

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT  
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge  
March 1999

I. Highlights

- (I4) To Bilbeisi's delight, the Refuge received its' new Caterpillar backhoe/loader.
- (G3) The first Canada goose arrived on March 9, and the first ducks were sighted on the 16th.
- (G5) A killdeer was spotted at Potter Creek pond on the 22nd, making it one of the earliest reports of a shorebird's return to Arapaho. Western Grebes, an occasional visitor to the Refuge, were also sighted on the 31st.
- (G8) There is still a herd (~70) of elk hanging tight to the willows on the Allard, and at least 9 moose were seen on the Refuge.
- (G2) Several Bald Eagles were observed during the month.

II. Weather

- (B) March was generally quite mild this year. Temperatures ranged from a low of -2 degrees Fahrenheit to a high of 60 degrees Fahrenheit, with a mean of 32.1 degrees Fahrenheit (7.5 degrees above the normal mean for March). A few ponds partially opened up late in the month. The Illinois river opened up on the 25th. Precipitation was a little low at .50 inches (82% of normal), with 7.1 inches of snow.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

All staff took part in the yearly work plan meeting on the 30th to prioritize jobs for the summer.

- (J3) Rizer attended the annual Jackson County Interagency Fire meeting in Walden.
- (D2) Rizer completed and submitted the annual water management plan to the RO for approval.
- (I4) The Dodge Caravan went in to have the bent frame repaired.

Follet and Rizer finalized the narrative the first week of March.

Follet worked on GIS maps for the Refuge.

- (G3) Rizer, Stefanic and Bilbeisi took hay to all goose structures on the Refuge.

- (I2) Bilbeisi, with help from Stefanic installed all new lights and wiring in the ground floor of the headquarters barn.
- (H1) Stefanic built new brochure boxes for the Brocker and Case kiosk, he also completed the Unit C hunting closure signs.
- (PA) Lanier attended Intermountain West Joint Venture, Central Platte River Action Group meeting, in Casper.

V. Public Relations

- (H7) Follet and Rizor participated as judges in the Walden Elementary/Middle School science fair.
- (H7) Follet and Rizor attended water carnival planning meeting in Walden.
- (J3) Lanier gave a report of refuge activities to the North Park Stock Growers Association..

HPP - Lanier (1)

OMP - Lanier (2)

Submitted by /s/ Todd C. Stefanic  
Biological Science Technician