

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT  
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge  
July 2004

I. Highlights

- (G1) Unusual wildlife species observed during the month included: peregrine falcon and black-necked stilts. Sage grouse numbers seem to up as they were observed all month in several locations.

II. Weather

The month was wet, with temperatures near normal. Precipitation was 2.04 inches of rain compared to the average of 1.23 inches. Temperatures ranged from a low of 33° Fahrenheit to a high of 85° Fahrenheit with a mean of 57.4° Fahrenheit.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (D1) Timberman, Johnson and Follett traveled to Denver to give the final CCP briefing to Blankenship, RO Asst. Regional Director. They also reviewed the final internal draft and provided comments to the RO Division of Planning.
- (E6) The YCC crew presented a safety skit for the staff, topics included proper way to use a polasky and personal protection and proper lifting.
- (F10) Johnson met with Brands, the new Jackson County Weed Coordinator to discuss the refuge IPM plan and potential weed spraying projects.
- (G16) Three MAPS stations were ran, capturing 32, 49, and 28 birds respectively.
- (G17) Timberman completed a grant to the CDOW for chronic wasting disease sampling.
- (G14) Refuge staff assisted personnel from ES in conducting a malformed amphibian survey on the refuge. Over 50 chorus frogs were captured and measured with no deformities found.
- (H6) Final review of the Brocker overlook signs was completed and these signs are now in production. Staff review a second draft of the visitor center displays and Follett took pictures of uplands, meadows and wetlands for potential use in these displays.
- (H1) A new traffic counter was installed in the Visitor Center/Office in-road.
- (H17) Timberman issued a citation to an individual who was hunting prairie dogs on the refuge.
- (H6) Private contractor Bison began construction on the Brocker Overlook; a parking lot,

walkway and overlook will be constructed and when completed interpretive signs will be installed along walkway and at the overlook.

- (I2) Private contractor Sessions started a plumbing project at the Soap Creek residence this month, work includes running a new line from the well to the house, removing all old plumbing in the house and replacing it.
- (I2) Electronic dampers were installed in the boiler room to help reduce the frigid winter air from entering the room.
- (I2) The overhead doors in the equipment shed and shop were repaired and adjusted for easier access.
- (I1) Staff, including YCC spent many hours on the Soap Creek tract tearing out and building barbed wire fence.
- (I4) A plastic water control structure and pipe were received.
- (HT) Timberman fielded two calls from individuals in Laramie expressing concern about cattle grazing impacts at Hutton Lake. These individuals used the area during the 10 day grazing permit this year and were not pleased by the manure and presence of cattle. Timberman explained that grazing was part of the Refuge's habitat management.
- (HT) Staff spent a day at Hutton Lake checking fences and signs, installing a traffic counter and cleaning up buildings. A waterfowl count was also conducted at Hutton Lake and Mortenson Lake.
- (PA) A grazing permittee discovered a large patch of two-grooved milkvetch on Pathfinder NWR. A PUP was developed and the milkvetch was sprayed. This species is toxic to grazing animals when growing in selenium bearing soils.

#### IV. Problems

- (I5) The office continues to have power surges that reach past the surge protector. This causes extra work as both printers on the network are lost each time and have to be reinstalled.
- (I5) Refuge phones had to be repaired twice, problems were potentially caused by lightning.
- (I5) A virus was discovered on two computers, one of which is the internet satellite computer. After several hours with the help desk and running Norton and Beagle software, Follett hopefully has resolved the problem.

Submitted by: /s/ Pam Johnson  
Wildlife Biologist