

Annual Report, 1948

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Construction.

During the past year only two minor jobs would come under the classification of new development. The most important of these was the construction of 351 feet of new log snow fence at a point where the main refuge road enters the hills $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles east of headquarters.

The other development while not of importance from a field operational stand point, adds immeasurably to the convenience and efficiency of household operations. It also aids greatly in modernizing the headquarters residence and at the same time minimizes the fire hazard. A new 55 gallon automatic electric hot water heater was installed in the headquarters residence. The latter item involved the removal of the unserviceable old coal burning unit and tank, and the installing of new pipe lines and connections. All of this work was done by refuge personnel.

Maintenance.

Due to heavy snows and high water levels during the past year maintenance work on refuge boundary fences, water control structures, and refuge roads and trails have required the greatest number of man hours labor expended on this type of work since the actual construction of these facilities. Old age may have played a minor roll in this oversized maintenance job, but the water and the elements were the principal factors.

All refuge roads and trails were mowed free of grass and weeds twice during the year, and at locations where the drifting of snow caused trouble, strips were mowed inside of fences. Extensive use of the recreational area by the public added greatly to our maintenance problem. The area was mowed free of weeds and grass on two occasions. Extensive repairs were made to the log guard rail fence at the picnic area. Minor repairs were made to the picnic shelter and well shelter, and fire places and picnic tables repaired. During the summer season fourteen truck loads of wood were hauled to the area for use by picnickers. The two public toilets were flooded by a rise in the water levels of Hillebrands' Lake, and they were moved to locations on higher ground. The old toilet holes were filled with rock that had to be carried to the location by hand as the ground would not support the weight of equipment. New foundation timbers were placed under the toilets at their new locations and the lattice work screening moved and installed.

Stumps and dead timber were cleared from $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of trail that was relocated because of flooding by high water levels. Weeds and grass were kept mowed around buildings at headquarters and at other building locations.

A new twelve foot timber bridge was constructed across a wash out on the main trail around Hillebrands' Lake. This item would have been mentioned under construction except that the accomplishment was short lived, as the run off this spring washed this bridge out and now the job will have to be done all over again.

One set of built in kitchen cabinets in the headquarters residence were altered to accomodate a larger sized government refrigerator.

The refuge boat house was moved again this season because of high water levels, and it is now located on the north east end of Windgate Lake.

All of that portion of the west boundary of the refuge that fronts on North Waubay Lake was reposted twice last season because of changes in water levels.

Repairs to refuge buildings and equipment were numerous, and on a few occasion quite extensive. Equipment was kept clean and well serviced, and refuge buildings all were cleaned thoroughly when time permitted. Late in the year the headquarters residence porch, living room, and kitchen were redecorated.

Economic Use.

Acreage included in haying track was increased greatly during this past year by appropriate amendments to the Master Economic Use Plan. Aside from this economic use rates for this privilege were also increased to line up with local increases for this product.

Cash income from haying privileges during the year was the highest on record for this refuge, and slightly more than twice that of any previous year.

Wildlife Surplus.

By special arrangement with the South Dakota State Game Fish and Parks Department permits were issued during a special deer season in December for the removal by hunters of 46 head of deer from the refuge. During the same season 115 head of refuge deer were taken by hunters outside the area.

In February 20 head were shot by refuge personnel under special permit from the state, and turned over to the Sisseton Indian Agency for relief of needy Indians.

Frederic T. Staunton
Refuge Manager
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