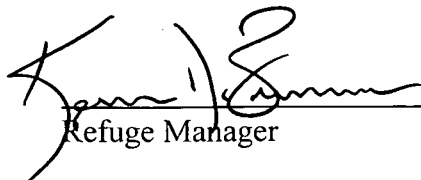
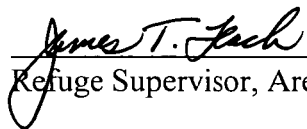
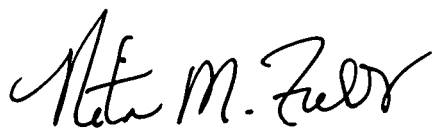


Fergus Falls Wetland Management District

Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Fiscal Year 2002

 2-28-03
Refuge Manager Date

 (3-10-03)
Refuge Supervisor, Area 3 Date

 3-12-2003
Regional Chief, NWRS Date

**Fergus Falls Wetland Management District
Fergus Falls, Minnesota**

**Annual Narrative Report
Fiscal Year 2002**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM**

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INTRODUCTION

The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (District) was established in 1962 with the advent of the Accelerated Small Wetlands Acquisition Program. The District includes Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Wadena, and Wilkin Counties of west-central Minnesota.

The mission of this District is to identify, protect, and restore the tallgrass prairie/wetland ecosystem and associated habitats, and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education. For this purpose, the District currently manages 215 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) totaling 43,427 acres, and also administers 1,007 perpetual easements covering 23,540 wetland acres. More recently, five perpetual wildlife habitat easements preserving 654.7 acres of native and nonnative grassland have also been secured for management.

Waterfowl Production Areas are managed for optimum waterfowl production by various upland management techniques, wetland restoration and enhancement projects, water level manipulation, and seasonal predator control. Perpetual wetland easements protect wetlands on private land from being drained, filled, leveled, or burned. Habitat easements protect critical areas of grassland from being extirpated.

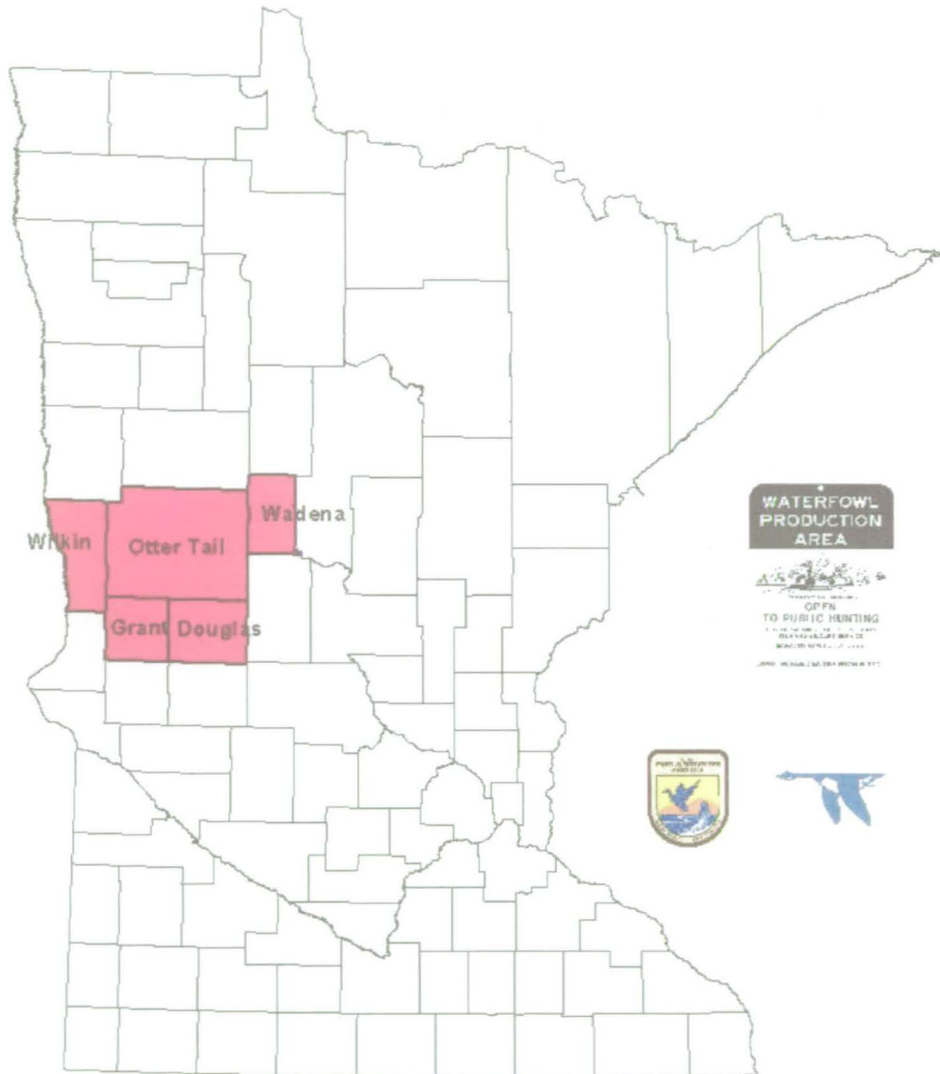
The District lies on the southeastern edge of the original prairie pothole region of North America. Wetlands range in size from tiny ephemeral ponds to large deep lakes. Vegetation of the wetland fringes is predominantly cattail, reed canary grass, river bulrush, various sedges, and other moist soil plants. Open water areas contain bullrush, pondweeds, and other typical fresh water aquatic vegetation.

Forested areas contain a mix of bur oak, green ash, basswood, box elder, aspen, black cherry, ironwood, and maple. Typical understory species include dogwoods, prickly ash, hazel, and gooseberry. Shrubs and seedling trees such as sumac, European buckthorn, prickly ash, green ash, and box elder encroach on grasslands when not controlled by fire or mowing. Remnant prairies are represented by grasses like big and little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass, and other associated grasses and forbs of the northern tallgrass prairie.

Over 285 species of birds frequent the District and about 170 species nest in the five-county area. Modest numbers of greater prairie chickens still inhabit several prairie remnants and adjacent grasslands in the western part of the District. Approximately 40 pairs of bald eagles nest within the District. This avian diversity is complimented by at least 40 species of mammals and 25 species of reptiles and amphibians.

Agriculture and recreational tourism drive the local economy. Crops produced include hard red spring wheat, corn, soy and dry edible beans, barley, oats, sugar beets, alfalfa, and sunflowers. Rainfall averages 24 inches.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fergus Falls Wetland Management District



Highlights

- For the second year in a row, the District broke the old record of 40 prescribed fire burns. This year, a total of 46 prescribed fire burns were conducted totaling 4,972 acres. Many of the burns conducted this year were first-time burns or on areas that have not been burned for five or more years. The burn crew has done an excellent job under the leadership of the Fire Boss Troy Boschee.
- The Johnson-Ronhovde wetland restoration project in Grant County was completed in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. This was a 41-acre restoration located in Lein Township. The project involved installation of a water control structure to allow for water management.
- This District cooperated with the Morris and Litchfield Wetland Management Districts (WMDs), HAPET Office, and Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center to set up a survey to determine the extent and density of coyote populations in western Minnesota. Field work on this project will begin in the summer of 2003. It is hoped data from this survey will allow us to better target our acquisition and management activities.

Climatology Review - 2002

The fall and winter of 2002 was a time of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Snow cover was minimal and never exceeded more than two inches the entire winter, until April 1 when seven inches fell. Not a single major winter storm affected this region of Minnesota. This year's three-month period between November 1 and January 31 was determined to be the third warmest in over a hundred years.

With the lack of snow cover, runoff was basically nonexistent. By March 29, marshes on Rush Lake and Kube WPAs had already become free of ice and what looked to be an early spring turned out to be anything but that. May averaged nearly 20 degrees below normal and late season frosts caused major damage to some area crops like sugar beets.

In June and early July, temperatures approaching 100 degrees were common, and the production of forage crops was noticeably reduced. Rain was needed, but it was about to come in excess. Between July 8-12, parts of the District received 6-8 inches, with Fergus Falls getting 5-1/2 inches. Temporary flooding caused some localized crop damage.

Favorable late summer weather allowed for a speedy small grain harvest, and was ideal for the maturity of row crops like corn and soybeans. This was also the time when the first cases of the West Nile Virus showed up in southern parts of the District. Similarly, the first documented case of chronic wasting disease in Minnesota appeared in a captive elk near Aitkin, Minnesota.

1

Monitoring and Studies

1a. Surveys and Census

Breeding Waterfowl Survey

A major effort is placed determining the breeding population of migratory waterfowl in the District. Each year, District personnel visit nearly 200 randomly selected wetlands and streams on private land, wetland easement property, and WPAs during May and early June. All ducks, geese, mergansers, and a variety of marsh and water birds are recorded. Later, statistical analysis of this data is performed by the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) in Fergus Falls. Following are the results of this year's four-square-mile breeding waterfowl survey based on their analysis of our field data. Habitat conditions were excellent throughout the entire breeding season. This and other factors contributed to significantly higher numbers of breeding pairs, which is obvious from this table.

Estimated Breeding Pairs of Ducks - 2002

Species	Pairs/Square Miles WPA 2002	Pairs/Square Miles Easement	Pairs/Square Miles Private Land	Pairs/Square Miles WPA 2001	Estimated Breeding Pairs 2002*	% Change Breeding Pairs on WPA's
Mallard	31.98	22.43	9.88	20.62	24,935	+55%
Gadwall	2.8	1.86	0.87	0.78	2,195	+259%
Wigeon	0.21	0.15	0.06	0	164	+100%
Green-winged Teal	1.80	1.3	0.55	0.1	1,397	+1,700%
Blue-winged Teal	32.63	23.62	10.02	14.05	25,369	+132%
Shoveler	2.23	1.52	0.69	0.39	1,739	+471%
Pintail	0.63	0.46	0.19	0	493	+100%
Wood Duck	19.43	13.29	5.98	13.01	15,121	+49%
Redhead	4.57	2.93	1.43	1.96	3,587	+133%
Canvasback	1.56	1.02	0.49	0.46	1,220	+239%
Lesser Scaup	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.26	0.0	100%
Ringneck	3.02	1.92	0.95	2.12	2,369	+42%
Ruddy Duck	4.00	2.69	1.24	1.58	3,127	+153%
Totals	104.86	73.19	32.35	55.33	81,716	+89%
* Combines pairs for all ownerships						

The 2002 estimated production of ducks and geese on WPAs and easement wetlands in the District was 19,152 birds excluding coot.

Christmas Bird Count

The Fergus Falls area Christmas bird count was held on December 15, 2001. Participants were hampered by strong, gusty winds that kept the birds in heavy cover and difficult to observe. Despite the poor conditions, 52 species were recorded which is one shy of the record of 53 species. Most noteworthy was that 12 species of waterfowl were recorded including a female greater scaup and two pied-billed grebes. The late and mild winter may have contributed to the high number of species counted. Six additional species were recorded during count week.

A second Christmas bird count in the Battle Lake area (their fourth) recorded a record setting 46 species on January 5, 2002. Battle Lake is located about 17 miles east of Fergus Falls in the zone of transition between hardwood forest and tallgrass prairie. Highlights of this count were a green-winged teal, pied-billed grebe, and two varied thrushes. Six species of waterfowl were observed including 254 trumpeter swans.

Bird Point Count Survey

This survey has been done for the past ten years to document the abundance and diversity of bird species associated with the northern tallgrass prairie of western Minnesota. In the first five years, we conducted the survey in undisturbed fields of native prairie. For the past four years, 38 separate fields of seeded native grasses and forbs located on 26 WPAs in three counties were surveyed. Fifty-one bird species were recorded on the 100 total points censused in 2002.

For the first time, bobolinks were the most commonly observed species. Most common in decreasing order were bobolinks, savannah sparrows, clay-colored sparrows, common yellowthroats, and red-winged blackbirds. Three LeConte's sparrows were recorded on three separate WPAs. Fifteen grasshopper sparrows were recorded. Western meadowlarks were observed at only two points. Brown-headed cowbirds were observed on eighteen of the points.

In general, it is very apparent from this study that warm season native grass cover planted primarily for ground nesting waterfowl provides excellent habitat, and has a big influence on the abundance and diversity of many non-game grassland bird species.

Nest Searching

There were no waterfowl nest searching activities within the District in 2002.

Endangered Species and/or Threatened Species

Bald eagle sightings in the District have become a common occurrence in recent years. There are currently about 40 pairs of eagles nesting within the District;

however, only one nest is located on a WPA. The nest is on our Nicholson WPA (T. 131 N., R. 42 W., Section 6, N1\2SE1\4), in the upper branches of a large cottonwood tree.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, we again participated in an effort to count greater prairie chickens on booming grounds within the District. Greater prairie chickens continue to gradually expand their range and are nesting on Agassiz (OT-60), Hanneman (W-7), Rabbit River (OT-53), Ridgeway (OT-2), and Meadows (W-4) WPAs. The following lek sites were located and censused in 2002.

