

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
Month: September Year: 2013

I. Highlights

II. Weather

The mean (max) temperature in the month of August was 68 °F. The highest temperature was 84°F observed near the beginning of the month. September was warmer than normal. The coldest temperature observed was 42 °F. There was 3.92 inches of precipitation (rain) in the month of September, being one of the wettest Septembers locals can remember!

III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (H12) Timberman attended mid-year LE requalifications. The mid-year was held at Arapaho this year.
- (J4) Timberman attended ALDP opening session Sept 16-27.
- (F4) 9/18 – opened Ward #1 to fill S. McCammon. With all the rain the river bumped and the east branch was flowing again allowing us to open Ward #1 ditch, fill McCammon and then opened WCS to feed Spring Creek and eventually trickled to Fox Pond for waterfowl migration and for hunting.
- (F4) Home ditch remained open to a trickle to keep water going to Home pond for the beginning of the month, but was closed since the rain was maintaining desirable levels.
- (F4) Hubbard #2 filled Antelope. Then attempted to open feeder ditch from Antelope to fill Potter Creek Pond, but the ditch needs cleaning and repair. Wanted to maintain complete drawdown of Muskrat but the feeder ditch leaked into Potter Creek and started filling Muskrat (still not much water in Muskrat). However, Potter Creek opened back up and filled Potter Creek Pond and some others along that system.
- (F4) Oklahoma #1 was closed.
- (F4) The Illinois River increased flows with the copious amounts of rain in September.
- (F4) Flume readings continued on Home ditch, Hubbard #2, and Ward #1.
- (F5) Volunteer Settin continued vegetation transect data entry.
- (F5) Ungulate Browse Survey – difficulties with protocol developed in 2012 and finding nursery tags. Coordinated with Keigley... he came out with improvements to protocol that will work for the refuge. Need to revamp protocol. Four of the eight plots were completed with old protocol. UWYO did 2-3 plots near the four that were not completed and are willing to share their data.

- (F9) Hughes continued invasive species monitoring and treatment.
- (F6) Berkley coordinated last few weeks of grazing to help meet objectives and to move cows off Refuge.
- (F5) Berkley completed and submitted willow exclosure proposal to watershed grant (Paula Blecher). Project is funded by OMP, but will likely be reimbursed by watershed grant.
- (I4) Boyd serviced and washed the Tahoe, had the windshield repaired on the 99 Dodge and the broken rear window repaired on the 2011 Ford, had the tires replaced on the 06 Dodge, and serviced the 08 Ford and the backhoe,
- (I2) Boyd made lids for the Hatchery ponds and set covers at both the Hatchery and at Bilbeisi Pond, spent a lot of time fencing along the east refuge boundary, replaced 2 boards at the Antelope Pond structure, improved the drainage in front of the shop, mowed along the entrance road, put up delineators along the entrance road (so Bailey wouldn't off road trying to get to Headquarters this winter!), worked on creating the new Anderson Parking Lot where he pulled two cattle guards, used dirt from the parking lot to fill the holes and then took the cattle guards, braces, and railroad ties to the boneyard.
- (I6) Boyd cleaned the shop several times, worked on the fuel tank inspection paperwork, collected utilization figures, and inspected fire extinguishers.

IV. Public Relations

- (J4) Berkley attended the Sage Grouse Working Group Meeting.
- (J4) Timberman assisted with hosting an Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) Board tour/meeting.

Submitted by: /s/ Bailey Rooke
Office Automation Clerk