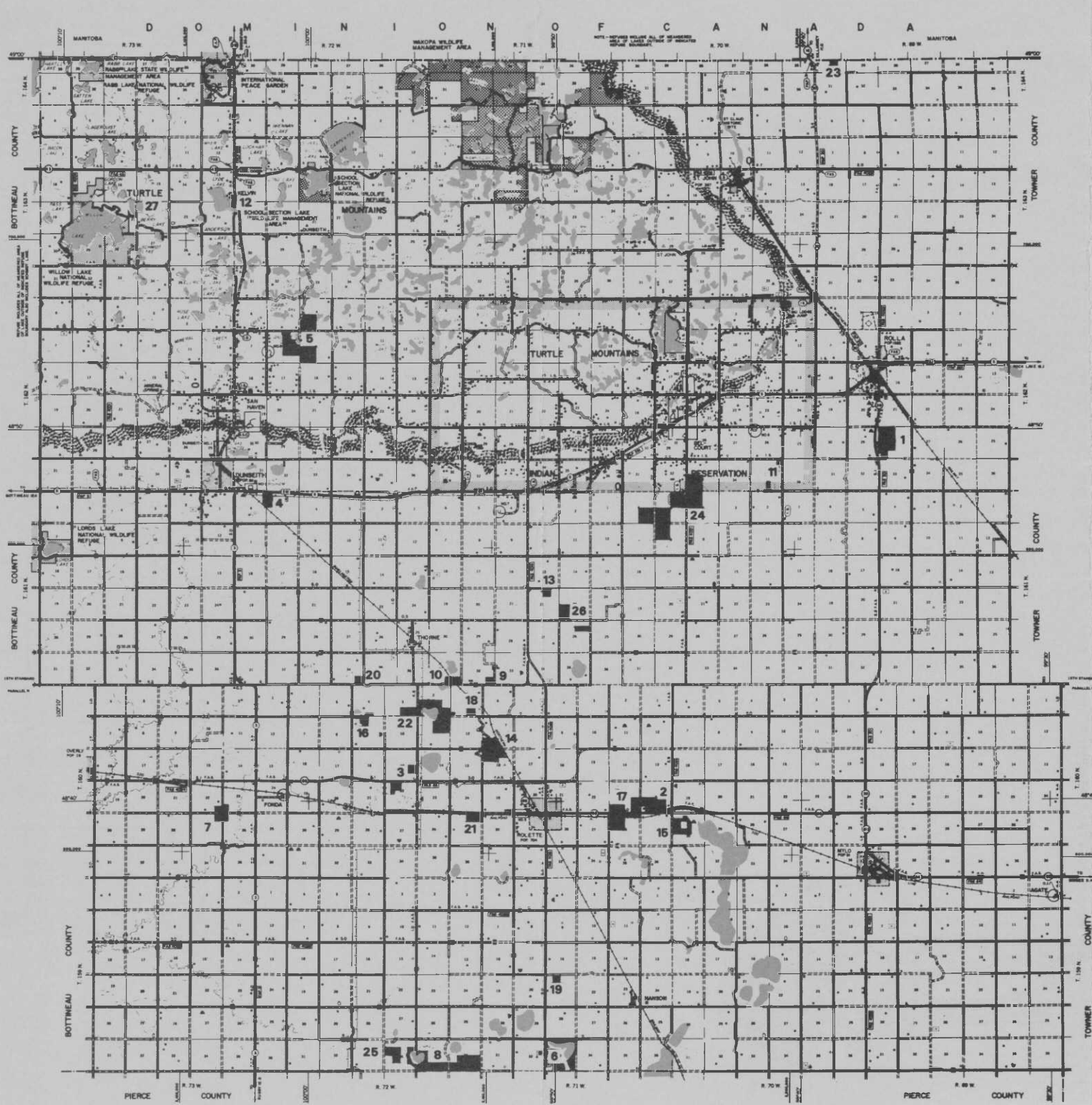
1. Beatty
2. Boreson
3. Foster
4. Haugo
5. Holsten
6. Hutton
7. Johnson
8. Kippen-Cote
9. Lundy
10. Sisk
11. Thompson Lake
12. Turtle Mountains
13. Weinrebe
14. Zurcher