County	Quarter	Section	Township	Range	No. Males	Remarks
Wilkin	NE	5	134	45	33	Cultivated
Wilkin	SW	9	134	45	18 total birds (flush count)	Prairie Grassland
Wilkin	NE	8	134	45	20	Cultivated
Wilkin	NW	16	134	45	27	Cultivated
Wilkin	NW	21	134	45	13	Cultivated
Wilkin	NE	21	134	45	4	Cultivated
Wilkin	SW	12	133	45	18	Cultivated
Wilkin	SE	2	134	46	5	Cultivated
Wilkin	SE	6	134	46	12	Flush Count
Wilkin	NE	36	135	47	6	Cultivated
Wilkin	SW	12	133	45	18	Cultivated
Wilkin	NE	27	134	45	4	Cultivated
Otter Tail	NW	19	133	44	23	Cultivated
Otter Tail	NW	32	133	44	15	Cultivated
Otter Tail	NW	19	133	44	19	Cultivated
Otter Tail	NW	17	131	44	21 (Total)	Flush count (Grassland)
Otter Tail	SE	8	131	44	6	Mowed Native hay
Otter Tail	NW	33	131	44	12	Cultivated

Mourning Dove/Woodcock Surveys

Two mourning dove routes and two woodcock routes were run in 2002.

Scent Post Survey

As part of an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the District again participated in the predator/furbearer scent station survey which marked its 27th anniversary this year. Five separate 2.7 mile routes were run in Douglas, Grant, and Otter Tail Counties. In the farmland area of Minnesota, striped skunk and raccoon were equally abundant both showing up at 57% of the scent

stations. Red fox were present at 33% and coyotes at 28% of scent stations in the farmland area.

1b. Studies and Investigations

Deformed Frog and Toad Survey

In July, staff from the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (WMD) conducted surveys for malformed frogs in two wetlands on the Julsrud WPA in Otter Tail County. The purpose of the survey was to determine the prevalence of frog abnormalities on Service lands, as well as land use practices where abnormal frogs were found. All frogs were measured (snout to vent) and examined. Frog abnormalities were recorded and photographed. Four frogs with gross abnormalities were anesthetized, mounted on plastic, preserved in ethyl alcohol, and sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for radiographs. Thirty-five frogs were sent live to the University of Wisconsin for necropsies to determine parasite loads.

On July 22, 229 northern leopard frogs were collected from the boundary wetland on Julsrud WPA. Thirteen (5.7%) had abnormalities that included: extra digits, limb rotation, and bone bridges on front limbs; partial or missing hind limbs; limb rotation and bone bridges on hind limbs; missing, fused, shortened, or misplaced digits on hind limbs; and a misplaced eye (out of socket, below where the eye would normally be). Necropsy results indicated that northern leopard frogs from the boundary wetland and over-the-road wetland harbored a diverse fauna of parasites. To date, the Julsrud WPA wetlands represent the furthest west that Ribeiroia, parasites that have been shown to cause development of malformed limbs in amphibians, have been identified in Minnesota.

On July 23, 141 northern leopard frogs and two mink frogs were collected from the over-the-road wetland on Julsrud WPA. No abnormalities were found. The over-the-road wetland is surrounded by seeded native grasses and other WPA lands on all sides. The boundary wetland is a co-owned wetland on the edge of the WPA with some agricultural land and a building site adjacent to it.

Funding for the malformed frog surveys comes from the Department of the Interior's Amphibian Initiative that is designed to examine amphibian declines and abnormalities. The surveys help determine the prevalence of frog abnormalities on Service lands.

Fathead Minnow Study

Recent research has suggested that nonnative fathead minnows are a direct competitor with waterfowl broods for aquatic invertebrates. Since fathead minnows are prolific breeders, they can overpopulate wetlands, resulting in low productivity of aquatic invertebrates. Fathead minnows usually get into wetlands through man-made

ditch systems that are connected to riverine systems, or have been illegally introduced by bait dealers.

Using minnow traps, the District sampled 61 wetlands on WPAs in 2002 for the presence or absence of minnows. Thirty-two wetland basins sampled had minnows. Results from the 2002 sampling indicated that 52% of the wetlands had a presence of minnows.

Walleye Stocking as a Tool to Suppress Fathead Minnow Populations in Type V Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of Minnesota

Many seasonably-flooded wetlands in western Minnesota have been drained or consolidated into permanently-flooded Type V wetlands. In addition, western Minnesota has experienced several years of above average precipitation. As a result, many of these wetlands are deeper and less susceptible to winter anoxia, making them more suitable to populations of fathead minnows. This is a concern because activities such as tiling and ditching have increased connectivity among wetlands which are a ready source for fish (minnow) colonization during high water events.

Fathead minnows are the most common fish species in prairie wetlands and they exhibit a critical influence on energy flow within a wetland. This two-year study was initiated to determine the ability of piscivorous fish, namely various life stages of walleyes, to limit the density of fathead minnows and improve the overall wetland quality by increasing the density of submerged aquatic plants and associated aquatic invertebrates.

Preliminary results suggest that the fry treatments were far more effective than the adult treatment in reducing algal abundance. In addition, invertebrate populations increased throughout the summer in the fry treatment ponds and water clarity tended to improve in many of the ponds as summer progressed. Final analysis of data from this study (not yet available) should provide further insight into these and other questions.

Mechanistic Analysis of Biomanipulation in Wetlands on Waterfowl Production Areas

This study initiated in 2002 is related to the study above in that it deals with wetland quality in the Prairie Pothole Region of North America. Fish certainly have a strong influence on the biotic and abiotic characteristics of aquatic ecosystems. They can create a "turbid water state" with high turbidity and high phytoplankton abundance with reduced abundances of aquatic plants and invertebrates. In contrast, fishless wetlands usually exist in a "clear water state."

This study will assess the success of bio manipulation in shifting turbid state prairie wetlands to a clear state, and it will help explain mechanisms responsible for both

success and failure of this management tool. Results from this study will provide management recommendations for wetland managers wishing to create a clear water state in prairie wetlands.

Soil and Vegetation Development on Former Agricultural Fields

Soil carbon has dramatically decreased after native grasslands were converted to agricultural fields in Minnesota and the Northern Great Plains. The main objectives of this study being conducted by Kendra McLauchlan with the University of Minnesota are:

1. Determine the relationship between the time since last cultivation and soil properties by quantifying the rate, magnitude, and pattern of change in soil properties, including soil carbon.
2. Determine the role that plant species have in altering rates of soil carbon accumulation by identifying the properties of the plant species that affect the quantity and type of soil carbon.
3. Determine what is limiting the productivity of grasslands established on former agricultural land by examining causes of variation in aboveground net primary production by practices like watering, fertilizing, and grazing.

During the 2002 field season, root ingrowth cores were constructed and installed on survey plots in May, sample plots were fertilized by hand with a small amount of nitrogen fertilizer, and above ground plant biomass was clipped in each plot during the last week of July.

During the last week of September, the root ingrowth cores were removed and soil samples were taken by removing five 1-inch diameter cores to a 30-cm depth. Fresh soil samples were processed during the first week of October, and several characteristics were measured. At this time, we are waiting for the final report on this study.

Red River Wetland/Watershed Monitoring and Modeling Project

Interest in the hydrology of the Red River of the North basin increased greatly after the severe spring floods in 1997. As a result, a project was initiated to develop a better understanding of the effects that wetlands and land uses have on the flows of water from small watersheds within the Red River of the North basin. Cooperators on the project include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota State Water Commission, researchers at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Red River Watershed Management Board, and other partners.

Watershed sites were established at the Hamden Refuge near Audubon, Minnesota, and at the Lonetree Management Area near McClusky, North Dakota. Wetland water-level monitoring stations, water flow monitoring stations, and weather monitoring stations were established at both watershed sites. Data is currently being gathered to evaluate the roles of wetlands and weather on the production of runoff from watersheds. Snow melt and rainfall events are being monitored to determine the influence of wetland water levels and precipitation intensities on potential flood events.

A major issue is the effect of wetland drainage and restoration on hydrology. A large wetland that is being monitored at the Lonetree site has both inlet and outlet channels. Bisson Lake at the Hamden Refuge is currently undergoing restoration, which will provide an opportunity to gather hydrologic data on a small watershed both prior to and after restoration of a major wetland.

Current data collected has shown a very large response to heavy precipitation events that occurred in May 1999 and June 2000. In addition, widespread heavy precipitation events tend to cause a great deal of backwater within the drains of the Hamden site. The field work for this study was completed and a preliminary testing of their findings was performed in 2002. The final report on this study should be completed sometime in the coming year.

The information produced by this study will greatly benefit scientists who study the hydrology of wetlands and different landscapes. Water resource managers will also benefit greatly from the information produced by the monitoring and modeling of watershed hydrology.

2 Habitat Restoration

2a. Wetland Restoration: On-Refuge

The following WPAs had wetlands restored, enhanced, or had ditch plugs repaired.

WPA Name and No.	Rip Numbers	Acres	Type of work
Ridgeway (OT-2)	Rip 16, 17, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35	28.2	Tile breaks
Ridgeway (OT-2)	Rip 21, 60, 66, 67, 70, 72, 79, 81, 84, 104, 111, 112	7.0	Earthen ditch plugs
Ridgeway (OT-2)	Rip 16, 23, 24, 25, 55, 66, 68, 71, 156, 157	8.5	Wetland scrape outs
Jorgenson (OT-62)	Rip 32, 33, 34, 36, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59	7.7	Wetland scrape outs and/or earthen ditch plugs together on the same wetland
Lightning Lake (OT-47)	Rip 114	.2	Earthen ditch plug
Nicholson (OT-88)	Rip 94	.2	Wetland scrape out
Grandokken (D-43)	Rip 79, 83	.9	Tile breaks
Runestone (D-38)	Rip 41	2.3	Earthen ditch plug
Klein (D-18)	Rip 14	6.2	Earthen ditch plug
Totals		61.2	

The following table shows wetland restoration efforts on WPAs in recent years.

Year	Number of Wetlands	Acres Restored/Enhanced
1992	0	0.0
1993	12	26.4
1994	9	80.5
1995	4	3.6
1996	8	44.5
1997	41	61.5
1998	28	637.2
1999	6	84.3
2000**	0	0
2001	26	41.3
2002	43	61.2
* Includes wetlands with replacement water control structures		
** Work was begun, but not completed, due to inclement weather		

Other heavy equipment projects related to wetland and/or upland restorations include the following:

WPA Name and Number	Rip Number	Type of Work Completed
Sethre (OT-49)	Rip 34	Widen and build up crossing
Agassiz (OT-60)	--	Fill in old house cellar
Heinola (OT-19)	Rip 52	Widen crossing and install 15" culvert
Odens (D-35)	Rip 233	Install new 48" culvert and crossing
Stowe Lake (D-6)	Rip 87	Install field approach with 12" culvert
Zickur (D-40)	Rip 110	Equipment crossing with 15" culvert

Wetland Restoration: Off-Refuge

2002 Wetland Restorations						
Landowner	Date	# of Wetlands	Acres	Funding	Program	Cost \$
Douglas County						
Boeddecker	Nov 2001	1	10	FWS	FL	\$ 3,825.58
Bolin	Aug 2002	2	8	FWS	RIM	\$ 1,193.00
Hentges	Oct 2001	1	18	FWS	FL	\$ 1,008.90
Leopold	Aug 2002	1	9	FWS	FL	\$ 1,120.00
Neal	Oct 2001	1	5	FWS	FL	\$ 1,446.40
Grant County						
Hanson	Aug 2002	1	4	FWS	PE	\$ 503.00
Johnson/Ronhovde	Nov 2001	1	41	FWS DU	PE	10,000.00 10,000.00
Ricks	Sept 2002	1	1	FWS	PE	\$ 774.00
Rollofson	Oct 2001	1	12	FWS	PE	\$ 400.00
Standish	Oct 2001	1	3	FWS	FL	\$ 400.00
Werk	Oct 2001	7	16.1	FWS	DNR Esmt	\$ 560.50
Otter Tail County						
Blaha	Aug 2002	3	6	FWS	PE	\$ 630.00
Boschee	Nov 2001	2	1.5	FWS	FL	\$ 840.00
Buckmeier	Nov 2001	2	14	FWS	FL	\$ 1,645.00
Copeland WMA	Sept 2002	1	5	FWS	FL	\$ 224.00
Dumont	Nov 2001	1	6	FWS	FL	\$ 935.00
Elmo WMA	Aug 2002	2	5	FWS	FL	\$ 620.00
Hartig	Aug 2002	1	2	FWS	FL	\$ 280.00
Hartig	Nov 2001	1	3	FWS	FL	\$ 280.00
Keil	Aug 2002	2	12	FWS	FL	\$ 1,567.00

