

*Chase Lake Wetland Management District
Chase Lake Prairie Project
Woodworth, North Dakota*

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT - 1994

REVIEW AND APPROVALS

Chase Lake Wetland Management District
Chase Lake Prairie Project
5924 19 R Street SE
Woodworth, ND 58496

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1994

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Refuge Manager	Date	Refuge Supervisor Review	Date
<u>R. K. Kneel</u>	<u>3/4/96</u>		
Regional Office Approval	Date		

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INTRODUCTION

The Chase Lake Wetland Management District (CLWMD) is located in central North Dakota and includes all of Stutsman and Wells counties. The CLWMD and the Chase Lake Prairie Project (CLPP) are operated as a substation of the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex at Pingree.

The CLWMD was administratively created in January 1993 as result of an internal reorganization of the Arrowwood NWR Complex. The CLWMD and the CLPP (a Flagship Project of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan dedicated in 1989) are headquartered together three miles east of Woodworth, ND on a 2,635 acre Waterfowl Production Area (WPA).

Description	Stutsman County		Wells County		Total Number	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
NWR's	1	4,385	-	-	1	4,385
WPA's	94	27,342	33	7,663	127	35,005
GDU's	1	935	4	2,799	5	3,734
Subtotal Fee Title	96	32,662	37	10,462	133	43,124
Easement Refuges	1	160	-	-	1	160
Wetland Easements	459	40,035	203	12,884	662	52,919
Grassland Easements	1	520	-	-	1	520
FmHA Easements	8	6,219	7	1,702	15	7,921
Subtotal Easement	469	46,934	210	14,586	679	61,520
TOTALS	565	79,596	247	25,048	812	104,644

The CLWMD lies in the heart of prairie pothole country and contains two physiographic regions. The Missouri Coteau on the west and drift prairie on the east. The drift prairie is characterized by gently rolling topography and for the most part is intensively farmed for small grain crops. The Missouri Coteau features rolling hills, and is dotted with thousands of wetlands with densities of up to and exceeding 100 per square mile. Land use in the coteau is a mix of cropping, haylands, and pasture which contain some large

blocks of native prairie. Under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) there are about 233,000 acres of cropland converted to grasslands in Wells and Stutsman Counties for a ten year period which began in 1986.

A. HIGHLIGHTS

In April, a wildfire blackened nearly 5,300 acres on and adjacent to Chase Lake NWR. The fire burned 900 acres of NWR and WPA; 2,300 acres of ND Wetlands Trust land; 150 acres of ND State School land; and 1,950 acres of private land. Five Rural Fire Departments, 3 Service engines, 1 tractor with disc and a spray plane responded. Two United States Forest Service Fire Cause Investigators were called to investigate, final determination was that the fire was human caused, either accident or arson.

In May, FWS Director Mollie Beattie toured parts of the CLPP and associated wildlife projects. The Bismarck Wetland Habitat Office and North Dakota Game and Fish Department did an outstanding job putting together a tour showing the best and worst of pothole country. Director Beattie was very approachable, and seemed keenly interested in our issues and role in North Dakota. It was a real pleasure for Chase Lake staff to be part of the tour.

In August, we received word that the North American Wetlands Conservation Council approved the 1.2 million dollar Chase Lake II grant for wildlife/wetlands projects located within the Project boundary.

In September, Chase Lake staff hosted a tour and pig roast at Chase Lake Pass for over 250 people attending the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual conference which was held in Bismarck.

In October, Arrowwood Complex, including Chase Lake WMD, entered into Self-Directed Team Management for the complex and district. This team management approach is pilot program in R-6 and is a direct result of downsizing and streamlining as the vacant Complex Manager position for Arrowwood Complex was eliminated.

In October, Wells County FmHA Tract 10c was transferred to the Service. This 320 acre parcel was a welcome addition to the NWR System.

A total of 21 wetlands covering 53.3 surface acres on WPA's were discovered that were drained prior to USFWS acquisition. Efforts were made to restore the wetlands to original conditions. Many of the wetlands were on WPA's acquired in the 1960's!

A total of 6,294 acres of land were evaluated for wetland easement acquisition, with two offers accepted and five offers pending.

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The winter of 1993-1994 brought above normal precipitation that resulted in significant runoff. Below normal temperatures were also experienced. Over two consecutive weeks of sub-zero temperatures were experienced in January. The heavy snowfall and high winds resulted in extended road closures, school closings and hard times for resident wildlife and livestock producers. Total precipitation through early August remained average. From September through October, heavy rains generated severe flooding experienced throughout the district. During one twenty-four hour period, parts of the district recorded over ten inches of rain, resulting in flooded fields and roads. Most wetlands remained at or over full capacity through freeze up. The majority of wetlands were ice covered by the last week of October. Snowfall through December remained at average.

Weather data for Chase Lake WMD. (Precipitation recorded at Chase Lake headquarters, temperature recorded at Arrowwood NWR.)

Month	Precip. 1994	Precip. Ave. 1965-1993	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.
January	.52	.26	32	-34
February	.26	.19	43	-39
March	.31	.57	58	4
April	.75	1.27	82	17
May	2.63	2.06	86	28
June	3.21	3.49	89	48
July	4.66	2.65	87	47
August	1.24	2.10	93	40
September	6.31	1.93	91	35
October	5.19	1.23	68	24
November	.88	.45	57	6
December	.18	.30	49	-13
TOTALS	26.14	16.16		

C. LAND ACQUISITION

1. Fee Title

A land acquisition priority/potential list for the district was completed in February and forwarded to Realty Office in Bismarck.

Kresl, Kevin Willis and Stu Wacker (both of the Bismarck WHO) met with the Stutsman County Commission to explain the tax abatement request on the FmHA Zimmerman tract transfer. After a question and answer session, the commission approved the request.

A petition was generated by a Wells County Township urging the county commission to stop the purchase of land by the Service from a willing seller. The petition proved to be effective as the once willing landowner decided to hold off on the offer, until he had time to re-think matters.

2. Easements

Wetland easements are sought on a continual basis. Over 6,000 acres of land were evaluated for easement potential in 1994, all in Stutsman County.

The following table lists the potential easements with current status.

Owner	Total Acres	Wetland Acres	Total Wetlands	Status
Redlin		50	37	Wetlands restored under PFW, offer was declined
Paasch	2094	110	154	Offer made, action pending
Ackerman	160	30	20	Offer made, action pending
Reuer	160	20	6	Offer made, action pending
Hoffman	880	193	69	Offer made, accepted
Novak	320	58	3	Offer made, accepted
Frey	600			Not considered
Van Ray	1120	90	199	Pending
Krenz	960	155	94	Pending
TOTALS	6294	706	582	

Current Wetland Easements within CLWMD:

County	Number of Easements	Total Acres
Stutsman	459	40,035
Wells	203	12,884
Total	662	52,919

Fifteen FMHA Conservation Easements have been transferred to the WMD to date. Eight of these properties have been re-sold. Although the FWS functions as the easement manager on all conservation easements, only those with a recorded deed are actively managed. Drained wetlands are restored and buffer areas are marked and seeded to grass. Special Use Permits are issued for activities restricted by the easement on all properties. The majority of the wetland basins have been marked on the sold properties.

Several FMHA easement properties received active management in 1994. Stutsman 10c was partially posted (section 6) and will require grass seedback in spring 1995. Posting of the wetland boundary in section 8 will also be done at that time. Stutsman 11c was put under easement in 1989 due to an error by FMHA. The landowner was notified in April that all restrictions of the easement had been removed and all posts were removed on 5/11/94. Stutsman 17c was posted after crops were harvested and a seedback plan developed for areas with "G" easement provisions. Seedback will occur in spring 1995. Three easement permits were issued in 1994 for activities on FMHA easements. One for cropping of "G" acres for seedbed preparation and two for haying of wetland basins.

Wells 10c was officially transferred to USFWS on 10/18/94. This 320 acre property will be managed as a Waterfowl Production Area. Wells 16c was placed under easement on 7/12/94.

The current status of FmHA Easements in the Chase Lake WMD:

Category	Recorded	Not Recorded	Total
No. of Easements	8	7	15
No. of Individual Easement Areas	109	129	238
Wetland Basins Protected	224	248	472
No. of Restorable Wetlands	1	5	6
Acres of Restorable Wetlands	7	16	23
Wetland Acreage Protected	239	356	595
Easement Buffer Acreage - Mandatory	288	559	847
Floodplain Easement Acreage	9	40	49
Discretionary Easement Acres - Grass	31	0	31
Discretionary Easement Acres - Trees	11	0	11
Total Easement Acreage	578	955	1533

3. Other

Five Wildlife Development Areas (WDA's), Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) mitigation tracts have been turned over to the FWS for management.

Unit Name	County	Wetland Acres	Upland Acres	Total Acres
Pipestone	Wells	43.9	113.6	157.5
Pony Gulch	Wells	91.4	148.6	240.0
Indian Hills	Wells	*360.0	1434.2	1794.2
Sweetgrass	Wells	199.4	483.1	682.6
Hawks Nest	Stutsman	172.3	763.0	935.3
TOTALS		867.0	2942.5	3809.6

* In November 1990, a 87.77 acre flowage easement was purchased on the Indian Hills WDA. This easement allowed for the complete restoration of four additional wetlands. A fifth wetland was restored by altering the dike location for an additional 0.5 acres restored. The five newly restored wetlands totaled 13.3 acres of wetland habitat on the unit.

These units have large areas of restored wetlands and grasslands that were purchased as part of the mitigation package for the GDU's.

Management of WDA's has primarily consisted of maintenance of water control structures to prevent leakage, weed control and administrative work like having perfected water permits issued. All units were patrolled during hunting season to ensure compliance with regulations. Several units received large amounts of hunting activity during upland game and deer season.

