

## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

Month: August Year: 2014

### I. Highlights

Unusual sightings: High numbers of adult Wyoming toads in surveys.

8/11: Elk on Moose-Goose Trail

8/8: Pair of goshawks displaying territorial behavior at Home pond

8/14: 2 Sandhill cranes observed just off of Hutton Lake

8/15: Unknown number of sandhill cranes overflow Mortenson Lake

### II. Weather

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 71.7 °F and the mean minimum was 39.8 °F. The Walden station recorded 1.91 inches of precipitation including 0.0 inches of snow; however, precipitation was likely significantly higher at the refuge based on staff observations.

No measurable snowpack at the end of month. 8/25 – first new snow on the high peaks.

### III. Activities and Accomplishments

- (J3) Timberman met with Regional Surveyor Bill Rogers and BLM surveyor Kyle Scholl re: surveying Arapaho and Chandler. USFWS is funding BLM to complete these important boundary surveys.
- (E1) Timberman worked with Human Resources on opening advertisements for GS-485-9 Term and GS-404-6/7 seasonal bio tech term positions.
- (J3) Timberman coordinated financial management with our Budget Analyst Annette Ursini.
- (MT) Timberman worked on the Wyoming Toad Conservation Area and participated in a new briefing with Cheyenne ES for DRD Matt Hogan.
- (F7) Timberman coordinated with haying permittees Anderson and Hackleman.
- (F2) The screwgate was closed on Muskrat Pond on 8/6 to allow the pond to begin refilling.
- (F2) MacFarlane continued to drain, and should be empty by the end of month in anticipation of the dam survey work beginning the week of September 5.
- (F4) All of our ditches off of the Illinois River were closed. Phillip Anderson was contacted and asked to drop his diversion to stock water levels in order to leave some water in the river, which was only inches deep below the CR32 bridge.
- (F4) Hornslein opened Hubbard #2 and Home ditches at the end of the month to begin filling ponds for the waterfowl migration.
- (F4) The Illinois came up some in early August due to heavy rains and reduction of diversions. Eastern branch of Illinois River remains essentially dry.
- (F4) Flume readings were taken on Home and Hubbard #2. No other flume readings occurred as irrigation was suspended.
- (F2) Piezometer readings at Muskrat Pond continued.

- (F1) Hughes continued some invasive treatments; sprayed Canada thistle in auto tour loop. The remainder of the junked interior fence near MacFarlane was removed. Patterson and Hornslein conducted willow riparian browsing surveys. Analysis not yet completed.
- (J4) Dixon and Patterson completed ATV/UTV training at Browns Park NWR.
- (G3-5) Chuck Hundertmark with RMBO Colony Watch revisited North Park during the 1st week of month. The primary purpose of the visit was to tour the auto loop and count breeding eared grebes (17 on nests; 65 total); 140 coots, 166 gadwall, and 37 pelicans among many other species were also observed. Walden Reservoir was also visited, where they observed what were likely nesting Great egrets. It was noted that Walden Reservoir is turning out to be an important colonial waterbird nesting site this year.
- (MT) Wyoming toad surveys were conducted; Dixon, Hughes, and Patterson participated. 115 toads observed (less than Aug 2013), but no toadlets were released, so the numbers reflected a huge increase in 20+ g (potential breeding adult) toads.
- (G6) Dixon was contacted by Migratory Birds about a tagged golden eagle which had dispersed to our area. Before refuge staff could locate it, the bird dispersed to WY where it apparently died.
- (I2) Boyd continued to work on the Quarters 56 insulation, repaired fence on the Chandler, mowed the railroad tracks, auto tour road, back road, entrance road and nature trail road.
- (I2) Boyd reset the water control structure at Eagle Pond and spread pit run and rip rap, and cleaned part of Hubbard 2.
- (I4) Boyd worked on the 06 Chevy, changed a tire on the 99 Dodge and the service truck, serviced the skidsteer and backhoe.
- (I6) A welding ventilation system was purchased for the shop from Sentry Air Systems
- IV. Public Relations
- (H7) Dixon conducted a refuge tour on 8/8/2014 for Theo Stein from External Affairs, who wants to co-host a mentored youth waterfowl hunt with CPW. It was decided to use the Diversion Pond complex as the primary location, with Home Pond as an alternate. We will likely bump up water levels in those two areas in early September
- V. Problems
- (Highlight) On 8/7, Nicole Hornslein and two YCC enrollee's (Douthit and Crain) were involved in a single car rollover vehicle accident. All employees were treated; one concussion resulted and some stitches were administered. Vehicle was totaled. This will be the subject of the Q4 safety meeting.
- (J3) There was some interpersonal conflict between the seasonals and a detailee; resolved with informal counseling.

Submitted by: /s/ Bailey Rooke  
Office Automation Clerk