Landowner	Date	# of Wetlands	Acres	Funding	Program	Cost \$
Klinnert	Nov 2001	2	3	FWS	FL	\$ 1,238.75
Linscheid	Aug 2002	2	3	FWS	FL	\$ 583.00
Meyer	Oct 2001	1	4	FWS	PE	\$ 480.00
Nellermoe	Sept 2002	1	20	FWS	PE	\$ 310.00
Nellermoe	Nov 2001	1	3	FWS	PE	\$ 428.75
Rasset	Nov 2001	1	1	FWS	FL	\$ 542.50
Schave	Nov 2001	1	1.5	FWS	FL	\$ 260.00
Scheidecker	Aug 2002	1	2	FWS	FL	\$ 1,187.00
Shannon	Aug 2002	1	1	FWS	FL	\$ 450.00
Swenson	Oct 2001	1	5	FWS	FL	\$ 500.00
Talley	July 2002	1	3	FWS	PE	\$ 638.00
Thoennes	Mar 2002	1	4	FWS	PE	\$ 50.00
Windels	Aug 2002	1	32	FWS	FL	\$ 350.00
Wussow	July 2002	21	41	FWS	PE	\$ 7,361.00
Total		69	305.1			\$ 52,631.38
2002 Wetland Repairs						
Douglas County						
Hentges	May 2002	1		FWS	PE	\$ 2,250.00
Grant County						
Pattison	Oct 2001	1		FWS	FL	\$ 245.00
Hoffman	Oct 2001	1		FWS	FL	\$ 80.00
Otter Tail County						
Cullin	June 2002	1		FWS	FL	\$ 1,308.00
Total		4				\$ 3,883.00
FL = Free Lease PE = Perpetual Easement RIM = Reinvest in Minnesota						

The largest private lands wetland restoration project that we worked on this year was the Johnson/Ronhovde Project. This 41-acre project is located in Lien Township of Grant County. The wetland was drained by County Ditch No. 6. We began the project by petitioning the county for approval to modify the ditch and restore the wetland. After a public hearing and a review of the engineering, the petition was approved. The Ronhovde portion of the project was already enrolled in a perpetual easement through the State of Minnesota's Reinvest-In-Minnesota Program (RIM). However, we did have to acquire an access easement and a construction easement from Ronhovde which cost \$4,425. Johnson's portion of the wetland was enrolled in the Service's easement program which cost \$34,725. Engineering for the project was done by Al Broyles who was on contract with the Grant Soil and Water Conservation

District (District). We partnered with Ducks Unlimited through a Cooperative Agreement to construct the project. The Service and Ducks Unlimited each conveyed \$10,000 to the District for construction of the project. The District handled the bidding process and awarded the project to Ferguson Brother's Construction of Alexandria, MN. The project was completed in November of 2001. There are 120 acres of permanent grassland adjacent to the marsh that are in the RIM program and 160 acres of adjacent grassland in the Conservation Reserve Program which should provide suitable nesting cover for waterfowl and other grassland birds.

Seasonal workers on the private lands wetland restoration projects this year were Melody Webb (6/30 - 8/24/02), Les Nelson (6/16 - 11/20/02), Kayla Thompson (6/10 - 8/24/02) and Nathan Aspelin (6/15 - 8/24/02). This was the first year we used an Indefinite Delivery - Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract for the dirt work on our wetland restoration projects. We found that it has some limitations on the bigger projects, but that it can work quite well on the smaller more typical ditch plugs and tile breaks.

2b. Upland Restoration: On-Refuge

Grass Seedings

In 2002, the District seeded 425.4 acres on five WPAs for purposes of grassland restoration. On Ridgeway WPA, 116.9 acres were seeded by use of both drills and a Vicon broadcaster. Seedings on Jorgenson and Ridgeway WPAs were done in former crop fields. Seedings on Elbow Lake and Island Lake WPAs were in former cool season seedings that had been burned, disked, cultipacked, and chemically fallowed during the 2001 growing season as part of the conversion process from cool season exotics to a native grass forb mix.

The seed mix used in the drills and for interseeding was the FWS 002 seed mix described below. In addition to this, 116.9 acres on Ridgeway WPA were broadcast with a supplemental mix, also described below.

Grass Seedings On-Refuge

County	WPA	Broadcast	Drill	Interseed	Total
Grant	Elbow Lake		17.3 acres		17.3 acres
	Island Lake		20.5 acres		20.5 acres
Otter Tail	Jorgenson		123.3 acres		123.3 acres
	Ridgeway	116.9 acres*	262.5 acres		379.4 acres

County	WPA	Broadcast	Drill	Interseed	Total
	Townsend		0.4 acres	3.5 acres	3.9 acres
Totals		116.9 acres	423.9 acres	3.5 acres	544.3 acres
* These acres were also drilled with a different seed mix					

Interior Fence Removal

A total of 4.6 miles of interior fence was removed on approximately six WPAs. Most of the fence was removed from Ridgeway and Island Lake WPAs.

Upland Restoration: Off-Refuge

As part of cooperative ventures with other conservation agencies (MN DNR, NRCS) and landowners, the District seeded 425.9 acres of land off-refuge. Both the Werk (DNR easement) and Petersen (WRP) sites were previously cropland (beans). Werk was in bean stubble, while Petersen was tilled bean stubble. Kaun (FmHA easement) was previously in sod, but was burned and sprayed prior to seeding. At Dow's, the site was already in grass and was interseeded to improve the stand. Dow provided their own seed. The seed mix at Werk was FWS 002. The seed mix at Petersen was specific for that poorly drained site and is described below. A specific seed mix was also provided for Kaun and is described below.

Off-Refuge Grass Seedings

County	Site Name	Acres
Grant	Werk	96.7
Wilkin	Petersen	270.9
	Dow	38.3
Wadena	Kaun	25.0
Totals		430.9

Seed Mixes

FWS 002 mix used on-refuge and at other selected sites as noted.



Truax No-Till Drills on the Petersen Wetland Reserve Program project site,
Wilkin County. 07/02 DW

Species	Origin	Lb PLS/Acre	Seeds/Sq. Ft.	% of Mix
Big bluestem	Rothsay Native Harvest	4.0	15.1	33%
Big bluestem	Frikken WPA	1.7	6.6	15%
Big bluestem	Aaberg WPA	0.65	2.5	5%
Indiangrass	Var. Tomahawk	0.34	1.4	3%
Switchgrass	Var. Dakotah	0.36	3.2	7%
Switchgrass	Agassiz WPA	0.37	3.3	7%
Slender wheatgrass	Var. Revenue	0.7	6.2	14%
Blue grama	Var. Bad River	0.16	3.0	7%
Green needlegrass	Var. Loderm	0.13	0.55	1%
Green needlegrass	Var. Loderm	0.13	0.55	1%
Little bluestem	Var. Itasca	0.24	1.4	3%
Sideoats grama	Var. Pierre	0.39	1.7	4%

Petersen WRP Seed Mix

Species	Origin	Lb PLS/Acre	Seeds/Sq. ft.	% of Mix
Big bluestem	Rothsay Native Harvest	2.5	9.5	24%
Big bluestem	Lein WPA	3.8	14	36%
Indiangrass	Var. tomahawk	0.8	3.3	8%

Species	Origin	Lb PLS/Acre	Seeds/Sq. ft.	% of Mix
Switchgrass	Var. Dakotah	0.8	7.4	19%
Canada wild rye	Var. Mandan	0.8	2.2	5%
Purple prairie clover	Local Origin (Kaste Seed Co.)	0.14 (2.25 oz/ac)		
Maximilian sunflower	(Commercial)	0.05 (1 oz/ac)		

Kaun (FmHA) seed mix

Species	Origin	PLS lb/Acre	Seeds/Sq. ft.	% of Mix
Big bluestem	Bellmore WPA	6.4	24	60%
Slender wheatgrass	Var. Revenue	0.5	1.8	4.5%
Switchgrass	Var. Dakotah	0.5	4.5	11%
Canada wild rye	Var. Mandan	1	2.0	5%
Indiangrass	Var. Tomahawk	1	4	10%
Little bluestem	Var. Itasca	0.5	3	7.5%
Purple prairie clover	Local Origin from Kaste Seed Co.	0.25		
Maximilian sunflower	(Commercial)	1 oz/ac		

Supplemental Seed mix for Ridgeway WPA

Species	Origin	Seeding Rate
Native harvest	Agassiz Beachline WPA (AGG-001)	10# bulk/acre
Canada milk-vetch	MN origin	1 oz/acre
Canada tick-treefoil	MN origin	1 oz/acre
Prairie cordgrass	Var. - Red River	Approx 0.1 lb/acre

Seed Harvest

Three sites were harvested in 2002 for grass and forb seed. Harvesting at Bellmore WPA included the use of a custom combine service, Mike Nelson, while the Service combine was used at the remaining two sites.

Harvest Sites

Site	Target	Harvest Method	Acres	Bulk #
Bellmore WPA	Local origin big bluestem (seeded field)	Custom combine	70	14,400*
Dow Prairie	Native harvest	Service combine	93	3,035#
Rothsay Prairie MN DNR	Native harvest	Service Combine	18	240#

Donation of Combine

Eight conservation organizations combined their funds to purchase and donate a combine to the District to be used for grass seed harvesting. This "new" 1978 Gleaner K2 was operated primarily by Gregg Lau, a new District Engineering Equipment Operator.

Funds for the combine were contributed by the following organizations:

Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club
Min-Kota Chapter, Pheasants Forever
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust, Inc.
Pelican River Chapter, Pheasants Forever

Red River Area Sportsmen's Club
Coots Unlimited
Ottertail Chapter, Pheasants Forever
Windy Lakes Chapter, MN Waterfowl
Assoc.



Gleaner K2 combine donated for grass seed harvesting. 09/02 DW

3

Habitat Management

3a. Water Level Management

The District manages and maintains 41 water control structures. Thirty-five of them are on WPAs and six more water control structures are located on private land. Those 41 structures allow management of 1,950 acres (not including Stang Lake Dam). Gauge readings were taken monthly and photographed when necessary. The new Elmer structure on private land will be monitored by us, but managed by the landowner. All 41 water control structures are within the surrounding three-county area and one hour of Fergus Falls. Depending on the needs of the wetland, all of these wetlands and water control structures are monitored by staff visits either monthly or seasonally during open water times of the year.

The primary management of these wetland basins is for waterfowl production. Our management goals include food production and habitat for breeding pairs, brood rearing, and migration. Secondary management occurs for migrating shorebirds. By lowering the basins that are scheduled for draw down gradually each year from July through September, mud flats and shallow water can be exposed for shorebird use during migration starting in early August. The basins that are in draw down remain in draw down over the winter and can be used the following spring by migrating shorebirds. Vegetation response to management is monitored through staff visits to each site. When species diversity and plant density is adequate, the basins are flooded gradually again.



Frigaard-Nelson and Ten-Mile Wetland Basins

12/02 SS

Four replacement structures were installed and three repairs were made during October 2001. Water control structures were replaced on Nordby, Zickur, Julsrud, and Orange WPAs returning management capability to 53 acres of wetlands. These replacements would not have been possible without Ducks Unlimited's financial assistance. The water control structures on Rossow, Mickelson, and Eng Lake had construction problems and were repaired so that they would no longer leak.

We had a fairly dry spring lasting through June. A few showers were fairly heavy, but starting in July, the rains began to fall. We had consistent steady rains once or twice a week at least through the fall. Again, fall 2002 was fairly wet.

During spring of 2002, waterfowl numbers appeared to be up, and many of the basins we manage were full of birds. Stony Brook WPA in Grant County had over 4,000 birds utilizing the basin during the first week of April. Estimated numbers were 3,000 geese, mostly greater white-fronted and some Canada geese. Over 1,000 ducks were also using the marsh including three pintails, gadwalls, mallards, and American wigeons. This basin had about one and a half feet of water drawn out of it during the previous fall.

Boards were added or removed on 17 basins during summer 2002. A total of 513.5 acres were impacted by these manipulations. We drew a number of the basins down during July and August. Spink 2, Blakesley, Sellevold, and Rolling Acres basins received huge influxes of migrating shorebirds shortly after being drawn down.

A backhoe was hired to remove beaver dams on Anderson and Staff and floating bogs on Pelican Creek, Redhead Slough, and Frigaard-Nelson. The bogs had floated into the structures making them inoperable. Two new covers were purchased and installed to replace very rusted covers that were a major safety hazard for unfamiliar staff and the public on Spink 1 and Stony Brook.

Seven nuisance beaver were removed from areas where they were causing problems. The beaver were removed from Anderson, Staff, Ten Mile, Backstrom, and Agassiz WPAs.