The Annual GDU/WDA Report was completed in January.

Brockman represented the CLWMD at the quarterly BOR meetings.

D. PLANNING

2. Management Plan

The ARD Complex Fire Management Plan was in rough draft stages by years end. Fire Management Officer Dearborn took on the responsibility of completing the task.

4. Compliance with Environmental and Cultural Resource Mandates

The paper trail for two archeological surveys was initiated in January. One was for Tischner WPA (Stutsman 412) and the other for Zimmerman FmHA WPA (Stutsman 559), both having abandoned farmsteads on site.

Bill Bicknell, Bismarck ES office, assisted in commenting on a road improvement project at Mud Lake WPA (Stutsman tract 1e). The project never materialized after the neighboring landowner got final cost estimates.

In March, Kresl, along with Mike McEnroe, Stu Wacker and Bill Bicknell from the FWS Bismarck Wetland Habitat Office, met the Wells County Water Resource Board and County Commissioners to discuss mitigation efforts for the wetland acres lost in the Wells #1 Drain Project. Minimal progress was made on the mitigation of over 2,000 acres of lost wetlands in the project area.

5. Research and Investigations

A meeting was held in April with Kresl, ND Refuge Supervisor Shupe and a contingency from Northern Prairie Science Center to discuss ongoing research on WPA's, especially Eddy WPA, and how they relate to the compatibility issue.

STUTSMAN COUNTY

(1) Ron Royer, Division of Sciences, Minot State University, Minot, ND. A Special Use Permit, #83924, was issued to investigate the butterfly fauna, primarily the Dakota Skipper, in the Chase Lake NWR/WPA area. This investigation never developed, but is being planned for the 1995 field season.

(2) Ray Greenwood, Northern Prairie Science Center. A Special Use Permit, #83916, was issued to conduct a study on management of skunk predation on nesting ducks. Over 800 acres were nest searched on 14 WPA's in Stutsman County. Food plots (fish offal and sunflower seeds) for predators were distributed on selected WPA's. Nest success was then compared on sites with the food plots to those sites without food plots. The statistical analysis of the results was not completed by years end.

(3) Mike Olson - Ecological Services, Bismarck, ND. A baseline contaminant study was initiated at Chase Lake NWR. A total of 15 coot eggs and 8 class II BWT were collected for analysis. Results will not be known until late 1995. The study is to collect baseline information on contaminants for future reference.

(4) Rolf Koford, Northern Prairie Science Center. A Special Use Permit, #83919, was issued to conduct a study on birds utilizing grasslands as nesting habitat on Stirton WPA (20) for 1994.

(5) David Fellows, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Effects of Prescribed Fire on Control of Leafy Spurge by Apthona". A Special Use Permit, #83892, was issued to conduct a study to evaluate effects of prescribed fire on efficacy of flea beetles on the following Stutsman County WPA's - Thiesen Marsh (22), Walsh (256), Ecroth (472). The study initiated in 1993 and will conclude in 1996.

(6) Robert Gleason, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Impacts of Agricultural Tillage and Sedimentation on Wildlife Use and Aquatic Invertebrates in Prairie Wetlands". A Special Use Permit, #44794, was issued to study the impacts of agricultural tillage on sedimentation rate, wildlife use, and aquatic invertebrate use in seasonal wetlands on the following Stutsman County WPA's - Strong (13e), Barnes Lake (14a), Sunday Lake (24). These areas are used as controls, with the Woodworth WPA (13f) serving as the main study site. The study was initiated in 1993 and concluded in 1994.

(7) Dennis Brietzman, Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck, ND. "The Impacts of Global Climate Change and the Functions and Values of Prairie Wetlands." A Special Use Permit, #83931, was issued to collect data on Ph, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and water samples for chemical analysis on Stutsman County WPA #13.

(8) Ned Euliss, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Factors

Influencing Use of Prairie Pothole Wetlands by Birds, Amphibians and Aquatic Invertebrates." A Special Use Permit, #43251, was issued to conduct research on use of wetlands by amphibians and songbirds on Eddy WPA (13). Drift fences and funnel traps have been erected for analyzing amphibians. Grids have been established with PVC pipe to monitor songbird use. This study initiated in 1992 and will be completed in 1996.

(9) Pam Pietz, Northern Prairie Science Center. A Special Use Permit, #83920, was issued to conduct a brood survival study on mallards and gadwalls within the Walsh WPA (256) Predator Exclosure. This was a one year study.

(10) Rick Nelson, Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck, ND, was issued a Special Use Permit, #83918, to assess the functions of restored wetland complexes. Water and invertebrate samples were collected for analysis. The research is being conducted on the Hawks Nest WDA. The permittee agreed to release flea beetles for use as biological control of leafy spurge on the research area.

(11) Marsha Sovoda, Northern Prairie Science Center, was issued a Special Use Permit, #83962, to evaluate the effectiveness of two baits in the capture of Franklin's Ground Squirrels. The permit was valid for 1994 on 18 Stutsman County WPA's.

(12) Doug Johnson, Northern Prairie Science Center, was issued a Special Use Permit, #83926, to conduct breeding bird censuses on the Woodworth WPA. This study has been ongoing since the early 1960's.

(13) Bill Well, Chase Lake Foundation, was issued a Special Use Permit, #83911, to begin preliminary site planning, evaluation and engineering stages for the proposed Prairie Wetlands Interpretive Center to be located on the Crystal Springs WPA, Stutsman County.

WELLS COUNTY

(1) Mark E. Brigham, US Geological Survey. Water and Sediment Sampling. Marzolf WPA (Wells 96, 239). USGS is conducting contaminants analysis on water and sediment samples collected in wetland basins on this WPA. One set of samples was collected during the period of special use permit. Samples collected were analyzed for 90 different pesticide compounds. Atrazine was detected in WPA wetlands at .01 microgram per liter, which was not out of the normal range. Atrazine was the most frequently detected of all pesticides and the maximum concentration detected was .4 micrograms per liter, from a sample taken on privately owned cropland. No other compounds were detected in the WPA wetlands.

(2) Pamela Dryer, Bluestem Company, Bismarck, ND. Monitoring of vegetation composition and sedimentation rates in wetlands. Foley

WPA (Wells 136). Feldspar markers were placed in five wetlands to determine sedimentation rates in wetlands undisturbed by agricultural activities. This study was commissioned by the ND Department of Health. Wetlands were also assessed in grazed pasture, CRP enrolled cropland and tilled cropland. The following conclusions were reported by Bluestem Incorporated. Plant species richness was higher in seasonal WPA wetlands than other sites. Mean sedimentation rate was also highest in WPA wetlands, (2.6mm/yr. +/- 3.28) despite their being uncultivated. The following possible explanations were offered for this. Steeper topography surrounding WPA wetlands or a substantially larger percentage of material measured as sedimentation may have been organic in nature. Organic material on other sites may have been removed by annual haying. Eight percent of annual sediment deposition occurred in winter and early spring on WPA wetlands.

(3) Dr. Rick Nelson, US Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck, ND. Assessment of restored wetlands, Sweetgrass WDA, Wells County. Ten restored wetland basins on Sweetgrass WDA, a Garrison Diversion Mitigation unit, are being sampled. The control area is the Eddy WPA in Stutsman County. This study is examining chemical and biological functions of restored wetlands over time. Reclamation will be collecting water and invertebrate samples during the five year study period. This study requires restrictions on burning, grazing and spraying of herbicides during the period of study. In addition, management activities that may alter wetlands, such as cattail control must be delayed.

(4) Cindie S. Heiser, ND Department of Agriculture and Clarence Blonigen, Wells County Weed Board. Development of field insectary sites to raise flea beetles. Bjertness WPA (Wells #2). Two field insectary sites are located on the east side of Bjertness WPA. The sites are marked by steel T-posts. The north site, established in July, 1992 contained a release of 1000 Apthona cyparissae beetles. The south site, also marked by a steel T-post, contains 1000 Apthona flava beetles which were released in 1993. A third site was established on Bjertness WPA in 1994, with 500 Apthona nigriscutis being released in the SW corner of the WPA. The site is marked by a steel post.

Seven other release sites were established for Apthona nigriscutis in 1994. All are marked with a steel t-post. Maps are provided in WPA files. Each site had 500 beetles released. Release locations include; Ambers WPA (1 site), Sorenson WPA (2 sites) and Valhalla WPA (4 sites). FWS has signed a five year SUP with the Wells County Board to allow raising of these beetles in the hopes that they will control the spread of leafy spurge on these tracts. We have agreed to not perform any chemical control in the immediate vicinity of these sites.

6. Other

Kresl completed the Budget Improvement and Evaluation in March. It was a harsh reminder on how under staffed and under budget refuges are.

Kresl along with Arrowwood Complex Acting Manager Vaniman and North Dakota Refuge Supervisor Shupe met with staff from Northern Prairie Science Center to discuss compatibility, ongoing research and the Woodworth WPA as it effects their mission.

Kresl completed a draft of the MOU/Working Agreement between NPSC and USWFS for the Woodworth WPA in May.

Kresl attended two Wells County #1 Drain Project meetings in December. The meetings addressed a potential mitigation package on a 600 acre drained wetland. Also involved in the meetings were FWS Bismarck WHO, ES, Realty, local landowners, Wells County Commissioners and Water Resource Board.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

Mary Beth Schuchard, Chase Lake Office Automation Clerk was upgraded to a GS-5. Mary Beth Schuchard was very deservingly promoted to this level on January 9, 1994.

Tom Pabian, Refuge Operations Specialist, was promoted to Full Performance Level GS-9 on March 20, 1994.

Mid-year performance reviews were completed for CLPP/WMD staff in January.

