

DETROIT LAKES WETLAND
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT


Calendar Year 1997

U.S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Fiscal Year 1997


FOR
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1/11/2005
District Manager Date


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1-20-05
Refuge Supervisor Date

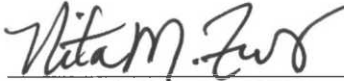

Vita M. Zw
1.21.2005
Regional Chief, NWRS Date

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INTRODUCTION

Detroit Lakes WMD, the northernmost district of the Division of Wetland Management, is located in northwestern Minnesota and includes the counties of Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Norman, and Polk. The headquarters is near Detroit Lakes, located in the southern portion of the District. The District is bordered on the west by the flat Red River Valley Floodplain and by the rolling hardwood forest-lake region on the east. The primary economic base of the area is agriculture, with a strong tourism industry centered on area lakes.

The rolling prairie zone and associated wetlands of this District, located between glacial Lake Agassiz's beach line and hardwood forest, have not been spared from agricultural development. The tallgrass prairie, most of the prairie wetlands and much of the timberland have been converted to crop production. During the past 35 years, over 75 percent of wetland Types III, IV, and V have been drained in Minnesota.

The Small Wetlands Acquisition Program preserves valuable wetland habitat through fee and easement purchase. The shortfall of funds for Refuge Revenue Sharing Payment and loss of cropland in private ownership and production have been significant factors affecting the progress of this effort. The Detroit Lakes District currently manages 39,053 fee acres on 150 WPA's.

The Annual Narrative Report is taking on a new format this year. The new layout mirrors the RCAR format with some traditional sections remaining (e.g. Highlights, Climatic Conditions)

HIGHLIGHTS

The District received record snowfall and spring flooding in 1997.

More than 4,000 acres of grassland were burned in prescription.

Our native grass seed harvest was the largest ever -- over 31,000 pounds.

Habitat conditions and waterfowl numbers continue to improve.

121 wetlands were restored in 1997

416 acres on 16 sites was seeded with native prairie grasses and forbs

Two new tracts totaling 280 acres were added to the National Wildlife Refuge System as WPAs

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Weather conditions for 1997 are summarized in Table 1. Weather observations are recorded at the KDLM radio station in Detroit Lakes. Detroit Lakes does not have an "official" NWS recording station, as such, monthly averages and deviations from "normal" are not available.

Catastrophic spring flooding occurred throughout much of the Red River Basin.

How hot? How cold? Interesting weather statistics for 1997 include:

17 days where the daily **high temperature remained below 0** degrees F.

17 days where the **low temperature dipped below minus 20** degrees F.

one (1) day where the daily **high temperature hit or exceeded 90** degrees F.

Table 1. 1997 Weather Summary Recorded at Detroit Lakes, MN. (Degrees Fahrenheit)

	DAILY HIGHS			DAILY LOWS		PRECIPITATION	
	Range	# days ≤ 0° F	# days ≥ 90° F	Range	# days ≤ -20° F	Total	# days w/ measurable*
OCT 96	22 - 77	0	0	9 - 49	0	4.32"	4
NOV 96	1 - 60	0	0	(19) - 36	0	1.62"	10
DEC 96	(15) - 30	6	0	(31) - 24	5	0.19"	5
JAN 97	(14) - 40	11	0	(40) - 22	8	0.48"	8
FEB 97	7 - 41	0	0	(25) - 24	2	0.10"	4
MAR 97	7 - 51	0	0	(26) - 37	2	0.96"	4
APR 97	11 - 67	0	0	0 - 42	0	2.62"	4
MAY 97	41 - 76	0	0	24 - 50	0	2.78"	10
JUN 97	63 - 88	0	0	45 - 68	0	6.82	11
JUL 97	50 - 90	0	1	41 - 69	0	3.97"	6
AUG 97	62 - 86	0	0	40 - 62	0	4.41"	10
SEP 97	50 - 79	0	0	32 - 63	0	2.37"	7
TOTALS		17	1		17	30.64	83

Parenthesis indicate negative numbers

* measurable precipitation is ≥ .01"