Three projects were submitted to Ducks Unlimited for engineering to replace or repair water control structures on Runestone, Blakesley, and Nicholson WPAs and possibly restore a number of basins on Runestone WPA. The Steinlicht WPA project was initiated by trying to take a flowage easement on an area that we will get water level management on within the next couple of years. The basin is half on a WPA and half on private land, but has been historically very high and is almost sterile. We hope to restore the marsh to a state where it can benefit waterfowl and shorebirds again.

3c. **Graze/Mow/Hay**

Only one unit was hayed in 2002 in order to control Canada thistle. Since our action was primarily for weed control, this activity is reported under Pest Plant Control.

3d. **Farming**

Farming operations were done under one of two agreements; Special Use Permits and Cooperative Farming Agreements. Cooperative Farming Agreements are used for sites where crops are left for food plots, and where the District anticipates that this activity will continue for some time into the future. Special Use Permits are used for shorter term farming activities where the farming is often part a site prep for future grass seeding.

In 2002, there were 10 WPAs with Cooperative Farming Agreements that totaled 74.9 acres. There were four sites where Special Use Permits were in effect covering 492.9 acres.

Summary of Farming Agreements:		
Site	Agreement	Acres
Ernest Olson WPA	Coop	4.3
McDowell WPA	Coop	12.7
Fedje WPA	Coop	12.5
Agassiz Beachline WPA	Coop	10.1
Oscar WPA	Coop	1.3
Braukmann WPA	Coop	15.5
PCA WPA	Coop	2.4
Rabbit River WPA	Coop	4.0
Ridgeway WPA	Coop	8.3
Brown WPA	Coop	3.9
Heartland Investments (habitat easement)	SUP	96.1
Ridgeway WPA	SUP	100.0
LeJeune (habitat easement)	SUP	239.3
Rokes WPA	SUP	57.5

3e. **Forest Management**

There is no activity to report related to forest management. All tree cutting and removal activities are reported under fire management.

3f. Fire Management

The District conducted 43 prescribed burns totaling 4,467 acres on WPAs and assisted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with two burns totaling 400 acres. District staff conducted one burn on a privately-owned seed harvest site totaling 105 acres. There were also six wildfires on WPAs totaling 23 acres. This past wildfire season was one of the most severe seasons ever. In an effort to help out with the severe wildfire season, the District sent seven people on 14 different details.

*The 43 RX burns and the 4,467 acres are records for the District.



Prescribed burn on Duenow WPA, Otter Tail County.

05/02 SS

Summary of FY 2002 Prescribed Burns and Wildfires					
	Fire Name	Date	Fire Type	Size	Fire #
1	Mud Lake	11-16-2001	WF	.5	3354
2	Lillemoen	3-26-2002	WF	8	3477
3	Zuelsdorff	4-21-2002	WF	8	3580
4	Mud Lake	5-23-2002	WF	3	3762
5	Steinlicht	5-29-2002	WF	2	3783
6	Larson	6-03-2002	WF	1.5	3788
	Total			23	
1	Dow Prairie (Privately owned prairie) leased for seed harvest	5-28-2002	RX	105	
1	Manston (assisted DNR)	11-20-01	RX	320	

	Fire Name	Date	Fire Type	Size	Fire #
2	Otter Tail Prairie	5-24-02	RX	80	
1	Bakke (fence)	10-01-01	RX	21	3306
2	Rush Lake	10-01-01	RX	17	3307
3	Berninghaus	10-03-01	RX	137	3311
4	Bah Lakes	10-22-01	RX	109	3312
5	Townsend (south)	10-23-01	RX	1	3313
6	Delong (south)	11-05-01	RX	16	3333
7	Delong (east)	11-05-01	RX	34	3334
8	Townsend (north)	11-06-01	RX	2	3335
9	Townsend (L.Center)	11-06-01	RX	59	3336
10	Green (north)	11-13-01	RX	148	3342
11	Meadows	11-15-01	RX	436	3346
12	Tomhave	11-16-01	RX	31	3347
13	Nicholson	4-20-2002	RX	223	3571
14	Kube	4-23-2002	RX	76	3522
15	Bah Lakes (E)	4-26-2002	RX	59	3610
16	Townsend (SE)	4-30-2002	RX	31	3629
17	Townsend (W)	4-30-2002	RX	52	3630
18	Ohe	5-01-2002	RX	19	3656
19	Oscar	5-01-2002	RX	104	3657
20	Rush Lake	5-01-2002	RX	15	3658
21	Pomme De Terre (S)	5-02-2002	WUI RX	499	3502
22	Foss (S)	5-03-2002	RX	24	3529
23	Foss (N)	5-03-2002	RX	10	3655
24	Rabbit River	5-07-2002	RX	145	3690
25	Sellevold	5-14-2002	RX	362	3725
26	Rolling Acres South	5-14-2002	RX	128	3726
27	Rolling Acres North	5-14-2002	RX	30	3727
28	Hudson	5-16-2002	RX	40	3753
29	Bailey Slough	5-17-2002	RX	153	3755
30	Agassiz Beachline SW	5-17-2002	RX	50	3754
31	Granddoken Savanna	5-18-2002	RX	173	3752
32	Agassiz Beachline SE	5-19-02	RX	60	3757
33	Scott Crays	5-20-02	RX	76	3758
34	Horstman (Ridgeway)	5-20-02	RX	356	3759
35	Duenow	5-20-02	RX WUI	126	3503
36	Bellmore (NW)	5-24-02	RX	11	3781
37	Bellmore (NE)	5-24-02	RX	52	3782
38	Sethre	5-25-02	RX	15	3788
39	Wiegers	5-25-02	RX	44	3779
40	Nachbor	5-26-02	RX	157	3780
41	Enquist	5-26-02	RX	85	3766
42	Grewe	5-29-02	RX	191	3767

	Fire Name	Date	Fire Type	Size	Fire #
43	Bellmore (seed harvest)	5-31-02	RX	90	3784
	Total			4467	

Firebreak Construction

The District contracted with Mike Baumer of Natural Resource Specialists (Pequot Lakes, MN) to construct firebreaks on five WPA's. Firebreaks were cut 30' wide, 8' high. A total of 4,759 linear feet was cut for a cost of \$6,810.20.



Completed fire break at Island Lake WPA, Grant County.

05/02 DW

Unit	Linear Feet
Island Lake WPA	908'
Pelican Creek WPA	1,103'
Odens WPA	2,748'
Reger WPA	Completed FY 03
Haugrud WPA	Completed FY 03

With a growing fire program, additional space is needed to store fire supplies. A new mezzanine was purchased for \$15,082.00 with fire money (9251) to provide the much needed space. Fire lockers were also purchased with fire money and installed in the old mezzanine. This will give the fire crew a place to change clothes and store their equipment.



The Maintenance Shop before the mezzanine was added.

CR



The Maintenance Shop after the mezzanine was added.

12/02 CR

3g. Pest Plant Control

Pest plant control is reported here by activities related to noxious weed control - thistles; noxious weed control - leafy spurge; nonselective weed control; and invasive plant species control.

Noxious Weed Control - Thistles

Control of Canada and plumeless thistles requires the majority of the District's pest plant control efforts. Control methods include spraying, mowing, haying, and disking. Spraying thistles was done either early in the growing season (prior to flowering and generally prior to or during bud stage) or in late summer/early fall when thistles were actively growing and/or were in the seedling or rosette stages. Sites that were disked were then packed (cultipacker) and chemically fallowed as part of the site preparation for future seedings with native species. The majority of the treated acres were sprayed with Transline @ 6-8 oz/acre, but some sites were treated with Curtail @ 1 qt/acre. Hand spraying at some water control structures was also done with Garlon 3 @ 1.5pts in 10 gal water with 2 oz of surfactant. Short-term control with Transline appeared to be very good. The effectiveness of fall spraying has yet to be evaluated, but should be effective according to previous studies and information from chemical reps and University of Minnesota Extension.

Disking was used on 120 acres on 3 WPAs, mowing was done on 498.2 acres on 20 WPAs, haying was done on 1 WPA involving 78.9 acres, and spraying was used on 431.4 acres on 20 WPAs. This totals 1,128.5 acres that were treated specifically to control thistles. Additional details are provided in the table below on specific WPAs.

Thistle Control Activities (Acres) - By County

County	WPA	Disk	Hay	Mow	Spray	Total
Douglas	Berninghaus			89.8		89.8
	Eng Lake				<0.1	<0.1
	Orange				0.1	0.1
	Pocket Lake			24.0		24.0
	Rolling Acres			19.4	45.6	65.0
	Sellevoid			6.8	64.7	71.5
	Tenhoff			107.8		107.8
	Zickur				0.1	0.1
Grant	Alvstad				4.7	4.7

County	WPA	Disk	Hay	Mow	Spray	Total
	Elbow Lake			8.2		8.2
	Foss			1.8	1.3	3.1
	Foss North			1.4	2.8	4.2
	Germundson				43.3	43.3
	Mud Lake				19.1	19.1
	Preus				46.7	46.7
	Stony Brook				24.1	24.1
Otter Tail	Bakke				9.2	9.2
	Busko			82.5		82.5
	Duenow			9.4		9.4
	Grewe	62.0				62.0
	Haugen				1.9	1.9
	Knollwood				1.3	1.3
	Kube				48.5	48.5
	Mavis			7.0		7.0
	Mickelson				<0.1	<0.1
	Nicholson				<0.1	<0.1
	Oscar			9.4		9.4
	PCA				25.5	25.5
	Rabbit River		78.9	7.1		86.0
	Rossow				<0.1	<0.1
	Rush Lake			5.9		5.9
	Scott-Crays	41.0				41.0
	Sethre				8.7	8.7
	Ten Mile			1.8	0.1	1.9
	Townsend			107.9	69.7	177.6
	Wiegiers				12.1	12.1
Wilkin	Bellmore	17.0		5.7		22.7
	Brown			0.4		0.4

County	WPA	Disk	Hay	Mow	Spray	Total
	Meadows				1.8	1.8
Grand Totals		120.0	78.9	496.3	431.7	1126.9

Noxious Weed Control - Leafy Spurge

No leafy spurge was sprayed this year on Fergus Falls WMD lands! District staff put great effort into the leafy spurge monitoring and spurge beetle releases this year. All previously sprayed sites and all previous bio control sites were monitored. Nearly 140 sites were checked, evaluated, and ranked for spurge beetle releases. Fifty-eight of the sites monitored were prior releases, and four of those sites were supplemented with more beetles. Sixty-one new releases were made including the four supplemental sites. A total of 199,500 beetles were released on those 61 sites. Sixteen more sites were judged to be too small to sustain beetle releases at this time. These patches will be allowed to grow over the next couple years, and when large enough, beetles will be released on them. All of the beetles released were harvested from five of our own former releases, and many of those sites will be harvest sites again next year. Another 61,500 beetles were collected and given to Wilkin County via a cooperative agreement.

Biological Controls - Private Lands				
County	# Landowners	# Sites	# Beetles	FWS Contribution
Grant	30	42	255,500	\$7,500
Otter Tail	47	105	515,000	\$5,000
Wilkin	9	10	61,500	Beetles
Douglas	54	81	1,116,000	\$10,000
Wadena	2 1*	8 1	55,000 10,000	\$2,500
* This site was the release of beetles to control purple loosestrife.				

We have successfully become self-sufficient for bio control of leafy spurge. We produce, harvest, and relocate our own beetles to new spurge sites and are doing enough of it that we can discontinue spraying this highly invasive noxious weed. Many release sites that were filled with leafy spurge in the past have been completely wiped out and almost no spurge exists on them. We continue to monitor these sites also to determine what happens after the spurge is gone. Can a site sustain a small population of beetles and then explode after seeds begin to germinate again? Do beetles survive at all after they wipe out a patch of spurge? There are many unanswered questions, but hopefully our sites will provide answers. For now, we are

tiny flea beetles! Flea beetles are truly a spectacular success story for noxious weed biological control!

Spurge Beetle Harvest Sites:

WPA	County	# of Beetles	Date
Agassiz Beachline	Otter Tail	2,000	6/17/2002
Wildung	Otter Tail	100,000	6/25-26/2002
Agassiz Beachline	Otter Tail	42,000	6/27/2002
Delong	Grant	35,000	6/27/2002
Reger	Douglas	11,500	7/1/2002
Agassiz Beachline	Otter Tail	32,000	7/2/2002
Ridgeway	Otter Tail	39,000	7/2/2002
TOTALS		261,500	

Nonselective Weed Control



Monitoring spurge beetles on Wirth WPA (file photo).