ROLETTE COUNTY WPA's

1. Allard
2. Armstrong
3. Beaver
4. Berube
5. Carlisle Lake
6. Elbow Lake
7. Foss
8. Ghost Valley
9. Gilje
10. Grenier
11. Juntunen
12. Kelvin
13. Lashman
14. Little Gurr Lake
15. Long Lake
16. Osben Smith
17. Ox Creek
18. Robert Gilje
19. Rice Township
20. Russell Township
21. Tastad
22. Twin Lake
23. US Customs
24. Volk
25. West Ghost Valley
26. Wheeler
27. Willow Lake

ROLETTE COUNTY



LOCATION MAP



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
J. Clark Salyer WMD
Box 66
Upham, ND 58789



KNOW YOUR DUCKS
Learning how to recognize different kinds of ducks in flight pays dividends in extra hunting opportunity. When some species drop sharply in numbers, good management requires they not be shot. Unless you know ducks and avoid killing birds that are scarce, all hunting has to be curtailed. When you know how to harvest only ducks in good supply, a longer season is possible.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
• Open to hunting, trapping, photography, nature study and environmental education.
• Hunting is subject to all applicable federal and state laws.
• ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING SNOW MOBILES AND ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES, ARE PROHIBITED unless specific areas are posted as open to this use.
• Parking lots, where available, will be used for motor vehicle parking.
• Firearms permitted only during open hunting seasons.
• Do not pick or destroy flowers, shrubs, or any other living vegetation.
• Littering is prohibited.
• Camping and overnight use is prohibited.
• Fires are prohibited—use caution with matches.

