

ROUTING SLIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 2-28 1942☒ MR. SALYER: gus ☒☒ ~~MRS. HOODIN.~~ Whw☒ ~~MR. BAKER.~~ ACE 4/9☐ MISS GARRISON: _____☒ Mr. Gustafson PAD 4/8

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

Mr. Kubichek WPKMr. Smith PH 3/4/42~~Mr. Griffith~~ REG. 4/13/42Miss Cook WPK 4-10-42☒ SECTION OF OPERATIONS: ☒~~Mr. Kamm~~
Mr. Ball WK 3/14☒ Mrs. Watkins WPKMrs. Kricun _____Mr. Gustafson WPK 4/6

SECTION OF ERA:

Mr. Began WPK 4/17/42Dr. Bourn WPK 4/17/42Mr. Sommers _____Miss Riley _____☒ SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT: ☐~~Mr. Barnshaw~~ 4-3~~Mr. Ackerman~~ WPK

STENOGRAPHERS:

☒ ~~Miss Whorley~~ _____

DIVISION FILES:

☒ SECTION OF STRUCTURES: ☐Mr. Taylor WPK 5/9

REMARKS:

Minepipe - Pablo QuarterlyNovember, December, 1941; January, 1942

Return to:

Div. Files

INDEX

I. General	
A. Weather Conditions--Ninepipe	1
--Pablo	2
B. Water Conditions--Ninepipe	2
--Pablo	3
C. Fires	3
II. Wildlife	
A. Waterbirds	
1. Populations and behavior	
(a) Species	3
(b) Groups--Ninepipe	5
--Pablo	6
2. Food and Cover--Ninepipe	6
--Pablo	6
3. Disease	7
B. Upland-game Birds--Ninepipe	7
--Pablo	7
D. Fur-bearing Animals, Predators, Rodents and other Animals	
1. Population and behavior--Ninepipe	8
--Pablo	8
E. Fish--Ninepipe	9
--Pablo	9
III. Refuge Development and Maintenance	9
Ninepipe Maintenance	9
Pablo--Maintenance	10
B. Plantings	11
C. Collections	11
IV. Public Relations	
A. Recreational Uses	
1. Recreational Areas--Ninepipe	11
2. Fishing--Ninepipe and Pablo	11
3. Hunting	
(b) Local Hunting--Ninepipe	12
--Pablo	12
4. Number of Visitors--Official	12
--Other	13
B. Violations	15
VII. Other Items	15
B. Photographs	16

I. General

A. Weather Conditions

The weather during the month of November and until the last few days of December was very favorable to wildlife.

Late in December the mercury dropped down around the zero mark and on New Year's morning was 23° below zero. It gradually warmed up late in the month but with approximately 10" of snow on the ground the birds, both pheasants and ducks had rather a tough month.

Precipitation and temperature charts follow:

<u>Ninepipe</u>							
Precipitation			Max. Temp.		Min. Temp.		
	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	
Nov.	1.72	1.37	60°	55°	-1°	-0°	
Dec.	.93	.41	59°	60°	-2°	2°	
	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	
Jan.	.80	.36	49°	52°	-23°	5°	
Total...	3.45	2.14	Extremes	60°	60°	-23°	0°

		<u>Pablo</u>					
		Precipitation		Max. Temp.		Min. Temp.	
		1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940
Nov.	1.62	1.37		60°	55°	-1°	0°
Dec.		.41		59°	66°	-2°	2°
		1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941
Jan.		.36		49°	52°	-23°	5°
Total...		<u>2.14</u>	Extremes	60°	60°	-23°	0°

No precipitation records were kept on Pablo during December and January.

B. Water Conditions

Ninepipe

The water level in this reservoir has been gradually rising due to the pumping plant on Crow Creek though the cold weather caused the U.S.I.I.S. to shut off the pump for three weeks in January.

Ice nearly covered this area in early December but partly opened again during the middle of the month, freezing over completely on the twenty-sixth.

Water levels for this quarter in comparison with the same period last year follow:

1941	1940
November-29--3001.2	November 26--3002.3
December 30--3003.2	December 31--3003.2
1942	1941
January 30--3003.7	January 30--3004.3

Pablo

This area was nearly frozen over in early December but partially opened again during middle of the month. On December 27 it was completely frozen over for the first time of the winter.

Water level comparison chart for Pablo:

1941.	1940
November 29--3196.7	November 13--3196.2
December 31--3198.5	December--no change
1942	1941
January 30--3198.5	January--no change

C. Fires

There were no fires on either area during this period.

II. Wildlife

A. Waterbirds

1. Populations and behavior

(a) Species

Canada Goose--An estimated 3,000 were

*Data collected by
segregated for
dissemination*

on Ninepipe on November 14. Approximately the same number stayed on this reservoir until the ice came in early December.