We received 46 applications for two temporary positions. Chad Klindtworth was selected for one of these positions, returning for his third year at CLWMD/PP. He EOD on April 3, 1994. Darin Carling was selected to fill the second position. He EOD on May 23, 1994. Darin worked though August 26, 1994, while Chad was terminated on October 18, 1994.

Biological Technician Martin Brockman was promoted to Full Performance Level GS-07 on May 29, 1994.

Rick Bohn, Biological Technician (Private Lands), GS-5, was terminated on February 24 as his appointment expired.

Brad Jacobs was selected to fill the GS-5 Private Lands Biological Technician position. He EOD on April 4, 1994. Brad received a promotion to GS-6 on October 2, 1994.

John Schumacher, North Dakota Game & Fish Department Private Lands Technician transferred in August to accept a permanent job with the NDG&FD in Bismarck.

Rick Bohn was selected as an emergency hire Biological Technician from August 1 to September 4, 1994 to assist with wildlife disease control and prevention. He was selected to fill the vacant NDG&FD Private Lands Technician position on September 5, 1994.

Brockman attended Workforce Diversity training in March at Bismarck.

Kresl attended a 40 hour USFWS Supervision Course in Salt Lake City in June.

Pabian attended the weeklong Grassland Ecology Workshop in Valentine, NE during September.

Kresl attended the Fire For Line Managers Course at Bloomington, MN in May.

Pabian and Brockman attended a two day Fire Pumps and Engines Course in Carrington in June.

Brockman attended S-290 training in Riverton, WY in March.

Kresl, Pabian and Brockman all received individual Special Achievement Awards for a job well done in 1994.

The Arrowwood NWR Complex, which Chase Lake WMD/PP is a station of, entered into a self-directed work team management approach. This change was in lieu of replacing the Project Leaders position. This approach in management will allow for better bottom up management, and for all team members to have a voice in management decisions.

The Arrowwood NWR Complex Superteam assembled for two days of team training in October. The team met again in November to forge ahead with Self-Directed Team Management philosophy. The team met again in December at Valley City. The three station managers and Team Coach Shupe attended a one day training session in Bismarck.

Pabian, Schuchard and Jacobs participated in a Verbal Judo and Gender Communication session in Bismarck for one day.

Permanent

1. Steve Kresl, Supervisory Refuge Operations Specialist, GS-11 PFT.
2. Tom Pabian, Refuge Operations Specialist, GS-9 PFT.
3. Martin Brockman, Biological Technician, GS-7 PFT.
4. Mary Beth Schuchard, Office Automation Clerk, GS-5 PPT.

Temporary Staff

5. Rick Bohn, Biological Technician (Private Lands), GS-5, INT, terminated 1-24-94. Biological Technician (Emergency Hire), GS-5, 8/1 - 9/4. North Dakota Game & Fish Private Lands Technician EOD 9-5-94.
6. Bradley Jacobs, Biological Technician (Private Lands), GS-6, Term, EOD 4-4-94.
7. Chad Klindworth, Biological Technician, GS-4, TFT, 4/3- 10/18.
8. Darin Carling, Biological Technician, GS-3, TFT, 5/23 - 8-26.
9. John Schumacher, Private Lands Technician, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Resigned July 1994.

2. Youth Programs

The YCC Crew from Arrowwood NWR spent several days working on projects at CLWMD/PP HQ. Completed projects included: relocating the kiosk to the office, complete with an accessible walkway; building a parking lot for the HQ; and assisting in the cleanup of the equipment storage area.

5. Funding

Arrowwood Complex Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year (K)

Fund	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
1261*	430	302.5	304.6	347.2	370.9
1262**	272	252	367	413.4	302.8
1120			75	55	42.5
1230	62	70.6	30	10	27.0
6860	13	13	13	13	7.4
8610	8.5	7.4	2.9	3.2	6.0
91XX	46.6	141.1	52.3	93	111.2
GDU	1.2	1	2.5	6	3.0
WDA	4.8	33	38.5	38.4	49.4
TOTAL	838.1	820.6	885.8	979.2	920.2

*Includes YCC

**Includes MMS

6. Safety

There were no lost time accidents in 1994!

Safety films are shown as they are received. Monthly safety meetings covering a variety of topics were also held throughout the year.

Safety training included:

- ATV training at Sully's Hill NGP for Darin Carling.
- Basic first aid training and CPR training for the entire staff.
- Pabian attended Aviation Safety Workshop in Jamestown.
- Safety equipment (respirators, rubber gloves and boots, and tyvek suits) was purchased for pesticide spraying.

Fire extinguishers were checked to ensure proper charge and location.

Kresl attended the Annual EMT State Conference in Bismarck during April to maintain his certification. He completed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Registration in December.

Kresl qualified Pabian, Klindtworth and Carling on the .22 rifle and 12 guage shotgun.

Carling successfully completed the Pesticide Applicators test in July.

All staff were re-certified in CPR and Basic First Aid by the American Red Cross in July.

7. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance was provided on several township road projects. In most cases easement wetlands were not involved. Where easements were involved the townships decided to avoid all impacts to easement wetlands rather than try to mitigate those impacts.

Kresl spent several days with the Stutsman SCS District Conservationist reviewing minimal effect determinations and potential swampbuster violations that were reported by us.

Kresl and Pabian worked with USFWS Ecological Services and the Army Corps of Engineers on concerns regarding a 404 Permit and its potential impact to Mud Lake, an adjoining WPA. It involved a township road improvement project in Stutsman County that never materialized.

8. Other

Brockman delivered the Refuge Revenue Sharing Check to the Wells County Commissioners in the amount of \$14,333.00 and Kresl delivered a \$42,287.00 check to the Stutsman County Commission. The payment was 77.78% of entitlement, down from the prior years of 81.70%. The shortfall of full entitlement is a major concern to the local County Commissioners and presents a major stumbling block when it comes time to pursue new acquisitions.

Kresl, Pabian and Brockman attended the project leaders meeting and the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meetings in Jamestown during February.

CLPP/WMD hosted the quarterly Arrowwood Complex communications and safety meeting in March.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

Most of our habitat management efforts are directed at maintaining upland cover in the best possible condition for nesting waterfowl. Prescribed fire, grazing, haying, farming and rest are the common tools that are used for habitat manipulation. Most fields seeded to dense nesting cover are becoming decadent with undesirable plant species becoming dominant. Most legumes have nearly disappeared from their stands and they are nowhere near as vigorous as they once were. Stutsman County contains 95 WPA's and Wells county has 33 WPA's. They range in size from 0.97 acre to 3013 acres.

Pabian constructed a dBase for all WPA's and WDA's for the district. Information regarding the district can now be compiled more readily.

Breakdown of WPA Lands in Stutsman and Wells Counties.

Habitat Types	Native grass	Tame/DNC Grass	Wetland	Trees/Brush	Misc.	Totals
Stutsman	10,863.59	8,221.15	8,076.07	149.41	32.25	27,342.47
Wells	2,220.62	2,732.41	2,607.94	95.29	6.94	7,663.20
Totals	13,084.21	10,953.56	10,684.01	244.70	39.19	35,005.67

2. Wetlands

The lands within the WMD contain some of the highest densities of wetlands in the prairie pothole region. This is also recognized by many as most productive waterfowl breeding area in the continental U.S. The past two years have seen twice the average precipitation after several years of prolonged drought. The heavy rains have recharged most wetlands. The majority of wetlands were at or above capacity for most of the year. Freeze-up occurred the last week in October, with most wetlands remaining full. Snow pack going into the new year appeared to be sufficient to maintain the wetlands at full capacity for next spring.



General water conditions during 1994 were excellent throughout the district. Mud Lake WPA (Stutsman County) is in the top of photo. Photo by TMP.

Some of the wetlands throughout the WMD became cattail choked over the last several years due to low water conditions. The return of water in 1993 and 1994 appeared to have drowned out the majority of the cattail choked wetlands.

A total of 21 wetlands covering 53.3 surface acres on WPA's were discovered that had been drained in the past. Efforts were made to restore the wetlands to original conditions.

The following is a list of WPA's where the drained wetlands were identified:

WPA	# of Wetlands	Total Surface Acres
Zimmerman FmHA	1	9.0
Hertel	1	10.2
Gaier	2	6.2
Starr	1	1.3
Kutz	1	1.7
Woodworth	9	12.7
Kost	6	12.2



A once partially drained, now fully restored wetland (center of photo) on Zimmerman FmHA WPA. Photo by TMP

4. Croplands

Farming on WPAs is to prepare for grass seedback to replace decadent stands of grasses or newly acquired areas of crop to grass. In the past, most tamegrass renovation was accomplished by breaking out the old grass, cropping for several years and reseeding to DNC. DNC seedings planted in 1993 showed excellent 1994 growth of sweetclover and wheatgrasses.

Wells County WPA's contained 494.3 acres of cropland. The units with croplands are as follows:

Faul WPA had 30 acres of DNC seeded with a wheat nurse crop. This completes grass establishment on this tract. All prior cropland has been returned to planted cover.

Crystal Lake WPA had 113 acres of DNC seeded with a wheat nurse crop in the NE1/4 of Section 4. This provides nesting cover adjacent to 12 acres of DU restored wetlands. One 72 acre field was seeded to small grain after extensive cultivation for weed control purposes, and to destroy remnants of a sunflower food plot. The remaining 72 acres will be seeded to DNC in 1995.

Bibow WPA had 70 acres of early maturing barley planted to allow for fall cultivation for weed control. Approximately 45 acres were too wet to plant and were cultivated throughout the summer for thistle control. These areas will be seeded to grass with a nurse crop in spring 1995.

Pohlman WPA had 60 acres farmed. All cropland was seeded to DNC with a wheat nurse crop which was straight combined at harvest. All prior cropland has now been returned to planted cover.