J. CLARK SALYER
WETLAND
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA

Waterfowl Production Area
BOUNDARY



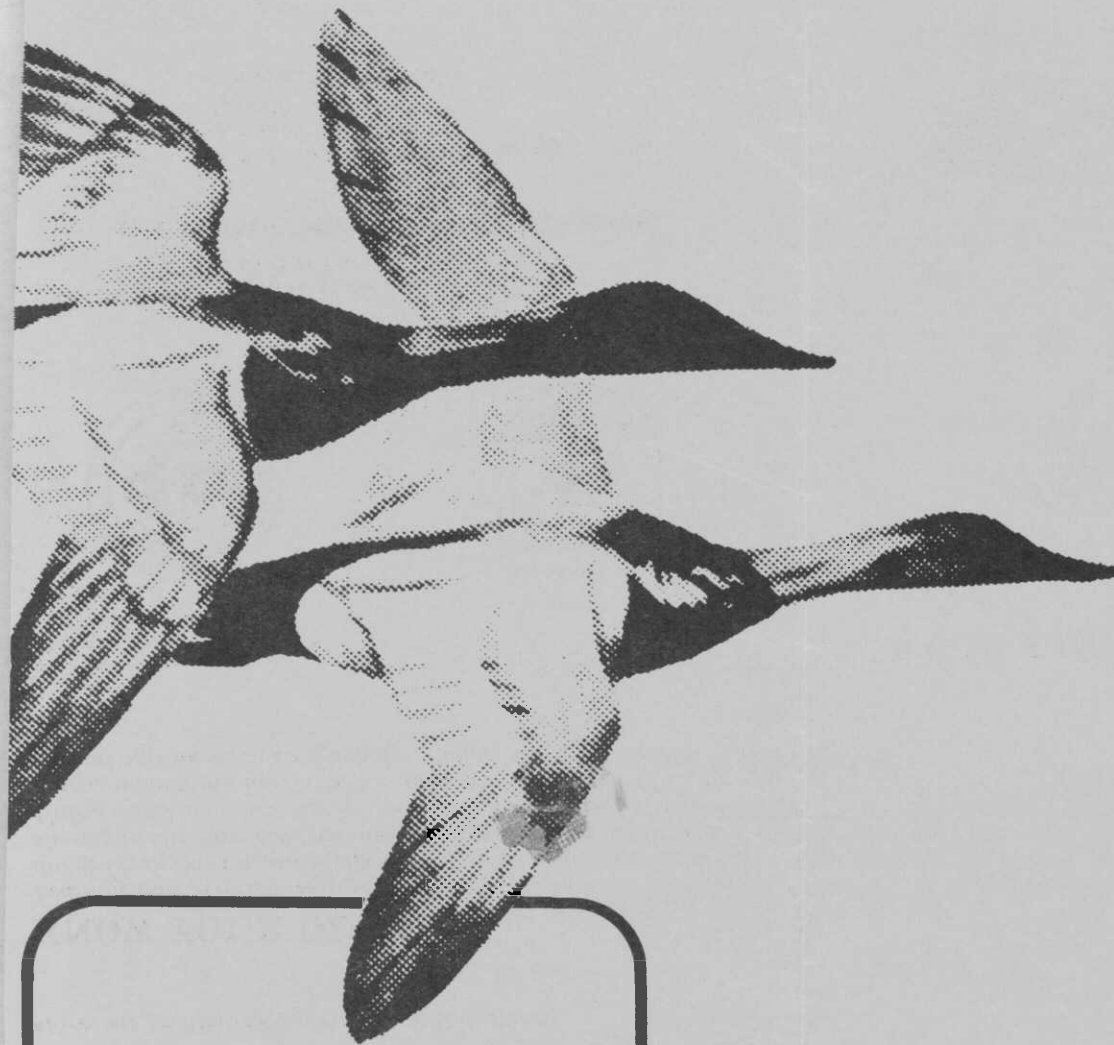
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Consult Manager
for current regulations

**WATERFOWL
PRODUCTION
AREA**



Purchased With Duck Stamp Dollars
• OPEN •
TO PUBLIC HUNTING
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

are open in the fall to public hunting except where occasionally posted otherwise. Upland game birds and big game may be hunted and furbearers trapped, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

