

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
December 2003

I. Highlights

- (G1) Elk numbers continue to grow with approximately 1,000 head of elk found on the Refuge in several herds. Over 100 rosy finch continue to visit the Visitor Center bird feeder. A herd of approximately 100 pronghorn antelope were observed on during the month this is unusual as antelope do not spend the winter on the Refuge.

II. Weather

Temperatures this month were near normal with a mean of 19.4° Fahrenheit, an extreme high of 49° Fahrenheit and an extreme low of -16° Fahrenheit. Precipitation was slightly lower than the normal average of .62 inches with .59 inches from 7.8 inches of snow.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (E1) Colvin, Biological Science Technician, completed his career seasonal appointment for this year. He is working a detail with Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR for 90 days.
- (E1) Timberman completed paperwork for a WG-6 seasonal appointment for this summer.
- (E4) Timberman entered Refuge volunteer opportunities on the Volunteer.gov website.
- (E6) All first aide kits in buildings and trucks were restocked for the year.
- (F2) Follett completed a purchase request to pay for Section 7 Water Depletions.
- (F9) Timberman met with Kerr and Sterry, RO Fire Coordination, in regards to current and future needs of the Refuge fire program.
- (H6) Timberman, Lanier and Johnson met with Uhland and Emmons, RO Education/Visitor Services to discuss Visitor Services Plan for the Refuge.
- (H6) Timberman contacted Alpine Taxidermy regarding the otter and lion mounts for the Visitor Center. The otter is almost complete and the lion should be done in May.
- (I2) A surveyor was here to look at the road projects that are planned for this summer.
- (I2) Grand Lake Electric started miscellaneous electrical repairs on the headquarters and Quarters #154.

- (I4) Bilbeisi serviced ATV's and equipment and also winterized Quarters #154 and #4.
- (I4) Timberman contacted Colorado Department of Transportation to confirm that Federal vehicles can operate on roads using 'red gas'.
- (I4) The Refuge received the following items during the month: six mattresses and frames, regulatory signs, shop tool chest, ATV helmets and gloves.
- (J1) Timberman met with Owl Mountain Partnership to discuss the Refuge's role. She then submitted a Cooperative Agreement to support Owl Mountain Partnership.
- (J3) Staff participated in an annual work planning meeting. Main discussions included where the Refuge is headed and prioritizing projects for the upcoming summer field season.
- (J3) Bilbeisi certified Colvin on the front-end loader, dozer and motor grader.
- (J3) Performance evaluations were completed for all staff.
- (J3) Lanier attended a three day Introduction to GIS training at NCTC.
- (J3) Follett completed required ethics training.
- (J3) Timberman completed information for a Historic Assessment Grant for the Case and Hampton barns and will be working with Walden Historic Preservation group for support of the grant.
- (HT) Follett started working on an information brochure for Hutton Lake NWR.
- (MT) Timberman and Lanier traveled to Mortenson Lake to look over new land purchase and fence replacement project for this summer.
- (MT) Johnson attended a Wyoming Toad Recovery meeting, discussion on mark/recapture study and not stocking Mortenson Lake with toads were the main topics.
- (PA) Pathfinder NWR, MMS fence project was sent to RO, Engineering.

V. Public Relations

NP Focus Group - Johnson(1), Lanier(1)

Cub Scouts - Lanier(1)

Submitted by /s/ Pam Johnson
Wildlife Biologist