1

Monitoring and Studies

1a. Surveys and Censuses

Significant general wildlife occurrences at the Detroit Lakes WMD in 1997 include:

- * A snowy owl was observed January 8th.
- * Canada geese arrived back in the area March 20th. Nesting soon followed with many eggs frozen in a late season blizzard. There were many late, small goose broods as a result.
- * Ducks and other migrants came back to the District en-masse the first week of April. Mallard broods were first seen June 3rd.
- * Small rodent populations were extremely high. Damage to vegetation (including large trees) was common.
- * The deer population has suffered from two harsh winters in a row. Fawning rates for adult does dropped again -- now down to 1.66 (average of Prairie and Big Woods DMU,s). Deer harvest declined 14% in this region.
- * Moose numbers continue to decline in NW MN -- studies as to why are on-going. Fewer moose were seen on District WPA's and the hunting season was closed in "97".
- * Other wildlife on the increase include mink, otter (now in the prairie areas), fisher, and ruffed grouse (up 12 to 21%).
- * With the continuation of improved wetland conditions, frog, toad, salamander, and aquatic insect populations continue to flourish.
- * A pair of Trumpeter swans again nested on Rydell NWR this year, and were successful in hatching their clutch. Three cygnets were initially seen with the adults near the entrance gate of the Refuge and behind the Visitor's Center. However, as summer progressed, two young were observed accompanying the adults.

Predator Survey.

The District participates in the MN DNR's Predator/Furbearer Scent Station Survey. The summary indicates red fox numbers at a 12 year low. Raccoon numbers also declined. While skunk, coyote, and timber wolf showed slight increases.

Four Square Mile Survey.

Waterfowl production estimates for the District are based on the Four Square Mile Plot Census developed by staff at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and now administered through the HAPET (Habitat and Population Evaluation Team) office at Fergus Falls, MN. Results of the Four Square Mile survey indicated a reduction in breeding pairs for all species of waterfowl except blue-winged teal. cursory observations and national trends indicate otherwise. In fact, the census has indicated declines for each of the last two years. Graphs follow Section 1. The distribution of plots in the area may need reevaluation for representation.

Point Counts.

Non-game bird point counts were conducted in 1997 for the fourth consecutive year. Points were established at the initiation of the study on Rydell NWR and on WPAs in Becker, Clay, Mahanomen, and Polk Counties. Birds were counted once per year at each point for a ten minute interval. The most commonly observed species on WPA's in 1997 were bobolink, red-winged blackbird, savannah sparrow, common yellowthroat, and clay-colored sparrow. Relative abundance of these species varied by county. On Rydell NWR, the most commonly observed species in 1997 were vesper sparrow, yellow warbler, red-eyed vireo, clay-colored sparrow, and least flycatcher. In all, 88 different species were recorded; 75 species were found on WPAs and 62 species on Rydell NWR. A summary of all species detected follows the waterfowl graphs in subsequent pages.

1b. Studies and Investigations

As part of the Region 3 FWS study, four study sites were selected on WPAs in the Wetland Management District for frog surveys. Staff collected over 100 leopard frogs at each site, and found 2 to 4 % of the frogs were deformed. In addition, Minnesota PCA collected frogs at two additional sites near Rydell NWR and found one site with 2% abnormal frogs and one site, a repeat from 1996, with 13% abnormal frogs. Abnormalities included missing eyes, missing portions of, or entire front or hind limbs, and one frog with an extra front leg. One must take care to avoid the tendency to interpret the data beyond its intended purposes. Sampling of frogs was done through human capture thus all frogs most likely did not have an equal chance of being sampled. Presumably, it should be easier to catch a three-legged frog than a healthy frog with his full complement, yet no more than his fair share, of appendages.

2

Habitat Restorations

2a. Wetland restorations: On-Refuge

Because of wet conditions and problems with the watershed permitting process, there were no new wetland restorations done on Service lands in 1997. With the incredible spring flooding, we feared many wetland restoration projects would suffer the same fate as area culverts, roads, and bridges. However, with more than 2,000 WPA restorations in place, only five needed minor to moderate repairs.

