

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
May 2004

I. Highlights

- (G3) The first goslings were seen on the 6th. Unusual species sighted include: brown thrasher, Swainson's thrush, gray catbird and Bullock's oriole.
- (H6) The long awaited river otter mount was delivered and once a stand is made it will be on display in the visitor center.

II. Weather

- (F1) The month was extremely dry and windy. Total precipitation was .39 inches compared to the average of 1.24 inches. The mean temperature was 46.3° Fahrenheit which was several degrees higher than the normal average. The extreme high was 75° Fahrenheit and the extreme low was 14° Fahrenheit. River flows remain low with most ditches closed due to irrigation calls.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (C2) Sinclair, RO Reality meet with private landowners Bob and Bill Burr to discuss appraisal of the Burr Ranch.
- (E1) Bechaver, Biological Science Technician EOD on the 30st of the month.
- (F1) Timberman, Lanier and Johnson met with Droege, Symstad, Lauhban, USGS and King, RO Refuges, to set up a habitat monitoring program as part of the CCP.
- (F2) Forty nine volunteers from the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers group out of Boulder worked with Auble, USGS planting willows in the riparian exclosures and field 24. This effort is part of the willow restoration project. The group worked hard, brought all their own supplies and leaders for the two day project and would be highly recommended by Timberman for any station looking for a volunteer group. Fifty volunteers worked a total of 1,210 hours.
- (F9) All permanent staff attended a fire refresher training given by the USFS and Lanier and Follett took and passed the pack test.
- (F7) Lanier worked on SUP's for grazing permittees, including grazing plans for each. Two of our permittees, Swift and Hudspeth will not grazing on the Refuge this year.
- (G16) Twenty seven birds were banded and seven recaptured in the first MAPS station of the summer. A waterfowl count was conducted with approximately 3,800 ducks and 200 Canada geese counted.

- (I1) The contract to replace the outhouse at the Fisherman's parking lot began mid month. The contract includes, paving the beginning of the nature trail and the area around the outhouse and installing a new vault and outhouse building.
- (I2) Bilbeisi and Goemmel installed a water control structure in Cattail pond and replaced structures in Varney, North School Section and South School Section ponds. They also installed ballards around the fuel tanks.
- (I4) Follett installed the new Cetrix and Ideas computer programs. She also completed the Financial Control Questionnaire.
- (J3) Johnson attended a water meeting in Denver concerning a water model for MacFarlane Reservoir.
- (J3) Lanier attended an Ecoteam meeting in Hays, KS.
- (J3) Timberman attended a one day training on Assertiveness for Supervisors in Ft. Collins.
- (J3) Timberman and Follett gave a tour of the Refuge to nine RO and Finance Center employees.
- (I4) The Polaris 4X6 ATV and some pipe were transferred to Seedskedee NWR.
- (MT) Lanier staked the proposed fence line at Mortenson Lake NWR for Lewis, RO Archeologist to survey.
- (HT) Waterfowl counts were conducted at Hutton Lake and Mortenson Lake NWR.
- (PA) Timberman spent time on the Pathfinder NWR interim management plan, the plan is finalized and has been sent to the RO for review.

V. Public Relations

- (H7) Johnson and Lanier entertained 19 Walden Elementary Kindergarten kids and eight adults with a demonstration on bird banding, playing a project wild game and going through a trunk of skulls and skins.
- (H7) Johnson presented Walden Elementary School with a trunk of birds and mammals skulls, tracks, feet, skins, scat and guides that the Refuge purchased with the help of an Environmental Education grant. Fifteen, 6th grade science students, were the first to view the contents of the trunk.

NP Focus Group - Johnson (1)

Submitted by /s/ Pam Johnson
Wildlife Biologist