Two crippled birds were caught at Pablo on December 26. They are still here at Ninepipe and available for transfer.

✓
Ma Mallards--Many thousand of these birds used these areas during the month of November. The ice in early December drove the most of them to the creeks and river, although a few stayed along the pump ditch at Ninepipe. An estimated 10,000 were in the valley at the close of January.

Pintail--Two birds were seen at the south end of Flathead Lake ^{off refuge} on January 10.

Green-winged Teal--Four were seen at the south end of Flathead Lake on January 10. One bird seen on Post Creek on Jan. 8.

✓
American Golden-eye--Approximately 200 are spending the winter on Flathead Lake.

✓
Ruddy Duck--Three of these birds were taken alive on December 31--all cripples--from a small hole in the ice on Ninepipe,

which they had been keeping open. An attempt to keep them penned up alive failed.

Golden Eagle--Several birds spent considerable time on Ninepipe and Pablo during November.

Bald Eagle--An adult bird was seen on Ninepipe on November 14.

Wilson's Snipe--One seen on Post Creek on January 8. Four seen at south end of Flathead Lake on January 10. *see*

(b) Groups

Ninepipe

Though not so many ducks stayed in this vicinity this winter as last, they had a much harder time as the deep snow and zero weather combined caused them to seek food in farmer's feed lots, which, in turn, caused several reports of starving ducks. Investigation showed that a few ducks died, some of them, no doubt, from starvation, though generally injury or sickness was the main cause.

Pablo

This area had a heavier duck population during the hunting season than a corresponding period last year. The goose population, which used this area almost exclusively a year ago, was more evenly divided between this area and Ninepipe during the past season.

2. Food and Cover

Ninepipe

Very little food was available to ducks and geese on this area during the past quarter except that obtained in the water. No supplementary feeding was done on this area.

Pablo

During November and early December the ducks and geese were frequently seen feeding in the stubble fields on this area. No supplementary feeding was done on this area as there were no ducks or geese on the area when food was needed.

Feeding

Sixty bushels of moldy wheat from the steel bin at Pablo was put out for the ducks

at various places along Spring and Post Creeks.

Ten bushels of good wheat was put out in Arlee valley along Jocko Creek.

Six pickup loads of unthreshed wheat were put out on Spring Creek and at the south end of Flathead Lake.

3. Disease

No diseased birds were found on either area during this quarter.

B. Upland-game Birds

Ninepipe

Pheasants--Even though we had considerable snow, the pheasants seemed to get plenty of food to keep in condition. The majority of them left this area for the adjoining stubble fields.

Pablo

An estimated 1000[✓] pheasants have dined on the stack of mown wheat and on the spoiled wheat thrown out of the steel grain bin. Half of the birds using the area this winter are feeding on these places.

D. Fur-bearing Animals, Predators, Rodents and other
Animals

1. Population and behavior

Ninepipe

A few coyotes were seen on this area during the fall when there were many birds present. The birds injured by hunters were promptly eaten, leaving no carcasses to spoil and the coyotes seemed to realize that they were safe on the area.

Muskrats--Two Indian trappers worked this area during December.

John J. Finley took forty-two rats, reported sales on thirty-nine for which he received \$55.00. He also caught a mink which brought him \$7.00.

42
82
124

Mickel Smallsalmon took eighty-two rats, reported sale of sixty-seven which brought him a total of \$92.63.

Pablo

One coyote has been noted on this area during the past quarter. No muskrat trapping has been done on this area though a

permit was issued to R. L. Sanford, an Indian trapper.

E. Fish

Ninepipe

General conditions would indicate that the fish in this reservoir would come through the winter in excellent shape.

Pablo

On December 17 many small bullheads four to six inches long were noted on top of the ice which was approximately one inch thick having come up through air holes. A warm, windy day and considerable water on top of the ice.

III. Refuge Development and Maintenance

No work projects are being carried on, on either of these areas.

Ninepipe Maintenance

Maintenance work, such as weed cleanup was carried on when needed on the service trails and around headquarters during the fall.

Patrolling the area was done frequently during the hunting season.

Water hauling has also taken considerable time.

During the extremely cold weather of late December

and early January the heating of the office, shop, and garage took a great deal of time due to the water tank and pipes being so much exposed.

During early December the cow shed and corral were put in shape for the winter.

Routine work around the office, shop and garage such as window washing, sweeping, cleaning walks and the general office work was taken care of.

Pablo Maintenance

A floor was put in the former oil house, and the wheat that could be salvaged from that which had spoiled in the steel grain bin, was put into this building. The rest of the spoiled wheat was then cleaned out of the steel grain bin. Part of it has been hauled out to the creeks for duck feed and the pheasants have also eaten some of it. The balance will be cleaned up and hauled out as soon as convenient. The loss in spoiled wheat totaled 213 bushels. Patrol work has been carried on as necessary on this area.