2b. Upland restoration: On-Refuge

Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District had a successful planting season, seeding 135 acres of mainly warm-season native grasses and forbs on WPAs and 118 acres on Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (HSNWR). The following table shows the location of the 253 acres seeded on WPAs and on HSNWR during the 1997 seeding season.

Table 2b-1. Native Grass and Forb Summary, 1997.

County/Township	WPA/NWR	ACRES	DATE SEEDED
Becker/Hamden	Hamden Slough NWR	76	19 June 1997
Becker/Hamden	Hamden Slough NWR	24	26 June 1997
Becker/Hamden	Hamden Slough NWR	18	27 June 1997
Clay /Highland Grove 4	Flora Lake	75	12 June 1997
Clay/ Highland Grove 23	Lofgren	60	13 June 1997
TOTALS		253	

Detroit Lakes WMD has an active native plant seed harvesting program to provide seed for our restoration efforts. WPAs that will serve as that season's harvest sites are burned in the spring to stimulate increased seed production and set back undesirable, cool season weed species. Because of a favorable growing season, skillful harvest contractors, and nearly ideal weather conditions at harvest time, all of the District's previous seed harvest records were broken in 1997. Table 2b-2 shows the results of the 1997 seed harvest.

Table 2b-2. Seed harvest Summary, 1997.

WPA	ACRES	POUNDS	YIELD/ACRE
Bay Lake	85	10,133	119
Pederson	15	2121	141
Tessman/Arneson	35	5239	149
Rushfeldt	40	1661	42
Marks	50	3506	70
Hellikson Prairie	45	2786	62
Bay Lake	30	1398	47
Chief Lake	58	4194	72
TOTALS	358	31,038	mean = 87

Detroit Lakes WMD is fortunate to have a seed cleaning set-up at the District headquarters in Detroit Lakes. Use of the equipment is shared with all districts in the Minnesota Waterfowl and Wetland Management Complex. DLWMD also assists other agencies with their seed cleaning. Table 2b-3 shows the results of the 1997 seed cleaning; a new DLWMD record:

Table 2b-3. Seed Cleaning Operational Summary, 1997.

	POUNDS
Detroit Lakes WMD	25,446
Fergus Falls WMD	15,000
Litchfield WMD	5,104
Morris WMD	3,863
Windom WMD	17,062
Big Stone NWR	7,300
Sherburne NWR	7,690
FWS TOTAL	81,465
MNDNR, Glenwood	491
MNDNR, Madison	1,720
MNDNR, Slayton	4,157
MNDNR, Swan Lake	3,164
DNR TOTAL	9,532
GRAND TOTAL	90,997

2c. Wetland restoration: Off-Refuge

Twelve wetland restorations were completed in Clay County for a total of approximately four acres. The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District continued to table permit applications for wetland restorations. Discussions with the Watershed Districts are continuing so that common ground may be reached as to what information is necessary to complete acceptable permit applications.

Repairs to previous wetland restorations were completed on ten sites for approximately 45 acres. Contacts with over 200 landowners were made throughout the year regarding wetland restorations, and approximately 12 agreements have been signed to proceed with restorations.

2d. Upland restoration: Off-Refuge

Truax Native Grass Seed Drills were loaned to two land owners for seeding of 66 acres of warm season grasses on their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Technical assistance was provided to three different landowners for their CRP seedings, and 12 acres were seeded on two different farms by DLWMD staff. Drills were also loaned to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for seeding of 53 acres of native grasses and forbs on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Table 2d-1 shows a summary of private land and DNR native grasses and forb seedings for 1997:

Table 2d-1. Seeding Summary, Off-Refuge Lands, 1997.

