

Annual Report

1947

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Construction.

During the year a total of 487 feet of 5' foot log snow fence was constructed along the main road out of refuge headquarters east of the recreation grounds. The fence is of new design recently developed by refuge personnel at this station. The only new materials purchased for this development was a few hundred feet of No. 9 telephone wire. It is a very neat appearing fence and is much more stable than the types formally constructed here. (see photograph in January-April report).

Maintenance.

Approximately $32\frac{1}{2}$ miles of refuge boundary fence was maintained during the year with extensive repairs made to $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles damaged by snow and ice action. A total of 400 feet of six foot board snow fence was erected on the road leading out of refuge headquarters, early in the fall and removed and stored again in the spring.

Refuge trails through the timber were cleared of fallen trees and branches and extensive repairs were made to refuge roads and trails. Rock and gravel was hauled and repairs made to Spring Lake dike to repair muskrat damage and repairs made to the control works abutment damaged by ice action.

Two large wood refuge signs were relettered, painted and installed.

The recreation area was cleaned and ashes and garbage hauled to the dump. Eight loads of wood was hauled to the recreation area for use by picnickers.

The shrubery and trees about headquarters was trimmed and pruned and the weeds and grass cut and removed from around refuge buildings.

The board fence at the goose feeding pen was repaired and new braces installed. The rustic log guard rail fence at the recreation grounds under went extensive repairs and one new section was constructed and installed. A number of refuge gates were over hauled, and new brace posts installed.

The refuge boat house was moved from the old location on north point in Waubay lake to a new location $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of that point.

All primary and a few secondary trails were mowed free of weeds and grass. Three brush patches along the main road out of headquarters were cut and the brush picked up and removed.

All refuge buildings were cleaned on many occasions and the contents stored in an orderly fashion.

The headquarters irrigation system was drained and the stand pipe in Spring Lake separated from the line and removed from the lake.

Three and three-fourths miles of the western boundary of the refuge, which meanders the shore of North Waubay Lake, was completely reposted.

The refuge snow plow was over hauled and repainted, and the refuge tractor underwent a major over haul.

Minor repairs were made to various other items of refuge equipment. The drain pipes in the headquarters residence were cleaned and leaky faucets repacked. Minor repairs were made to refuge buildings.

ECONOMIC USE.

The acreage covered by haying operations on the refuge was increased slightly over the previous season and the cash income from this source was increased.

Farming operations covered the same acreage as in past years and very good crops of both small grains and corn were produced.

CONCLUSION.

All economic use activities except wood sales and farming operations showed a gain over those reported for the previous season. Refuge farm lands produced better crops but the acreage under cultivation remained the same. No public wood sale was held as the amount of dead and down timber did not justify this action.

Frederic T. Staunton
Refuge Manager
April 30, 1947