Kost WPA had 114.3 acres farmed under Cooperative Farming Agreement by the previous owner. An 80 acre wetland previously farmed was completely recharged and rendered untillable by snowmelt runoff. No-till wheat covered 114.3 acres of the WPA. In exchange for 100% of crop share in 1994, the cooperator will purchase seed and plant all 114 acres to DNC in spring 1995.

Stutsman County WPA's contained 283 acres of cropland. The units with cropland are as follows:

Thiesen WPA had 70 acres planted to wheat. The FWS's share was 25% baled into large, round bales to be used as portable food plots for wintering resident wildlife. This field was sprayed with the herbicide Curtail for thistle control. Plans are to seed this field to DNC with a nurse crop in 1995.

Ackerson WPA had 90 acres planted to wheat. The FWS's share was 25% of the crop baled into large round food bales. This unit was broken out in 1988 as part of the leafy spurge control program. Plans are to seed this field to DNC in 1995.

Gaier WPA had 27 acres planted DNC with a nurse cover crop of wheat. The permittee seeded the field in exchange for the cover crop.

Haglund WPA had 17 acres planted to DNC with a nurse cover crop of wheat. The permittee seeded the field in exchange for the cover crop.

Kutz WPA had 15 acres summer fallowed. This field was broke in 1990 as part of the "Adopt-A-WPA" program by the Woodworth Wildlife Club. The field had become severely weed infested in 1993 after several years of no herbicides applied. The field will seeded to small grains in 1995.

Rott WPA had 30 acres planted to wheat. This field was broke in 1990 as part of the "Adopt-A-WPA" program by the Stutsman County Wildlife Federation. The club baled up the entire 30 acres into large round food bales used for winter food plots for resident wildlife. Future plans include seeding this field to DNC in 1995 and breaking out a different field that is weed infested.

North Barnes Lake WPA had 30 acres seeded to small grains. This field was part of a recent acquisition. The former tenant had farming rights through 1994. This field is scheduled to be seeded to natives in 1995.

5. Grasslands

There are four main grassland cover types in the Chase Lake WMD: native grassland, seeded natives, DNC, and other tame grasses/legumes.

The farming program is used to rotate tame and DNC fields with croplands. The grazing and burning program is used to invigorate and rejuvenate natives, DNC and tame, while suppressing certain tame grasses such as brome, Kentucky blue, and certain noxious weeds. Haying is used to remove excess litter and for noxious weed control.

The spring of 1994 experienced an explosion of sweetclover across the district. The environmental conditions of 1993 and 1994 appeared to have been suitable to enable sweetclover production. Dense stands of sweetclover were observed across areas where it had not been encountered in the past.

7. Grazing

The Whipple-Fritchie WPA grazing system in Wells County has been used since 1990. This system was designed to include the 400 acres of ND Game and Fish Game Management Area (GMA) land, which is located between the two WPAs. The system is used to rejuvenate grasslands on the WPA's and GMA. One half of the GMA land was grazed in 1994, allowing the prescribed rest for the WPA.

Two Stutsman County units were grazed for control of leafy spurge, a noxious weed. Ackerson WPA (#400) had approximately 200 acres grazed by 300 ewes with lambs. This unit is divided into three pastures and the cooperator rotates the herd between the cells. The grazing season was from mid-May to mid-July. Tompkins WPA (#20b) had 160 acres grazed by 100 sheep (ewes). This is a 33% reduction in sheep numbers from 1993. Grazing dates were from mid-May thru September. The cross fence planned for construction in 1994 did not materialize and will be considered in 1995.

Two units were grazed in Stutsman County for grassland rejuvenation using cattle. Jamestown College WPA had 377 acres grazed producing 255 AUM's. Mud Lake WPA had 160 acres grazed as part of a Mini-Joint Venture Grazing System. This type of system encompasses service owned and private owned land into one grazing system. This enables better management of FWS lands while increasing nesting cover on adjacent private land. The cooperator grazed eighty acres from July 10 to August 6, then grazed a different 80 acres from September 18 to October 8, while resting his pasture.

8. Haying

WPA grasslands often are hayed to reduce litter accumulation, stimulate new grass growth or control weeds. Eighteen permits for haying were issued in the WMD in 1994. The majority of the hay was released to cooperators for weed control, primarily wormwood and leafy spurge.

Haying on Waterfowl Production Area's
Chase Lake WMD
1994

County	# of Permits	Acres Hayed
Stutsman	12	414
Wells	6	346
Total	18	760

Calls for "Wildlife Hay" from area ranchers increased after the majority could not justify the 40% loss required by the ASCS in order to hay Conservation Reserve Program lands.

9. Fire Management

In April, a wildfire blackened nearly 5,300 acres on and adjacent to the Chase Lake WPA and Chase Lake NWR. The fire burned 900 acres of NWR and WPA; 2,300 acres of ND Wetland Trust Land; 150 acres of State School Land; and 1,950 acres of private land. There were five rural fire departments, 3 FWS engines, 1 tractor with a disc, and one spray plane battling the blaze. The column of smoke from the fire could easily be seen from Jamestown, 40 miles away. The first team arrived approximately 11:30 am. The fire was officially contained around 8:30 pm. Two Forest Service Fire Cause Investigators were called in to investigate. It was eventually determined that the blaze started on Service land and that the cause was of unknown origin, but probably arson. The tractor with the disc attempted to create fire breaks to contain the blaze. Unfortunately, it appeared that it did more harm than good, as miles of disc lines are now present in native grasslands. The disc line were reseeded back to native grass in May.

A farmer caused wildfire burned 20+ acres on Bower WPA (Stutsman tract 423) in April. Staff from Arrowwood NWR extinguished the blaze.

Pabian was dispatched in July to the Pickle Fire in the Custer National Forest, Miles City, MT. After battling the blaze for two days and kicking it's ash, he returned.

An arson caused fire occurred on the Woodworth WPA in November. Someone torched a hay stack sitting on an approach next to Highway 36.

A wildfire occurred on Sorenson WPA (Wells County 10) on May 12. Approximately 140 acres were burned. The fire was started by a neighbor burning grain stubble and extinguished by Sheyenne RFD and a neighbor who plowed a shallow disc line on the east portion of the WPA.

10. Pest Control

Pesticide Use Proposals and Reports were completed in January (for 1994) and December (for 1995) and forwarded to the Regional Office.

Both counties have weed officers who are extremely diligent in their leafy spurge control efforts. Cooperation has been increasing between the FWS and the weed officers as long as response to weed complaints are handled quickly.

Jim Neys, Stutsman County Weed Officer, requested our permission to map all weeds on FWS lands in Stutsman County. After several meetings and much discussion, we agreed to let the Stutsman County Weed Board hire a mutually agreed upon technician to do the job. The task was never completed in 1994, but will probably surface again in 1995.

Waterfowl Production Area's sprayed for Leafy Spurge Control
1994

County	# of WPA's	Acres Sprayed
Stutsman	27	228
Wells	5	45
Total	32	273

In addition, Roundup Herbicide was applied on 15 acres on Kutz WPA and 15 acres on Woodworth WPA in preparation for grass plantings in 1995.

Bjertness WPA in Wells County has three release sites of spurge eating flea beetles (Apthona spp). These insectary sites were established through cooperation with the Wells County Weed Board and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. Sweeping of the 1992 release site resulted in capture of several Apthona cyparassiae, the species of beetle released in July, 1992. An additional 1000 beetles (Apthona flava) were released south of the 1992 site, in July of 1993. In July of 1994, 500 Apthona nigriscutis were released in the SW corner of the WPA. In addition, 7 other Apthona nigriscutis sites were established on three other WPAs in Wells County. (See research and investigations D.5. Wells 4.)

A Special Use Permit, #83954, was issued to Sarah Vogel, Commissioner of Agriculture, to develop a field insectary site to raise flea beetles (Apthona lacertosa) for noxious weed control, leafy spurge, on the Koenig WPA, Stutsman County.

There were 11 flea beetle release sites on Stutsman County WPA's and Chase Lake NWR in 1994. The beetles were obtained from the Department of Agriculture or are part of a research project.

The following table lists the release sites in 1994 for Stutsman County.

Location	Type	Number	Who
Koenig WPA	Apthona lacertosa	250	ND Dept. of Ag.
Chase Lake NWR	A. nigriscutis	1000	ND Dept. of Ag.
Mt. Moriah WPA #1	A. nigriscutis	1000	ND Dept. of Ag.
Mt. Moriah WPA #2	A. nigriscutis	1000	ND Dept. of Ag.
Hawks Nest WDA #1	A. nigriscutis	1000	ND Dept. of Ag.
Hawks Nest WDA #2	A. nigriscutis	500	ND Dept. of Ag.
Ecroth WPA	A. nigriscutis	750	NPWRC
Walsh WPA #1	A. nigriscutis	750	NPWRC
Walsh WPA #2	A. nigriscutis	750	NPWRC
Theisen WPA #1	A. nigriscutis	750	NPWRC
Theisen WPA #2	A. nigriscutis	750	NPWRC
Total Sites=11		8500	

We are optimistic that these releases of bio-control agents will help us reduce our spraying of chemical, whose only effect is to slow the spread of spurge and pacify weed boards and neighbors.

Two units in Stutsman County were grazed with sheep for leafy spurge control. Grazing fees were exchanged for noxious weed control. Cooperators are responsible for fence maintenance and construction, hauling water if necessary and road ROW mowing. The units and grazing schedules are as follows:

The Tompkins WPA, a 160 acre unit in Stutsman County with approximately 100 acres of spurge, was treated with sheep. Grazing began after May 1. In 1994, sheep numbers were reduced to 100 ewes with lambs. This is a 33% reduction from 1993 and a 50% reduction from 1992. This was done to increase the amount of residual cover, while still preventing the spurge from going to seed. Two donkeys were also used in this pasture, to prevent lamb depredation by coyotes. It appears that the sheep are doing a fair job of preventing the spurge from going to seed.

