

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
July 2002

I. Highlights

- (F2) Water conditions continue to be extremely poor with most of the ponds dry. The Illinois River had stopped flowing on the north end of the Refuge by month's end.

II. Weather

The month was a little warm with a mean average temperature of 63.5° Fahrenheit (4.5 above the normal mean), the extreme high was 94° Fahrenheit and the extreme low was 34° Fahrenheit. Precipitation was above normal with 1.51 inches compared to the 30 year average of 1.06 inches. The Park is so dry that the increased precipitation barely seemed to help. Mandatory water restrictions went into effect for The Town of Walden. North Park again experienced some hazy/smokey conditions at times due to fires burning in Colorado.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (D1) The staff met with Lynne Caulhan, and Bernardo Garza to discuss grazing and road issues for the CCP.
- (E1) Equipment Operator David Riley Entered On Duty on the 29th.
- (E2) The YCC crew's LDOD was the 26th.
- (E4) Vic Langer volunteered and ran the leased excavator from the 1st - 10th.
- (E5) The Refuge received a \$5,000 Challenge Cost Share for the Laramie Plains Amphibian Initiative.
- (E7) R. Bilbeisi and Riley took the Refuge's excavator to North Delaney Butte State Wildlife area and served as equipment operators to help the CO DOW rehab 200 feet of ditch for the inlet to the lake.
- (E8) Follett awarded two construction contracts for Alamosa / Monte Vista NWR and a Request For Quotation Construction Contract for Brown's Park under the Construction Pilot Program.
- (E8) Follet completed the Equipment Report fo CGS.
- (F5) Bechaver and Jorde completed the yearly census of North Park Phacelia, 5391 flowering plants and 630 rosettes were found, the highest numbers on record.

- (F5) The tech's completed vegetation surveys (Robel Pole and duff measurements) in several meadows as part of the ongoing effort to collect baseline data for the CCP.
- (F7) Follet completed a special use permit for Burr's grazing.
- (F9) Two 3-person engine severity fire crews were stationed at Arapaho. A fire engine / crew from Devils Lake NWR in North Dakota was stationed at the Refuge from July 9th-23rd. A new crew from Wisconsin arrived on the 29th. Due to drought conditions, these severity fire crews have been assisting local and U.S. Forest Service fire personnel responding to fires in Routt, Grand and Jackson Counties.
- (F9) Follett created Fire Management Plan maps for the Craig - Routt Fire Management Program.
- (F10) The YCC made two more trips to Pole Mountain to monitor and remove musk thistle.
- (G3) Brood counts were done on the 15 ponds the Refuge has that still have some water. Fifty-one broods were found.
- (G4) A black crowned night heron survey turned up only seven active nests on Reservoir 2. The normal nesting site on Smith Pond was inactive due to lack of water.
- (G16) Three MAPS stations were run during the month with 65, 35 and 42 birds caught/recaptured and banded.
- (G16) Stefanic, P. Bilbeisi, all of the techs, and the YCC helped the DOW band geese for a migration study. Over 200 geese were banded on the Refuge on Res. 2. About 1500 geese total were banded in North Park.
- (H7) Langer and P. Bilbeisi toured 20 people from a garden club in Ft. Collins around the Refuge.
- (H7) Lanier gave a tour and talk to 12 forestry students from Oklahoma State University and then included them in goose banding with the DOW for a 'hands on' activity.
- (I2) Rehab efforts along the Hubbard ditch picked up where they had left off last year with the use of the leased John Deer excavator. Several ditch checks and take outs were fixed / replaced along the way. Stefanic and Bilbeisi spent several days working to rehab the Lateral C ditch and it's irrigation network.
- (I3) Supplies totaling \$7069,76 for Soap Creek fencing which will be contracted were purchased.

- (I4) R. Bilbeisi picked up the John Deere excavator that the Refuge is leasing for 4 months on the 1st.
- (I5) Follett tested SAMM's Citrix software for Washington DC Office.
- (J1) Lanier met with Matt Reddy - DOW / DU to review state duck stamp projects.
- (J1) Lanier and Richard Vail from DU looked over a partners project on Silver Spur Ranches. Lanier also delivered pipe to a partners project in Yampa.
- (J3) R. Bilbeisi traveled to Shepherdstown, West Virginia for a 40 hour Maintenance Workshop For Wage Grade Professionals at NCTC.
- (J3) The staff completed the Internet Security Training.
- (J3) The Refuge loaned Brown's Park two generators when they lost power due to wild fires.
- (MT) A waterfowl count was done at Mortenson and Hutton NWR's. Some repairs were made to barb wire boundary fences at Hutton and some boundary signs were replaced.
- (MT) Bechaver assisted Davis and others with a 3-day mark/recapture population study of the Wyoming Toad. They were also looking at chytrid fungus abundance as part of the study.

V. Public Relations

NP Focus Group - P. Bilbeisi (1)

NPHPP - Lanier (1), Langer (1)

North Park Sage Grouse Group - P. Bilbeisi (1)

OMP - Langer (1)

Submitted by ____/s/ Todd Stefanic
Biological Science Technician