COUNTY/TOWNSHIP	LANDOWNER	ACRES	DATE
Becker/Cuba 12	O'Hagen, James	10	27 June 1997
Becker	MN DNR	10	10 June 1997
Clay/Cromwell 20	Fillmore, Diane	2	13 June 1997
Hubbard	MN DNR	43	03 June 1997
Mahnomen/Gregory 29	McCollum, Terry	38.9	05 June 1997
Mahnomen/Oakland 30	Schmidt, Roland	12.8	09 June 1997
Mahnomen/Heier 15	Sweep, Nathan	18.2	06 June 1997
Polk/Queen 26	Rue, Roland	26.9	14 June 1997
Red Lake	Fore, Arlan	3.0	11 June 1997
TOTALS		137.9	

3

Habitat Management

3a. Manage water levels - nothing to report.

3b. Manage moist soil units - nothing to report.

3c. Graze/Mow/Hay

Grazing, as a tool in grassland management, was used on 146 acres of Squirrel Lake WPA in Mahanomen County. Grazing is used to encourage further development of warm season native grass previously seeded into crop stubble or inter-seeded into sod. Grazing is timed to pressure the cool season grasses. Electric fences are used to manage the herds. Forage removed totaled 102.04 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) with receipts of \$306.12.

In 1996, the DLWMD started a new private land grazing initiative which is similar to the private lands grazing programs of the Service and Ducks Unlimited in North and South Dakota. The private lands grazing program differed from that in the Dakotas in that the Service and Ducks Unlimited reimburse landowners for the cost of their cross-fencing of pastures into three or more paddocks whereas in the DLWMD we furnish the fencing material. This fencing material becomes the property of the owner after following a Grazing Management Plan for ten years.

In 1997, the private land grazing system in Mahanomen County with a 38.3 acre cell of four paddocks continued. A grazing system was implemented on one site on the Mahanomen Soil and Water Conservation District's tour of Conservation Practices.

3d. Farming

Detroit Lakes WMD has an active farming program for preparing seed beds for native seedlings. Special Use Permits had been issued for these projects; however, they are now in the process of being changed to Cooperative Farming Agreements (CFA). In 1997, **\$27,590** was collected from both SUPs and CFAs.

3e. Forest Cutting. Nothing to report

3f. Prescribed Burning.

Despite wet spring conditions, District staff had a successful prescribed burning program. Many units that had not been burned since the District was established were completed. Burned grasslands responded well and contributed to our record native grass seed harvest. Table 3f-1 summarizes 1997 prescribed burning accomplishments.

Table 3f-1. Prescribed Burning Accomplishments, 1997.

COUNTY	WPA	PLAN #	ACRES	DATE
Becker	Arneson	B-51-E	60	10 May 1997
Becker	Bay Lake	9703	160	15 May 1997
Becker	Corm. Sports Club	B-CLSC	5	27 May 1997
Becker	Helliksen Prairie	9704	653	16 May 1997
Becker	Lee Marshes	B-12-E	160	17 May 1997
Becker	Marks	9706	350	10 May 1997
Becker	Pederson	9725	175	15 May 1997
Becker	Severson Lake-E	9724	15	29 April 1997
Becker	Severson Lake-W	B-27-NW	32	02 May 1997
Becker	Spring Marshes	B-44-SE	173	06 May 1997
Becker	Tessman-N	B-43-N	40	28 April 1997
Becker	Tessman-S	B-43-S	110	25 April 1997
Becker	Westbury	9722	38	28 April 1997
Clay	Hoykens-N	9707	100	21 May 1997
Clay	Hoykens-S	9717	320	21 May 1997
Clay	Nelson	9721	240	21 May 1997
Clay	Nord	C-23	84	29 April 1997
Clay	Olson	C-25	62	29 April 1997
Clay	Rushfeldt	9711	60	09 May 1997
Clay	Three Jetvig Lakes	97-B	11	29 Oct 1997
Mahnomen	Chief Lake – N	9726	190	20 May 1997
Mahnomen	Nelson Prairie- NW	M-6-NW	157	21 May 1997
Mahnomen	Squirrel Lake	9708	105	20 May 1997
Polk	Salvhus – NE	P-23-NE	78	20 May 1997
Polk	Winger – Sec 1	9718	638	3 May 1997
Polk	Rydell NWR	9719	14	30 April 1997
Polk	Rydell NWR	9719	16	29 Oct 1997
TOTAL			5040 acres	

3g. Control Pest Plants.