The Ackerson WPA, a 320 acre unit in Stutsman County, was treated with cooperative farming and grazing. Approximately one-half of the 160 acres of tame grass is infested with spurge. Some 95 acres of wheat was produced on ground previously cultivated for spurge control. This year, the coöperator alternated 300 sheep with

lambs between the three pastures to ensure control of the spurge with very little grass consumption. Grazing was from mid-May thru June in this system.



Cindie Heiser, ND Department of Agriculture, shown releasing Apthona lacertosa on Koenig WPA. Photo by TMP

Stem counts for leafy spurge were conducted on June 10, 1994, on Bjertness WPA in Wells County. Seven of eight sites showed a decrease of stems ranging from 13 to 66%. The control site where no insects have been released also showed a decrease of 46%. Normal chemical control has been used here.

Two units in Wells County were checked for grasshopper problems, based on complaints and treatment in previous years. The Ehni WPA, Wells #231, was sprayed in 1990 with Sevin and treated with Semaspore in 1991. The Schindler WPA, Wells #238, required

treatment with Semaspore in 1991. Both were checked in early July, 1994, but no grasshoppers were observed.

11. Water Rights

The requirements for two perfected water permits on Indian Hills WDA were met. In 1993, requests for perfected water permits were forwarded to the State Engineer through the Regional Office. At years end, 1994, we were still awaiting inspection by the State Engineer.

Maintenance to water control structures on Indian Hills WDA, Pipestone WDA, and Crystal Lake WPA was required several times during the summer to plug leaks between poorly fitting stoplogs.

A 24 inch addition to the CMP riser on the control structure for wetland 80.3, Sweetgrass WDA, was installed to fully restore the wetland.

Water Management Reports and State Water Commission Annual Water Reports were completed by Brockman in January, 1994.

12. Wilderness and Special Area

Chase Lake NWR consists of 4,385 acres, of which 4,155 acres are designated Wilderness Area. Chase Lake proper comprises 2,053 acres of the wilderness area, leaving 2,102 acres of upland with a couple of scattered wetlands. Topography is steep to rolling, with the lake being the lowest point. The lake has no outlet and is highly alkaline. Two islands, seven and nine acres, are occupied by thousands of nesting white pelicans, gulls, and double-crested cormorants. During time of low water conditions, a third island appears and is heavily used by shore birds.

13. Waterfowl Production Easement Monitoring

In Wells county, two drainage cases were closed. Both involved scraper ditches draining wetlands. These cases were opened in November 1993 and closed in June 1994. Four additional cases were opened in November 1994 as a result of fall easement flights. One tract was identified with several instances of drain maintenance, one buried drain tile, and two burns were documented. One ground check was completed on the open ditch case.

Significant progress has been made in relations with the SCS District Conservationist in both Wells and Stutsman counties. In 1994, all certified wetland maps which are maintained by USDA-NRCS in Wells County were stamped "Easement" if a USFWS wetland easement

or FMHA conservation easement covered all or part of the individual section. This has helped reduce drain maintenance, which must have scope and effect review by NRCS, on easement tracts where maintenance is prohibited.

In Stutsman County, one fill and one ditch case were closed. Sixty-five burn cases were closed. Most burns that were documented in Stutsman county in fall of 1993 were burns of grain stubble on wetland edges where no marsh vegetation was impacted. All photographs and documentation of these burns was placed in the appropriate file but no landowner contacts were made. One ditch case remained open but had been staked for restoration compliance before freeze-up. Fall easement flights resulted in discovery of seven possible drainage violations, four fill violations, and two burn violations. Two ditch violations were ground checked prior to freeze-up.

One easement permit was issued in Stutsman county , for cleanout of an existing livestock dugout.

Sixteen and 3/10 hours of flight time, 59 staff days and \$9,704.16 was spent on Waterfowl Production Easement monitoring and enforcement action in 1994. This includes flight time, ground checks, and file documentation.

Staff also attended most monthly meetings of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board. Attendance at these meetings has helped stop several projects which would negatively impact easement wetlands.

Easement Monitoring - 2 Year Summary

Violation	1993	1994
Scraper Ditch	3	13
Plow Furrow	0	0
Fill	2	5
Burn	65	69
Total	70	87
Staff Days	32	59
Total Costs	\$5,863	\$9,704

G. WILDLIFE

1. Wildlife Diversity

A diverse habitat base exists in the WMD that supports a variety of wildlife species. Native prairie, seeded natives and various mixes of tame grasses and legumes can be found. Excellent wetland complexes still exist, especially on the Missouri Coteau. Large areas of CRP have been established in the WMD and these have contributed to an increase in grassland associated species.

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

In 1994, piping plover surveys were conducted at Stink Lake on Crystal Springs WPA, Mud Lake WPA and Chase Lake NWR in Stutsman County. Only one adult piping plover was observed on Chase Lake NWR. Habitat for piping plovers was inundated due to high water conditions throughout the district.

Peregrine falcons and bald eagles migrate through the district and several sightings of each did occur in 1994.

Whooping cranes have been sighted in the past years in the district, but none were sighted in 1994.

3. Waterfowl

Brockman was selected by the RO to assist MBMO conducting the annual breeding pair survey across the Dakotas. Brockman spent about four weeks conducting pair counts. Surveys were up 241% to 472% from 1993. This large increase is attributed to the amount of water in the area.

On March 14, 1994, Canada geese were first observed on the Woodworth WPA. The twenty year average for first Canadas sighted is March 16. Mallards and pintails were first observed March 15. Snow geese were first observed on March 22, with full migration in swing by April 1.

Due to excellent water conditions throughout the district, breeding pairs were abundant. Every pond seemed to contain several pairs of ducks.

The first brood observed was on May 19, with a mallard hen and 8 class IA's ducklings.

As part of Ray Greenwood's (Northern Prairie Science Center) research project on supplemental feeding of skunks as it relates to nest success, 14 WPA's were nest searched in Stutsman County.

The tentative results are as follows:

WPA	Acres searched	Total Nests	Total Depredated	Total Hatched	Total Abandoned	Other	Mayfield Success %
C.Springs	167	27	11	14	0	2	34
Dammel	118	33	17	13	2	1	23
Zimm.	82	64	23	39	1	1	43
Seekin	87	28	17	8	2	1	15
Hertel	98	80	23	53	4	0	47
Zimm.FmHA	140	58	24	33	1	0	36
Gaier	159	84	49	28	6	1	16
Kutz	116	28	20	8	0	0	16
Mud Lake	165	82	28	50	4	0	45
Roosevelt	172	110	51	53	6	0	29
Tischner	116	41	31	9	1	0	8
Theisen	135	38	16	19	2	1	34
Mt. Moriah	143	62	37	22	2	1	18
S. Bingham	150	29	11	18	0	0	43
Totals	1850	764	358	367	31	8	29

Nest searches were also conducted by CLWMD staff on a variety of islands, peninsulas, predator fences and grass fields, both on private and public lands. The information collected serves as baseline data for future projects.

The data collected is as follows:

Site	Acres	Total Nest	Depredated Nests	Hatched Nests	Abandoned Nests	Other	Mayfield Success %
Van Ray's Island	.9	5	0	5	0	0	100
Stink Lake Island	.25	10	0	10	0	0	100
Redlin's Islands	.5	9	1	8	0	0	78
Miller's Islands	.5	1	0	1	0	0	100
Geinger's Island	.5	22	3	19	0	0	87
Hoffman Fence	252	150	37	96	4	13	52
Haglund WPA Island	17	40	1	39	0	0	96
Hawks Nest DNC	235	29	21	8	0	0	7
Chase Lake Peninsula	41	44	5	39	0	0	79
Theisen Fence	61	74	4	70	0	0	79
Lake Louise Island	51	33	6	27	0	0	68
Walsh Predator Fence	65	79	8	67	4	0	81

During March, Pabian checked approximately 200 nest structures of all types for use and refurbished with new nesting material on WPA's. Use was less than 10%, mostly by Canada geese.

As part of the Lake Audubon Compatibility Plan for island replacement, Stutsman County was selected as one of the counties recommended for island construction by the Bureau of Reclamation. A total of eight WPA's were recommended for islands. They are as follows: Gilbert, Schuler, Blue Lake, Zimmerman, Heib, Matthews, Durham (two), and Crystal Springs. A re-evaluation of sites will be completed before final site selection is made. A coordination meeting was held in February with BOR, but no final decision has been made yet.

Pabian submitted a proposal to Ducks Unlimited to get four existing predator fences on WPA's up and running. The fences were built by research in the early 80's. The fences have not been operation since the mid-80's and are in need of repair. DU agreed to repair three of the fences, while the fourth will be removed.

While nest searching Lake Louise Island, a hen mallard was captured by hand while she was still sitting on her nest. The hen had a leg band on it. The hen was a pen raised bird from private stock released in 1989 at Lake Louise. The hen was successful in her attempt.

Scattered flocks of small Canada geese and a few snow geese were present in the WMD for the opening of goose season. Ducks appeared to be fairly plentiful throughout the season. The major flocks of snow geese by-passed our area. Overall, hunting pressure was light throughout the season.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

Fair numbers of greater and lesser sandhill cranes could be found in the western part of the WMD during spring and fall migrations. Cranes were first sighted on April 4. Western Stutsman and southwestern Wells counties are used very heavily by cranes during migration.

White pelicans were first observed on April 6, tundra swans on April 6 and great blue herons on April 14. White pelicans and double-crested cormorants from the breeding colonies at Chase Lake NWR are seen frequently feeding in wetlands in the WMD.

