

ANNUAL PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ST.MARKS REFUGE.

for 1933 F.Y.

A. Improvements.

I. Buildings and Building Site.

A plot of ground in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec.14, T.4S. R.1E. was selected for a headquarters site because of its proximity to navigable water and its accessibility by land. This area of ground supports a growth of slash pine 8 inches in diameter. It is about 5 feet above sea level. Building the house 8 feet above the ground eliminates possible damage from high tides caused by hurricanes originating in the southeast. The boats will be protected from excessive storms by reason of the shelter afforded by the St.Marks River.

1. Other needed structures for this year .

- (1) Horse barn ✓
- (2) A cabin near Aucilla River accessible by both land and water.
- (3) Wharf at St. Marks River on the headquarters site. ✓
- (4) Construction of short piece of road to facilitate entrance to site by land. ✓
- (5) Fence around headquarters site. ✓

II. Source of water

Because of the very high sulfur content of the deepwell water in this region making it unfit for domestic use, it seems that to secure adequate drinking water two 1500 gallon tanks for collecting rainwater ought to be installed. Surface wells 10 to 15 feet deep would supply suitable water for cooking purposes.

III. Demarcation of Boundary.

The attached map indicates the portion of the boundary of the refuge posted with proper shields. Where the boundary traverses open marsh 4" x 4" cypress or seasoned pine posts are suitable. They should be placed about 4 feet in the ground leaving about 8 feet exposed.

B. Administrative Activities

I. Protection

1. Prevent hunting or the molesting of wildlife.
2. " trespass except over designated routes of travel.
3. Prevent fire.
4. Act toward control of predacious birds and predatory animals.

II. Developments.

1. Construct fire lands
2. Construct small dams in streams to create freshwater ponds. Plant natural foods for ducks and geese in these ponds. These dams should be located as indicated on the attached map.

III. Grazing.

Grazing on the refuge is limited to the western and northwestern part of the area and the stock so using the range consists of cattle, goats, and hogs. No damage is being caused by any of them as yet, however, this should be carefully supervised. The cattle feed mostly along the edge of the marsh and timberland, the goats being on the mounds northeast of the lighthouse whereas the hogs are generally found all over the western part of the refuge.

There about 600 head of cattle grazing in the vicinity of the northern part of the refuge, probably 100 remaining on the area. About 250 goats and 200 hogs are generally on the refuge or immediately north of it.

IV. Research

Observe the nesting of the birds and turtles frequenting the refuge. Take a census of the various birds noted during the quarter. Carry on studies regarding the control of predacious birds and predatory animals. Plant desirable duck food vegetation. Investigate the possibility of creating Ibis and Heron rookeries, and improving those already in existence.

V. Public Relations

1. Cooperate with the state game officials and game associations. Cooperative efforts to individuals and organizations should be given.

2. Make it clear among the local people what the objects and purposes of the refuge are and also what is expected of them in regards to observing the rules as set forth by the Secretary of Agriculture.

3. The people must be educated to abandon promiscuous burning of the marsh and woodlands.

VI. Recreational Uses.

As a whole the refuge is not particularly adapted to recreational uses. Deer hunting in the fall used to attract a number of sportsmen but fishing seems to be about the only recreational use at the present time. There are two camp sites located across the river from St. Marks. Further study should be given this matter.