The District continues to work with County weed inspectors and neighbors to address noxious weed issues.

Bio-control efforts continued for leafy spurge and were begun for purple loosestrife on various units.

4

Fish and Wildlife Management

4a. Bird Banding. Nothing to report.

4b. Disease Monitoring and Treatment. Nothing to report.

4c. Reintroductions. Nothing to report.

4d. Provide Nest Structures.

In 1997, the District had 101 operable nest baskets (cone-shaped basket style) in place. Sixty-seven percent of the baskets were successful. Basket use is roughly 50/50 between mallards and Canada geese. The percentage of successful baskets has increased annually since 1991.

Rydell Refuge has 131 nest boxes deployed. In 1997, 42% were occupied.

4e. Predator and Exotic Control. Nothing to report.

5

Coordination Activities

5a. Interagency Coordination.

District staff continues to work closely with various agencies on many projects. These agencies include the DNR, MPCA, USDA, Watershed Districts, and SWCDs, among others.

Two staff members each spent several days assisting local Department of Agriculture offices in the 15th CRP sign-up effort. Much of this effort was devoted to assigning ratings for threatened and endangered species in or near the tract offered, and assisting in scoring the environmental benefits. Over 2000 sign-ups were received in the WMD's five-county area.

Permit applications for repairs and changes to existing culverts and structures on Rydell NWR were completed and approved by the DNR, SWCD, Corps of Engineers, and the Watershed District. Ground work was completed on most of these repairs, the remainder should be finished in spring of 1998.

5b. Tribal Coordination

The District assisted the White Earth Reservation with the harvesting of more than 12,000 pounds of native grass seed to be used for reseeding tribal lands that were previously cropped. In today's market, that translates into at least \$75,000 worth of seed.

5c. Private Land Activities

Wetland restorations were completed on 12 sites for a total of approximately four acres. Repairs to previous restorations were completed on ten sites for approximately 45 acres. Nine sites were seeded for upland restoration on 138 acres. Six of these sites were on private land, two sites were on DNR land, and one on land owned by the University of Minnesota. One grazing agreement was accomplished on 39 acres. Contacts with over 200 landowners were made throughout the year regarding wetland and upland restorations.

5d. Oil & Gas Activities Nothing to report.

5e. Cooperative/Friends Organizations

A donation of \$1,000 was received from the Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen's Club to buy native forb seed to add to our 1998 seeding mixture.

6

Resource Protection

6a. Law Enforcement.

Waterfowl

Most of the wildlife related law enforcement occurred during the waterfowl hunting seasons. Duck populations seemed to be significantly lower in the District than normal, which frustrated many Minnesota waterfowl hunters; especially when they heard about how great the duck hunting was in North Dakota. In addition, unseasonably warm weather in the prairie Provinces of Canada allowed waterfowl to remain up north until late in the season. Five cases of hunting waterfowl without a license in possession were discovered during law enforcement patrols.

Deer

Enforcement patrols and hunter surveys indicated that hunter use of District WPAs during the white-tailed deer season was quite heavy. Some WPAs had as many as 10 hunters per day. No hunting violations were discovered.

Encroachment and Trespass

With nearly 500 miles of WPA boundary and 1,500 neighboring landowners that surround the 160 District WPAs, there is a constant backlog of encroachment violations, including trespass farming, rock dumping, boundary sign damage, boundary disputes, and vehicle trespass that need to be investigated and resolved. Most of these cases are resolved through negotiations with the offending landowners so additional legal action is not necessary. One vehicle trespass, one boundary posting damage, and three bait trapping incidents were resolved during FY98. Other incidents of encroachment and trespass were discovered during the year and remain under investigation.

Snowmobile trespass on District WPAs has been on the increase during the past several years, especially on WPAs that are located near heavily traveled snowmobile routes. In an attempt to curtail snowmobile trespass problems, news releases, vehicle trespass sign placement, and increased law enforcement patrols have been initiated by the District. With funding assistance from four local sportsman's and snowmobiling clubs, a wide-track Arctic Cat snowmobile was purchased in February to help enforce snowmobile trespass regulations on the WPAs.