Results of the annual aerial survey on nesting white pelicans on Chase Lake NWR for 1994 showed a total of 8,545 nests on the two islands. This is the second highest count since 1972 when surveys were first recorded. The 1972-1993 average for the survey is 5,241. The lowest count was in 1974 when 3,082 nest were tallied, while 1993 had the highest count with 8,553 nest counted.

Chase Lake White Pelican Colony Nesting Effort
1989-1994

Year	Small Island	Large Island	Total
1989	2313	4316	6629
1990	1824	3960	5784
1991	No survey	No survey	No survey
1992	2564	3412	5976
1993	3472	5081	8553
1994	4308	4237	8545

Nesting colonies of eared-grebes have been found on the Mud Lake and Cleveland Slough WPA's in Stutsman County. No checks were made in 1994 to determine if any colonies existed in the district.

Soras and Virginia rails, pied-billed grebes, American bitterns, great blue herons, and black-crowned night herons all nest in the WMD, although not in any substantial numbers or in concentrated areas.

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

Numerous species of shorebirds use the WMD during the spring and fall migration. High water conditions inundated the majority of shorebird habitat in 1994.

Willetts were observed on April 21 and marbled godwits on April 6. Willetts, marbled godwits, upland sandpipers, and Wilson's phalaropes nest in the WMD. These species prefer open native prairie with grasses that are fairly short. Common snipe, greater and lesser yellowlegs can be seen throughout the WMD with snipe being a relatively common breeding species. Killdeer, common terns and American avocets are very common breeding species. Nesting avocets are encountered quite often on islands. Four avocet and 26 common tern nests were recorded on Stink Lake Island, while eight avocet and 14 common tern nest were recorded on Redlin's Islands. Nesting records and observations are not consistently recorded.

Franklin's gulls and black terns have nested in the WMD, but searches have not been conducted for these species. California and ring-billed gulls also nest in the WMD. There are several thousand nesting at the islands on Chase Lake NWR.

6. Raptors

Red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, northern harriers, American kestrels and great-horned owls are common nesting species in the WMD. Ferruginous hawks and short-eared owls nest in the WMD, but are not considered common. On March 14, northern harriers were observed in relatively large numbers migrating.

Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks are seen occasionally in the WMD, as are goshawks and prairie falcons. Even more infrequent are observations of burrowing owls, which are known to nest in the district. One pair of burrowing owls were observed on April 16 at Chase Lake WPA.

7. Other Migratory Birds

Two mourning dove survey routes are censused in the WMD. The Harvey Route is handled by ND Game & Fish Personnel, while the Carrington Route is handled by Arrowwood staff. One route is in Foster/Wells counties (Carrington), handled by Arrowwood staff while the other one is in Wells/Sheridan counties (Harvey) and is handled by ND Game & Fish personnel. Staff from Chase Lake conducts a survey in Kidder County for Long Lake WMD.

Total number of individual doves heard calling by route during 1987-1994.

Year	Harvey Route	Carrington Route
1987	46	52
1988	68	78
1989	57	77
1990	57	69
1991	76	76
1992	20	45
1993	40	33
1994	**	24
Ave.	52	57

** Indicates survey completed incorrectly.

8. Game Mammals

White-tailed deer are common throughout the WMD. General observations indicate that the deer herd in the district is thriving. The large amount of CRP in the district and several easy winters have had a significant effect on the deer herd. CRP provides large areas of fawning areas and escape cover. Hunting success rates still remain high, close to 80% for this area. With an increasing herd size and several winter storms in winter of 1993-94, the deer began attacking haystacks and silage piles. This prompted many landowners to call the office seeking assistance. Their calls were forwarded to the ND Game & Fish Department when applicable. Reports of starving and dieing deer were common throughout the WMD.

Occasional moose sightings are reported for the WMD, but no special effort is made to verify these sightings.

Several reports of antelope generally occur in the WMD. Sightings of these animals are rare.

Red fox, raccoon, and striped skunk, the three major nest predators, are abundant throughout the WMD. Coyotes are increasing in some areas and badgers and mink are also fairly common.

Muskrats were virtually non-existent throughout the district, due to prolonged drought, except along the river systems. With the water now back, we are hopeful they will be returning in a short time.

Thirteen-lined, Richardson's and Franklin's ground squirrels are also found in the WMD in great numbers. Short-tailed and least weasels, porcupines, cottontail and white-tailed jack rabbits are found throughout the WMD, but are not all that common.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

Hungarian (gray) partridge, sharp-tailed grouse and ring-necked pheasant are the common game birds in the WMD. It appears that the combination of several severe winters and the extremely wet, cool summers have had negative impact on their populations, with sightings reduced in 1994 as compared to 1993. The sharp-tailed grouse appeared to have fared the best of the three.

Lek surveys for sharp tailed grouse were attempted on several WPA's in Stutsman County, but un-cooperative weather prevailed and no counts were completed. Birds were observed on leks on several WPA's including: Chase Lake, Woodworth, Mt. Moriah and Beck.

Local wildlife clubs have contracted with local landowners for food plots and have placed food bales in many areas of the county for resident wildlife. The ND Game and Fish Department has also been

responsible for establishing many food plots on CRP lands through the district.

11. Fisheries Resources

There are three WPA's in the WMD that contain a fishery. Two of the WPA's are in Stutsman County, Barnes Lake and Crystal Springs, while the third WPA is in Wells County, Crystal Lake WPA.

A portion of the shoreline of Barnes Lake in Stutsman County is owned in fee title. The lake itself is a meandered body of water. The walleye fishery in this lake was at one time excellent. Northern pike and yellow perch also existed. The lake level was extremely low as a result of no spring runoff and below normal precipitation for several years. Winter and/or summerkill during 1992 virtually eliminated all game fish in the lake. The ND Game & Fish Department began re-stocking programs for the lake in 1994.

Crystal Springs WPA contains the second fishery in Stutsman County. The lake has maintained sufficient water levels through the drought years as it is spring fed. The ND Game & Fish Department also completed a stocking program for 1994.

Fish Stockings for WPA's in 1994

Lake	Date	Fish species	Quantity	Size
Barnes	May 6	Yellow Perch	2,125	adults
Barnes	May 22	Northern Pike	8,000	fingerlings
Barnes	June 13	Yellow Perch	52,800	fingerlings
Barnes	June 21	Walleye	18,400	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	May 22	Northern Pike	3,000	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	June 18	Walleye	15,111	fingerlings

The third fishery is located in west central Wells County on the Crystal Lake WPA. This 30.8 acre feet reservoir was inherited when the WPA was purchased. It is unknown if the reservoir still contains a fishery, but at one time it held perch and bullheads.

12. Wildlife Propagation and Stocking

In July of 1994, 26 Canada geese (4 adults, 22 goslings) were transplanted from Audubon NWR to Fisher Lake, Stutsman County. This is the first year for transplanting geese to this area. Fisher Lake

is under private ownership, about six miles southeast of Woodworth, ND.



Brockman and Carling shown releasing Canada geese. Photo by TMP.

15. Animal Control

Blackbird depredation complaints are received regularly in the late summer and fall. These are referred to USDA - Animal Damage Control for action. As part of the FWS Partner's for Wildlife program, we can work with private landowners to reduce suitable blackbird roosting sites in cattail choked wetlands. The district also has several propane exploders for loan to area farmers experiencing damage from blackbirds, waterfowl or crane.

Predator control activities in the WMD are conducted on several areas for increased waterfowl production. Areas trapped with catch include:

Area	Raccoon	Mink	Skunk	FGS	RF	Coy	Bad	TOTAL
Van Ray Isle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Stink Lake Isle	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hoffman Fence	10	-	10	7	1	1	1	30
Haglund Isle	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	10
CLNWR Fence	1	-	1	14	-	-	-	16
L.Louise Isle	4	1	1	-	-	-	3	9
Theisen Fence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walsh Fence	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3

FGS = Franklin's ground squirrel

RF = Red Fox

Coy = coyote

Bad = badgers

About one dozen complaints were received for waterfowl feeding in unharvested swathes of small grain in the Woodworth area. Propane exploders and black flagging were loaned out to the farmer until all grain was harvested.

17. Disease Prevention and Control

Several WPAs in the WMD are traditional botulism outbreak areas. All of the wetlands with a history of botulism outbreaks were checked several times throughout late summer. No die-offs were recorded.

A botulism contingency plan meeting was held in April at Northern Prairie Science Center. Personnel from FWS field stations and other agencies were in attendance, Kresl represented CLWMD.

Carling and Schumacher assisted Kulm WMD for one week in July picking up botulism stricken waterfowl. Bohn also spent about three weeks in August assisting the effort.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Pabian and Brockman attended the Spring NDG&FD Advisory Board meeting in LaMoure, while Kresl, Pabian, Brockman and Bohn attended the fall advisory board meeting in Jamestown.

Pabian, Brockman and Jacobs attended the Academy of Sciences Wetland Delineation public meeting in Jamestown. The Academy is trying to define what constitutes a "wetland".

3. Outdoor Classroom - Teachers

Kresl attended the Annual Project Wild Facilitator and Training Session in Bismarck in February.

5. Interpretive Tour Routes

We received word in January that a Watchable Wildlife Project was funded. This project was to develop an auto tour route and leaflet. Due to management constraints, this project was changed to develop county maps of all WMD within Arrowwood Complex for public use.

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations

Kresl and Pabian set up an exhibit on the USFWS at the Jamestown Ducks Unlimited Green Wing Fun Night. One hundred and twenty-five kids attended.

The Crystal Springs rest area on I-94 in western Stutsman County receives heavy use and the wildlife/wetlands interpretive exhibit that we have located there receives over 1,000 visits a month during the peak summer tourist season.