There are some situations where it is necessary to limit the growth of weedy species in a nonselective manner. Examples include:

- ✓ controlling annual weeds on a new native grass/forb seeding in order to release the new seeding

- ✓ controlling annual weeds on a new native grass/forb seeding in order to release the new seeding
- ✓ fallowing a site undergoing conversion from cool season exotic species to native grass and forb species
- ✓ trail maintenance

Methods used to control weeds in these situations include mechanical (mowing) and chemical (spraying with glyphosate @ 1 to 1.5 qt/acre of 41% active ingredient product). Sites that were previously disked to control noxious weeds (reported in Noxious Weed Control - Thistles) were also packed (using a cultipacker to firm the seedbed and help level the site) and are included in this section. Some sites received more than one treatment. Sites that were disked and packed would also be sprayed at some point prior to seeding. Sites that were mowed may also have been sprayed at a later date.

In 2002, a total of 752.1 acres were treated for nonselective weed control on nine WPAs. The following table provides additional detail.

Nonselective Weed Control Summary:

County	WPA	Description	Mow	Pack	Spray	Total
Douglas	Hudson	Site conversion			14.8 ac	14.8 ac
Grant	Elbow Lake	New seeding	17.3 ac		13.2 ac	30.5 ac
	Island Lake	New seeding	20.5 ac			20.5 ac
Otter Tail	Grewe	Site conversion	62.0 ac	62.0 ac		124 ac
	Jorgenson	New seeding	246.5 ac*			246.5 ac
	Ridgeway	New seeding	152.9 ac			152.9 ac
	Scott-Crays	Site conversion	41.0 ac	41.0 ac	44.4 ac	126.4 ac
	Townsend	Trail maintenance			2.7 ac	2.7 ac
Wilkin	Bellmore	Site conversion		17.0 ac	17.0 ac	34.0 ac
Totals			540.2 ac	120.0 ac	92.1 ac	752.3 ac
* 123.5 acres mowed twice						

Invasive Plant Species Control

Not all invasive species are state-listed noxious weeds. One of the more serious grassland management problems in the District is the proliferation of invasive woody species, many of which are native species. In addition to the regular use of fire on the landscape, it is also necessary to utilize mechanical methods to set back or reduce

existing woody cover. One starting point for the District in 2002 has been to focus on groves of trees that were planted, usually in association with former building sites. These groves provide a source of seeds (box elder, cottonwood, ash) and sprouts (aspen) for woody plants to invade the adjacent grassland.

During 2002, trees were cut and piled on nine WPAs covering 54.5 acres. Some of the piles have been burned, while other piles will be burned over the next two years. Completing the task will require burial of any remaining material and seeding the disturbed sites to a native grass mix.

Conversion of Tree Groves to Grasslands

COUNTY	WPA NAME	ACRES TREATED
Douglas	J I Case	3.3
	Berninghaus	3.4
	Tenhoff	5.6
Wilkin	Bellmore	7.2
Otter Tail	Agassiz Beachline	18
	Rabbit River	1.5
	Ridgeway	5.7
	Kube	2.0
Grant	Bah Lakes	7.8
TOTALS		54.5



Landscape view at Bah Lakes WPA before cutting tree grove

05/02 DW



Landscape view at Bah Lakes WPA after cutting tree grove

05/02 DW

4 Fish and Wildlife Management

4a. Bird Banding

No birds were banded by District personnel in 2002; however, the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) did band a total of 374 waterfowl within the District including 282 wood ducks, 83 mallard, 8 blue-winged teal, and 1 redhead. The birds were banded at Mavis WPA, Headquarters WPA, Rush Lake WPA, Neuman WPA, and the Demmer property owned by the Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club.

4b. Disease Monitoring and Treatment

Concerns related to Chronic Wasting Disease and West Nile Virus were received from the public. Staff answered many questions related to these diseases. No confirmed reports were documented on Chronic Wasting Disease and 10 reports were received for West Nile.

4.c. Re-introductions

As part of a study (see Sec. 1b) to determine the feasibility of using walleyes to limit densities of fathead minnows, a Special Use Permit was issued to area Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries offices allowing them to stock walleye fingerlings on preselected WPAs. In 2002, walleyes were stocked on the following WPAs by the Minnesota DNR.

WPA	Pounds of Walleyes Removed	Estimated Number of Fish
Morrison	92	356
Mavis (Peabody Lake)	506	1,012

4.d. Nest Structures

During the winter of 2001-2002, an intensive effort was made by District staff to check all mallard hen houses and other nesting structures on WPAs. Nearly all the hen houses are mounted in pairs on top of previously installed nesting cones (86 sites: 172 structures) plus there are five single mounted hen houses. More than half of these structures were relocated during this effort to increase waterfowl use. Some houses were removed entirely while most were moved 50 feet or less to a more favorable environment.

A total of 91 sites were judged to be operable during the 2001 nesting season. These sites included 1 goose tub, 3 nesting cones, a single hen house, and 86 paired hen houses for a total of 177 structures. Only 16 structures (9%) showed evidence of use. Mallards were the only species determined to be using the structures. Structures in place for the 2002 nesting season included 100 sites with 2 cylinders, 4 single structures, and one site with 3 cylinders for a total of 207 structures. We are optimistic that with the relocation of many of these structures, use by nesting hens will increase in 2003. While we have inspected some of the structures, it appears that use has increased over past years, but not to the extent that we would have expected.

In addition, the maintenance staff over the years has partnered with volunteers from a local sportsman's group to cut out and construct 283 wood duck boxes and 380 bluebird boxes in 2002. Some of the boxes were distributed to area landowners and many others were donated to scout groups, 4-H clubs, and various local conservation groups. Since 1991, 3,133 wood duck boxes and 2,980 bluebird boxes have been constructed with the help of volunteers. At the same time, 30 mallard hen houses were constructed and distributed to area landowners who recently restored drained wetlands on their private land.

4e. Pest, Predator and Exotic Animal Control

Mammalian predators were trapped and removed from within nine separate electrified predator enclosures by seasonal trapper, Dick Wilkin, in 2002. Targeted species included: red fox, striped skunk, raccoon, mink, Franklin's ground squirrels, and badger.

The total number of trap days was 5,444 involving the following methods: live traps (3,149), conibear (1,960), leghold (335), and snares (35). Predators taken included 25 skunk, 66 raccoon (up from 29 last year), 19 mink, 1 Franklin's ground squirrel, and 3 short-tailed weasels.

Nuisance beavers are a perennial problem and frequently cause water problems at water control structures, along roadsides, drainage ditches, and agricultural cropland. When these problems occur, offending animals are removed as quickly as possible. Seven nuisance beavers were taken in 2002 by District personnel.

5 Coordination Activities

5a. Interagency Coordination

In the past year, we have worked with numerous agencies and organizations. These include:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (CRP and CREP wetland restorations)
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Niemackl Project, RIM, Christina Pelican Lake Project, fish studies, etc.)
 U.S. Geological Survey (NPWRC - coyote survey)
 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (RIM and mapping restorable wetlands)
 Ducks Unlimited (wetland and upland restoration projects, display at banquet)
 Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club (building nest structures, prairie reestablishment)
 County Water Planning Teams (Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas)
 Bois de Sioux Watershed District Flood Control Committee
 Pioneer Heritage Trust (wetland enhancement)
 Minnesota Waterfowl Association (wetland restorations and woody camp)
 City of Fergus Falls (programs)
 Otter Tail County Historical Society (programs)
 A Center for the Arts (programs)
 Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (Bluestem Store, programs)
 University of Minnesota - Morris (training and invertebrate study)
 Numerous School Districts (programs)
 Minnesota Naturalist Association (conferences)
 Minnesota Association for Environmental Education (conferences)
 PEG Access Television (outreach)
 Earth Stewards (outreach)
 Wild Ones Nature Plant Society (habitat)
 Future Farmers of America (leadership rally and wildlife contest)

Some of the more important accomplishments include working with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (WSD) on the design of the North Ottawa Flood Control Project to provide extensive fall shorebird migration habitat, a feasibility study with the Buffalo-Red River WSD to restore the historic hydrology of the Meadows WPA and Manston Slough WMA complex, and the PWLC's monthly Earth Stewards TV program on the local PEG Access Television station.

5c. Private Lands Activities (excluding restoration)

See biological controls on private lands in 3g. Pest Plant Control.

5e. Cooperative/Friends Organizations

The Friends of the PWLC continue to be an asset to the Center and the District with the refinement of the Bluestem Store and support in other events and projects. Groups and individuals contributed over 2,142 volunteer hours during the last fiscal year. The Friends contributed the majority of those hours, as new volunteers usually join the Friends shortly after getting involved at the PWLC. Habitat restoration and assisting with environmental education programs made up the bulk of the hours, with significant hours being volunteered to operate the Bluestem Store.

The Friends continue to make major contributions to the Center. The remodeling of the Bluestem Store was completed shortly after the start of the new fiscal year. The store provides a variety of educational and souvenir items for purchase by visitors to the PWLC, and is staffed by Friends volunteers. As sales at the store have steadily increased, the Friends make a yearly payment for a loan from the City of Fergus Falls (at 14% of revenues) and an identical donation to the PWLC's scholarship fund. Once the loan is fully repaid, donations will increase.

Friends fundraising for the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center resulted in grant receipts and donations of over \$75,000. These funds are being pooled with other grants received in the past two years to fund the installation of permanent interpretive exhibits at the Center, as well as the installation of a floating aquatic study platform.

A complete accounting of the financial activity of the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is available from their treasurer.

6 Resource Protection

6a. Law Enforcement

The number of law enforcement incidents on WPAs decreased in FY 2002. One hundred and eight incidents were documented during the year, resulting in 22 violation notices and 10 written warnings. The decreased numbers of law enforcement incidents was probably due to the mild winter resulting in no snowmobile traffic on WPAs.

During the waterfowl season, 623 hunter contacts were made. Unsigned stamps, unplugged shotguns, and not having a hunting license in possession while hunting continue to be the most common problems.

Preventative law enforcement measures were also completed in 2002, including 9,364 feet of fence constructed on a problem FmHA easement tract and Mud Lake WPA. In addition, four gates were built on Ridgeway, Meadows, and Ernest Olson WPAs. These preventative measures help reduce ongoing enforcement problems.

Eight wetland easement violations were detected during the year. The majority of the violations were wetlands that were illegally burned. Letters are sent to landowners reminding them that they must obtain permission from the Service prior to any burning activities. Two wetland drainage cases still remain in the U.S. Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution.

In February, Refuge Officer Edwards accepted a 30-day detail with the U.S. Secret Service. During the detail, Edwards worked on a Department of the Interior Counter Terrorism Team involved in providing security for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. While stationed at the Solider Hollow Venue, Edwards worked with 15 other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Officers and Special Agents, as well Agents from the U.S. Secret Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Treasury Department.

Officer Chad Raitz was detailed to Mount Rushmore over the 4th of July. His duties included interior patrol, making sure visitors stayed within the designated areas, and looking for suspicious packages. Other duties included parking lot patrol, tower duty and vehicle searches, and scanning the undersides of vehicles for bombs.

6b. Permits and Economic Use Management

Special Use Permits are issued to private landowners for activities on WPAs that are found to be compatible uses for which the WPA was established. This year 12 were

issued for various activities including crop production and cleaning out ditches adjacent to, or within, WPA boundaries.

Since Service interests are so widespread across the District, most highway projects in the District will impact either a WPA or an easement. When this occurs, the project must be evaluated in terms of upland and wetland impacts. District staff work with the Highway Engineers to avoid impacts if possible. If this cannot be done, they suggest methods to minimize them. Finally, all impacts that cannot be avoided are mitigated. When appropriate, right-of-way permits, Special Use Permits, environmental assessments, compatibility statements, and archaeological reviews are prepared. District staff worked with Otter Tail County to establish a mitigation bank adjacent to Weigers WPA.

Otter Tail County Mitigation Bank (12/31/02)			
	Total Acres	Acres Used	Acres Available
Type I wetland	2.21 acres	0.00 acres	2.21 acres
Type III wetland	5.21 acres	0.30 acres	4.91 acres
Type IV wetland	5.21 acres	0.31 acres	4.90 acres
Upland	7.84 acres	0.29 acres	7.55 acres

In 2002, the District was involved in twelve projects, three of which impacted Service interests.

6c. Contaminant Investigation

Nothing to report

6d. Contaminant Cleanup

There were no building sites cleaned up and buried during this report period.

With the growing concern over ground water contamination in Minnesota, the state has adopted regulations that require the proper sealing of abandoned wells. While many wells have been sealed over the years in this District, no wells were sealed during this report period.

The Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) is in the process of being updated and we are waiting for the final plan for signatures. The plan outlines the procedures, methods, and equipment used to comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasure standards and inspection, reporting, training and recordkeeping requirements found in 40 CFR

112. A contractor visited our facilities to identify and inspect all potential spill locations. From the inspection and using our old SPCC Plan, the new plan was written.