Easement Enforcement

All of the District's 322 easements were aerially surveyed in April and November. No new easement violations were discovered during the flights.

Even though it has been more than five years since 127 wetlands were restored on the Lhotka (20X-1, Mahnomen) easement, the case continued to require considerable staff time because of ongoing law suits that have been initiated by the Lhotkas. The Lhotkas have claimed that the Service over-restored the wetlands and caused excessive water to be impounded on their land.

In 1994, they filed a claim against the Service for trespass, nuisance, breach of contract, inverse condemnation, and violation of the order for restoration. In 1995, after a motion by the U.S. Attorney to dismiss the action, the Lhotkas agreed to dismiss all of the charges, and instead, filed a tort claim for \$200,000 against the Service for trespass and creating a nuisance. The claim was denied by the Service because it had not been filed in a timely manner and it was determined that the Service had restored the wetlands appropriately. The case was appealed to the 6th District Court, which also ruled in favor of the Service. In March 1997, the case was appealed to the 8th Circuit Court. This court over-ruled the District Court and instructed them to determine if the water that is impounded in the wetlands is causing a nuisance or is trespassing on the property. Wildlife Biologist Peterson and Biological Technician Hanson met with Assistant U.S. Attorney Lonnie Bryan on June 23 to prepare for the impending court case. On June 29 and 30, WB Peterson and BT Hanson worked with two contracted hydrologists to gather expert witness evidence for the court case. The case is expected to come before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals during the winter of 1998-99.

6b. Wildfire Preparedness

The annual training and equipment upgrading that is done to better accomplish prescribed burns, also improves our ability to respond to wildfire situations.

6c. Manage Permits and Economic Uses

A total of 22 Special Use Permits were issued for various activities on the District's WPAs. Two permits were for access, three for use of the Rydell NWR visitor center, two for walleye rearing, nine for cropland cash rent, two for grazing, three for snowmobile trails, and one for timber harvest.

6d. Contaminant Investigation and Cleanup Nothing to Report.

6e. Manage Water Rights Nothing to Report.

6f. Manage Cultural Resources Nothing to Report.

6g. Federal Facility Compliance Act Nothing to Report.

6h. Land Acquisition.

Two tracts were added to the System in 1997.

Allrich	Norman	240 acres added to Christensen WPA
Specht	Mahnomen	40 acres added to Wolbeck WPA

6i. Wilderness and Natural Areas Nothing to Report

6j. Threats and Conflicts Nothing to Report

7

Public Education and Recreation

7a. Provide Visitors Services.

The Division of Non-Game and Migratory Birds funded a proposal to landscape and develop a bird feeding and observation site adjacent to the Visitor's Center (VC) at Rydell NWR. Landscaping plans were developed with assistance from the Regional Office, and the Friends of Rydell Refuge are participating in the project. Ground-breaking began in the fall of 1997, and planting should begin in the spring of 1998. Some bird feeders are already being maintained around the Visitor's Center and will be expanded next year, and development of bird-related displays in the VC has also begun and is on-going.

7b. Outreach.

Detroit Lakes WMD shared a booth at the Fargo Sportsman's Show in February; this was our first participation at this show. Staff from DL and five different FWS offices in North Dakota staffed the booth and talked to some of the 20,000 visitors regarding tall grass prairie protection and private land wetland restorations.

Rydell NWR hosted the Minnesota Area 1 Envirothon competition in April, which included eight schools from East Polk, West Polk, Norman, and Red Lake counties. Over 140 students on 27 teams participated in the event, which is a state-wide environmental competition for 9th through 12th grades. Stations included topics on wildlife, forestry, pesticides, soils, aquatics, and oral presentations. A newscaster from KRJB radio station in Ada was present to interview teachers, students, and the winning team. The first and second place teams from this event went on to compete with winning teams from other areas in the state competition.