Kiosk signs outlining the CLPP were received for the existing Kiosks located in Medina and Woodworth. The attractive, informative signs are very popular with locals and tourists.

FWS director Mollie Beattie toured parts of the CLWMD/PP during a May visit to the state. Director Beattie was given the opportunity to experience a variety of wetland/waterfowl issues including a nest dragging. It was a real pleasure for CLWMD/PP to have the opportunity to meet the Director and discuss issues relating to the Service in this area.

Two interpretive panels for Chase Lake NWR were in the final stages of completion by year's end. The panels, one on the refuge and the other on white pelicans, were funded by Watchable Wildlife dollars and created by Pabian.

7. Other Interpretive Programs

January - A full page article on CLPP occurred in the Jamestown Sun. Kresl was interviewed by the Fargo Forum on wintering wildlife. Kresl gave a talk to 15 research students from NPWRC on the CLWMD/PP. Staff attended various wildlife club meetings and the Chase Lake Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

February - Kresl and Pabian assisted with the 3rd Annual Jamestown Chapter Ducks Unlimited Green Wing Fun Night. A flock of over 140 kids were in attendance. Kresl attended the Project Wild Training and Advisory Board Meeting in Bismarck, ND. The Woodworth Play Pals preschool group visited the office for a little environmental education. Approximately 15 rug-rats were in attendance.



Kresl (the one with the mustache) shown with the Woodworth Play Pals. Photo by TMP.

March - Kresl was interviewed by Tony Dean Outdoors on the status of the CLPP. Pabian and Kresl manned the CLPP booth at the Ag Day celebration in Medina.

April - Brockman gave a wetlands and wildlife talk at youth night sponsored by the United Sportsmen of Jamestown. Pabian, Brockman and Kresl served as committee members at the 10th Annual Prairie Pothole Ducks Unlimited Banquet in Woodworth, ND. Over 200 people were in attendance, netting over \$9,000.00 for DU.

May - A wetlands exhibit was put up in the Jamestown Mall for a week in celebration of Wetlands Month. Kresl was interviewed by Dan Nelson of Babe Winkleman Productions on the CLPP. The interview addressed the duck crisis and aired on "Babes Outdoor Secret" on ESPN. A press release was issued asking farmers to leave waterfowl nests in the field during farming operations. Pabian presented a talk on the CLPP to the Stutsman County Wildlife Club. Pabian gave a talk and tour to ten University of Missouri honor students on the CLPP. The CLPP hosted four Chinese wildlife scientists who were touring the USA as part of an exchange program put together by FWS office of International Affairs. During four days in the state, the delegation experienced the Badlands, CLPP, Arrowwood NWR, Northern Prairie Science Center and the HAPET office.

June - Kresl gave a tour of CLNWR to 40 people from the Medina All Class Reunion. Kresl coordinated with Robert Stewart, Jr. (NBS NWRC) on the renaming of Mt. Moriah WPA to the Robert E. Stewart, Sr. WPA. A dedication is planned for spring of 1995.

July - Kresl presented a talk about CLPP to the North Dakota Wetlands Trust Board.

August - Kresl gave a talk to the "Buzzin Dozen" homemakers club from Medina about the CLPP. Kresl wrote a story for Waterfowl 200 on the visit of the Chinese Scientist last May. Jacobs gave a presentation on the CLPP to the Midwest Recreational Campers Association Summer Rally.

September - The CLPP hosted a tour and pig roast for 250 people attending the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference which was held in Bismarck. Kresl attend the ND Action Group quarterly meeting at Lostwood Refuge.

October - Pabian gave a presentation and tour on CLPP to 150 people attending the Prairie Wetland Workshop in Bismarck. Jacobs gave a tour on CLPP to a group of Range Scientists from NDSU. Kresl was interviewed for TV stories by "Babe Winkleman's Outdoor Secrets" and "Tony Dean's Outdoors" regarding the CLPP. Kresl was interviewed by the Duluth News-Tribune on the CLPP.

November - Kresl and Pabian attended the Chase Lake Foundation meeting to discuss the Prairie Wetlands Interpretative Center.

December - Pabian gave a presentation to the Stutsman County Wildlife Club on the Prairie Wetlands Interpretative Center and the CLPP. Pabian met with a Stutsman County Wildlife Club committee interested in forming an environmental education camp on/near two WPA's. Kresl attended the ND Action Group meeting and met with Carol Lively to discuss CLPP/PPJV issues.

8. Hunting

Waterfowl production areas in the WMD are used extensively by upland game, waterfowl, and big game hunters.

Opening weekends generally see the heaviest pressure, although the deer gun season receives heavy pressure during the entire season.

9. Fishing

Several fisheries exist in the district but no attempts are made to monitor the populations or success of the fisherman.

10. Trapping

Waterfowl Production Areas are open for public trapping in accordance with state regulations. No special permits are needed. Interest in trapping has diminished considerably in the past several years. Low fur prices have certainly had a major impact on the trapping effort. Some of the old die-hards are still trapping, but they are definitely in the minority. The furbearer populations throughout the WMD are quite high and they are having a significant impact on ground nesting birds. In some areas red fox are at record high levels. More trappers and a stronger trapping effort could play a beneficial role in reducing the number of mammalian nest predators.

12. Other Wildlife Oriented Recreation

A Special Use Permit, #83938, was issued to Larry Tebelius of the Pettibone Saddle Club, to conduct a trail ride for one afternoon across Chase Lake WPA in July. This trail ride never materialized, but a second SUP (#83969) was issued for the same event in October. Approximately 20 riders participated in the ride.

15. Off-Road Vehicling

Unauthorized use of motor vehicles on WPAs is a problem that never seems to end and is almost unsolvable without intensive law enforcement efforts. Signs, fences, and news releases all seem to do little good.

17. Law Enforcement

Kresl met with DARD Hartman and SA Jagodzinski in January to discuss LE concerns and programs.

Kresl attended the Annual Law Enforcement Refresher in Marana,

Arizona in January, while Officer Brockman attended the LE Refresher and pepper sniffing contest in February.

A trespass spray case was investigated by Kresl and SA Kraft. A field adjacent to Walsh WPA had been airily sprayed. The WPA has a research plot located on it to study the effect of fire and flea beetles on spurge. "Apparent" drift from the plane landed on the research site and killed the spurge and possibly the beetles. After investigating the case, no charges were filed, only a reminder to the pilot to pay closer attention.

Kresl and Brockman attended the LE refresher/requalification in Aberdeen, SD in August.

Kresl issued two NOV's for lead shot.

Hunting pressure for waterfowl was relatively light, compared to the amount of birds in the area.

Pabian collected a mature golden eagle near Woodworth, ND that apparently died of gun shot wounds. A press release with a reward offer was issued asking for any information on the case. SA Kraft was called in to assist. No information or other evidence surfaced. This is the fourth eagle in two years shot in the area.

Brockman completed LE Reports on an arson case that occurred on Woodworth WPA. The cooperator who mows road side ditches lost a stack of hay after someone apparently lit it afire.

18. Cooperating Associations

United Sportsmen of Jamestown met with Pabian to discuss their interest in Adopting-A-WPA. They agreed upon adopting Chase Lake WPA (Stutsman tract 554,a). The club pledged \$6,000.00 to do habitat improvement projects on the tract. Initial plans are to refurbish the building site on the south shore of Chicago Lake. Two shelter belts consisting of fruit bearing shrubs and a food plot for wintering wildlife will be planted in the spring of 1995.

Pabian and Jacobs were given a tour of the Ladish Malting Plant Joint Venture by Habitat Biologist Kruse. Since Kruse is planning on retirement in early 1995, staff from Chase Lake will be responsible for assisting Ladish in the management of the project.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. New Construction

Four levels of shelves were installed along one end of the six-stall

garage. Shelves will be used to hold fire equipment and miscellaneous equipment. Two stall's were insulated and paneled, and a heating unit installed to provide above freezing quarters for fire pumpers and snow removal equipment during winter months.

Storage racks were constructed to accommodate fencing posts and other material behind the Quonset.

The road leading to the six stall/bone yard was improved by adding a culvert in a natural drain and leveling off the entrance road.

2. Rehabilitation

In order to increase available office space at the WMD office, a MMS project was initiated to convert the garage into enclosed office space. Rob Hoflen, Certified Asbestos Inspector from Tewaukon NWR, tested the office in April for presence/absence of the material prior to the office rehabilitation project. In May, Brian Becker, R-6 Engineering, visited CLWMD/PP HQ to facilitate his design of the office rehab/construction project. After no bids were received on the MMS office renovation project, we badgered one contractor to submit a bid with his stipulation that he would receive an extension on the deadline for the project. Work began on the garage reconstruction into office space in September. By year's end, the area had been enclosed and sheetrock, raised flooring, replacement windows and additional electrical outlets were installed. This additional office space will allow us to move two staff members out of basement office quarters, which do not meet fire codes or accessibility requirements. This project was funded with MMS dollars.

The Arrowwood Complex Maintenance Staff, Wolsky and Somsen, improved the entrance road to CLWMD/PP HQ during June. Two culverts were placed and the road was raised about one foot for approximately 150 feet.

A massive cleanup effort at Chase Lake WPA continued into August. Mountains of junk were removed. Jim Somsen, Arrowwood Complex Maintenance Staff, spent several days on heavy equipment. Cleanup and removal of 30 years of junk and equipment at Woodworth WPA was also completed in August. Two hundred and fifty old tires were removed from Pohlman WPA.

The seasonal work force spent many days completing boundary checks and replacing WPA's signs as needed.

A grain bin was relocated at HQ by the Arrowwood Maintenance Staff in September.

Wiring was completed for the volunteer trailer pad by a local contractor in September. A concrete pad will be poured in 1995 to finish the project.

