

MONTHLY ACTIVITY
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
March 2007

I. Highlights

- (G1) Signs that spring is in the air include sightings of: Canada geese, waterfowl, American robin, western meadowlark and red-winged blackbird. Most of the elk have moved off the Refuge and up into the high country.

II. Weather

- (F1) The month was slightly drier than normal with .68 inches of precipitation compared to the average of .76 inches. Temperatures were warmer with a mean of 29.6° F compared to the average of 25.1° F. The extreme low for the month was -18° F and the high was 60° F. With the warm weather the Illinois River was completely opened by March 19th. A large percent of the Refuge wetlands filled early with run-off water from local drainages.

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (D5) Timberman met with Lewis, Univ. of CO, Boulder to discuss her floristic study on Arapaho and the Laramie area refuges. She will provide one complete set of collected samples. The Refuge will provide: vehicle; gas and lodging. A special use permit was issued.
- (D5) John Hoogland, is back for his second year of research on white-tailed prairie dogs.
- (E6) Randy Boyd presented a brief talk on safety. One topic covered being careful driving on roads with flowing water over them, the other on watching for lightning and taking cover during storms.
- (F2) The Hubbard #2, Howard and Ward #1 ditches were opened to finish filling Refuge wetlands.
- (H1) Tour route and Smith road were opened to the public on March 23rd.
- (I2) Boyd replaced deteriorated culvert in the office entrance road to facilitate water flows. High water had started to erode the entrance road.
- (I2) Boyd assisted private landowner Evans with the opening of the Howard ditch with backhoe and dozer. Boyd also spent time servicing several trucks, the backhoe and road grader.
- (I4) The new Chevy truck was taken to Laramie GM for warranty covered problems with the transmission. The new Dodge truck was taken to Steamboat for some warranty work.

- (I5) Follett got the tape backup problems resolved; she also installed updates on computers and completed the computer inventory for the RO.
- (HT) Laramie Plains NWR's CCP activities: Coleman, ARD, Shupe DARD, Rundle, Refuge Supervisor were briefed on plan; Slack, ARD was briefed on the plan; Griffin, RO Planning received clearance from WO to proceed with the CCP; writing of the plan has started with drafts of Chapters 1-3 completed by months end.
- (PA) Pathfinder CCP activities: briefing for this CCP was done in conjunction with the Laramie Plains CCP; clearance to proceed was given from the WO; writing will begin once the Laramie Plains CCP draft is complete.
- (HT) An open door on the storage building at Hutton Lake NWR was reported to the Refuge by a concerned citizen. Timberman went to the station, found the door open, found the hasp broken due to wear, and all contents still present. The hasp was fixed the door re-locked.
- (J3) Johnson attended and gave a brief talk at the Annual Stockgrowers meeting in Walden, CO.
- (J3) Timberman attended the Project Leaders meeting at Brigham City, UT.
- (J3) Follett participated in an AO Council Conference call.
- (J3) Timberman attended a North Platte Basin Water Round Table meeting.
- (J3) Johnson completed an online Introduction to ARC Desktop ESRI course.
- (J3) Timberman met with Wright the new USFS District Ranger in Walden.
- (J3) Follett completed the CON 111 online course.
- (J3) Johnson attended a Jackson County Noxious Weed meeting in Walden, CO.
- (J3) Follett attended the Project Leaders meeting in Scotts Bluff, NE. She also attended the DataMart training there.
- (J3) Staff completed No Fear, IT and Charge Card mandatory training

IV. Public Relations
HPP – Timberman (1)

Submitted by: Pam Johnson
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