The third annual Bluebird Program was held at Rydell NWR in April. It was a joint effort with the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. The Friends of Rydell NWR co-sponsored the event and were on hand to assist at the Visitor Center. Two presentations were held, and after each session participants were encouraged to "build their own" Peterson style bluebird box. FWS staff and volunteers were there to assist with the assembly. Staff and volunteers pre-cut donated lumber; a local hardware store donated the necessary hardware for assembly.

Rydell NWR held an open house on May 10 to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. The Visitor's Center hosted several displays and videos on migratory birds, and brochures, posters and Rydell bird lists were given away. Trails were open for hiking and bird-watching, and FWS staff and volunteers were available to assist visitors. Door prize winners were awarded bird houses or t-shirts.

On July 23 at Rydell NWR, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) presented an information and demonstration session for media regarding the state-wide study being conducted on frog deformities. Several television, radio, and newspaper reporters were present while MPCA and FWS staff collected frogs, and Judy Helgen of the MPCA presented background information and an update on the frog study. Several minutes of evening news TV time were given to the subject with a request for public calls if deformed frogs were found.

Detroit Lakes staff stationed at Rydell NWR prepared and staffed a booth at the Norman County Fair. This was the first year the FWS had a presence at this fair. A Partners for Wildlife exhibit from the Resource Library was displayed, and many brochures, posters, bookmarks, etc. were given away. Staff was present to discuss private land wetland restoration and upland restoration, land acquisition, and many other activities of the FWS in the District.

8

Planning and Administration

8a. Comprehensive Conservation Planning.

The Minnesota Waterfowl and Wetlands Complex began its CCP process in 1997. Public scoping meetings are scheduled for early FY98.

8b. General Administration

Staff

The FY 1997 staff consisted of 10 PFT employees and 2 PPT employees.

Rick Julian	Refuge Manager	GS-485-13
Tom Atkins	Refuge Operations Specialist	GS-485-12
Paul Soler	Refuge Operations Specialist	GS-485-9
Les Peterson	Wildlife Biologist (Enforcement)	GS-486-12
John Gunderson	Wildlife Biologist	GS-486-11
Mary Soler	Wildlife Biologist (Private Lands)	GS-486-11
Larry Hanson	Biological Technician	GS-404-7
Darlene Christen	Administrative Technician	GS-303-7
Dave Davis	Forestry Technician (PPT)	GS-462-4
Richard Dieke	Maintenance Worker	WG-4749-8
Bob Hiltner	Maintenance Worker (RNWR)	WG-4749-8
Steve Maneval	Maintenance Worker (PFT on 9/27)	WG-4749-8

With the spring thaw, two employees, Tom Atkins and Dick Dieke, retired.

Steve Maneval became a PFT Maintenance Worker on 9/28/97 after years as a seasonal Tractor Operator.



	Julian	Hiltner	P. Soler	Atkins	Peterson	
					M. Soler	
Hanson	Maneval	Gunderson	Christen	Dieke		

Funding

Table 8b-1. Summary of Annual Funding FY93 through FY97(dollars in 000's)

Activity	93	94	95	96	97
1120	49.0	64.0	55.0	-	-
1121 (was 1120)	-	-	-	89.2	90.0
1121 (RNWR)				1.0	-
1230	8.3	8.3	2.5	9.2	17.1
1230 (RNWR)	-	-	-	1.2	3.0
1234	-	-	-	6.9	-
1260	525.7	437.0	559.2	-	-
1261 (was 1260)	-	-	-	438.7	455.1
1261 (RNWR)	-	-	-	43.6	51.9
1262 (MMS)	-	-	-	30.0	18.7
1262 (RNWR)	-	-	-	20.0	7.5
1902	-	-	-	0.7	-
3110	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
4673	0	16.0	10.5	-	-
9110	0	0	0	27.8	-
9120	20.3	23.0	25.5	-	-
9251 (was 9110)	-	-	-	-	30.7
9252	-	-	-	-	25.0
9252 (RNWR)	-	-	-	-	52.0
2957 (flood)	-	-	657.7	-	150.0
9263 (Fire)	-	-		-	-
TOTAL	605.0	553.3	657.7	673.3	906.0