Care of the pickup, such as greasing, bolt tightening, cleaning, oil changing, tire checking, etc. were

done as needed. A small amount of time was spent on, the boat trailer brackets.

Fuel was hauled to the office basement.

B. Plantings

No planting of any sort was done on either area during this quarter.

C. Collections

No collections of plant materials seeds, tubers, root stocks, nor specimensof any sort were made during this quarter.

IV. Public Relations

A. Recreational Uses

1. Recreational Areas

Ninepipe

The picnic area at Ninepipe was used very little during this quarter. Two groups of young people spent an evening each on the area in early November.

2. Fishing

Ninepipe and Pablo

No fishing has been done on either area during the past quarter.

3. Hunting

(b) Local Hunting

Ninepipe

Goose hunters surrounded Ninepipe nearly every day during November. Some good shooting was had. On Wednesday morning November 19 it was reported that fifty geese were shot in forty-five minutes from 8:30 to 9:15 along the south and west sides of the area. This was by far the largest daily kill of the season. An estimated kill of two-hundred seventy-five geese was made in the immediate vicinity of Ninepipe during November exceeding by far the take of last season.

Pablo

Pablo was not favorable a spot for goose hunters this year as usual. It is estimated that less than 100 geese were taken in the immediate vicinity of this area during November.

4. Number of Visitors--Official

November 3, 1941, Willian T. Krummes of

the Washington Office, three hours on inspection of areas.

November 28, 1941, Kenneth Roahen, five hours on patrol of area.

November 29, 1941, Kenneth Roahen and Deputy State Game Warden Lambeth, three hours conference in office.

November 30, 1941, Kenneth Roahen, four hours, violation reports and conference.

November 17, 1941, George E. Mushbach, one hour--office

December 6, 1941, George E. Mushbach, one-half hour--office.

January 28, 1942, George E. Mushbach, two hours refuge inspection.

January 28, 1942, Leo L. Laythe, two hours refuge inspection.

Other Visitors

On the afternoon of November 14 Drs. Severy, Castle and Wright and their class of Wildlife Majors from the University of Montana, Missoula spent two hours on inspection of Ninepipe.

Clarence Muhlick, Nurseryman of the University of Montana, Missoula, came the morning of November 14 for an inspection of the University's experimental tree plot on Ninepipe. Two hours were spent with him.

On January 17, 1942 with Dr. Phillip Wright and his group of "Wildlife Majors" from the University of Montana, Missoula, making pheasant count on an area on and near Pablo Reservoir for six hours.

George Sterling, President Lake County Sportsmen's Association, and Al Knutsen both of Ronan called on January 19 to report ducks dying on Spring Creek north of Ronan. One and one-half hours were spent discussing the matter and posting the dead ducks which they brought in.

On January 29 Les Colby, of Missoula, Pres. Western Montana Wildlife Federation called at the office and we made an inspection trip from 10:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. covering the areas in the valley where the ducks are wintering.

Deputy State Game Warden R. H. Lambeth

stopped in frequently to discuss various phases of our work.

Ward Buckingham, Chairman, Park Board, City of Kalispell and the park caretaker Mr. Johnson called at the office on December 1 to get the crippled swan which Warden Lambeth brought here from the Flathead River.

Nels Anderson of Polson and Archie Patterson of Kalispell called at the office on December 8 with questions regarding installation of a pump on our well.

B. Violations

No violators were apprehended during this quarter.

VII. Other Items ✓

A Rusty Blackbird stayed around the Winepipe Headquarters during the last half of December and nearly all of January.

B. Photographs



Whistling Swan and Canada Goose in yard at
Ninepipe. Both cripples. Personal film.

*Note 2 sizes of film - some of both
sizes marked personal - assume rest
was official film. Perhaps they were
all taken on official time.
M.H.*



Taken 1/20/42. Personal film. Ducks leaving
Spring Creek where the only loss of any amount of
birds occurred during the winter. Eighty-three dead
birds were found on a half mile strip of creek. An
estimated 1500 birds were using this warm Spring Creek
as a resting place.



Dead ducks in Spring Creek. Taken 1/20/42.
Personal film.



Frost on the wire fence around the tower at
Ninepipe. Taken January 21, 1942. Personal film.



Two crippled geese caught on Pablo. December
26, 1941. Photo by George Sterling.



Crippled geese caught at Pablo December 26, 1941.

Photo by George Sterling



One of them attempting to hide. Taken December 26, 1941 by George Sterling.



Crawling across the trail. Taken December
26, 1941 by George Sterling.

Respectfully submitted

Ancil O. Talmage

Ancil O. Talmage
Under Refuge Manager



Original copies of the report. Taken December
28, 1941 by George A. ...

Respectfully submitted

Arthur C. ...
Under Secretary