6e. Water Rights Management

County ditch issues continue to be a part of water rights management this year at the Fergus Falls WMD. The District participated in a number of negotiations related to county ditches impacting WPAs and easements within the District. We also applied for one Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected waters permit for a private lands restoration in Douglas County.

Douglas County Ditch 3, Branch 2, runs through a PEMC wetland on Grandokken Savannah WPA. Douglas County has accelerated its ditch cleanout and maintenance over the last 3-4 years. Many ditches that have not been functional for 25-50 years are being opened up again. A ditch clean out was scheduled for this ditch, but an initial investigation by the county called for a four-foot increase in the depth of the ditch. After further investigation from a contractor working for the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other partners, soil samples showed that the ditch only needed 18" of sediment to be removed from it. The county agreed to only clean 18" from the ditch and not lower a culvert in the ditch. Right now we are proposing to let Douglas County install a non-perforated tile across the WPA and through the county road in exchange for dropping their right-of-way through the PEMC wetland. This proposal would keep 75% of the watershed flowing into the WPA wetland and still allow landowners upstream of the WPA to drain their water into the county ditch system. No final agreement has been signed.

One road expansion project in Grant County impacted 0.56 acres of a wetland on wetland easement G182X. The work was completed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT). An Environmental Assessment, Compatibility Determination, Environmental Action Statement, and a Finding of No Significant Impact were prepared and approved by the Regional Director. To offset damages to Service lands, MNDOT restored a 4.82-acre wetland approximately ½-mile from the impacted site. The 4.82-acre mitigation site will be used to mitigate the impacted wetland (0.56 acres), as well as future impacts to Service lands within the District.

A Protected Waters Permit was applied for and received to construct a water control structure on Randy Elmer's property in Douglas County. The structure will provide draw down capability to stimulate vegetation in the 42-acre, Type 4 wetland, and will also aid in removing rough fish from the watershed going into Lake Christina.

Douglas County also cleaned out County Ditch 5 that runs into J.I. Case WPA this summer. Douglas County Ditch 3 Branches that run through Zickur WPA were cleaned out upstream of the WPA.

In Otter Tail County, we were invited to a ditch meeting concerning a water control structure being installed on County Ditch 63 upstream of Lake Halvorson WPA on a WRP easement. Since the water was being held for a wetland restoration, we saw no problems with the situation. The structure was built during summer 2002.

Numerous beaver dams were removed from County Ditch 5 on Rokes WPA during fall 2002.

Jim Piehl has continued to attend Otter Tail River Watershed planning meetings. The committee has been writing a watershed management plan.

The Stang Lake water control structure is classified as a moderate hazard dam requiring monthly gauge and well depth readings to document water elevations and potentially identify any leaks in the dike. We also take gauge readings at the other 42 water control structures seasonally, and in some cases monthly, to document water elevations.

6f. Cultural Resource Management

Several right-of-way permits, wetland restorations, water control structures, and other management activities required archaeological survey determinations. None of the properties proposed were eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places and no surveys were required.

6g. Land Acquisition Support

This station purchased its first tract (Rengstorf Prairie) within the new Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of this refuge is to preserve, restore, and manage a portion of the remaining critical tallgrass prairie habitat and associated habitats at widespread locations throughout the historic range of the northern tallgrass prairie area of Minnesota and Iowa. The refuge was established in 2000 and is spread across the Northern Tallgrass Prairie EcoRegion like a big Wetland Management District. Remnant tracts of native prairie will be purchased from this ecoregion that stretches from the Canadian border in northwestern Minnesota to northern central Iowa.

The status of Northern Tallgrass Prairie tracts at this station optioned as of September 30, 2002, is:

<u>County</u>	<u>FY Fee Tracts</u>	<u>FY Fee Acres</u>	<u>FY Easement Tracts</u>	<u>FY Easement Acres</u>
Douglas	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	0
Otter Tail	1	242.45	0	0
Wilkin	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	242.45	0	0

A delineation for the 240-acre Cihak tract was prepared and forwarded to Realty.

No fee title tracts were purchased by the Fergus Falls Wetland Acquisition Office in this District during Fiscal Year 2002.

The status of SWAP fee tracts optioned as of September 30, 2002, is:

<u>County</u>	<u>FY Tracts Optioned</u>	<u>No. of Wetland Acres Optioned</u>	<u>Total Acres Optioned</u>	<u>Total No. of Tracts</u>	<u>No. of Mgmt Units</u>	<u>Total Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Goal Acres</u>
Douglas**	0	0	0	122	54	3,545	10,161	17,120
Grant	0	0	0	152	52	3,770	10,054	18,854
Otter Tail*	0	0	0	396	105	7,014	20,787	35,705
Wilkin	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>691</u>	<u>2,198</u>	<u>2,977</u>
Total	0	0	0	690	218	15,020	43,200	74,656

*One fee title tract of land was turned over to the District as mitigation for road projects that impacted Service lands throughout the District. Otter Tail County turned over a 20.74-acre (14 wetland acres) parcel adjacent to Weigers WPA.

** One acre of fee title on J.I. Case WPA was traded with Donald Weiss et al. for a flowage easement covering 12.60 acres (4 wetland). This trade will allow the Service to pursue two large wetland restorations on this WPA.

The status of SWAP wetland easements optioned as of September 30, 2002, is:

<u>County</u>	<u>FY Easement Tracts</u>	<u>FY Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Cumulative Totals for District</u>	
				<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Goal Acres</u>
Douglas	1	19	6,007	29,959	31,226
Grant	9	55	3,527	14,857	20,737
Otter Tail	17	295	13,837	72,892	75,290
Wilkin	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>1,430</u>
Total	27	369	23,544	118,639	128,683

No grassland/habitat easements were purchased by the Fergus Falls Wetland Acquisition office in this District during Fiscal Year 2002

The status of SWAP grassland easements optioned as of September 30, 2002 is:

County	HO	GO	HG	NHG	CY Acres	Total Acres
Douglas*	0	0	0	0	0	122
Grant**	0	0	0	0	0	261
Otter Tail	0	0	0	0	0	309
Wilkin	0	0	0	0	0	136
Total	0	0	0	0	0	828
HO - Hay Only; GO - Graze Only; HG - Haying and Grazing; NHG - No Haying or Grazing						

*A 3.62-acre habitat easement (2 wetland acres) owned by Dale Jones was transferred to the Service by the Minnesota Department of Transportation as mitigation for the Highway 27 road project.

** A 9.46-acre habitat easement (5 wetland acres) owned by Martin Pasche etal was transferred to the Service by the Minnesota Department of Transportation as mitigation for the Highway 59 road project.

7

Public Education and Recreation

7a. Provide Visitor Services

In 2002, three new visitor parking areas were constructed using wood posts and wood rails on the following WPAs.

WPA Name (NO.)	County	Location
Stowe Lake (D-6)	Douglas	West side
Ridgeway (OT-2)	Otter Tail	By shooting range
Odens (D-35)	Douglas	East side

Newly purchased WPAs and roundouts to existing WPAs are routinely posted as soon as possible after land use rights by sellers have expired. In addition, we routinely replace missing or vandalized signs on a portion of existing WPAs in an effort to keep boundaries well marked for the public. The following WPAs were posted and respective signs installed in 2001.

County	No. of WPAs	No. Posts	WPA Signs	No Motorized Vehicle Signs	Parking Area Signs	Miles of Boundary
Otter Tail	25	264	468	19	4	68.0
Douglas	4	15	23	6	5	11.0
Grant	5	12	106	9	4	29.0
Wilkin	4	31	92	5	0	15.0
Totals	38	322	689	39	13	123.0

Hunting and Trapping

All hunting and trapping on WPAs in the District is done in compliance with regulations and seasons set by the State of Minnesota. The following are the estimated number of visits for the various types of hunting and trapping activities that occurred in the District in 2002.

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VISITS
Waterfowl Hunting	12,750
Other Migratory Bird Hunting	100
Upland Game	3,480
Big Game	7,900
Trapping	1,700

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VISITS
Fishing	50
Other On-site Recreation	300

In addition to the activities that were reported earlier in this section, the District Office and Prairie Wetlands Learning Center distributed the following materials, gave presentations, and were engaged in the following categories of environmental education/outreach.

Item	Number
Leaflets/Pamphlets/Posters Distributed	17,520
Leaflets Developed	12
Videos Produced	12
Videos/Films Distributed	51
News Releases Issued	60
TV/Radio Spots	259
Other Special Events	11

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC)

Total visitations for the District was just under 50,000 for Fiscal Year 2002. Of that, approximately 12,800 were on-site interpretive programs and another 12,200 in environmental education programming. The remaining 25,000 visitations were primarily for hunting of waterfowl, with a small number of visitors participating in fishing, trapping, or other recreational pursuits.

The PWLC hosted over 14,700 visitors participating in formal programs at the Center during fiscal year 2002. These program participants range in age from preschool children, to college interns, to adults. More than 175 groups with 3,326 attendees utilized the Center for meetings, classes, and seminars during the past year. Over 3,500 visitors walked trails, viewed temporary exhibits, or just took a break at the Learning Center.

Education and interpretation efforts at the PWLC continued to expand during this year with over 9,000 students participating in 556 programs. Residential visits also increased with 1,169 visitors participating in overnight educational experiences. Eleven special events for the local community reflected a slight increase in attendance.

Programs at the PWLC continued to focus on day use during the past year, with school groups still comprising the majority of groups utilizing the environmental education program. Continuing partnerships with local schools allowed children to

participate in a variety of programs during the year. Schools as far away as St. Paul have attended and continue to be very interested in future residential use. Overnight groups utilized partnerships for educational programs with A Center for the Arts and the Otter Tail County Historical Society and Museum.

Teacher workshops, where PWLC staff “train the teachers,” have allowed several school groups to use the site without a PWLC staff member to conduct environmental education programs on their own, at times that are convenient for them. This continues to be an important part of the PWLC’s mission. The USFWS Region 3 Visitor Services Workshop was held at the PWLC in 2002, showcasing the Center to visitor services professionals in the Upper Midwest, as well as Regional Office staff.

7b. Outreach

See section 7a.

8 Planning and Administration

8a. Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP)

The Regional Office Division of Ascertainment and Planning completed drafting of this station's Comprehensive Conservation Plan and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The final draft was circulated for public comment. Since all the WMDs in western Minnesota are preparing their CCPs, all the public comments from the five WMDs have been compiled and addressed. In addition, comments on the environmental assessment were received from the Regional NEPA coordinator with corresponding changes in the Environmental Assessment being made. It is anticipated a final CCP will be submitted to the Washington Office for approval sometime in the next fiscal year.

A number of WPA Development Plans were updated because of new acquisitions. An Annual Work Plan and Station Staffing Plan (chart) were prepared and approved by the Regional Office.

District staff also prepared Annual Prescribed Fire Plans for each planned burn in the District and water management plans for each of the 44 water control structures.

Staff entered data into the new Wetland Management District Geographic Information System. All WPA and easement boundaries have been entered, as well as baseline habitat, structures, facilities, prescribed burn units, weed control and numerous other databases. This data has proved to be very useful in budgeting, as well as management actions.

8b. General Administration

Private Lands - Technical Assistance	1121-03TA	\$ 69,427
Private Lands - Habitat Restoration	1121-03HR	140,000
NAWMP Prairie Pothole Joint Venture	1234	28,322
Refuge Operations	1261	996,850
MMS Maintenance Management (Annual)	1262-A3FF	70,000
MMS Equipment Replacement	1262-B3FF	31,000
MMS Deferred Maintenance	1262-D3FF	15,000
Contributed Funds	7201	8,115
Fire Suppression/Preparedness	9251	70,110
Hazard Fuels Management	9263	106,130
Wildland Urban Interface Fuels	9264	89,503
Rural Fire Assistance	9265	<u>10,964</u>
Total		\$1,635,421

Personnel

The following is a list of employees at the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District during Fiscal Year 2002.

