

MANAGEMENT PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 1933

ST MARKS MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

A. Improvements

I. Buildings and Building Sites

Buildings by the end of this fiscal year constitute a main headquarters building, which at this time is under consideration, a small stable for a horse at the main headquarters buildings. If money is available there should be erected near the headquarters building a fire tower of such a height that fires may be seen for at least twelve miles. This will necessitate a tower at least from sixty to seventy feet high.

The horse stable should be erected fairly close to the other buildings at headquarters and should be of such a size that one horse with room for feed can be kept. Feed could be kept under the main house, being set on piling, but it would mean a gathering of rats and mice which would have a tendency to work up into the house. This stable should be about 10' X 14' and set on short piling but leaving the horse rest on the ground, and the stable should have plenty of windows and screened from insects.

The main dwelling house will be up from the ground on piling about eight so that room for storage can be had under it for an automobile, etc.

The site for the main headquarters building has been determined as the SE¹ of Section 14, T. 4 S., R. 1 E. This ground is covered with slash pine about eight inches in diameter and its elevation is from four to five feet above sea level. With the house resting eight above the ground this will give about twelve to thirteen feet above sea level. The highest tide here for a number of years has not been over twelve feet so that it seems reasonably safe at this elevation. These high tides are caused from hurricanes coming out of the southeast so that it is fairly well protected against the full force of the wind and water, and the St. Marks River here will afford good protection

II. Source of Water

Most drilled wells in this vicinity have given sulphur water, some of it so strong it can hardly be used. Under these conditions it seems best to put up rainwater tanks and use the water coming off the house for drinking purposes and a surface well for cooking. Water can be gotten on the surface at from ten to fifteen feet and is good water if it is boiled before using. A tank holding about 1600 gallons will no doubt be sufficient at the headquarters, but if it is not another one of the same size can easily be installed. It is better to have two tanks, considering the fact that they must be cleaned annually. While one is being cleaned the other will have a supply of water.

III. Demarcation of Boundary

Inclosed map shows portion of area which has been posted with Refuge shields and painted in the timber and the land bordering on the water is also shown in unbroken line where posted and where not as yet posted in broken lines. For this shore boundary 4" X 4" cypress and heart pine are being used and makes a very substantial post. Four feet is placed in the ground, leaving about eight feet out.

The outside waters covered under the Proclamation should be marked this year, from the Red Beacon just south of the Lighthouse at St. Marks to the Aucilla River, and from the Red Beacon up the channel of the St. Marks River to the end of the day markers. The markers along the Gulf east of the Lighthouse should be placed on creosoted piling about eighteen feet long with a largest diameter of about twelve inches. On the average this will leave about eight to nine feet out of the water and some places perhaps only about six feet. The boundary up the St. Marks River should be located in some way, preferably by putting up signs on the Department of Commerce day markers if we can get the permission to do so.

B. Administrative Duties

1. Protection

Protection of the wild life from hunters and from fire constitutes a large part of the work on the Refuge. After completion of the headquarters buildings and stable a horse will be used in patrolling the north boundary while a boat will be used where a horse cannot. The only consistent way of patrol is by boat on this area on account of its inaccessibility by any other means outside of saddle horse.