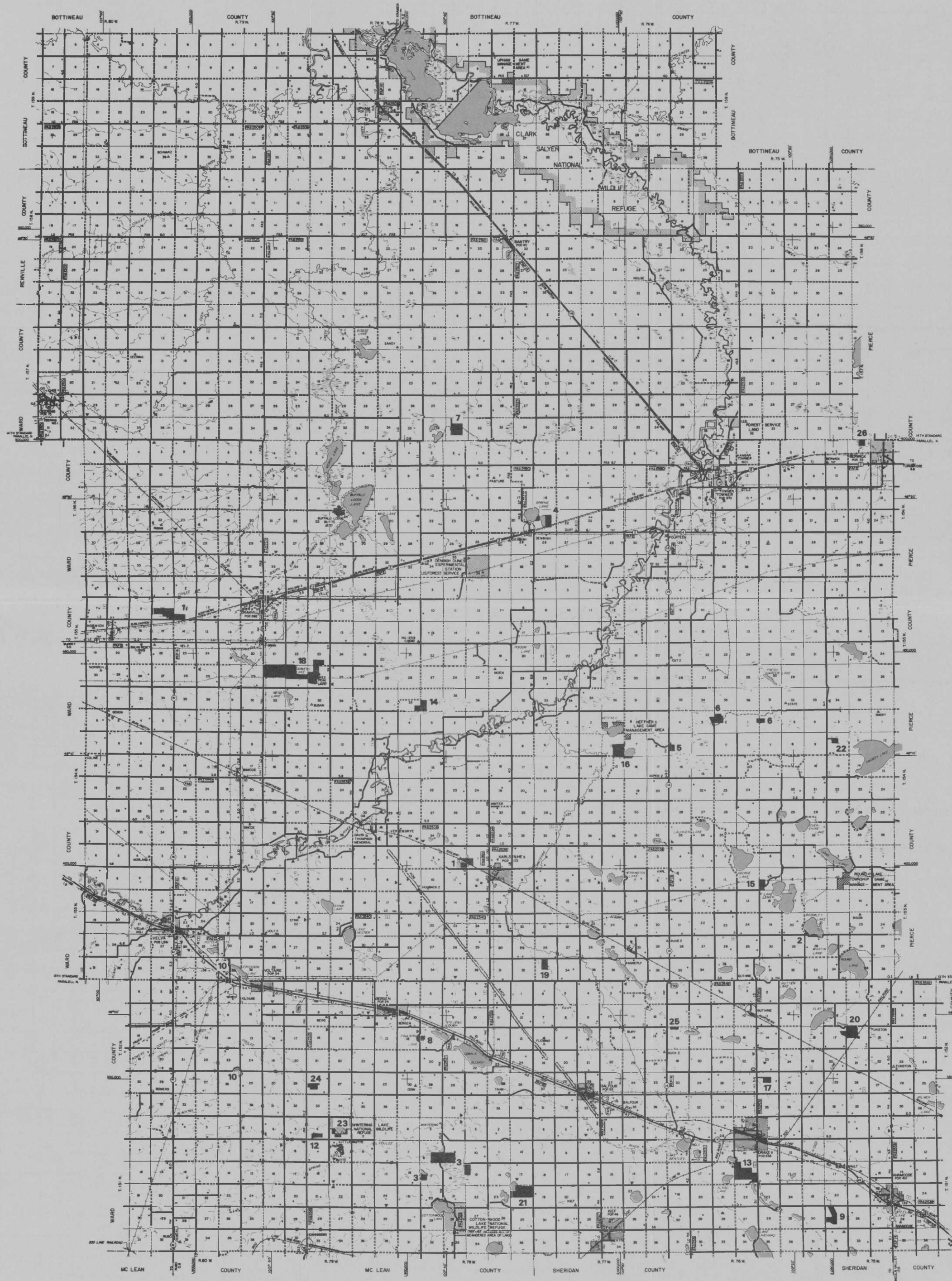


McHENRY COUNTY WPA's

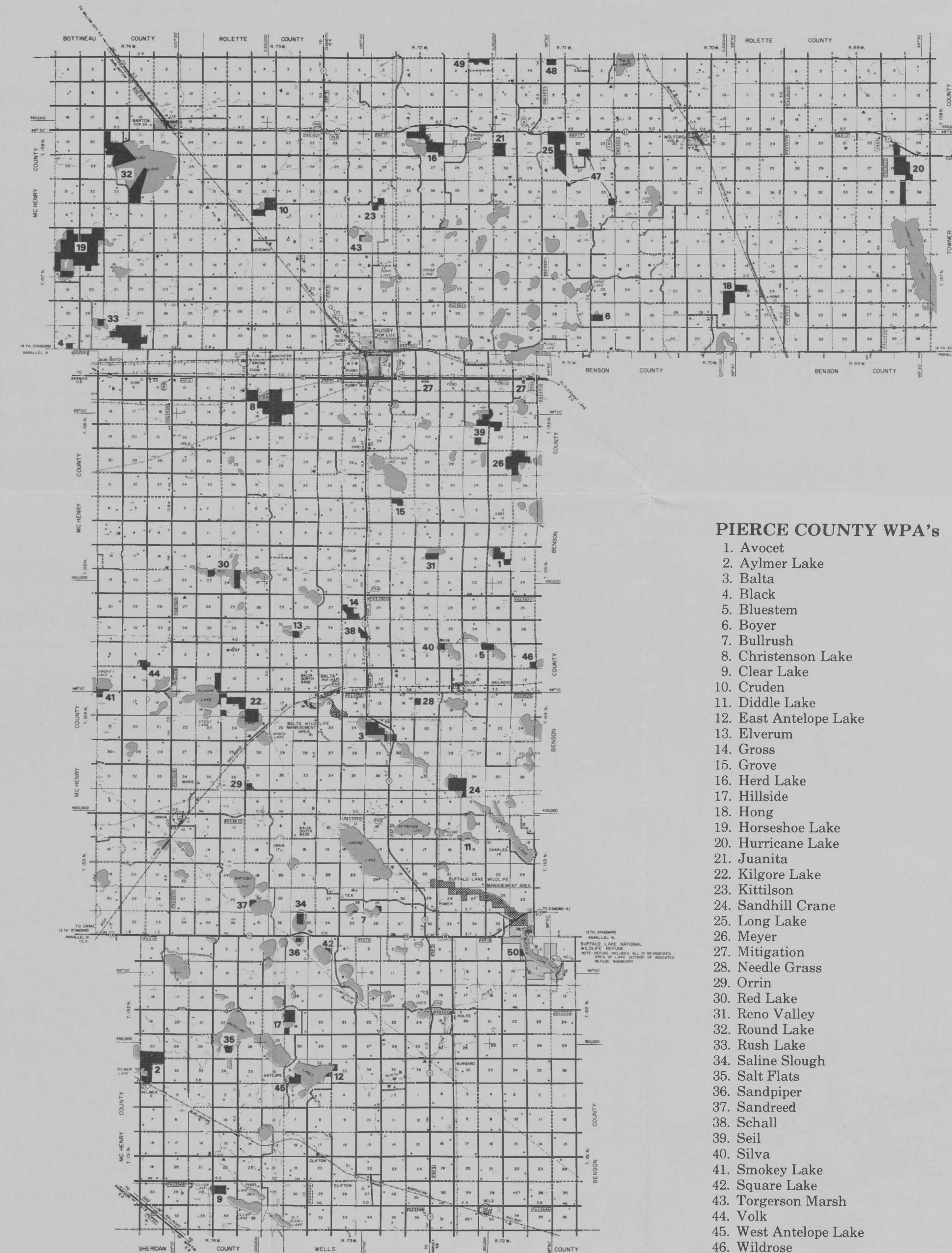
1. Abel
2. Alkali Lake
3. Cottonwood Lake
4. Denbigh
5. Eidmann C.
6. Eidmann F.
7. Frelander
8. Gustafson
9. Heer
10. Johnson
11. Keller
12. Knutson
13. Kuntz
14. Lee
15. Lemer
16. Martin
17. Merbach
18. Mikes Peak
19. Regstad
20. Rieder
21. Spichke
22. Volk
23. Wintering River
24. Ziech
25. Ziegler
26. Black



McHENRY COUNTY



PIERCE COUNTY



PIERCE COUNTY WPA's

1. Avocet
2. Ayler Lake
3. Balta
4. Black
5. Bluestem
6. Boyer
7. Bullrush
8. Christenson Lake
9. Clear Lake
10. Cruden
11. Diddle Lake
12. East Antelope Lake
13. Elverum
14. Gross
15. Grove
16. Herd Lake
17. Hillside
18. Hong
19. Horseshoe Lake
20. Hurricane Lake
21. Juanita
22. Kilgore Lake
23. Kittilson
24. Sandhill Crane
25. Long Lake
26. Meyer
27. Mitigation
28. Needle Grass
29. Orrin
30. Red Lake
31. Reno Valley
32. Round Lake
33. Rush Lake
34. Saline Slough
35. Salt Flats
36. Sandpiper
37. Sandreed
38. Schall
39. Seil
40. Silva
41. Smokey Lake
42. Square Lake
43. Torgerson Marsh
44. Volk
45. West Antelope Lake
46. Wildrose
47. Winter
48. Elbow Lake
49. Ghost Valley
50. Buffalo Lake