Employee	Title	Employment Status	Grade
Artmann, Christine	Park Ranger	PFT	GS-0025-7
Aspelin, Nathan	Biological Science Aid	STEP	GS-0404-3
Boschee, Troy	Prescribed Fire Specialist	PFT	GS-0401-9
Bowman, Brian	Maintenance Worker	PPT	GS-4749-5
Brennan, Kevin	Refuge Manager	PFT	GS-0485-14
Childs, Larry	Maintenance Mechanic	PFT	WG-4749-9
Dietz, Jeramy	Range Technician	CS	GS-0455-5
Dorsey, Ronda	Park Ranger	PFT	GS-0025-9
Edwards, James "Eddy"	Wildlife Biologist	PFT	GS-0486-12
Eidal, Terrie	Office Assistant	PFT	GS-0303-5
Garrahan, Kenneth	Supervisory Park Ranger	PFT	GS-0025-12
Grimm, Seth	Range Technician	PFT	GS-0455-5
Gunderson, Ron	Biological Science Aid	STEP	GS-0404-3
Jaskiewicz, Teresa	Park Ranger	PFT	GS-0025-11
Klaverkamp, Kathryn	Biological Science Technician	STEP	GS-0404-4
Lau, Gregg	Engineering Equipment Oper.	CS	WG-5716-8
Lorsung, Thomas	Maintenance Worker	PFT	WG-4749-7
May, Shawn	Biological Science Technician	T	GS-0404-5
Nelson, Leslie	Range Aid	T	GS-0455-3
Newton, Jared	Biological Science Technician	STEP	GS-0404-4
Pederson, Ethel	Administrative Officer	PFT	GS-0341-9
Petersen, Penny	Administrative Technician	PFT	GS-0303-7
Piehl, James	Wildlife Biologist	PFT	GS-0486-11

Employee	Title	Employment Status	Grade
Raitz, Chad	Refuge Operations Specialist	PFT	GS-0485-12
Salvevold, Stacy	Refuge Operations Specialist	PFT	GS-0485-7
Siegel, Ryan	Biological Science Aid	STEP	GS-0404-4
Swisher, Dwight	Maintenance Worker	STEP	GS-4749-8
Thompson, Kayla	Biological Science Aid	STEP	GS-0404-3
Tully, Brett	Maintenance Worker	CS	GS-4749-7
Vukonich, Charles	Refuge Operations Specialist	PFT	GS-0485-9
Webb, Melody	Range Technician	T	GS-0455-5
Wells, Douglas	Refuge Operations Specialist	PFT	GS-0485-11
Wilken, Richard	Trapper	T	WG-5001-3

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Staff:



Back Row (left to right): Pederson, Brennan, Lau, Raitz, Nelson, Swisher
 Middle Row (left to right): Grimm, Salvevold, Vukonich, Piehl, Boschee, Childs
 Front Row (left to right): Petersen, Wells
 Not pictured: Edwards, Dietz

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center staff:



(Left to right): Garrahan, Eidal, Green Thumb Worker Florence Nelson, Jaskiewicz, Artmann, Lorsung, Dorsey

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District temporary staff:



(Left to Right): Nelson, Newton, Thompson, Gunderson, Webb, Aspelien
Not Pictured: Klaverkamp, Wilken

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center interns:



PWLC interns Mike Bryant and Emily Butte. (Missing Dan Athman)

This year we had several staff changes.

- In August 2001, an audit was conducted on the wage grade positions in Region 3. The audit found that for the District, two of the positions graded out as GS-4749-8; one position graded out at a Maintenance Mechanic, FPL WG-4749-9 level; and the last graded out at a FPL WG-5716-10 Engineering Equipment Operator level. Because the last two maintenance positions ranked out higher and in a different series, this station needed to conduct a recruit and fill action for both positions at the new job series and grade levels. Larry Childs was selected to fill the WG-9 Maintenance Mechanic position. The WG-10 Engineering Equipment Operator position was filled by Gregg Lau on July 28. Gregg transferred to the District from the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Florence Nelson is assigned to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center from Experience Works. She does housekeeping and reception duties as needed. She is a valuable staff member.
- On November 25, Shawn May and Seth Grimm, temporary Biological Science Technicians, were placed into intermittent status. They returned to full-time status March 24, 2002. On April 6, Shawn May resigned to accept a position within the Service as a Private Lands Biologist in Colorado.
- On December 1, Brian Bowman resigned from the Maintenance Worker position at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. The position was refilled via special appointing authority. Thomas Lorsung accepted the part-time Maintenance Worker position on January 27. On June 30, Tom's status changed from permanent part-time to permanent full-time.

- On December 2, Maintenance Worker Dwight Swisher was placed into non-pay status. He returned to pay status on March 3, 2002. On February 10, Dwight was promoted to a WG-4749-8 following an audit of the maintenance worker positions.
- On December 16, Maintenance Worker Brett Tully was placed into non-pay status. He returned to pay status in January to go on a three-week fire detail in Texas. After he returned from the fire detail, he was returned to non-pay status until March 9, when he resigned from his position to take an Engineering Equipment Operator position Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin.
- On February 24, Ronda Dorsey EOD in the vacant Park Ranger position at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. After working for a season, Ronda resigned on December 28, 2002, so she could further her education in environmental education.
- Trapper Richard Wilken returned to pay status on April 7 and worked until August 11.
- On April 19, STEP employees Nathan Aspelin, Ronald Gunderson, Kathryn Klaverkamp, Jared Newton, Ryan Siegel, and Kayla Thompson entered on duty. Due to personal matters, Ryan was put into intermittent status early in June. The remaining STEP employees were placed into intermittent status August 24.
- On May 19, Leslie Nelson entered on duty in the temporary Fire Aid position. He was placed into intermittent status on November 17.
- Mike Bryant started his internship with the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center on May 13. Emily Butte joined him on May 15. Mike and Emily helped the Environmental Education staff with programs for visiting school groups through the end of May. During June, July, and August, Mike and Emily were responsible for developing and presenting Summer Nature Programs to students from kindergarten through fifth grade on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. They had designated projects to complete, as well as assisting with environmental education programs and meetings during their 12-week internships.
- Melody Webb entered on duty on June 2 in the second temporary Fire Technician position. On August 24, she resigned to accept a Park Manager position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- Carlyn Stadum, from the Experience Works Program, provided administrative support at the District office from June 3 to August 30. Her help was greatly appreciated.
- Dan Athman started his 12-week internship with the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center on September 3. He presented environmental education programs to school

groups and assisted, as needed, with other environmental education programs, meetings, and residential visits while completing his designated intern projects.

Feedback

In this year of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, we need to look back and recognize the vision of those who came before us, as well as celebrate the many accomplishments of this great organization. One of the greatest success stories of the National Wildlife Refuge System has been the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program carried out in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Central United States.

The Fergus Falls WMD was the first Wetland Management District Office established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Grady Mann was assigned to this office in 1954 in an attempt to offset the rampant wetland drainage taking place across the Prairie Pothole Region. From these meager beginnings, and in as little as 50 years, the Service has established 37 Wetland Management Districts preserving over 3,000 Waterfowl Production Areas totaling over 675,000 acres and 2,000,000+ acres of land protected by wetland and grassland easements. There is no question the continental duck populations depend upon these lands for their continued existence.

Thanks to all those whose passion for the resource and tireless efforts gave the people of these United States the foundations for our waterfowl heritage.

Refuge Comprehensive Accomplishment Report - FY 02

Totals by Activity

MONITORING & STUDIES			
1.a. Surveys & Censuses			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: 5%
31 1260 funds (\$K)	# of wildlife surveys conducted	12	WF: 60%
2 Other funds (\$K)	# of habitat surveys conducted	1	OMB: 20%
33 Total funds (\$K)	% of effort off-refuge	80	HEC: %
140 1260 Staff Days			IAF: %
16 Other Staff Days			SDA: %
156 Total Staff Days			RW: 15%
Volunteer Hours			PED: %
			PRC: %
			FAR: %
1.b. Studies and Investigations			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
8 1260 funds (\$K)	# of studies conducted	6	WF: 45%
1 Other funds (\$K)	% of effort off-refuge	10	OMB: 20%
9 Total funds (\$K)			HEC: %
26 1260 Staff Days			IAF: %
5 Other Staff Days			SDA: %
31 Total Staff Days			RW: 20%
Volunteer Hours			PED: 5%
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %
HABITAT RESTORATION			
2.a. Wetland Restoration			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
44 1260 fund (\$K)	# of refuge acres restored	77	WF: 40%
136 Other funds(\$K)	# of off-refuge acres restored	257	OMB: 25%
180 Total funds (\$K)	# of acres of new wetlands		HEC: 5%
250 1260 Staff Days	# of acres of new off-refuge wetlands		IAF: %
379 Other Staff Days			SDA: %
629 Total Staff Days			RW: 15%
Volunteer Hours			PED: 5%
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %
2.b. Upland Restoration			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
70 1260 funds (\$K)	# of refuge acres restored	429	WF: 60%
56 Other funds (\$K)	# of off-refuge acres restored	406	OMB: 25%
126 Total funds (\$K)			HEC: %
263 1260 Staff Days			IAF: %
11 Other Staff Days			SDA: %
274 Total Staff Days			RW: 5%
80 Volunteer Hours			PED: %
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %
2.c. Riverine Restoration			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of miles of refuge rivers restored		WF: %
			OMB: %

Other funds (\$K)	# of miles of non-refuge rivers rest.	HEC:	%
Total funds (\$K)	# riverine projects completed	IAF:	%
1260 Staff Days		SDA:	%
Other Staff Days		RW:	%
Total Staff Days		PED:	%
Volunteer Hours		PRC:	%
		FAR:	%

2.d. Deepwater/Coral Reef Restoration		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of refuge deepwater acres restored	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of refuge coral reef acres restored	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)	# of off-refuge deepwater acres rest.	HEC: %
1 1260 Staff Days	# of miles of marine shoreline restored	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	# of deepwater/coral reef projects	SDA: %
1 Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

3.a. Water Level Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
35 1260 funds (\$K)	# of new acres managed 514	WF: 60%
Other funds (\$K)	# of new units managed 17	OMB: 25%
35 Total funds(\$K)	# of existing acres managed 1436.5	HEC: %
140 1260 Staff Days	more effectively	IAF: %
1 Other Staff Days		SDA: %
141 Total Staff Days		RW: 5%
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: 10%
		FAR: %

3.b. Moist Soil Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of new acres managed	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of new units managed	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)	# of existing acres managed	HEC: %
1260 Staff Days	more effectively	IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

3.c. Graze/Mow/Hay		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
6 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres mowed/hayed 79	WF: 55%
Other funds (\$K)	# of acres grazed	OMB: 25%
6 Total funds (\$K)	# of animal unit months supported	HEC: 5%
19 1260 Staff Days	# of mi.of fence constructed/maintained	IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
19 Total Staff Days		RW: 15%
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

3.d. Farming		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
6 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres farmed 510	WF: 55%
Other funds (\$K)	# of acres cooperatively farmed 100	OMB: 25%
6 Total funds (\$K)		HEC: 5%
		IAF: %
		SDA: %

19 1260 Staff Days		SDA: 15%
Other Staff Days		RW: 60%
19 Total Staff Days		TE: 100%
Volunteer Hours		OMB: 30%
		HEC: 10%
		IAF: 5%
		SDA: 5%
		RW: 5%
		PED: 5%
		PRC: 5%
		FAR: 5%

3.e. Forest Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
2 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres harvested	WF: 60%
1 Other funds (\$K)	# of acres treated	OMB: 30%
3 Total funds (\$K)		HEC: 10%
2 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
5 Other Staff Days		SDA: %
7 Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

3.f. Fire Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: 5%
86 1260 funds (\$K)	# of refuge prescribed burn acres 4,467	WF: 45%
282 Other funds (\$K)	# of non-refuge prescribed burn acres 185	OMB: 30%
368 Total funds (\$K)	# of refuge prescribed burns conducted 43	HEC: 5%
414 1260 Staff Days	# of wildfires suppressed 6	IAF: %
496 Other Staff Days		SDA: %
910 Total Staff Days		RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5%
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

3.g. Native Pest Plant Control		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: 25%
5 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres treated 55	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of refuge acres infested 2,500	OMB: 15%
5 Total funds (\$K)	# of acres treated chemically	HEC: 50%
19 1260 Staff Days	# of acres treated mechanically 55	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	# of acres treated biologically	SDA: %
19 Total Staff Days	# of acres surveyed/monitored	RW: 5%
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5%
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

3.h. Invasive Plant Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: 25%
118 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres treated 1,435	WF: %
41 Other funds (\$K)	# of refuge acres infested 20,000	OMB: 15%
159 Total funds (\$K)	# of acres treated chemically 465	HEC: 50%
421 1260 Staff Days	# of acres treated mechanically 940	IAF: %
10 Other Staff Days	# of acres treated biologically 30	SDA: %
431 Total Staff Days	# of acres surveyed/monitored 30	RW: 5%
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5%
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

4.a. Bird Banding		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
3 1260 funds (\$K)	# of waterfowl banded 374	WF: 100%
Other funds (\$K)	# of other birds banded	OMB: %
3 Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
0 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
		SDA: %

3 1200 Staff Days		RW:	%
2 Other Staff Days		PED:	%
11 Total Staff Days		PRC:	%
4 Volunteer Hours		FAR:	%

