

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT  
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge  
October 2003

I.     Highlights

- (G1) Unusual wildlife observations included: a wood duck, peregrine falcon and 220 sandhill cranes which landed on 76 pond. Waterfowl season opened on the 4<sup>th</sup> with approximately 60 hunters using the Refuge. This number was up from last year, since we had some water this year but still well below average use.

II.    Weather

The month was dryer than normal with .64 inches of precipitation compared to the average of .92 inches. Temperatures were slightly warmer than average with an extreme high of 74° Fahrenheit, extreme low of 8° Fahrenheit and a mean of 43° Fahrenheit.

III.   Activities and Accomplishments

- (D1) Refuge staff meet to discuss public comments and review CCP one more time. Langer and Garza, RO met with staff to discuss final CCP.
- (E1) Suzanne Jorde, Biological Science Technician last day was the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- (E6) A quarterly safety meeting was held with 'Back Safety' as the topic.
- (E6) Behrmann, RO Safety Office, visited the Refuge and took additional lead wipe samples in Quarters #4.
- (F2) The Dam Safety Engineers conducted dam inspections on Muskrat and MacFarlane Reservoirs.
- (F2) One hundred thirty five acre feet of water was pulled out of MacFarlane Reservoir and sent to the BLM's Hebron Slough area. This water was the conditional water right that we had stored in the reservoir in 1997.
- (F2) An Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form was submitted to Ecological Services Colorado Field Office to address depletions of potential and existing new pond development.
- (H17) Timberman and Lanier conducted law enforcement throughout the month for waterfowl and big game seasons. Lanier issued one citation to a waterfowl hunter for hunting out of season.

- (H1) Timberman started work on a Sign Plan for the Refuge, including discussions with Featherman, RO Public Use on future public use plans.
- (MT) Bilbeisi and Colvin completed a much need rehabilitation project on Soda Lake at Mortenson Lake NWR. They also worked on Lanier pond, getting it closer to completion before weather shut them down.
- (I2) Colvin worked on getting all electric fences ready for winter and also installed gate jacks to a variety of hard to open gates.
- (I4) A new garage door was installed in Quarters #56.
- (I5) Follett set up two new Dell computers, completed the Activity based survey, Fleet Management semi-annual report and annual Energy report. She also completed a purchase request for 2004 Cleaning Contract.
- (I4) The Refuge received several items purchased with FY03 monies, they include: Arctic Cat ATV and accessories, ATV trailer, Arctic Cat snowmobile, John Deere riding mower, John Deere brush hog, life vests, canoe motor mount and binoculars.
- (J3) Timberman, Lanier and Johnson met with personnel from Greystone, Inc. regarding potential Wildfire Urban Interface issues.
- (J3) Lanier attended the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Wildlife Commission meeting in Walden.
- (J3) Timberman attended a Predator Conservation Alliance Conference in Mammoth, Wy.
- (J3) Timberman met with Ed Self, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, discussing potential for the organization to assist with willow planting on the Refuge.
- (J3) Staff assisted Saratoga National Fish Hatchery several different days with their spawning activities.

#### IV. Problems

- (I4) The Refuge was plagued with equipment problems this month. The Service truck frame broke and Bilbeisi had to remove the box and rebuild the frame. The 1550 dozer went to the shop to have its hydraulic system retrofitted for our scraper and still is not workable, due to hydraulic pressure problems. Our 2003 Pitts trailer had to be taken to Maxie Trailer Manufacture to have it's auto ride height control valve repaired. The new Caterpillar excavator worked great but Bilbeisi found out that it is extremely tippy. After many discussions with Caterpillar representatives on the excavators operational safety, it was finally agreed that a heavier counter weight was needed. The counter weight is on its way and we are limiting the use of the excavator until it arrives.

V. Public Relations

OMP - Timberman (1)

NPHPP - Lanier (1)

- (H7) Lanier and Johnson presented two programs during the annual 'Day In The Woods' for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

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