The newly constructed parking lot also received three hook-ups for vehicle plug ins during winter months.

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement

The NDG&FD graciously offered to chip in \$2,000.00 to replace a motor in our 1974 International flatbed truck. This piece of equipment is essential for joint FWS/G&F operations.

A 1978 Case W-14 1.5 yard, 4x4 articulating payloader was received as surplus from Minot AFB.

A three axle pintle hitch equipment trailer was received from LaCreek NWR, in exchange for \$1,300.00 of the pesticide 2-4,D. Additional money was required to straighten the frame, replace all six tires and install new decking, brake linings and electrical wiring.

Several frame and hitch repairs were made to the JD 350 sickle bar mower used for weed control. This has been a high maintenance item in the hands of inexperienced operators.

A 1994 Chevrolet 1 ton 4X4 pickup was received and outfitted with toolboxes and auxiliary fuel tanks. A Boss 9 foot V-plow was also installed. This vehicle will be used to service and haul equipment throughout the district as well as snow removal.

A Ramsey 8000lb winch was installed on the 1992 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4X4 diesel and the winch cable was replaced on the 1991 Dodge $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4X4.

6. Computer Systems

Several new pieces of computer equipment were purchased in 1994:

- One Hewlett Packard Color Desk Jet Printer.
- Two Roughrider 486 computers with monitors.
- Two Gateway 2000 486 computers with monitors.
- One Premio 486 computer was received as excess from Arrowwood NWR.

A Mita DC-3055 copier with sorter was purchased to replace our aging Adler Royal copier.

8. Other

Kresl and Pabian set afire the old house and several out buildings located on the Chase Lake WPA (Stutsman tract 554,a) in March, after required ARPA clearance. Final cleanup of the sight occurred during the summer months after a contract was hired to bury the remaining foundation.

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Cooperative Programs

Brockman attended the Pipestem Creek Watershed and Upper Sheyenne River Improvement Project meeting for Wells County to discuss our programs and how we may be able to help the process.

Pabian took NDG&FD representatives Renhowe, Link and Kietzman on a tour of the Chase Lake cooperative management area for a briefing on the issues and background information.

Private Lands Program

The Partners for Wildlife Program (PFW) at Chase Lake Prairie Project (CLPP) developed 42 agreements with landowners in the project area in 1994. The program restored 56 wetland basins for a total of 254 acres at the cost of \$30,510 (average of \$120/acre). A total of 17 wetlands were created for a total of 78 acres for the cost of 21,540 (average of \$276/acre). Cattail control projects totaled 98 acres at the cost of \$1,816 (average of \$18.53/acre). Two 20 year agreements to seed cropland back to native prairie totaled 251 acres at the cost of \$14,148 (average of \$56/acre). Twenty acres of piping plover habitat was fenced out from cattle trespass for 10 years at the cost of \$2,794.

WETLAND PROJECTS:

Type of Project	#of Landowners	Basins	Acres	Cost
Wetland Restoration*	24	56	254	\$30,510
Wetland Creation	12	17	78	\$21,540
Cattail Control	3	4	98	\$1,816
Total	39	77	430	\$53,866

*Wetland restorations on Waterfowl Production Area's totaled 16 basins for 43.7 acres. In 1994, 26.7 acres were restored, the remaining will be restored in 1995, waiting on the permit process.

UPLAND PROJECTS:

Type of Project	#of Landowners	Acres	Cost
Native seeding	2	251	\$14,148
Plover fence (Endangered Species)	1	20	\$2,794
Total	3	271	\$16,942

The CLPP submitted a grant proposal to the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) committee in 1992 (CLPP I). The project area includes 11 counties in the south central North Dakota. Our primary

reason for submitting this grant proposal is to receive matching funds to complete soil and water conservation practices that are beneficial to the land and wildlife. Only non-federal money can be matched by NAWCA. Several meetings throughout the year were held with Audubon NWR, Long Lake NWR and Kulm NWR to finalize the 1.5 million dollar grant proposal. CLPP I was completed in 1994 and a second grant proposal was submitted to the NAWCA for CLPP II. A CLPP tour was given to two NAWCA representatives who needed a on site review for our NAWCA CLPP II grant proposal. We ranked 10th in technical scores nationwide. With the approval of the CLPP II we broke new ground, in getting a position funded by the NAWCA grant.

CLPP hosted the North Dakota Action Group meeting at the Chase Lake Country Inn. Jeff Van Ray wildlife enthusiast, farmer/rancher received the 1st PPJV Land Stewardship Award for his work with the CLPP. M&C Farms of Medina and Ladish Malting Company were nominees for the National Wetland Conservation Awards.

The CLPP again saw a turn around in personnel. The FWS position was filled in April with Bradley Jacobs and the Game and Fish Department position was filled by Rick Bohn in September. The CLPP is still being plagued by contractors willingness to skip our projects and do much bigger projects (more \$). In 1994, we did accomplish the restoration and creation of 77.2 acres of wetlands from past agreements.

A substantial amount of work was necessary on the Barnes and Hoffmann predator fences (private land) to get them up and running before nesting season.

Four project proposals were sent to Ducks Unlimited (DU) for funding. Two projects were to repair old dams that have washed out, creating 12 acres. A seven acre creation was also submitted to DU. A grazing system on Jerome Greenshields for 955 acres was approved by DU.

North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF):

John Schumacher NDGF Primate Land Technician was busy feeding deer all winter long. He serviced over 50 feeding stations in the Woodworth area at the cost of \$18,000. Schumacher signed up 50 food plots with area landowners and a wetland creation for 3.9 acres. During the nesting season 14 nesting islands were searched for nests by Schumacher. The culvert project of 1993 where 67 culvert were placed in dry wetlands for nesting structures were checked this year by Schumacher. With the amount of snow fall and fall rains 22 of the 67 culvert were under water and will not be used this year.

Rick Bohn NDGF Private Land Technician worked on three habitat plots and one 14 acre food plot for next year. With the on set of winter the calls for deer depredation started. Bohn also worked on a grazing system and a wetland creation. An old farmstead has the potential to be developed into a physically challenged accessible hunting area Bohn

is working out the details.

After 4 years of trials and tribulations the Holmes/O'Neill wetland restoration was completed and perpetually protected by wetland easement. This wetland was critical for serving as brood water amidst hundreds of temporary wetlands. In 1993, Rodeo was sprayed on the cattails in strips to try to get a 50/50 cattail to open water ratio.



Shown here is the 48.3 acre Holmes/O'Neill wetland at full capacity after restoration efforts. Photo by TMP.

Farmbill

The FWS continues to play an active role in the administration of the 1985 Food Security Act and the 1990 Food, Agricultural, Conservation and Trade Act. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is required to consult with the FWS on many of the issues dealing with wetlands. In 1994, we saw an increase in consultations between the FWS and county SCS District Conservationists compared to previous levels.

In 1994, district staff were involved in fourteen minimal effect (ME) agreements in Wells County. Most agreements were for culvert replacement at elevations no lower than existing, non-functioning culverts, or for replacement of small culverts with larger culvert pipes, again at an elevation no lower than existing culvert. Several roadbanks required stabilization by placement of rip-rap, which also is subject to the ME process. Four CWNA agreements were reviewed all for wetlands in feedlots. In several cases we were able to convince

the producer to pump the wetland down, instead of permanently draining it. One post minimal effect agreement was formulated for a fill violation and three wetland impact reports were submitted. All three swampbuster cases were determined to be legal drain maintenance.

In Stutsman County, one Post-minimal effect was denied as was one minimal effect request for using wetland water to irrigate alfalfa. (The effect would be minimal because there were a lot of other wetlands around!) Four other minimal effect agreements were signed for culvert replacement in road grades. Four CWNA agreements were signed, all due to flooding of feedlots, houses or farm buildings. Three wetland impact reports were submitted to Stutsman County ASCS. By year's end, no response had been received from NRCS.

2. Other Economic Uses

A Special Use Permit, #83917, was issued to Tim Olson to collect scrap metal from two old building sites on the Chase Lake WPA. The permittee collected scrap during late April on the sites.

Three Special Use Permits, #'s 83929, 83930 and 83939 were issued to three different local apiaries for bee yards placed WPA's in the district. A fee of 50 cents/hive was charged. A total of 196 hives were located on five tracts.

3. Items of Interest

Brockman attended the Maintenance Workshop at Devils Lake WMD in October.

Kresl and Pabian traveled to the Fortuna Air Force Base, Fortuna, ND, in December to inspect surplus buildings. Four buildings, two residences and two garages were froze by CLWMD/PP. The buildings will be transferred and be moved down to Chase Lake HQ for rehabilitation into a permanent office space for CLWMD/PP. It is anticipated that by summer 1996, the process will be completed.

4. Credits

Tom Pabian wrote and typed sections: B; D4-6; E3-4; F1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12; G; J

Martin Brockman wrote and typed sections: A; C; E1, 6; F4, 7, 10, 11, 13; I

Steve Kresl wrote and typed sections: D 1-3; E2, 5, 7, 8; H; K
All were involved in editing the narrative.

Photo credits:

TMP - Tom Pabian

Halfway Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Halfway Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a 160 acre easement refuge located four miles south of Medina in Stutsman County, North Dakota. The Fish and Wildlife Service does not own any land or make any improvements on the refuge, but has an easement granting perpetual refuge rights. These rights include restrictions on access, hunting, and trapping. A Type 4 wetland of approximately 100 acres is located on the refuge and is used extensively by migrating waterfowl in the spring and fall. The remainder of the refuge is native prairie.

No major problems have been encountered with the management of Halfway Lake. The boundary signs are checked once a year just prior to the waterfowl season.

Feedback



Especially since the water has returned to the prairie, its a great place to live and work if you like wetlands and wildlife. Photo by TMP.