4.b Disease Monitoring and Treatment		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of outbreaks monitored	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of mortalities documented	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)	% of effort on-refuge	HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %
4.c. Reintroductions		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of mammals released	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of birds released	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)	# of reptiles/amphibians released	HEC: %
1260 Staff Days	# of fish released	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	# of other animals released	SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %
4.d. Nest Structures		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
17 1260 funds (\$K)	# of bird nest structures erected	WF: 95%
Other funds (\$K)	# of bird nest structures maintained 207	OMB: %
17 Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
62 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
62 Total Staff Days		RW: %
180 Volunteer Hours		PED: 5%
		PRC: %
		FAR: %
4.e. Native Animal & Predator Control		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
28 1260 funds (\$K)	# mammals removed 138	WF: 70%
Other funds (\$K)	# birds removed 2	OMB: 15%
28 Total funds (\$K)	# reptiles/amphibians/fish removed	HEC: %
143 1260 Staff Days	# acres treated for invertebrates 6	IAF: %
1 Other Staff Days	# miles of exclusionary fenced maint. 6	SDA: %
144 Total Staff Days	# acres treated for insects/disease control	RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours	# acres surveyed/monitored	PED: %
		PRC: 5%
		FAR: %
4.f. Invasive Animal & Other Invasive Non-Plant Taxa Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
2 1260 funds (\$K)	# mammals removed 17	WF: 70%
Other funds (\$K)	# birds removed	OMB: 15%
2 Total funds (\$K)	# reptiles/amphibians/fish removed	HEC: %
5 1260 Staff Days	# acres treated for invertebrates	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	# miles of exclusionary fenced maint.	SDA: %
5 Total Staff Days	# acres treated for insects/disease control	RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours	# acres surveyed/monitored	PED: %
		PRC: 5%
		FAR: %

COORDINATION ACTIVITIES			
5.a. Interagency Coordination			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
32 1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres affected	200,000	WF: 70%
4 Other funds (\$K)	% of effort for uplands	55	OMB: 15%
36 Total funds (\$K)	% of effort for wetlands	40	HEC: %
103 1260 Staff Days	% of effort for deepwater/riverine	5	IAF: %
16 Other Staff Days	# activities that did not involve habitat issues	12	SDA: %
119 Total Staff Days			RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours			PED: %
			PRC: 5%
			FAR: %
5.b. Tribal Coordination			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of acres affected		WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	% of effort for uplands		OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)	% of effort for wetlands		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days	% of effort for deepwater/riverine		IAF: %
Other Staff Days			SDA: %
Total Staff Days			RW: %
Volunteer Hours			PED: %
			PRC: %
			FAR: %
5.c. Private Land Activities (excluding restoration)			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
23 1260 funds (\$K)	# landowners assisted	185	WF: 40%
12 Other funds (\$K)		8,000	OMB: 25%
35 Total funds (\$K)	% effort for uplands	55	HEC: 5%
86 1260 Staff Days	% effort for wetlands	45	IAF: %
47 Other Staff Days			SDA: %
133 Total Staff Days			RW: 15%
Volunteer Hours			PED: 5%
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %
RESOURCE PROTECTION			
6.a. Law Enforcement			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: 5%
92 1260 funds (\$K)	# incidents documented	108	WF: 60%
Other funds (\$K)	# NOV's & State citations issued	22	OMB: 15%
92 Total funds (\$K)	# cases assisted	3	HEC: %
278 1260 Staff Days	# other public contacts	185	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	# written warnings issued	10	SDA: %
278 Total Staff Days			RW: %
Volunteer Hours			PED: 10%
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %
6.b. Permits & Economic Use Management			Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: %
34 1260 funds (\$K)	# of permits issued	12	WF: 50%
Other funds (\$K)	# of special uses reviewed	12	OMB: 20%
34 Total funds (\$K)			HEC: %
			IAF: %

113 1260 Staff Days	SDA: %
Other Staff Days	RW: 15 %
113 Total Staff Days	PED: %
Volunteer Hours	PRC: 15 %
	FAR: %

6.c. Contaminant Investigations		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
2 1260 funds (\$K)	# of investigations underway 2	WF: 15 %
Other funds (\$K)	# of investigations completed	OMB: 10 %
2 Total funds (\$K)	# of water quality studies underway	HEC: 70 %
5 1260 Staff Days	# of air quality studies underway	IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: 5 %
5 Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

6.d. Contaminant Cleanup		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
4 1260 funds (\$K)	# of cleanups underway	WF: 15 %
Other funds (\$K)	# of cleanups completed	OMB: 10 %
4 Total funds (\$K)	# of spills responded to	HEC: 70 %
3 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: 5 %
3 Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

6.e. Water Rights Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
15 1260 funds (\$K)	# water rights supported/protected	WF: 60 %
Other funds (\$K)	% effort for identification	OMB: 25 %
15 Total funds (\$K)	% effort for quantification	HEC: %
90 1260 Staff Days	% effort for adjudication	IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
90 Total Staff Days		RW: 5 %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: 10 %
		FAR: %

6.f. Cultural Resource Management		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
4 1260 funds (\$K)	# of investigations conducted 2	WF: 20 %
1 Other funds (\$K)	# of sites documented	OMB: 15 %
5 Total funds (\$K)	# of sites managed/protected	HEC: %
10 1260 Staff Days	# of museum property items maint.	IAF: %
2 Other Staff Days		SDA: 60 %
12 Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5 %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

6.g. Land Ownership Support		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
41 1260 funds (\$K)	# of tracts involved 28	WF: 60 %
Other funds (\$K)	# of acres involved 4,287	OMB: 15 %
41 Total funds (\$K)	# of miles of posted/maintained 117	HEC: %
114 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
114 Total Staff Days		RW: 15 %
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5 %
		PRC: 5 %
		FAR: %

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RECREATION

7.a. Provide Visitor Services		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: 5%
331	% of effort for hunting 41	WF: 20%
4 Other funds (\$K)	% of effort for fishing	OMB: 10%
335 Total funds (\$K)	% of effort for wildlife obs/photog. 1	HEC: 5%
1,219 1260 Staff Days	% of effort for education/interpretation 58	IAF: %
Other Staff Days	% of effort for non-priority use	SDA: %
1,219 Total Staff Days		RW: 10%
1,878 Volunteer Hours		PED: 40%
		PRC: 10%
		FAR: %

7.b. Outreach		157	Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:		TE: 5%
55 1260 funds (\$K)	# of participants (groups)		WF: 20%
4 Other funds (\$K)	# of people viewing off-site exhibits 2,055		OMB: 10%
59 Total funds (\$K)	# of news releases issued 60		HEC: 5%
168 1260 Staff Days	# of TV/radio spots 259		IAF: %
15 Other Staff Days	# of other special events 11		SDA: %
183 Total Staff Days			RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours			PED: 40%
			PRC: 10%
			FAR: %

PLANNING

8.a. Comprehensive Conservation Planning		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: 5%
1260 funds (\$K)	% of CCP completed this year 1	WF: 50%
12 Other funds (\$K)	% completion overall 100	OMB: 15%
12 Total funds (\$K)	# of stations covered 1	HEC: 5%
28 1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: 5%
28 Total Staff Days		RW: 10%
Volunteer Hours		PED: 5%
		PRC: 5%
		FAR: %

PROVISIONS UNIQUE TO ALASKA

9.a. Subsistence		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of programs/projects	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of people affected	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

9.b. Public Access		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of use days supported	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)		OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
		RW: %

1260 Staff Days		RW:	%
Other Staff Days		PED:	%
Total Staff Days		PRC:	%
Volunteer Hours		FAR:	%

9.c. Manage Commercial & Subsistence Fisheries		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of runs managed	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of projects	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

9.d. Manage Private Lands		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# of land units involved	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# of projects	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

9.e. Navigability Determinations		Outcomes:
Inputs:	Outputs:	TE: %
1260 funds (\$K)	# determinations made	WF: %
Other funds (\$K)	# documentations made	OMB: %
Total funds (\$K)		HEC: %
1260 Staff Days		IAF: %
Other Staff Days		SDA: %
Total Staff Days		RW: %
Volunteer Hours		PED: %
		PRC: %
		FAR: %

TOTALS:			
Inputs:	4,150	1260 Staff Days	Staff FTEs Used 19.8
1,107 1260 (\$K)	1,006	Other Staff Days	Volunteer FTEs Used 1.0
543 Other (\$K)	5,156	Total Staff Days	
1,650 Total (\$K)	2,142	Volunteer Hours	

Volunteer Services Report

FISCAL YEAR 02

Station Information

Station: Fergus Falls WMD

OrgCode: 32585

1. Number of volunteers by age:	Under 18	18-35	36-61	Over 61	TOTAL
	84	12	50	33	179

2. Number of hours by Activity Category

Monitoring & Studies

Surveys & Censuses _____

Studies & Investigations _____

Habitat Restoration

Wetland Restoration _____

Upland Restoration 80

Riverine Restoration _____

Deepwater/Coral Reef Restoration _____

Habitat Management

Water Level Management _____

Moist Soil Management _____

Graze/Mow/Hay _____

Farming _____

Forest Management _____

Fire Management _____

Native Pest Plant Control _____

Invasive Pest Plant Management _____

Fish & Wildlife Management

Bird Banding 4

Disease Monitoring & Treatment _____

Reintroductions _____

Nest Structures 180

Native Pest Animal & Predator Control _____

Invasive Animal & Other Inv.Non-Plant _____

Taxa Management

Coordination Activities

Interagency Coordination _____

Tribal Coordination _____

Private Lands Activities (ex. restoration) _____

Resource Protection

Law Enforcement _____

Permits & Economic Use Management _____

Contaminant Investigation _____

Contaminant Cleanup _____

Water Rights Management _____

Cultural Resource Management _____

Land Ownership Support _____

Public Education & Recreation

Provide Visitor Services 1,878

Outreach _____

Planning

Comprehensive Conservation Planning _____

Provisions Unique to Alaska

Subsistence _____

Public Access _____

Manage Comm./Subsistence Fisheries _____

Manage Private Lands _____

Navigability Determinations _____

Total Hours 2,142

Volunteer Maintenance

General Maintenance by volunteers 220

Fishery Categories

Fry stocking _____

Spawning _____

Fish culture _____

Operation Costs (\$K)

Operations (Supplies, Materials, Equipment, Uniforms, etc.) \$1.8K

Travel/Transportation, Per Diem, Housing/Utilities (etc.) K

Other (Staff/Volunteer Training, Recruitment, Recognition) \$.8K

TOTAL \$2.5K

Volunteer Services Report

FISCAL YEAR 02

Station Information

Station: Fergus Falls WMD

OrgCode: 32585

Staff Time/Salary for Administration of Program

Staff Time (Days) 85 Staff Salaries (\$K) \$8.2 **\$25,082 per staff year**

Volunteer Highlights

The Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center continued to be active supporters of the environmental education programs at the Center, raising funds for exhibits and programs.

Volunteers played an active role in the presentation of interpretive and educational programming, as well as at special events. The Friends group planned and presented "Return to the Prairie Day" - a special event focusing on the natural and cultural heritage of the tall grass prairie.

Special Recognition

Volunteers of the year were Rita and Jim Loftness, who taught many environmental education programs, assisted with special events and many other projects, and contributed nearly 150 hours to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.

Recommendations to improve the volunteer program

REMEMBER to submit photos, especially those with volunteers wearing the volunteer patch. Please provide a caption with the person(s) name, site name, and description of the project being accomplished. Submit to the regional or national volunteer coordinator.

RMIS - Public Education & Recreation**Fergus Falls WMD**

32585

Record covers 10/1/01 through 9/30/02

----- Visitation and Activities -----

I. Total number of visitors.....	49,287
Wilderness Area visits.....	0
II. Interpretation & Nature Observation (on-site).....	12,782
A. Staff/Volunteer Conducted Activities.....	206
1. Talks.....	206
2. Tours.....	0
3. Demonstrations.....	0
B. Visitor Centers.....	6,673
C. Administrative Office.....	0
D. Kiosks.....	3,000
E. Nature Trails.....	2,703
1. Foot.....	2,703
2. Boat.....	0
3. Auto.....	0
F. Observation Towers/Platforms/Photo Blinds.....	0
G. Other Wildlife Observation.....	200
III. Environmental Education.....	12,198
A. Staff/Volunteer Conducted.....	11,402
1. Teachers participating in workshops.....	2,661
2. Students taught on-site.....	6,918
3. Students taught off-site.....	1,823
B. Non-staff Conducted.....	796
IV. Recreation.....	26,130
A. Hunting.....	24,130
1. Migratory Birds.....	12,750
a. Waterfowl.....	12,650
b. Other migratory birds.....	100
2. Upland Game.....	3,480
3. Big Game.....	7,900
B. Fishing.....	50
1. Fresh-water.....	50
2. Salt-water.....	0
C. Trapping.....	1,650
D. Beach & Water Uses.....	0
E. Other recreation.....	300
V. Education Outreach - (off-site).....	4,404
A. Group Presentations.....	158
B. Exhibits.....	2,055
C. Other education outreach.....	2,191
VI. Special Events	
A. Number of news releases.....	60
B. Number of radio/TV spots.....	259
C. Number of other special events.....	11

Comment: