Chase Lake

Wetland Management District/
Prairie Project
Woodworth, North Dakota

Annual Narrative Report 1995

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Chase Lake Wetland Management District
Chase Lake Prairie Project
5924 19 R Street SE
Woodworth, ND 58496

Stan Kreil — 5/12/96

Project Leader — **Date**

Ron Shupe — 5/12/96

Refuge Supervisor Approval — **Date**

[signature] — 6/16/96

Regional Office Approval — **Date**

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INTRODUCTION

The Chase Lake Wetland Management District (CLWMD) is located in central North Dakota and includes all of Stutsman and Wells counties. The CLWMD and the Chase Lake Prairie Project (CLPP) are operated as a substation of the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex at Pingree.

The CLWMD was administratively created in January, 1993 as result of an internal reorganization of the Arrowwood NWR Complex. The CLWMD and the CLPP (a Flagship Project of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan dedicated in 1989) are headquartered together three miles east of Woodworth, ND on a 2,635 acre Waterfowl Production Area (WPA).

Land Management types and acres in Chase Lake Wetland Management District.

Description	Stutsman	County	Wells	County	Total	Number
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
NWR's**	1	4,385	-	-	1	4,385
WPA's	94	27,342	34	7975	128	35317
GDU's	1	935	4	2,799	5	3,734
Subtotal Fee Title	96	32,662	38	10774	134	43436
Easement Refuges	1	160	-	-	1	160
Wetland Easements	462	40,414	204	13,173	666	52,919
Grassland Easements	4	2,790	-	-	4	2790
FmHA Easements	8	1380	6	382	14	1762.1
Subtotal Easement	475	44,744	210	13555	685	57631
TOTALS	**571**	**77,406**	**248**	**24,329**	**819**	**101,067**

**Excludes Arrowwood NWR in part of Stutsman County.

The CLWMD lies in the heart of prairie pothole country and contains two physiographic regions. The Missouri Coteau on the west and drift prairie on the east. The drift prairie is characterized by gently rolling topography and for the most part is intensively farmed for small grain crops. The Missouri Coteau features rolling hills, and is dotted with thousands of wetlands with densities exceeding 100 per square mile. Land use in the Coteau is a mix of cropping, haylands, and pasture which contain some large blocks of native prairie. Under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) there are about 234,851 acres of cropland converted to grasslands in Wells and Stutsman Counties for a ten year period which began in 1986.

Blue Winged Teal Brood **PHOTO:NG**

A. HIGHLIGHTS

Kresl and others completed a paper for the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference. The paper contains information on NAWMP, PPJV, CLPP. This paper was sent to publishers and will be published in a book by "Island Press". Kresl not only spent endless hours working on the paper but also presented it at the conference in March.

The CLPP/WMD hosted the Arrowwood Complex Superteam spring meeting. Coach Shupe, ARD Skip Ladd and Max Peace joined us from the RO.

Over 4,900 legal description acres (629 wet acres) of coteau in Stutsman County were accepted for Wetland Easement offers in 1995. One of these was as large as 1,440 legal description acres and protects 144 basins. The combination of PFW, CLPP and good staff continues to allow us the opportunity to gain landowner trust and help sell the wetland easement program. This is especially satisfying for us in a year when the assault on wetlands is at a fevered pitch.

Three grassland Easements were accepted for a total of 2,270 acres. The easements were purchased with Chase Lake II North American Wetland Conservation Grant funds. One grassland easement is pending for a total of 1,007 acres. All perpetually protect some of the best remaining native prairie in the Missouri Coteau.

A successful tour was given for the Congressional Interior/Agriculture Appropriations Chief of Staff, Washington Office staffing from DU, IAFWA, ARD Ladd and PPJV Coordinator Lively. CLPP projects and the CLNWR were toured.

Congressional Tour: Photo:TMP
Left to Right: Landowner Jeff VanRay, Skipp Ladd, Tim Sopuck, Kirk Andries (IAFWA), Carol Lively (USFWS), Steve Kresl (USFWS CLPP), Mike McEnroe (USFWS BISMARCK), Bob Meeks (DU), Ross Melinchuk (DU), Scott Sutherland(DU), Del Davis (Congressional staffer), Tomi Gleason (USFWS CLPP)

The first annual Woodworth Waterfowl Festival was held in September in Woodworth ND. The festival was a celebration of ND waterfowl. Events included ND State Duck Calling Championship, Waterfowl decoy carving contest, NDG&F BB gun shoot, and wildlife displays and exhibits. Staff helped to coordinate the festival with the Woodworth Betterment Community and the Bismarck WHO office.

Twenty-six drained wetlands with 45 surface acres were identified on WPA's that were drained prior to USFWS acquisition. Of the 26, 13 wetlands were restored back to their original condition in 1995 and the others are planned for completion. Many of these wetlands were on WPA's acquired in the 1960's.

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The winter of 1994-1995 brought above normal precipitation that resulted in significant runoff. Below normal temperatures were also experienced. Total spring and summer precipitation was above average, causing significant road and farmstead flooding and delays in planting of crops. A drying trend began in August and many temporary and seasonal wetlands were dry at freeze-up.

Another wet spring caused significant road flooding and a myriad of other problems (This road, 1 of hundreds is underwater).

Photo:NG

1995 Weather data for Chase Lake WMD. (Precipitation recorded at Chase Lake headquarters, temperature recorded at Arrowwood NWR.)

Month	Precip. INCHES	Snow INCHES	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.
January	.45	9.35	35	-20
February	.46	13.5	44	-17
March	1.09	19.00	50	-17
April	.58	6.25	62	3
May	4.26		81	29
June	2.2		90	38
July	9.79		87	49
August	2.09		92	47
September	.7	.25	85	18
October	3.14	1.75	78	16
November	.74	8.05	46	-17
December	.58	6.0	46	-15
TOTALS	***26.08**	**64.15**		

*The average precipitation for this area is 15.76 inches.

C. LAND ACQUISITION

1. Fee Title

One new fee title tract was added in 1995. Former Wells County USDA FmHA easement 10c was transferred to USFWS CLWMD. The new Hoornaert WPA will add an additional 312 acres (45 wetland acres and 268 upland) to USFWS fee title land in Wells County.

2. Easements

New easements are sought on a continual basis and in 1995 three grassland easements and five wetland easements were accepted. One grassland easement offer was still pending final approval.

1995 USFWS Wetland Easements Acquisition

County	Owner	Total Acres**	Wetland Acres	Total Wetlands
Stutsman	Paasch	2094	250	140
Stutsman	Van Ray, Ted M.	480	86	66
Stutsman	Van Ray, et al, Bill	640	105	41
Stutsman	Perleberg, Herman	1,440	188	144
Wells	Christenson, et al, Jeff	289	114	27
	Totals	**4,943**	**743**	**418**

**Legal description acres.

USFWS Grassland Easements acquired in 1995*. (All Wetlands must be under wetland easement prior to the grassland easement.)

County	Owner		Total Acres
Stutsman	Perleberg, Herman		130
Stutsman	Perleberg, Herman		860
Stutsman	Van Ray, Ted		1,280
Stutsman	Van Ray, Ted	Pending	1,007
Total			**2,270**

*Acquired with funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act - Chase Lake PP II.

Current Wetland Easements within CLWMD:

County	Number of Easements	Total Wet Acres
Stutsman	464	44,689
Wells	204	13,173
Total	**662**	**52,919**

Fourteen FmHA Conservation Easements are currently assigned to the CLWMD for management. Nine of these properties have been re-sold and the easement is permanently recorded and attached to the deed. Although the USFWS functions as the easement manager on all conservation easements, only those with a recorded deed are actively managed. Drained wetlands are restored and buffer areas and "G" area blocks are marked and seeded to grass. Special Use Permits are issued for activities restricted by the easement on all properties. The majority of the wetland basins have been marked on the sold properties.

Several FMHA easement properties received active management in 1995. Stutsman 10c was posted and "G" areas were seeded to grass, but the seeding appears to have failed. Stutsman 12 C was sold to a new operator in 1995. He selected the terms of the easement as revised under the 1990 farm bill. A preliminary plan for grass seeding was developed for this tract. Stutsman 17c was posted but the prior cropped areas of the easement were too wet to complete seeding of "G" acres. Wells 16c was posted and photographed. This and three other easements are subject to revision under the 1995 farm bill. Active field management which restricts tenant use is not taking place at this time. One easement permit for haying of wetlands was issued in 1995.

The current status of FmHA Easements in the Chase Lake WMD:

Category	**Recorded**	**Not Recorded**	**Total**
No. of Easements	9	5	14
Wetland Basins Protected	271	145	416
No. of Restorable Wetlands	1	3	4
Acres of Restorable Wetlands	7	7.3	14.3
Wetland Acreage Protected	375.1	139.9	515
Total Easement Acreage	**1372.9**	**389.2**	**1762**

3. Other

Five Wildlife Development Areas (WDA's), Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) mitigation tracts have been turned over to the FWS for management.

Unit Name	County	Wetland Acres	Upland Acres	Total Acres
Pipestone	Wells	43.9	113.6	157.5
Pony Gulch	Wells	91.4	148.6	240.0
Indian Hills	Wells	*360.0	1434.2	1794.2
Sweetgrass	Wells	199.4	483.1	682.6
Hawks Nest	Stutsman	172.3	763.0	935.3
TOTALS		**867.0**	**2942.5**	**3809.6**

* In November 1990, a 87.77 acre flowage easement was purchased on the Indian Hills WDA. This easement allowed for the complete restoration of four additional wetlands. A fifth wetland was restored by altering the dike location for an additional 0.5 acres restored. The five newly restored wetlands totaled 13.3 acres of wetland habitat on the unit.

These units have large areas of restored wetlands and grasslands that were purchased as part of the mitigation package for the Garrison Project.

Management of WDA's has primarily consisted of maintenance of water control structures to prevent leakage, weed control and administrative work like having perfected water permits issued. All units were patrolled during hunting season to ensure compliance with regulations. Several units received large amounts of hunting activity during upland game and deer season.

The Annual GDU/WDA Report was completed in January.

Staff represented the CLWMD at the quarterly BOR meetings.

D. PLANNING

2. Management Plan

Pabian completed two burn plans in November for Hearst and Woodworth WPA's in Stutsman County for 1996. An additional three WPA's were field checked and plans were initiated for prescribed burning.

4. Compliance with Environmental and Cultural Resource Mandates

Two archeological surveys were completed in May for Tischner WPA (Stutsman 412) and Zimmerman FmHA WPA (Stutsman 559), both having abandoned farmsteads on site. It was determined by the State Historical Preservation Office that the farmsteads did not qualify for preservation. Klostrich (Stutsman 421), and Woodworth (Stutsman 13f) WPA's were also surveyed for possible historical relevance, none was found.

5. Research and Investigations

STUTSMAN COUNTY

(1) Ron Royer, Division of Sciences, Minot State University, Minot, ND. A Special Use Permit, #83980, was issued to investigate the butterfly fauna, primarily the Dakota Skipper, in the Chase Lake NWR/WPA area.

(2) David Fellows, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Effects of Prescribed Fire on Control of Leafy Spurge by Apthona". A Special Use Permit, #83892, was issued to conduct a study to evaluate effects of prescribed fire on efficacy of flea beetles on the following Stutsman County WPA's - Thiesen Marsh (22), Walsh (256), Ecroth (472). The study initiated in 1993 and will conclude in 1996.

(3) Robert Gleason, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Impacts of Agricultural Tillage and Sedimentation on Wildlife Use and Aquatic Invertebrates in Prairie Wetlands". A Special Use Permit, #44794, and #83971 was issued to study the impacts of agricultural tillage on sedimentation rate, wildlife use, and aquatic invertebrate use in seasonal wetlands on the following Stutsman County WPA's - Strong (13e), Barnes Lake (14a), Sunday Lake (24). These areas are used as controls, with the Woodworth WPA (13f) serving as the main study site. The study was initiated in 1993 and concluded in 1995.

(4) Ned Euliss, Northern Prairie Science Center. "Factors Influencing Use of Prairie Pothole Wetlands by Birds, Amphibians and Aquatic Invertebrates." A Special Use Permit, #43251, was issued to conduct research on use of wetlands by amphibians and songbirds on Eddy WPA (13). Drift fences and funnel traps have been erected for analyzing amphibians. Grids have been established with PVC pipe to monitor songbird use. This study initiated in 1992 and will be completed in 1996.

(5) David Dewald, Natural Resources Conservation Service. A Special Use Permit #87874 was issued to collect data for soil type, vegetation analysis, land use, and upland cover type. The data will be used to validate hydrogeomorphic model for Depressed Prairie Pothole Wetlands.

(6) Diane Larson, Northern Prairie Science Center. A special Use Permit #83974 was issued for collection of salamander eggs/larvae from selected wetlands on Stutsman County WPA's. The collection will be used to determine if anomalous corticosterone observed in the pilot project were related to wetland conditions of subspecific differences in salamander development.

(7) Diane Larson, Northern Prairie Science Center. A Special Use Permit #83993 was issued to explore the ecological effects of fire retardant chemicals and fire suppressant foams on Woodworth WPA. The study will help determine the effects on species diversity related to exotic plant species, soil microbial biomass and seed germination.

(8) Doug Parchal, ND Parks and Recreation Department. A Special Use Permit #83986 was issued for inspection and preliminary site planning evaluation for proposed Chase Lake Prairie Wetlands interpretative Center.

(9) North Dakota State University, Fish tags were placed on bullhead population at Lake Ashtabula and retrieved by CLWMD staff at CLNWR. NDSU found that at least 1% of the Lakes bullhead population was consumed by nesting white pelicans at CLNWR which is 80 miles from the lake.

WELLS COUNTY

(1) Bluestem Inc., ND Dept. of Health. Vegetation and Sediment monitoring of WPA, Waterbank and Cropland wetlands in Wells County ND. Three seasonal freshwater ponds (PEMC) type wetlands on Foley WPA were surveyed as control plots for a study which assessed biological functions of wetlands restored on private land through the ND State waterbank program. Wetlands were sampled for water chemistry, sediment deposition and vegetation composition in April, 1993 and August, 1995.

(2) Dr. Rick Nelson, US Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck, ND. Assessment of restored wetlands, Sweetgrass WDA, Wells County. Ten restored wetland basins on Sweetgrass WDA, a Garrison Diversion Mitigation unit, are being sampled. The control area is the Eddy WPA in Stutsman County. This study is examining chemical and biological functions of restored wetlands over time. Reclamation will be collecting water and invertebrate samples during the five year study period. This study requires restrictions on burning, grazing and spraying of herbicides during the period of study. In addition, management activities that may alter wetlands, such as cattail control must be delayed.

(3) Cindie S. Heiser, ND Department of Agriculture and Clarence Blonigen, Wells County Weed Board. Development of field insectary sites to raise flea beetles. The sites are marked by steel T-posts, and tagged with stamped, aluminum identification plates. Since 1992, the WMD has aggressively pursued the acquisition and distribution of these bio control agents in the hope that they will control the spread of leafy spurge on these tracts. We have agreed to not perform any chemical control in the immediate vicinity of these sites.

6. Other

All staff met in March, with ARD Ladd, NPSC Director Kirby and all NPSC staff to discuss NPSC/CLWMD working agreement for Woodworth WPA. Kresl attended a interesting and informational Projects Leaders roundtable with ARD Ladd.

Kresl completed a draft of the MOU/Working Agreement between NPSC and USWFS for the Woodworth WPA in May.

Pabian attended a Water Resource Board Meeting focused on a proposed Tri-County legal drain effecting Stutsman, Foster and Griggs counties. Approximately 50 miles of a channel starting from northeastern Stutsman thru southeastern Foster and thru Griggs into Bald Hill Creek are proposed.

Kresl and Gleason attended a meeting in November with Bob Murphy from Des Lacs WMD and NPSC researchers, to discuss future plans of the neotropical/waterfowl PPJV monitoring study on private land rotational grazing systems.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

Kresl, Pabian, Brockman, and Jacobs all received Special Achievement Awards for an excellent job in 1995.

Jacobs received an On the Spot award for his outstanding production of private lands work.

Kresl received an On the spot award for his outstanding work on the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference paper. Schuchard received a "On-the-Spot" Award for editing and meeting the deadline.

We received 17 applications for 3 temporary jobs, this was down from 42 in 1995. Darin Carling returned for his second season at CLWMD. He EOD on April 17th, 1995. Donovan Pietruszewski EOD on the April 17 as a Private Lands Tech., and Natoma Gleason EOD on May 15.

Volunteer Jason Lura began working on May 15th and was converted to a temporary GS-3 Biological Tech. on July 3.

Temporary employee Darin Carling resigned on July 7 to accept position with Burlington Northern Railroad.

Gleason and Pietruszewski were converted to term positions on June 25.

Volunteer Roger Baker from England, UK, assisted from June 20 thru July with the neotropical bird monitoring study.

Bret Abner was hired as a special need hire Biological Aide GS-3 on August 8th.

Performance appraisals were completed for the entire CLPP/WMD Staff in July.

Jacobs, Pabian and Schuchard attended a great, 1 day, hands on Windows course in Fargo.

Jacobs, Brockman, and Pabian attended a very worthwhile wetland easement workshop in Aberdeen.

Pabian and Brockman endured mandatory pesticide recertification. Pabian attended a noxious weed management short course in Bozeman, MT.

Kresl and Pabian attended the Prescribed Fire Training in Denver, CO. Pietruszewski and Lura attended S130/190 at Carrington.

The CLPP/WMD hosted the Arrowwood Complex Superteam spring meeting. Coach Shupe, ARD Skip Ladd and Max Peace joined us from the RO. Kresl attended a 32 hour Fire/EMT course in Montana.

Bohn, Pabian, Jacobs and Pietruszewski attended the NDSU Streeter Grasslands tour.

Project Leaders meeting in Rapid City SD was attended by Kresl and Schuchard.

1995 CLPP/WMD Staff
Left to Right (Front): 3, 5, 8, 7
Left to Right (Back): 10, 2, 1, 4, 6, 4

Permanent

1. Steve Kresl, Supervisory Refuge Operations Specialist, GS-11 PFT.
2. Tom Pabian, Refuge Operations Specialist, GS-9 PFT.
3. Martin Brockman, Biological Technician, GS-7 PFT.
4. Mary Beth Schuchard, Office Automation Clerk, GS-5 PPT.

Temporary Staff

4. Bradley Jacobs, Biological Technician (Private Lands), GS-6,Term.
5. Donovan Pietruszewski, Biological Technician (Private Lands), GS-5, Term.
6. Natoma Gleason, Biological Technician, GS-5, Term.
7. Darin Carling, Biological Technician, GS-4, TFT, 4/17 - 7/7.
8. Jason Lura, Biological Technician, GS-3, TFT, 5/15 - 8/18.
9. Bret Abner, Emergency Hire, GS-3, TFT, 8/3 - 9/6.
10. Rick Bohn, Private Lands Technician, North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

2. Youth Programs

The YCC Crew from Arrowwood NWR spent several days working on excavating an old predator fence on Jamestown College. The fence was no longer repairable and needed to be removed.

4. Volunteer Programs

Jason Lura started volunteering on May 15 and was later converted to a seasonal biological technician.

Roger Baker, a volunteer from England, spent a month and a half starting in the end of June assisting with the neotropical bird study on rotational grazing systems.

5. Funding

Arrowwood Complex
Six Year Funding History

Fiscal Year (K)

Fund	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1261*	430.0	302.5	304.6	347.2	370.9	304.6
1262**	272.0	252.0	367.0	413.4	302.8	395.6
1120			75.0	55.0	42.5	57.0
1230	62.0	70.6	30.0	10.0	27.0	25.5
6860	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	7.4	7.0
8610	8.5	7.4	2.9	3.2	6.0	7.4
91XX	46.6	141.1	52.3	93.0	111.2	103.5
GDU	1.2	1.0	2.5	6.0	3.0	4.0
WDA	4.8	33.0	38.5	38.4	49.4	49.9
TOTAL	838.1	820.6	885.8	979.2	920.2	954.5

*Includes YCC **Includes MMS

6. Safety

There were no lost time accidents in 1995!

Safety films are shown as they are received. Monthly safety meetings covering a variety of topics were also held throughout the year.

Safety training included:
-ATV training at KULM WMD for Jason Lura.
-Basic first aid training and CPR training for the entire staff.
-Brockman attended Aviation Safety training at NPWRC in Jamestown.
-Kresl and Brockman attended training for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act compliance.
-Kresl attended an EMT conference in January to maintain his certification.
-All staff were step-tested prior to spring burn season and viewed videotapes on fire safety. All staff practiced deployment of fire shelters.

Several hundred pounds of old agriculture pesticides from the Hoornaert FMHA-WPA and Woodworth Station were properly disposed of through the ND Department of Agriculture, Project Safe Send.

Safety equipment (respirators, rubber gloves and boots, and tyvek suits) was purchased for pesticide spraying.

Fire extinguishers were checked to ensure proper charge and location.

A press release on water safety issues was completed and distributed after a 14 year old boy drowned when his inflatable raft was swamped by high winds on Durham WPA.

The Aircraft Pre-accident plan was written and distributed as necessary.

A Pesticide storage area with appropriate safety equipment and hazard information was established in the 6-stall garage.

Extensive marking of buildings and fuel storage areas to assist firefighters and emergency responders was completed to HMIS/NFPA specifications.

Brockman and Pabian attended classes necessary to renew their pesticide applicator certification.

7. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance was provided on several township road projects. In most cases easement wetlands were not involved. Where easements were involved the townships decided to avoid all impacts to easement wetlands rather than try to mitigate those impacts.

Staff spent many days attending several Water Resource Board and County Commission meetings to discuss the seemingly never ending "flooding problems". On the flipside, habitat conditions are excellent.

8. Other

Kresl delivered the Refuge Revenue Sharing Check to the Wells County Commissioners. A very pleasant exchange and discussion of our programs ensued for nearly two hours.

Kresl and Pabian attended the Project Leaders meeting and the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meetings in Bismarck during February.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

Most of our habitat management efforts are directed at maintaining upland cover in the best possible condition for nesting waterfowl. Prescribed fire, grazing, haying, farming and rest are the common tools that are used for habitat manipulation. Most fields seeded to dense nesting cover are becoming decadent with undesirable plant species becoming dominant. Most legumes have nearly disappeared from their stands and they are nowhere near as vigorous as they once were. Stutsman County contains 95 WPA's and Wells county has 34 WPA's. They range in size from 0.97 acre to 3013 acres.

In 1995, all of Stutsman County WPA's were field checked and the information was updated into the WPA d-base file. This information is valuable and useful for management purposes and is easier to access using the database file.

Breakdown of WPA Lands in Stutsman and Wells Counties.

Habitat Types	Native grass	Tame/DNC Grass	Wetland	Trees/ Brush	Misc.	Totals
Stutsman	10,863.59	8,221.15	8,076.07	149.41	32.25	27,342.47
Wells	2,220.62	2977.31	2652.34	95.29	29.64	7975.20
Totals	13,084.21	11198.46	10728.41	244.70	61.89	35317.67

2. Wetlands

The lands within the WMD contain some of the highest densities of wetlands in the prairie pothole region. This area is also recognized by many as most productive waterfowl breeding area in the continental U.S. The past three years have seen twice the average precipitation after several years of prolonged drought. The heavy rains have recharged all wetlands. The majority of wetlands were at or above capacity for most of the year. Freeze-up occurred the last week in October, with most wetlands remaining full. Snow pack going into the new year appeared to be sufficient to maintain the wetlands at full capacity for next spring.

Some of the wetlands throughout the WMD became cattail choked over the last several years due to low water conditions. The return of water in 1993 through 1995 appear to have drowned out the majority of the cattail choked wetlands.

A total of 13 wetlands covering 17.9 surface acres on WPA's that had been drained in the past, were restored in 1995. An additional 15 basins and 43.7 acres were identified and will be restored in 1996. These drained wetlands were discovered on WPA's that were purchased as far back as 1963.

The following is a list of WPA's where drained wetlands were restored and identified.

(Some were held in USFWS Fee Title for > 30 years!)

WPA	# of Wetlands	Total Surface Acres	County	Restored
Crystal Lake	2	6.2	Wells	0
Fredrick	1	.8	Wells	0
Pohlman	3	7.0	Wells	0
Barnes Lake	1	2.0	Stutsman	1
Mallard Lake	2	1.5	Stutsman	2
Woodworth	9	12.7	Stutsman	9
Kutz	1	1.7	Stutsman	1
Kost	7	13.1	Wells	0
Northwestern Lake	2	16.6	Stutsman	0
Total	**28**	**61.6**		**13**

4. Croplands

Farming on WPAs is to prepare for grass seedback to replace decadent stands of grasses or newly acquired areas of crop to grass. In the past, most tamegrass renovation was accomplished by breaking out the old grass, cropping for several years and reseeding to DNC. DNC seedings planted in 1994 showed excellent 1995 growth of sweetclover and wheatgrasses.

Wells County WPA's contained 301 acres in cropland. The units with cropland are as follows:

Crystal Lake WPA had 72 acres of DNC seeded with a wheat nurse crop in the NE¼ Section 4. This provides nesting cover adjacent to 12 acres of DU restored wetlands. All prior cropland on this tract has been returned to planted cover.

Bibow WPA had 115 acres of fall seeded rye and DNC planted in August. Excessive moisture from snowmelt and rainfall prevented planting so all management was directed at weed control in anticipation of the fall planting. Approximately 80 acres was sprayed with roundup after tillage or haying. All prior cropland on this tract has been returned to planted cover.

Kost WPA had 114.3 acres farmed under Cooperative Farming Agreement by the previous owner. No-till wheat covered 114.3 acres of the WPA. In exchange for 100% of crop share in 1995, the cooperator will purchase seed and plant all 114 acres to DNC in spring 1996.

Stutsman County WPA's contained 127 acres in cropland. The units with cropland are as follows:

Ackerson WPA had 95 acres planted to wheat. The FWS's share was 25% of the crop baled into large round food bales. This unit was broken out in 1988 as part of the leafy spurge control program. Plans are to seed this field to DNC in 1996.

Rott WPA had 32 acres planted to wheat. This field was broke in 1990 as part of the "Adopt-A-WPA" program by the Stutsman County Wildlife Federation. The club baled up the entire 30 acres into large round food bales used for winter food plots for resident wildlife.

5. Grasslands

There are four main grassland cover types in the Chase Lake WMD: native grassland, seeded natives, DNC, and other tame grasses/legumes.

The farming program is used to rotate tame and DNC fields with croplands. The grazing and burning program is used to invigorate and rejuvenate natives, DNC and tame, while suppressing certain tame grasses such as brome, Kentucky blue, and certain noxious weeds. Haying is used to remove excess litter and for noxious weed control.

The spring of 1995 experienced an explosion of sweetclover across the district. The environmental conditions of 1993 and 1994 appeared to have been suitable to enable sweetclover production. Dense stands of sweetclover were observed across areas where it had not been encountered in the past, and sweetclover planted as part of DNC mixes frequently dominated the stands.

7. Grazing

Frederick-Whipple WPA grazing system in Wells County has been used since 1990. This system was designed to include the 400 acres of ND Game and Fish Wildlife Management Area (WMA) land, which is located between the two WPAs. The system is used to rejuvenate grasslands on the WPA's and WMA. Cells 11,10,6 and 3 were grazed on the WPA's this year, in that order. The stocking rate was 80 cow-calf pairs and 25 dry cows, for 76 days. All planned crossfencing for this grazing system was completed this year, with the installation of one mile of single-strand electric fence.

Foley WPA was grazed with 96 cow-calf pairs for 89 days. The two pastures on this unit were electric cross-fenced and divided into four pastures to separate tame grass from native and to better implement flash grazing on this unit.

Silver Lake WPA was grazed with 30 heifers and 2 bulls for 30 days. Only the north pasture was grazed , as the south pasture was inaccessible, due to high water in Silver Lake.

Three Stutsman County units were grazed for control of leafy spurge, a noxious weed. Ackerson WPA (#400) had approximately 200 acres grazed by 280 ewes with lambs. This unit is divided into three pastures and the cooperator rotates the herd between the cells. The grazing season was from mid-May to mid-Aug.

Tompkins WPA (#20b) had 160 acres grazed by 100 sheep (ewes). Grazing dates were from mid-May thru September. The cross fence planned for construction in 1995 did not materialize and will be considered in 1996.

Wiese WPA (#393) had stocked 40 ewes to graze 55 infested acres. The sheep grazed the WPA from mid-May thru mid-September.

One unit was grazed in Stutsman County for grassland rejuvenation using cattle. Brooks WPA had 81 acres as part of a Mini-Joint Venture Grazing System. This type of system encompasses service owned and private owned land into one grazing system. This enables better management of FWS lands while increasing nesting cover on adjacent private land. The cooperator grazed the WPA for 57 days in 1995 while resting his pasture.

8. Haying

WPA grasslands are hayed to reduce litter accumulation, stimulate new grass growth or control weeds. Twenty-one permits for haying were issued in the WMD in 1995. The majority of the hay was released to cooperators for weed control, primarily wormwood and leafy spurge.

Haying on Waterfowl Production Area's
Chase Lake WMD
1995

County	# of Permits	Acres Hayed
Stutsman	13	372
Wells	8	608
Total	**21**	**980**

Calls for "Wildlife Hay" from area ranchers increased after the majority could not justify the 40% loss required by the ASCS in order to hay Conservation Reserve Program lands (again).

Haying on Ackerson WPA **PHOTO:TMP**

9. Fire Management

A wildfire occurred on Seckerson WPA (Stutsman County 75a) on October 25. Approximately 39 acres were burned, 25 acres of the WPA and 14 on private land. The fire was believed to have started the evening before by a neighboring landowner who was burning his sloughs. The fire crept along a drainage and started the WPA on fire. A neighbor reported the wildfire to the Cleveland RFD who extinguished the flames. CLWMD staff arrived to mop up the scene and investigate the situation.

Two prescribed burns were completed in Wells County on May 5. Schaubert WPA had 36 acres burned and Berg WPA had portions totalling 8 acres burned, both for native grass stand improvement.

Three prescribed burns were completed in Stutsman County. On May 4 1995 CLNWR had 450 acres burned for native grass improvement. Two WPA's Hoffman and Haglund were burned for grassland management. Hoffman was burned on April 24th for 150 acres and Haglund was burned on May 19th for 79 acres.

Aerial view of burned portion of Seckerson WPA
PHOTO:MJB

10. Pest Control

Pesticide Use Proposals and Reports were completed in December 1994 for 1995 and forwarded to the Regional Office.

Both counties have weed officers who are extremely diligent in their leafy spurge control efforts. Cooperation has been increasing between the FWS and the weed officers as long as response to weed complaints are handled quickly.

Jim Neys, Stutsman County Weed Officer, requested our permission to map all weeds on FWS lands in Stutsman County. After several meetings and much discussion, we agreed to let the Stutsman County Weed Board hire a mutually agreed upon technician to do the job. No action ever resulted

Waterfowl Production Area's sprayed for Leafy Spurge Control 1995.

County	# of WPA's	Acres Sprayed
Stutsman	9	26
Wells	2	55
Total	**11**	**81**

In addition, Roundup Herbicide was applied on 36 acres on North Barnes Lake WPA, 40 acres on Rott WPA and 15 acres on Woodworth WPA in preparation for grass plantings in 1995.

Several WPA's in Wells County have release sites of spurge eating flea beetles (Apthona spp). These insectary sites were established through cooperation with the Wells County Weed Board and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and independently by the CLWMD. 1995 sweeping of the 1992 release site resulted in capture of several Apthona cyparissiae, the species of beetle released in July, 1992. Beetles were located up to 80 yards away from the release site. We hope to collect from this site and redistribute to other sites in 1996, both public and private land. Spread of beetles from their release sites will allow us to reduce the amount of area which requires chemical application, which is the primary goal of our bio-control program.

As a result of an aggressive bio-control emphasis from 1992 to 1995, 31 bio-control sites have been established on fee-owned land in Wells county and over 51,000 insects of 6 species have been released.

A Special Use Permit, #83954, was issued to Sarah Vogel, Commissioner of Agriculture, to develop a field insectary site to raise flea beetles (Apthona lacertosa) for noxious weed control, leafy spurge, on Northwestern Lake WPA, Stutsman County.

Stem counts for leafy spurge were conducted on June 13, 1995 and June 21, 1995 in Wells County. Six sites showed a decrease of stems ranging from 15 to 211%. 4 sites showed an increase in stem counts, ranging from 17 to 74% . One site showed no change.The control site on Bjertness WPA where no insects have been released showed an increase of 85% in 1994 and an increase of only 67% in 1995. Normal chemical control has been used here.

There are 50 established Bio-Control release sites in Chase Lake WMD. All beetles were obtained from the Department of Agriculture or are part of a research project.

In addition to the flea beetle release sites already established in the WMD, 19 release sites of Apthona czwalinae/lacertosa and 2 sites of the gall midge, Spurgia esula were established in 1995. Eight release sites of Apthona nigriscutis which were established in 1994 were supplemented in 1995 with 1000 additional beetles each.

We are optimistic that these releases of bio-control agents will help us reduce our spraying of chemical, whose only effect is to slow the spread of spurge and pacify weed boards and neighbors.

The Ackerson WPA, a 320 acre unit in Stutsman County, was treated with cooperative farming and grazing. Approximately one-half of the 160 acres of tame grass is infested with spurge. Some 95 acres of wheat was produced on ground previously cultivated for spurge control. This year, the cooperator alternated 280 sheep with lambs between the three pastures to ensure control of the spurge with very little grass consumption. Grazing was from mid-May thru Aug in this system.

The following table lists the release sites in 1995 for Stutsman County.

WPA	Species	quantity	# Sites
Hawks Nest	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	35,000	3
Chase Lake NWR	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	20,000	5
Northwestern Lake	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	30,000	6
Van Ray Isle	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	15,000	1
Mt. Moriah	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	30,000	1
Lake Louise Isle	A.Lacertosa/Czwalinae	20,000	3
TOTAL		**150,000**	**19**

WELLS COUNTY RELEASE SITES 1995			
WPA	**SPECIES**	**Quantity**	**# Sites**
Bremen	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	10,000	5
Bremen Slough	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	9,000	5
Valhalla	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	8,000	4
Ambers	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	4,000	2
Sorenson	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	4,000	2
Valhalla	A. nigriscutis	4,000	4
Ambers	A. nigriscutis	1,000	1
Sorenson	A. nigriscutis	2,000	2
Bjertness	A. nigriscutis	1,000	1
Ehni	Spurgia esula	****	2
Ehni	A. lacertosa/czwalinae	2,000	1
Total		**45,000**	**29**

(**** Spurgia Esula are released in the form of galled spurge stems. The gall contains the egg mass for the insect, which completes many life cycles in a given year. A quantitative number released, is therefore impossible).

11. Water Rights

The requirements for two perfected water permits on Indian Hills WDA were met. In 1993, requests for perfected water permits were forwarded to the State Engineer through the Regional Office. In December 1995 we were still awaiting inspection by the State Engineer.

Maintenance to water control structures on Indian Hills WDA, Pipestone WDA, and Crystal Lake WPA was required several times during the summer to plug leaks between poorly fitting stoplogs.

A 24 inch addition to the CMP riser on the control structure for wetland 80.3, Sweetgrass WDA, was installed to fully restore the wetland.

Water Management Reports and State Water Commission Annual Water Reports were completed by Brockman in January, 1996.

12. Wilderness and Special Area

Chase Lake NWR consists of 4,385 acres, of which 4,155 acres are designated Wilderness Area. Chase Lake proper comprises 2,053 acres of the wilderness area, leaving 2,102 acres of upland with a couple of scattered wetlands. Topography is steep to rolling, with the lake being the lowest point. The lake has no outlet and is highly alkaline. Two islands, seven and nine acres, are occupied by thousands of nesting white pelicans, gulls, and double-crested cormorants. During time of low water conditions, a third island appears and is heavily used by shore birds.

A newly hatched pelican on the CLNWR pennisula.

PHOTO:TMP

13. Waterfowl Production Easement Monitoring

Brockman and Kresl met with Special Agent Kraft and Klett to discuss open easement cases and permits. Kresl and SA Kraft met with a landowner to discuss the closing of an easement permit. This is a very ugly easement case involving at least five different parties, a road, house, and of course "flooded cropland".

Brockman and Jacobs flew easements in the east half of Stutsman County after a good snow melt. One fill, one buried steel tile, and two dozer ditch drained wetlands were identified and ground checked the next day. A restoration agreement was arrived at after much discussion with the landowner and operator.

Easement maps were updated by Gleason in January and corrected for Stutsman and Wells county after mistakes were found on older maps.

In Wells county, one drainage case and two burn cases were investigated.

In Stutsman county, 8 drainage violations three burn violations and five fill violations were investigated, all cases except one fill were closed by year's end..

Significant progress has been made in relations with the NRCS District Conservationist in both Wells and Stutsman counties. In 1994, all certified wetland maps which are maintained by USDA-NRCS in Wells County were stamped "Easement" if a USFWS wetland easement or FMHA conservation easement covered all or part of the individual section. This was also done to the Stutsman county maps in 1995. This has helped reduce drain maintenance, which must have scope and effect review by NRCS, on easement tracts where maintenance is prohibited.

Eight easement permits were issued in the WMD in 1995. Most were easement burn permits or temporary permits to alleviate road or farmstead flooding problems. One permit was issued for construction of a livestock dugout.

Six and 5/10 hours of flight time, 60 staff days at a cost of $10,668.50 was spent on Waterfowl Production Easement monitoring and enforcement action in 1995. This includes flight time, ground checks, and file documentation.

Staff also attended most meetings of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board. Attendance at these meetings has helped stop several projects which would negatively impact easement wetlands.

Easement Monitoring - 2 Year Summary

Violation	**1995**	**1994**
Scraper Ditch	10	13
Buried tile	2	0
Fill	4	5
Burn	5	69
Total	**21**	**87**
Staff Days	**60**	**59**
Total Costs	**$10,668**	**$9,704**

G. WILDLIFE

1. Wildlife Diversity

A diverse habitat base exists in the WMD that supports a variety of wildlife species. Native prairie, seeded natives and various mixes of tame grasses and legumes can be found. Excellent wetland complexes still exist, especially on the Missouri Coteau. Large areas of CRP have been established in the WMD and these have contributed to an increase in grassland associated species. None was found.

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

Piping plover surveys have been conducted at Stink Lake on Crystal Springs WPA, Mud Lake WPA and Chase Lake NWR in Stutsman County in past years. In 1995 habitat for piping plovers was inundated due to high water conditions throughout the district.

Peregrine falcons and bald eagles migrate through the district and several sightings of each did occur in 1995.

Whooping cranes have been sighted in the past years in the district, but none were sighted in 1995.

3. Waterfowl

On March 13, 1995, Canada geese were observed on the Woodworth WPA. The twenty year average for first Canadas sighted is March 16. Mallards were observed on March 13 and Pintails on the 15th. Snow geese were observed on March 21 with full migration in swing.

Due to excellent water conditions throughout the district, breeding pairs were abundant. Every pond seemed to contain several pairs of ducks.

The first brood observed was on May 26, with a Mallard hen and 8 IA's ducklings.

Nest searches were also conducted by CLWMD staff on a variety of islands, peninsulas, predator fences and fields, both on private and public lands. The information collected serves as baseline data for future monitoring.

Samples of the data collected is as follows:

Site	Acre	Mall	Pint	Gadwall	BWT	Shov	Readhead	Lesser Scaup	Canada Goose	Wigeon	May Succ
Van Ray's Island	.9	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	88%
Haglund WPA Island	17	18	4	13	4	2	2	2	1	1	57%

As part of the Lake Audubon Compatibility Plan for island replacement, Stutsman County was selected as one of the counties recommended for island construction by the Bureau of Reclamation. A total of eight WPA's were recommended for islands. They are as follows: Gilbert, Schuler, Blue Lake, Zimmerman, Heib, Matthews, Durham (two), and Crystal Springs. A re-evaluation of sites will be completed before final site selection is made. A coordination meeting was held in February with BOR, but no final decision has been made.

Reconstruction started on three predator exclosures fences funded by Ducks Unlimited in 1995. The fences were originally built for research in the early 1980's and have not been functional since the mid 80's.

Scattered flocks of small Canada geese and a few snow geese were present in the WMD for the opening of goose season. Ducks appeared to be fairly plentiful throughout the season. The major flocks of snow geese by-passed our area. Overall, hunting pressure was light throughout the season.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

Fair numbers of greater and lesser sandhill cranes could be found in the western part of the WMD during spring and fall migrations. Cranes were first sighted on April 2. Western Stutsman and southwestern Wells counties are used very heavily by cranes during migration.

White pelicans were first observed on April 19, tundra swans on April 1 and great blue herons on April 18th . White pelicans and double-crested cormorants from the breeding colonies at Chase Lake NWR are seen frequently feeding in wetlands in the WMD.

Results of the annual aerial survey on nesting white pelicans on Chase Lake NWR for 1995 showed a total of 9,180 nests on the two islands and for the first time ever recorded on the peninsula. This is the highest count since 1972 when surveys were first recorded. The 1972-1994 average for the survey is 5,586. The lowest count was in 1974 when 3,082 nest were tallied, while 1993 had the second highest count with 8,553 nest counted.

Chase Lake White Pelican Colony Nesting Effort
1989-1995

Year	Small Island	Large Island	Peninsula	Total
1989	2313	4316	0	6629
1990	1824	3960	0	5784
1991	No survey	No survey	0	No survey
1992	2564	3412	0	5976
1993	3472	5081	0	8553
1994	4308	4237	0	8545
1995	1797	3888	3495	9180

Nesting colonies of eared-grebes have been found on the Mud Lake and Cleveland Slough WPA's in Stutsman County. No checks were made in 1995 to determine if any colonies existed in the district.

Soras and Virginia rails, pied-billed grebes, American bitterns, great blue herons, and black-crowned night herons all nest in the WMD, although not in any substantial numbers or in concentrated areas.

Sora Rail located on VanRay rotational grazing system.
Photo: NG

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

Numerous species of shorebirds use the WMD during the spring and fall migration. High water conditions inundated the majority of shorebird habitat in 1995.

Willets were observed on April 28, Killdeer on April 14th, Lesser Yellowlegs on April 21, American Avocets on March 17th, and Common Snipe on March 18th. Willets, marbled godwits, upland sandpipers, and Wilson's phalaropes, nest in the WMD. These species prefer open native prairie with grasses that are fairly short. Common snipe, greater and lesser yellowlegs can be seen throughout the WMD with snipe being a relatively common breeding species. Killdeer, common terns and American avocets are very common breeding species. Nesting avocets are encountered quite often on islands. Four avocet and 26 common tern nests were recorded on Stink Lake Island, while eight avocet and 14 common tern nest were recorded on Redlin's Islands. Nesting records and observations are not consistently recorded.

Franklin's gulls and black terns have nested in the WMD, but searches have not been conducted for these species. California and ring-billed gulls also nest in the WMD. There are several thousand nesting at the islands on Chase Lake NWR.

6. Raptors

Red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, northern harriers, American kestrels and great-horned owls are common nesting species in the WMD. Ferruginous hawks and short-eared owls nest in the WMD, but are not considered common. On March 13, northern harriers were observed in relatively large numbers migrating.

Female Northern Harrier PHOTO:NG

Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks are seen occasionally in the WMD, as are goshawks and prairie falcons. Even more infrequent are observations of burrowing owls, which are known to nest in the district.

7. Other Migratory Birds

Two mourning dove survey routes are censused in the WMD. The Harvey Route is handled by ND Game & Fish Personnel, while the Carrington Route is handled by Arrowwood staff. One route is in Foster/Wells counties (Carrington), handled by Arrowwood staff while the other one is in Wells/Sheridan counties (Harvey) and is handled by ND Game & Fish personnel. Staff from Chase Lake conducts a survey in Kidder County for Long Lake WMD.

Total number of individual doves heard calling by route during 1987-1995.

Year	Harvey Route	Carrington Route
1987	46	52
1988	68	78
1989	57	77
1990	57	69
1991	76	76
1992	20	45
1993	40	33
1994	**	24
1995	33	16
Ave.	50	52

** Indicates survey completed incorrectly.

8. Game Mammals

White-tailed deer are common throughout the WMD. General observations indicate that the deer herd in the district is thriving. The large amount of CRP in the district and several easy winters have had a significant effect on the deer herd. CRP provides large areas of fawning areas and escape cover. Hunting success rates still remain high, close to 80% for this area. With an increasing herd size and several winter storms in winter of 1993-94, the deer began attacking haystacks and silage piles. This prompted many landowners to call the office seeking assistance. Their calls were forwarded to the ND Game & Fish Department when applicable. Reports of starving and dying deer were common throughout the WMD.

Occasional moose sightings are reported for the WMD, but no special effort is made to verify these sightings.

Several reports of antelope generally occur in the WMD. Sightings of these animals are rare.

Red fox, raccoon, and striped skunk, the three major nest predators, are abundant throughout the WMD. Coyotes are increasing in some areas and badgers and mink are also fairly common.

Muskrats were virtually non-existent throughout the district, due to prolonged drought, except along the river systems. With the water now back, there has been an increase in numbers and are hopeful the numbers will keep rising.

Thirteen-lined, Richardson's and Franklin's ground squirrels are also found in the WMD in great numbers. Short-tailed and least weasels, porcupines, cottontail and white-tailed jack rabbits are found throughout the WMD, but are not all that common.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

Hungarian (gray) partridge, sharp-tailed grouse and ring-necked pheasant are the common game birds in the WMD. It appears that the combination of several severe winters and the extremely wet, cool summers have had negative impact on their populations, with sightings reduced in 1995 as compared to 1993. The sharp-tailed grouse appeared to have fared the best of the three.

Lek surveys for sharp tailed grouse were attempted on several WPA's in Stutsman County, but un-cooperative weather prevailed and no counts were completed. Birds were observed on leks on several WPA's including: Chase Lake, Woodworth, Mt. Moriah and Beck.

Local wildlife clubs have contracted with local landowners for food plots and have placed food bales in many areas of the county for resident wildlife. The ND Game and Fish Department has also been responsible for establishing many food plots on CRP lands through the district.

11. Fisheries Resources

There are three WPA's in the WMD that contain a fishery. Two of the WPA's are in Stutsman County, Barnes Lake and Crystal Springs, while the third WPA is in Wells County, Crystal Lake WPA.

A portion of the shoreline of Barnes Lake in Stutsman County is owned in fee title. The lake itself is a meandered body of water. The walleye fishery in this lake was at one time excellent. Northern pike and yellow perch also existed. The lake level was extremely low as a result of no spring runoff and below normal precipitation for several years. Winter and/or summerkill during 1992 virtually eliminated all game fish in the lake. The ND Game & Fish Department began re-stocking programs for the lake in 1994 and continued in 1995.

Crystal Springs WPA contains the second fishery in Stutsman County. The lake has maintained sufficient water levels through the drought years as it is spring fed. The ND Game & Fish Department also completed a stocking program for 1995. Northern Pike were the only species in which NDG&F stocked for 1995 in an ongoing study to of different stocking rate numbers per acre of water. Crystal Springs has an abundant bullhead population and Northern Pike were stocked to experiment to see if bullheads would suffice for forage of Northern Pike.

Fish Stockings for WPA's in 1995

Lake	Date	Fish species	Quantity	Size
Barnes	May 27	Northern Pike	26,000	fingerlings
Barnes	June 16	Yellow perch	25,300	fingerlings
Barnes	June 20	Walleye	8,000	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	May 27	Northern Pike	7,200	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	June 4	Northern Pike	13,000	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	June 7	Northern Pike	6,525	fingerlings
Crystal Springs	Sept 29	Fat-head Minnows	4,000	Adult

The third fishery is located in west central Wells County on the Crystal Lake WPA. This 30.8 acre feet reservoir was inherited when the WPA was purchased. It is unknown if the reservoir still contains a fishery, but at one time it held perch and bullheads.

15. Animal Control

Blackbird depredation complaints are received regularly in the late summer and fall. These are referred to USDA - Animal Damage Control for action. As part of the FWS Partner's for Wildlife program, we can work with private landowners to reduce suitable blackbird roosting sites in cattail choked wetlands. The district also has several propane exploders for loan to area farmers experiencing damage from blackbirds, waterfowl or crane.

Predator control activities in the WMD are conducted on several areas to increase waterfowl production. Areas trapped with catch include:

Area	Raccoon	Skunk	Franklins Ground Squirrel	TOTAL
Van Ray Isle	-	-	-	0
Stink Lake Isle	2	-	-	2
Hoffman Fence	2	-	-	2
Haglund Isle	1	-	-	1
CLNWR Fence	0	-	7	7
L.Louise Isle	-	-	-	0
Theisen Fence	2	1	-	0
Walsh Fence	-	1	-	1
Total	**7**	**1**	**7**	**13**

Only two complaints were received in 1995 for waterfowl feeding in unharvested swathes of small grain in the Woodworth area. Two Propane exploders and three dozen black flagging were loaned out to the farmer until all grain was harvested.

17. Disease Prevention and Control

Several WPAs in the WMD are traditional botulism outbreak areas. All of the wetlands with a history of botulism outbreaks were checked several times throughout late summer. No die-offs were recorded.

Gleason assisted Kulm WMD for two days in August picking up botulism stricken waterfowl. Bohn also spent about one week in August assisting at Horsehead Lake in an effort to control the die off.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Pabian and Brockman attended NDG&F advisory board meeting in Valley City. Attendance was low and the new format was poorly received

3. Outdoor Classroom - Teachers

Brockman helped conduct the Whale Workshop, a Project WILD activity. The Workshop was given for 12 teachers at Sykeston.

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations

Pabian and Brockman set up an exhibit on the USFWS at the Jamestown Ducks Unlimited Green Wing Fun Night. One hundred and forty kids attended.

The Crystal Springs rest area on I-94 in western Stutsman County receives heavy use and the wildlife/wetlands interpretive exhibit that we have located there receives over 1,000 visits a month during the peak summer tourist season.

Two interpretive panels were installed at the CLNWR Pass providing attractive information on the refuge and pelicans at the Watchable Wildlife Site. Two more signs will be added in 1996.

Interpretive Panel At CLNWR **Photo:TMP**

7. Other Interpretive Programs

January - Kresl and Pabian gave a CLWMD/CLPP talk to 12 research students from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point . The group was volunteering at NPSC Woodworth Station. Staff attended various wildlife club meetings, Chase Lake Ducks Unlimited Banquet, and the Stutsman County Wildlife Club banquet.

February - Brockman taught portions of the ND Hunter Safety Course in Woodworth. Various staff attended Stutsman County Wildlife Club meeting, United Sportsman of Jamestown Banquet, and the Woodworth Wildlife Club meeting. Kresl et al. Completed a paper for presentation at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. It deals with the NAWMP, PPJV, CLPP and other projects.

March - Kresl presented a paper on the NAWMP/PPJV/CLPP at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in the cities. Pabian and Kresl attended the annual meeting of the Chase Lake Foundation. Pabian and Brockman helped out with the Jamestown Ducks Unlimited Green Wing Fun Night. At least 140 kids had a screaming good time. Brockman attended a planning session for instructors for the upcoming North Dakota Wildlife Federation Summer Camp. Some staff attended wildlife meetings in Woodworth, Jamestown, and Medina.

April - Kresl was interviewed by Babe Winkleman Productions on the value of wetlands and the CLPP. Brockman helped conduct Whale Workshop. All the staff participated in the Prairie Pothole Chapter of DU Annual fundraiser at Woodworth. Staff attended Stutsman County Wildlife club meeting.

May - Pabian and Lex Hames of NDG&F, began filming the pelican colony at CLNWR for a upcoming story on the weekly TV feature by NDG&F. Scott Krause and the Jamestown Sun proudly and enthusiastically accepted the 1994 PPJV Communication Award presented to them by Pabian. A feature story followed in the Jamestown Sun. Pabian was interviewed by Tony Dean Productions about the nesting pelicans at CLNWR. The story aired on two consecutive radio programs and resulted in a lot of interest in viewing opportunities by the general public. Kresl led a tour of CLPP NAWCA projects with Dave Weaver, Grants Administrator, NAWWO, and Bob Meeks of DU.

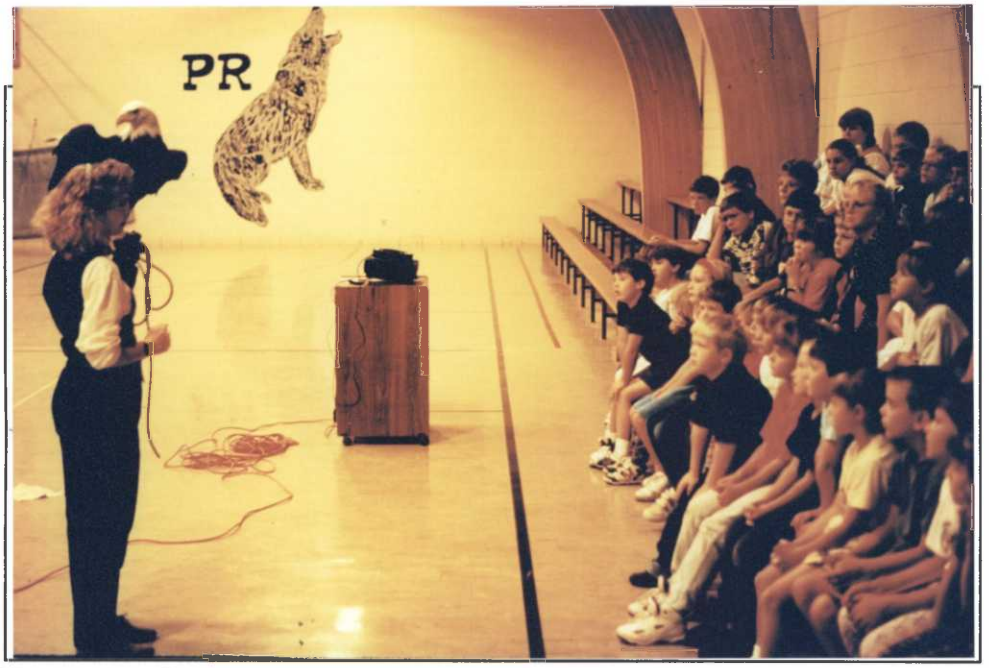
Left To Right: Bob Meeks(DU), Joe Heupel(landowner), Dave Weaver(USFWS-NAWO), Steve Kresl(USFWS-CL), and Kevin Willis(USFWS-BIS) visting Ray Heuples Wetland Restoration.

June - Pabian and Kresl were interviewed by the Jamestown Sun about the nesting white pelicans at CLNWR. The resulting front page story and subsequent statewide AP coverage generated many calls and comments from the public. Pabian and Lex Hanes, NDG&F, visited the white pelican colony to video tape a feature story for the weekly NDG&F Outdoors series. Pabian and Jacobs gave a tour of selected WPA's and private lands projects with four biologists from DU Canada. Brockman wrote a press release on water safety for the Harvey Herald.

July - Jacobs and Pietruszewski attended the Wells County Water Resource Board meeting. Jacobs informed the group about the Partners for Wildlife Program. Chase Lake was visited by the Medicine Lake staff on their annual tour of refuges and WMD's. A pelican story which was recently aired on TV brings continued interest to the CLNWR.

August - A successful tour for a Congressional Interior/Agriculture Appropriations Chief of Staff, Washington Office staffing from DU and IAFWA, ARD Ladd and PPJV coordinator Lively was given by Kresl and Pabian about CLPP and the refuge. A tour was given by Pietruszewski and Jacobs to SDSU graduate class on Partners for Wildlife program. An in depth tour of CLPP was given to Kathleen Rude, Outdoor writer for PPJV by Kresl. A slide show presentation was given by Gleason to a Jamestown Church group on CLPP and the CLNWR.

September - Gleason and Pabian set up "Eagle Days" presentation put on by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center for three elementary schools in the district. A USFWS National Wetland Conservation Award was presented by Kresl to Latish Malting Co. At the Jamestown DU banquet. Over 450 people were in attendance. The first annual Woodworth Waterfowl festival and ND State Duck Calling Championship was held in Woodworth on Sept. 23, it was considered a huge success. The festival was coordinated by Woodworth Betterment Committee and staff from the WMD and the Bismarck WHO assisted with the planning and setting up with the Waterfowl events.

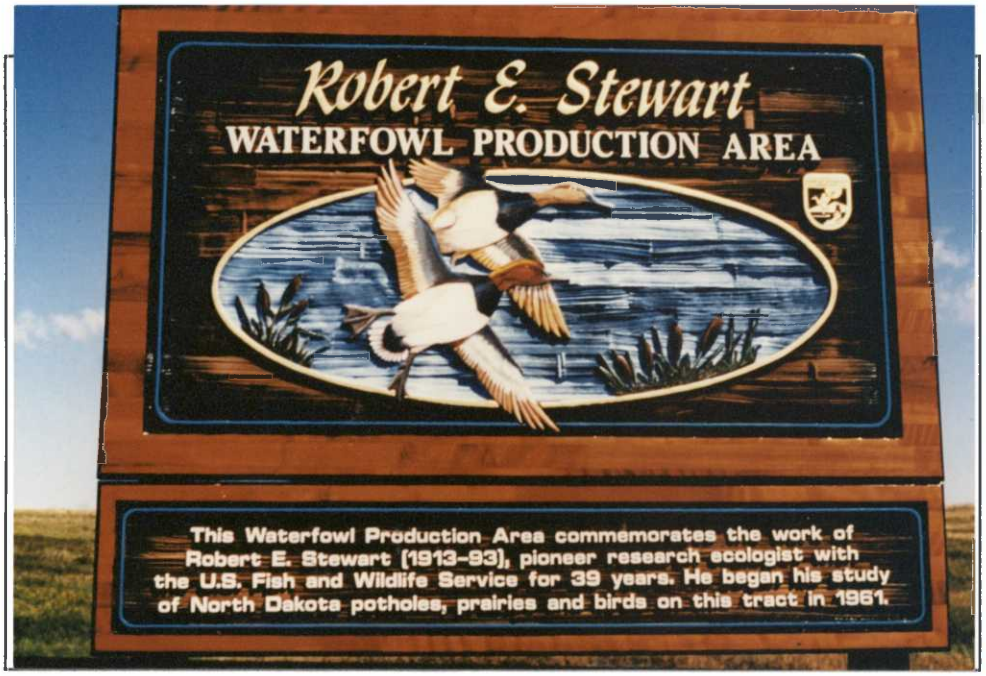


"Eagle Day" Presentation **PHOTO: TMP**

October- The CLPP leaflet was received from the publishers. The leaflet was written by Kathleen Rude an outdoor writer who has a special knack for writing complicated subjects in a way everyone can understand. Kresl and Ron Shupe, RO attended the dedication and renaming of Mt. Moriah WPA to the Robert E. Stewart, SR WPA. NPSC put together a nice tribute from the "pioneers" at NPSC and also erected an attractive sign and stone on the site. Mike McEnroe from Bismarck WHO office gave the Migratory Bird Coordinators and Flyway Reps a tour of several CLPP projects.

Judging Decoy Carving Contest at Woodworth Waterfowl Festival. PHOTO:TMP

Duck Calling Contest at Waterfowl Festival.
PHOTO: MJB



Dedication sign for Robert E. Stewart on Mt. Moriah WPA.
PHOTO:TMP

November - Pabian attended Stutsman County Water Resource Board Meeting. Some staff also attended United Sportsman of ND, Jamestown Chapter monthly meeting and NAG&F advisory board meeting in Valley City.

December - Kresl represented the USFWS/Region 6 at the USFWS Ecological Stewardship meeting in AZ. Adopt-A-Pothole news releases were sent out to area newspapers and in CFSA newsletters explaining the program. Gleason wrote an article for PPJV about the current neotropical/waterfowl research project on rotational grazing systems in CLPP and NCP.

8. Hunting

Waterfowl production areas in the WMD are used extensively by upland game, waterfowl, and big game hunters.

Opening weekends generally see the heaviest pressure, although the deer gun season receives heavy pressure during the entire season.

9. Fishing

Several fisheries exist in the district but no attempts are made to monitor the populations or success of the fisherman.

10. Trapping

Waterfowl Production Areas are open for public trapping in accordance with state regulations. No special permits are needed. Interest in trapping has diminished considerably in the past several years. Low fur prices have certainly had a major impact on the trapping effort. Some of the old die-hards are still trapping, but they are definitely in the minority. The furbearer populations throughout the WMD are quite high and they are having a significant impact on ground nesting birds. In some areas red fox are at record high levels. More trappers and a stronger trapping effort could play a beneficial role in reducing the number of mammalian nest predators.

15. Off-Road Vehicling

Unauthorized use of motor vehicles on WPAs is a problem that never seems to end and is almost unsolvable without intensive law enforcement efforts. Signs, fences, and news releases all seem to do little good.

17. Law Enforcement

Kresl and Brockman attended the Annual Law Enforcement Refresher in Tucson, Arizona in January.

Law enforcement requalifications were completed by Kresl at Upper Souris and Brockman in Miller, SD.

Brockman and Kresl assisted the NDG&F with a hunter road check on Hwy 281 north of Jamestown. Six overbag cases were made along with a considerable amount of minor violations including open intoxicant in Motor vehicle- these were handled by NDSP.

Kresl participated in the "Mother of all Road Blocks" held on I-80 in North Platte, Nebraska.

Waterfowl violations written by Kresl in Oct. Included: 2 lead shot, 2 unplugged shotguns, and 1 overbag (pintails).

Brockman assisted Dick Knapp (ND Game and Fish) and Mark Vaniman (Arrowwood NWR)with an overbag and wanton waste RAP case. The suspect had an urge to ground pound 7 Ruddy ducks and 2 hen shovelers on Des Moines Lake. The victims were blissfully enjoying a last meal on a bathtub size opening when 3 ten gauge rounds interrupted their pre-migration party. The hunter refused a generous offer of a nearby hunters boat to retrieve his trophies, which is why there was a witness to testify. SA Klett cited the individual for 9 counts of wanton waste and 4 counts over bag limit.

Hunting pressure for waterfowl was relatively light, compared to the amount of birds in the area.

18. Cooperating Associations

A sixteen row/12,000 linear feet habitat plot of shrubs and trees was planted, weeded and weed barrier laid down at Chicago Lake WPA. Cost ($6,000) and labor was provided by the United Sportsman of Jamestown in August of 1995. This reclaimed the old farmstead site/feed lot/ weed patch and eye sore we cleaned up in 1994.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. New Construction

Two 1000 gallon above ground ASTs were ordered and received for petroleum storage. One is used for gasoline and the other is split into two 500 gallon compartments with separate dispensers, for number one and two diesel.

A concrete pad was poured behind the office to provide a level spot for the travel trailer, used for volunteer housing. A 4 inch sewage disposal line was also installed from the pad to the septic tank .

The volunteers new "Pad". Trailer was excessed nearly brand new from FEMA in 1993. PHOTO:MJB

A 124 foot deep, 5 inch water well was drilled by Huron Drilling adjacent to the office to replace the cistern as our source of domestic water. The well drilling went very smoothly but numerous problems were encountered while attempting to hook the well to the existing distribution system. Water bearing gravel was encountered in several locations which made for very difficult trenching and line placement at the seven feet below grade level required for a frostproof line. Several line breaks occurred due to use of a mechanical tamping device on top of the 2 inch PVC line. Successful hookup and water delivery finally occurred on November 8 after several days of snow and below freezing temperatures. The well water is extremely high in iron and poor in taste, but much safer from contaminants than the existing surface water cistern.

With the exponential increase in expensive office equipment and lack of a permanent resident on Woodworth station, It was decided that additional security measures should be implemented. A Scantronix 6000 alarm system with door protection and motion detectors was purchased and installed in the headquarters office. In addition, motion detector floodlamps were installed on both sides of the headquarters and two photocell switched security lamps were installed, one on the office and one at the new petroleum storage area adjacent to the six-stall garage.

2. Rehabilitation

In order to increase available office space at the WMD office, an MMS project was initiated in 1994 to convert the garage into enclosed office space. Most of the rough carpentry work was completed in 1994 and finish work. painting, trim and carpet installation was completed soon after the new year began. Three staff members were moved from the basement, which did not meet fire codes or accessibility requirements. to the new space, on February 21.

The Arrowwood Complex Maintenance Staff, Wolsky and Somsen, and CLPP staff members Brockman and Jacobs improved the road to the quonset and six-stall and graveled the road to the anticipated site of the new office. Two culverts were placed and the road was raised one to two feet for approximately one-half mile.

CLPP staff also hauled rock and gravel to several sites on the township road leading to the office. This was necessary to ensure safe travel through flooded areas.

The seasonal work force spent many days completing boundary checks and replacing WPA signs as needed.

A new over head garage door was installed in the Quonset to replace the bent sliding doors which would not open in the winter. A walk through service door, four electrical outlets overhead lighting and electric door opener were also installed. This project greatly increased our winter storage for large equipment.

Additional electrical outlets for vehicle heaters were installed on the front wall, both inside and out, of the 6-stall garage.

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement,

A Contrail C-20 pintle hitch trailer was purchased to replace the old Wisconsin three axle equipment trailer. This piece of equipment is essential for hauling heavy equipment, tractors for roadside mowing and large roundbales used for deer depredation control.

Our new Contrail C-20 equipment trailer. PHOTO:MJB

The latest edition to the CLPP fleet. PHOTO:MJB

A 1995 Jeep Cherokee 4 door was received and outfitted for use by the refuge manager.

A 1991 Chevrolet S-10 was received as excess from Madison WMD in South Dakota. The truck required tire replacement on its arrival, but otherwise is a fine unit.

A 1987 Chevrolet 1/2 ton diesel 4X4 was excessed for $4700.

The 1978 Case W-14 1.5 yard, 4x4 articulating payloader required several electrical system repairs, air brake valve rebuilding and battery and starter replacement.

The 1981 International 1800 4X4 dumptruck required front axle seal replacement, cooling system repair ,air brake system repairs, replacement of horns and horn switches, installation of radios, heater control repairs, and hoist hydraulic system leak repairs.
The 1971 GMC tiltbed truck required exhaust system, lighting and PTO system repairs. The chain storage box on this unit was also replaced.

A 1971 JD 310 backhoe-loader was received as excess from Valentine NWR. Rear end gearbox repairs were required and the fuel injection pump requires rebuilding but otherwise, this is a fine unit.

Several frame and hitch repairs were made to the JD 350 sickle bar mower used for weed control. This has been a high maintenance item in the hands of inexperienced operators.

The JD 1008 rotary mower required several blade replacements ,and cutter bar, clutch and powershaft replacement due to faulty clutch adjustment and mowing in fields which grow rocks as well as they grow weeds.

The 1984 Yamaha 2X4 ATV was traded in on a new Kawasaki 400 4X4 ATV

A Bushhog tow behind(ATV) mower was purchased for firebreak construction and predator fence vegetation management.

6. Computer Systems

Several new pieces of computer equipment were purchased in 1995:

* 2 Gateway 2000 486 computer purchased on 6/2/95 and 8/8/95.
* Toshiba Satellite 486 notebook computer paid for by RO on 9/95.
* Gateway Nomad Notebook Computer, used, transferred from RO.
* Hewlett Packard printer purchased on 8/21/95.

8. Other

Purchased a Fellows PS 70 Shedder which will be used to shred sensitive documents so they may be recycled.

Printer Sharing device which is almost as much work as it is useful.

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Cooperative Programs

Brockman attended the Pipestem Creek Watershed and Upper Sheyenne River Improvement Project meeting for Wells County to discuss our programs and how we may be able to help the process.

Pabian took NDG&FD representatives Renhowe, Link and Kietzman on a tour of the Chase Lake cooperative management area for a briefing on the issues and background information.

Private Lands Program

The Partners for Wildlife Program (PFW) at Chase Lake Prairie Project (CLPP) developed 27 agreements with landowners in the project area in 1995. The program restored 14 wetland basins for a total of 51.6 acres at the cost of $8,864 (average of $172/acre). A total of 6 wetlands were created for a total of 57.9 acres for the cost of $8,511 (average of $276/acre). Cattail control projects totaled 98 acres at the cost of $1,816 (average of $18.53/acre).

WETLAND PROJECTS:

Type of Project	#of Landowners	Basins	Acres	Cost
Wetland Restoration*	10	14	51.6	$8,864
Wetland Creation	6	6	57.9	$8,511
Total	**16**	**20**	**109.5**	**$17,375**

*Wetland restorations on Waterfowl Production Area's totaled 9 basins for 65.9 acres.

UPLAND PROJECTS:

Type of Project	#of Landowners	Acres	Cost
Native seeding	1	47	$2,425
Tame grass seeding	1	63	$1,644
Grazing Systems	9	4,842	$32,438
Total	**11**	**4,952**	**$36,507**

With the approval of the North American Wetlands Conservation Grant CLPP II, we broke new ground in getting a position funded through the grant. This position was filled by Donovan Pietruszewski who came on board 4/17/95.

Wetland creation in Fall of 95. **PHOTO: RB**

Same wetland creation following spring. **PHOTO: RB**

Substantial amount of work was done on Redlin's, Barne's and Hoffman predator fences (private land) to get them up and running before nesting season. Grass on all three fences were shorting out the hot wires. Solution was to use weed eaters to remove the grass and then use pramitol to keep the grass from shorting them out later.

Rotational Grazing Monitoring Study:

In an effort to gain more knowledge about the wildlife benefits of rotational grazing systems, CLPP and the Northern Coteau Project (NCP) teamed up to implement a neotropical bird study in 1995. The study was designed by Dr. Robert K. Murphy, a biologist at Des Lacs NWR and was funded mainly by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV).

Lecontes Sparrow on Bart Davis Rotational Grazing System. Photo:NG

Gleason conducted counts on five rotational grazing systems within the CLPP. Each rotational grazing systems was designed with 12-14 points per grazing system. Each point consisted of a 100 m radius in which breeding birds were recorded. Point Counts were taken a half hour before sunrise to 8:00am in the months of May and June. An index based on behavioral cues was also used to help determine reproductive success in the months of July and August. Several different types of vegetation sampling were recorded throughout the months of June and July for habitat assessment.

Preliminary data showed 26 different breeding bird species (excluding waterfowl) within the CLPP grazing System. The study will be expanded in 1996 to hopefully include waterfowl, shorebirds, gamebirds, raptors and control areas.

List of breeding neotropical passerines and shorebirds found on grazing systems:

Species	Number
Redwing Blackbird	7
Western Kingbird	1
Common Snipe	2
Marbled Godwit	3
Willet	6
Upland Sandpiper	12
Mourning Dove	1
Eastern Kingbird	29
Willow Flycatcher	3
Bobolink	30
Brown headed Cowbird	77
American Goldfinch	2
Chestnut Collared Longspur	47
Savannah Sparrow	59
Bairds Sparrow	16
Grasshopper Sparrow	107
Leconte's Sparrow	5
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1
Clay colored Sparrow	73
Song Sparrow	7
Yellow Warbler	9
Common Yellowthroat	5
Sprague Pipit	4
Sedge Wren	10
Western Meadowlark	31
Vesper Sparrow	5
Total	**552**

North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF):

Rick Bohn NDGF Private Land Technician spent most of the winter on deer depredation calls. Over 2,000 deer in 22 farm yards destroying alfalfa bales. Bohn serviced short-stop feeding sites which used over $3,000 worth of corn, $2,000 for large alfala/oats bales and 15 rolls of plastic fence.

Rick Bohn worked on several food plots totaling 240 acres with 21 different landowners. The wet weather and unfavorable conditions cancelled 20 food plots which were set up in 1993. Keltgen seed company donated $3,200 worth of early maturing corn to the program & various chemical companies donated $2,000 worth of herbicides.

A total of 67 nesting culverts were checked for fill and only 4 of these were usable, the rest of the culverts were underwater. Bohn spent time surveying 33 wetland projects, and restaking 11 dams.

Rick Bohn recorded a total of 61 goose collars in 1994, this bumps his total record of sightings at 800 since 1991.

Farmbill

The FWS continues to play an active role in the administration of the 1985 Food Security Act and the 1990 Food, Agricultural, Conservation and Trade Act. The NRCS is required to consult with the FWS on many of the issues dealing with wetlands. In 1995, we saw an increase in consultations between the FWS and county NRCS District Conservationists compared to previous levels.

In 1995, district staff were involved in six minimal effect (ME) agreements in Wells County. Most agreements were for culvert replacement at elevations no lower than existing, non-functioning culverts, or for replacement of small culverts with larger culvert pipes, again at an elevation no lower than existing culvert. Several roadbanks required stabilization by placement of rip-rap, which also is subject to the ME process. Twenty one CWNA agreements were reviewed, most for building up of roads that pass through wetlands and five for wetlands in feedlots. In several cases we were able to convince the producer to pump the wetland down, instead of permanently draining it. One post minimal effect agreement was formulated for a fill violation and two wetland impact reports were submitted. All swampbuster cases were determined to be legal drain maintenance.

In Stutsman County, nineteen minimal effect agreements were signed for culvert replacement in road grades, pumping of flooded farmsteads or temporary drainage with a restoration clause as part of the agreement. Four CWNA agreements were signed, all due to flooding of feedlots , houses or farm buildings. No wetland impact reports were submitted to Stutsman County ASCS. By year's end, no response had been received from NRCS.

2. Other Economic Uses

Two Special Use Permits, #83992 and #83991 were issued to three different local apiaries for bee yards placed WPA's in the district. A fee of 50 cents/hive was charged. A total of 156 hives were located on five tracts.

3. Items of Interest

Two residence buildings from Fortuna Air Force base were froze by CLWMD/PP in 1994. The buildings will be transferred and be moved down to Chase Lake HQ for rehabilitation into a permanent office space for CLWMD/PP. The buildings were to be transferred to Chase Lake in November of 1995 but were delayed due to weather constraints.

Pabian met with USDA ADC from Mississippi at CLNWR, in attempt to track white pelicans radio-collared and wing-tagged by them in conjunction with a study. For the first time on record, pelicans are nesting on the peninsula, which is cut-off from land by an electric fence.

4. Credits

Martin Brockman wrote sections C1,2,3,D5,1-3,E6,7,8,F,G17,and I.
Natoma Gleason wrote part of sections C1-3,D2,D4-6,E1,E2,E4-5,G,H,J
Brad Jacobs wrote part of J1
Steve Kresl edited and wrote feedback section

Halfway Lake National Wildlife Refuge

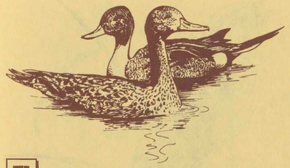
Halfway Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a 160 acre easement refuge located four miles south of Medina in Stutsman County, North Dakota. The Fish and Wildlife Service does not own any land or make any improvements on the refuge, but has an easement granting perpetual refuge rights. These rights include restrictions on access, hunting, and trapping. A Type 4 wetland of approximately 100 acres is located on the refuge and is used extensively by migrating waterfowl in the spring and fall. The remainder of the refuge is native prairie.

No major problems have been encountered with the management of Halfway Lake. The boundary signs are checked once a year just prior to the waterfowl season.

Feedback

The additional new perpetual easements placed on wetlands and native grass in the district was a real highlight and charged up the staff. To gain this amount of easements in a year when wetlands and the USFWS are under continual assault, is a real "Warm, Fuzzy" to the staff that worked with the landowners one on one to gain their trust. Another real "high" was discovering and restoring the drained wetlands on WPA's.

Put the right people in the right positions with the right programs and some good stuff happens!



The pintail, a widely distributed dabbling duck is second in abundance only to the mallard. It is found throughout North America but most commonly in the western United States. In fact, no other duck has as wide a distribution as the pintail. It summers as far north as the Alaskan and Canadian tundra as well as the prairies and wetlands of North Dakota.

Like other dabbling ducks, the pintail is a shallow-water feeder. It feeds within marshes and wetlands with its tail tipped skyward above the water's surface. It often paddles its feet while feeding to keep its balance as it reaches below the water surface to feed. Its neck is longer than other dabbling ducks allowing the pintail to feed in deeper water. Its diet is more diverse than other dabblers. Although 90 percent of its diet is aquatic vegetation, it also feeds on snails, other mollusks, crabs, crayfish, minnows, leeches, worms and aquatic insects. Because of its habit of gathering food from the bottom of marshes, the pintail is especially susceptible to lead poisoning from ingesting spent lead shot. This is a primary factor why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires non-toxic shot for duck hunting.

LEGEND FOR COUNTY MAPS

- FEDERAL WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
- STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- PAVED ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- PRIMITIVE ROAD
- SECTION LINE
- POND OR LAKE
- SCHOOL LANDS

Valley City Wetland Management District

GRIGGS COUNTY WPA'S

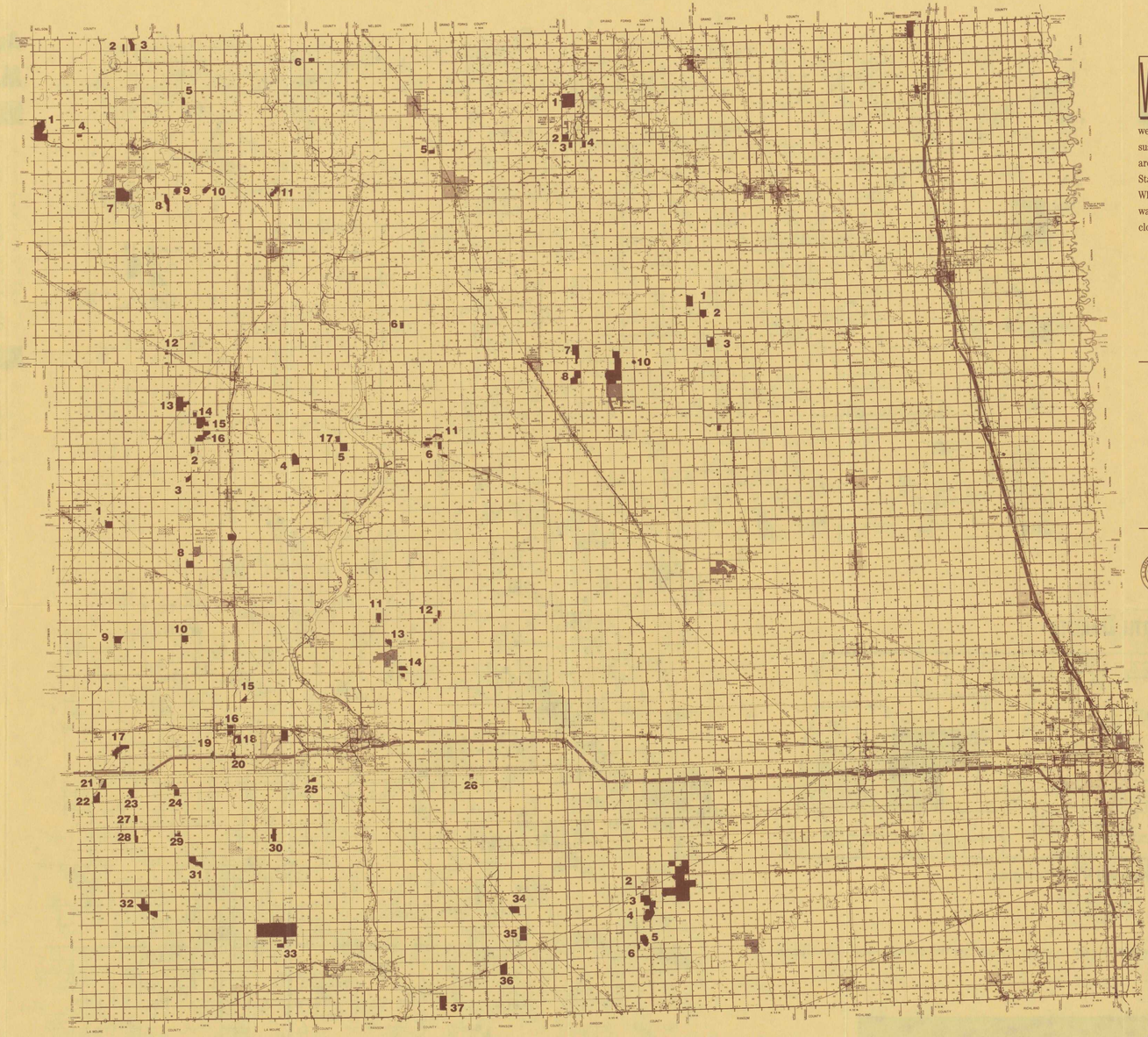
1. Johnson
2. Rix
3. Graving
4. Delfs
5. Tande
6. Guy
7. Evers
8. Helland
9. Lake Addie
10. Zimprich
11. Ronningen
12. Campbell
13. Larson
14. Larson
15. Walum
16. Wogsland
17. Eberle

STEELE COUNTY WPA'S

1. Shaw
2. Erickson
3. Thykeson
4. Wigen
5. Fritz
6. Dronen
7. Salander
8. Rogers
9. Fuller's Lake
10. Thorson
11. Fugelstad

TRAILL COUNTY WPA'S

1. Thompson
2. Elken
3. Erickson
4. Groven

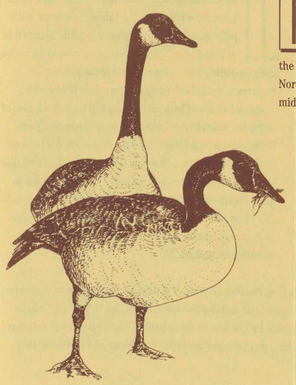


BARNES COUNTY WPA'S

1. Ernie
2. West Hagglund
3. Ohnstad
4. Mosher
5. Hagglund
6. Goose Lake
7. Key
8. Tolstad
9. Klein
10. Leegard
11. Breske
12. Burdick
13. Grotberg
14. Henderson's
15. Bartz
16. Sanborn
17. McLain
18. Olson
19. Stroh
20. Dahl
21. Bowen
22. Kundtson
23. Mansfield
24. Lettenmaier
25. Lovaas
26. Jones
27. Dassenko
28. Wolvert
29. Berntson
30. Weiken
31. Sortland
32. Tvedt
33. Stoney Slough
34. Fingal
35. Blikre
36. Peterson
37. Storhoff
38. Hobart

CASS COUNTY WPA'S

1. Alice
2. Mueller
3. Streich
4. Kemmer
5. Utke
6. Utke



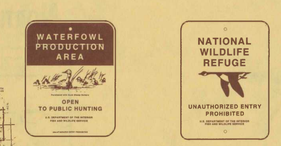
The Canada goose is by far the best known North American waterfowl and is widely distributed and common throughout the United States. There are at least 10 or 11 races, or subspecies, all basically alike in color pattern. They spend the summer months breeding and nesting within the prairies of North Dakota as well as other scattered areas throughout the midwest, Northern Rockies and Alaskan and Canadian tundra.

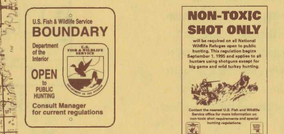
Canada geese are among the few birds where the family does not break up at the end of the breeding season. Parents and the young raised during the summer establish strong bonds and stay together the first year. They migrate together in flocks that contain other family units and each family stays together on the wintering grounds. Together the family migrates northward in the spring. Females return to the area they were fledged, with their male partners following. Only on the breeding grounds do the previous year's young separate themselves from their parents. The young, now yearlings, will band together in flocks and move distances as great as one hundred miles from their breeding parents. Sub-adult geese normally do not breed until 3 years of age, although some do at 2 years.

Waterfowl production areas are small wetland or pothole areas, generally 40 to 3,000 acres, acquired with funds derived from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. These areas are managed to preserve wetland habitat; to increase the production of waterfowl; to sustain native wildlife, and to benefit the public using these areas. Waterfowl production areas are owned by the United States Government. These lands, identified with special WPA signs, are generally open to hunting, trapping, bird watching, and other wildlife-oriented recreation unless closed by regulation or special conditions.

For more information contact:

Refuge Manager
Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge
7745 11th St. S.E.
Pingree, ND 58481
(701) 285-3341
or
Chase Lake Wetland Management District
(701) 752-4218
or
Valley City Wetland Management District
(701) 845-3466





No vehicles unless posted.

Coal Coulee Wildlife Development Area
Garrison Diversion Unit

These lands were acquired and developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department as part of the Garrison Diversion Unit Project. For more information, contact.

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge (701)442-5474

Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex

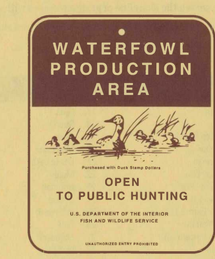
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS OF THE

VISITORS GUIDE TO

Arrowwood Wetland Management District
Chase Lake Wetland Management District
Valley City Wetland Management District

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS YOUR OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- All motor vehicles, including snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited unless posted open to this use.
- Waterfowl Production Areas are open to hunting, trapping, photography, nature study, wildlife watching, and environmental education, however, they contain no developed visitor facilities.
- Hunting is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws.
- Firearms permitted only during open hunting seasons.
- Only nontoxic shot is permitted.
- Blinds and tree stands must be removed daily.



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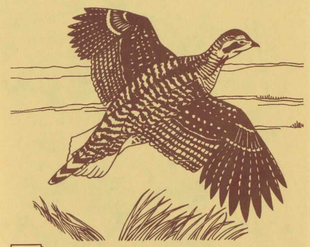
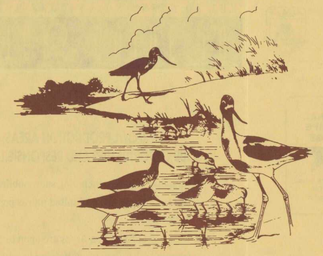


Sharp-tailed grouse are found in native prairie and brushland areas. In the spring, male sharp-tailed grouse gather on dancing grounds called leks. Here the males perform courtship dances, challenging other males and attracting watching females. While dancing, the males inflate air sacs on the sides of their throats and utter hollow "booming" or "cooing noises." They also raise and fan their tail feathers as they rustle and quiver their outstretched wings. The grass within a lek becomes matted with the pounding feet of the dancing grouse. Most leks are used year after year but some may be used only a few seasons.

Sharp-tailed grouse nest on the open prairie in April or May, usually within a half mile of a lek or dancing ground. The hen lays approximately 12 eggs that hatch within 25 days. After the eggs hatch, the hen leads the young chicks away from the nest to open areas where they feed on insects and tender green vegetation. The young chicks are ready to fly within 10-14 days after hatching.



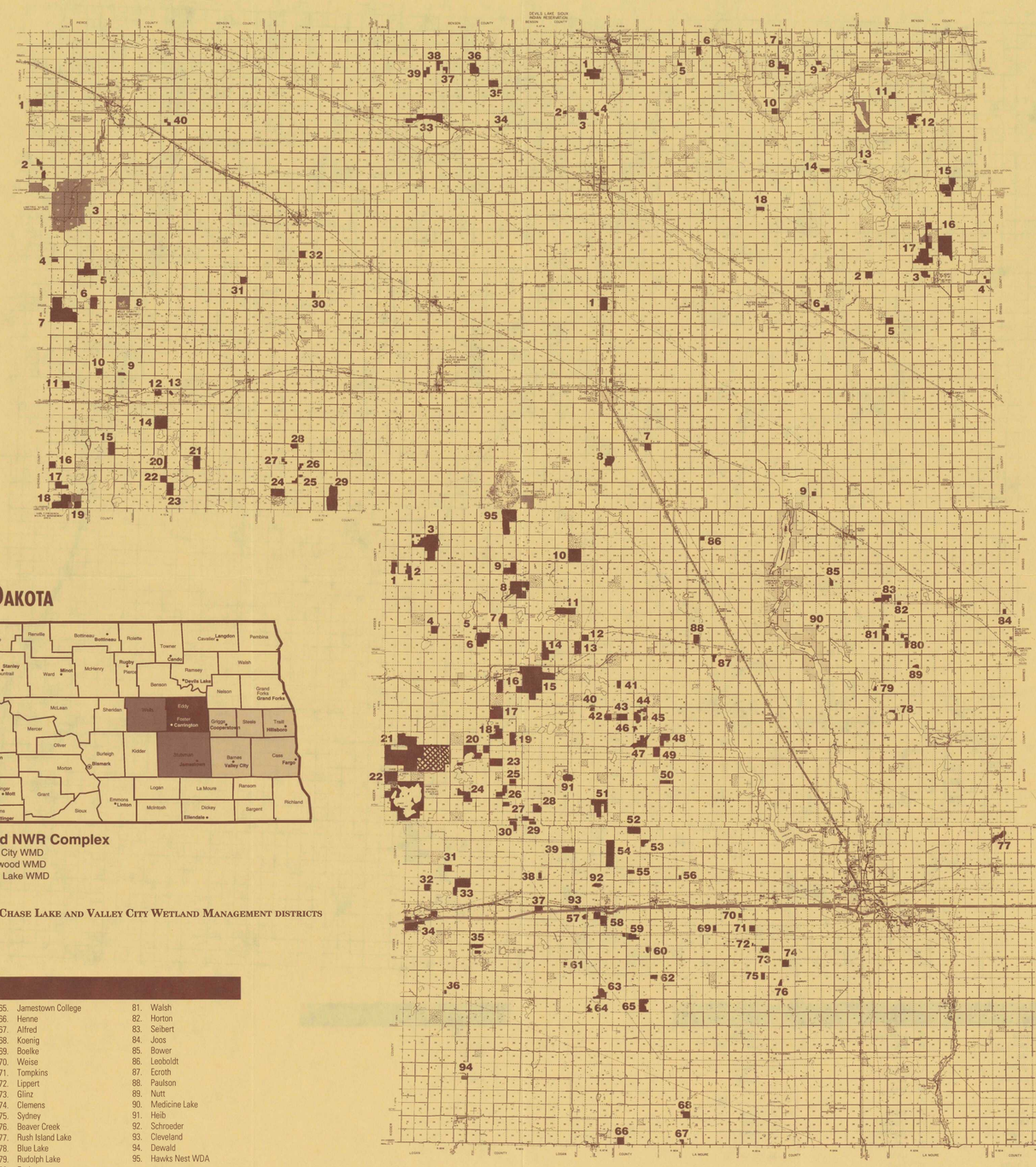
Of the 46 species of shorebirds in North America, over 30 migrate through North Dakota and 10 spend their summers nesting and breeding within the state. Common shorebirds include avocets, curlews, godwits, yellow-legs, phalaropes, killdeer and sandpipers. Some shorebirds, such as the white-rumped sandpiper travel 9,000 miles twice a year in pursuit of summer. Flying from Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina, to Arctic Alaska and back requires many shorebirds to spend over half of their lives in the air. The other half is spent foraging for food, replenishing their energy reserves. Their favored habitat is often the shores of lakes, marshy meadows or upland grassy meadows.

The entire month of May is a good time to view migrating shorebirds. The greatest concentration takes place during the second and third weeks of the month. Use binoculars or spotting scopes to search the shoreline of prairie potholes with shallow water and mudflats with sparse vegetation. You will probably be lucky enough to see shorebirds probing the mud, wading, and dashing to and fro in search of food.

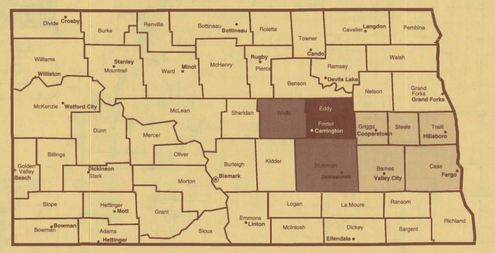
Chase Lake Wetland Management District

WELLS COUNTY WPA'S & WDA's

1. Marzolf WPA
2. Pony Gulch WDA
3. Lonetree WMA
4. Weber WPA
5. Crystal Lake WPA
6. Foul WPA
7. Indian Hills WDA
8. Wells County WMA
9. Bullmoose WPA
10. Fritchie WPA
11. Radtke WPA
12. Heeren WPA
13. Chaseley WPA
14. Bibow WPA
15. Foley WPA
16. Cromwell WPA
17. Weisz WPA
18. Whipple WPA
19. Frederick WPA
20. Weatherly WPA
21. Silver Lake WPA
22. Hart WPA
23. Pohlman WPA
24. Kost WPA
25. Sidle WPA
26. Schaubert WPA
27. Berg WPA
28. Pipestone WDA
29. Sweetgrass WDA
30. Monk WPA
31. Ehni WPA
32. Schlindler WPA
33. Bremen Slough WPA
34. Bremen WPA
35. Valhalla WPA
36. Bjertness WPA
37. Sorenson WPA
38. Sorenson WPA
39. Ambers WPA
40. Frost WPA



North Dakota



Arrowwood NWR Complex
- Valley City WMD
- Arrowwood WMD
- Chase Lake WMD

The Arrowwood, Chase Lake and Valley City Wetland Management districts

STUTSMAN COUNTY WPA'S & WDA's

1. Moran
2. Goter
3. Theisen Marsh
4. Tischner
5. Kautzman
6. Sunday Lake
7. Mallard Lake
8. Barnes Lake
9. North Barnes Lake
10. Mt. Moriah
11. Northwestern Lake
12. Vashti
13. Roosevelt
14. Windberg
15. Woodworth Station
16. Kutz
17. Peda
18. Strong
19. Beck
20. Mud Lake
21. Chase Lake
22. Major
23. Hoffman
24. Seekin
25. Holzworth
26. Rott
27. Schauer
28. Liebelt
29. Hertel
30. Slimon
31. Zimmerman
32. Odegaard
33. Haglund
34. Crystal Spring ♿
35. Dammel
36. Dockter
37. Klostrich
38. Eissenger
39. Strand
40. Schuler
41. Paris
42. Eddy
43. Moos
44. Hearst
45. Aspen Island
46. Gilbert
47. Cottonwood Lake
48. Dunphy Lake
49. Smith-Bingham
50. Gasal
51. Gaier
52. Ackerson
53. Anderson
54. Zimmerman II
55. Starr
56. Stickle
57. Albert
58. Cleveland Slough
59. Stirton
60. Moon Lake
61. Mathews
62. Seckerson
63. Brooks
64. Sinclair
65. Jamestown College
66. Henne
67. Alfred
68. Koenig
69. Boelke
70. Weise
71. Tompkins
72. Lippert
73. Glinz
74. Clemens
75. Sydney
76. Beaver Creek
77. Rush Island Lake
78. Blue Lake
79. Rudolph Lake
80. Durham
81. Walsh
82. Horton
83. Seibert
84. Joos
85. Bower
86. Leoboldt
87. Ecroth
88. Paulson
89. Nutt
90. Medicine Lake
91. Heib
92. Schroeder
93. Cleveland
94. Dewald
95. Hawks Nest WDA

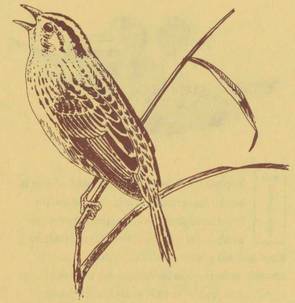
Arrowwood Wetland Management District

EDDY COUNTY WPA'S

1. Sheyenne
2. Munster
3. Hegland
4. Myhre
5. Nash
6. Goose Lake
7. Hanson
8. Wood
9. Anderson
10. Larson
11. Langley
12. Ziebart
13. Lake Coe
14. Haley (Handicap Accessible) ♿
15. Haven
16. Wallace
17. Swan Lake
18. Columbia

FOSTER COUNTY WPA'S

1. Barlow
2. Topp
3. Midgley
4. Larson
5. Bauer's Lake
6. Blue Cloud Lake
7. Zink
8. Okert
9. Florhaug

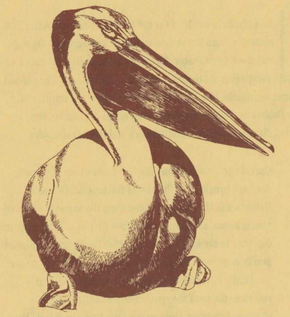


The Baird's sparrow, named by John James Audubon, was first discovered in 1844 at the junction of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. Audubon named the bird after his friend, Spencer F. Baird, a famous ornithologist who later became secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The Baird's sparrow is a grassland bird rapidly disappearing as grasslands and native prairies are converted to industrial and agricultural uses.

The Baird's sparrow forages on the ground and is often reluctant to fly. It runs like a mouse through the grass as it feeds on seeds of grasses, weeds, and an occasional grasshopper, leafhopper, caterpillar, moth or spider. Its nest is built on the ground in drier areas, where between June and August it lays 3-5 eggs. After only 11-12 days incubation the eggs hatch. The young leave the nest when 8-10 days old and begin to fly after only 13 days.

LEGEND FOR COUNTY MAPS

- FEDERAL WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
- STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- PAVED ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- PRIMITIVE ROAD
- SECTION LINE
- POND OR LAKE
- SCHOOL LANDS



The prairies of North Dakota, especially near Chase Lake, have long been the summer home for white pelicans. Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1908 as a breeding ground for native birds, including white pelicans. The white pelican, a gregarious, social bird, nests and travels in flocks with young and adults of both sexes. They will nest in colonies of only a few individuals to groups of several hundred pairs. White pelican populations have fluctuated greatly because of human persecution. Shooting is one of the main contributors to its mortality because anglers - despite evidence to the contrary - believe the pelican's diet is mostly game fish. The white pelican feeds on fish of little commercial value such as carp, chubs, shiners, perch, catfish, suckers, sticklebacks, and jackfish.

White pelicans nesting near Chase Lake have been known to travel 100-200 miles in search of food. The pelican fishes individually or does cooperative fishing with other pelicans. Individually, the pelican sights a fish from the air, lands with a splash, its feet extended forward, then plunges its head into the water and scoops up the fish. In group fishing, four or five white pelicans swim abreast, gliding quietly in a semicircle facing shore. Then with a great commotion of flapping wings and splashing, they drive the fish into shallow water, where they easily catch them.

HUNTERS

Waterfowl, Deer and Upland

4 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

WOODWORTH, NORTH DAKOTA

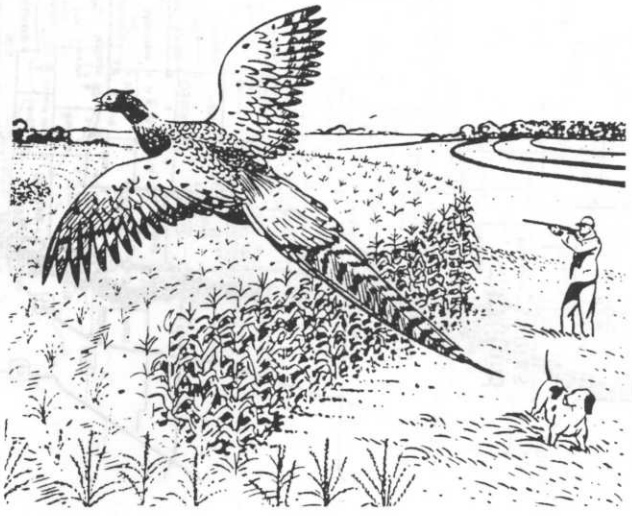
(See map on back)

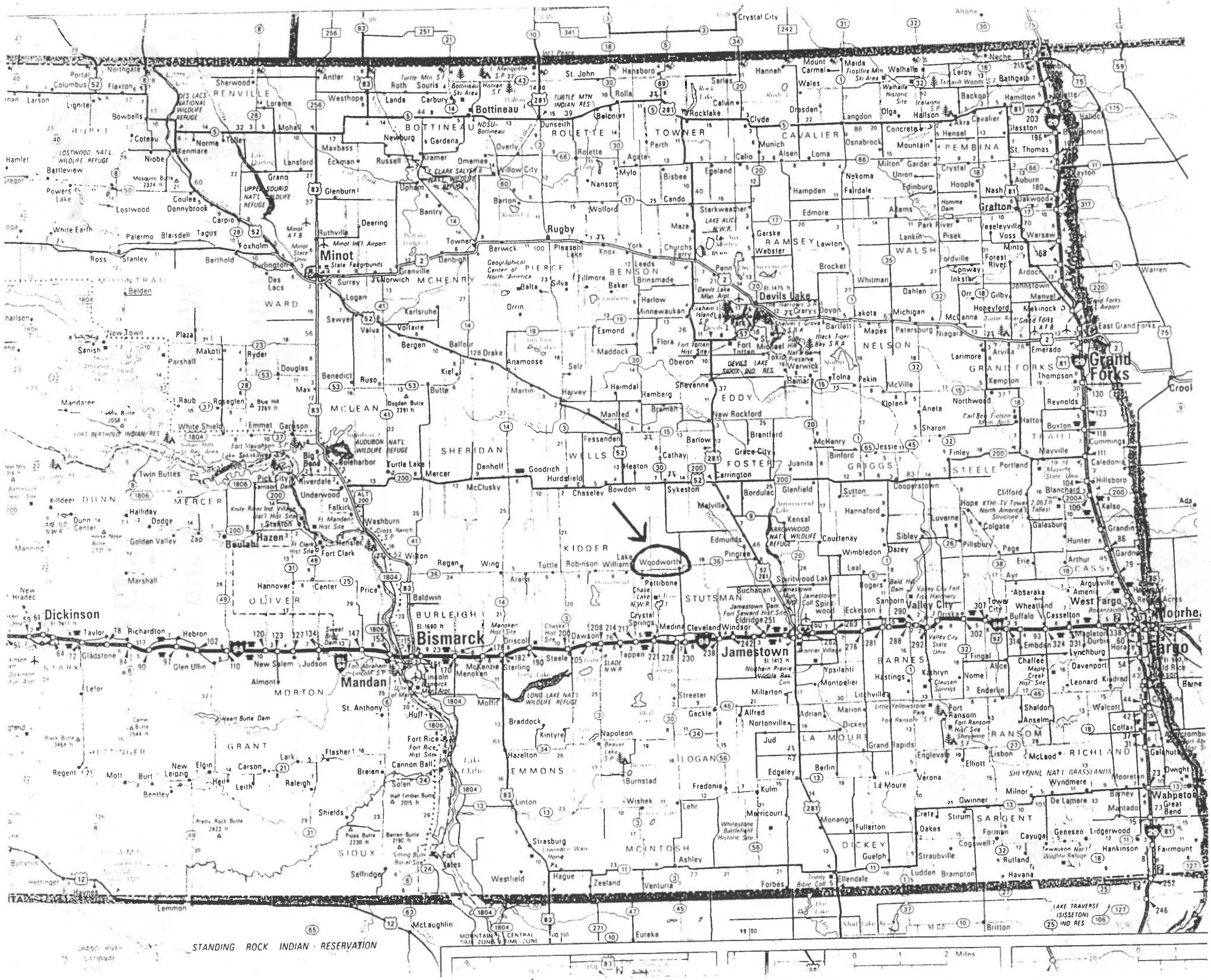
Hunt North Dakota's Prairie Pothole Region. Excellent waterfowl, deer and upland hunting within minutes of house. Convenient location in town. Modern house with all amenities. Eighteen miles north of I-94 on paved roads.

- Fully furnished - sleeps up to six people
- All linens (sheets, towels, pillows, etc.) provided
- Includes all kitchen items (dishes, pots and pans, stove, refrigerator, microwave, etc.)
- Washer, dryer, television and VCR
- 3 large dog kennels in garage
- Excellent, detailed maps are available for a nominal cost

Week long stays are preferred (week runs from Saturday night thru Friday night). Half paid with reservation, remainder on arrival. Call for rates and availability as follows:

Jay Clark - (513) 829-9164
Billy Clark - (701) 752-4245





SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
Minot
Bismarck
Mandan
Dickinson
Jamestown
Valley City
Devils Lake
Grand Forks
Fargo
West Fargo
Moorhead
Wahpeton
Rugby
Bottineau
Woodworth
RENVILLE
BOTTINEAU
ROLETTE
TOWNER
CAVALIER
PEMBINA
WARD
MCHENRY
PIERCE
BENSON
RAMSEY
WALSH
MCLEAN
SHERIDAN
WELLS
EDDY
FOSTER
NELSON
GRAND FORKS
GRIGGS
STEELE
TRAILL
MERCER
DUNN
OLIVER
BURLEIGH
KIDDER
STUTSMAN
BARNES
CASS
MORTON
STARK
GRANT
EMMONS
LOGAN
LA MOURE
RANSOM
RICHLAND
SIOUX
MCINTOSH
DICKEY
SARGENT
HETTINGER
TURTLE MTN INDIAN RES
FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RES
DEVILS LAKE SIOUX IND. RES.
STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION
LAKE TRAVERSE (SISSETON) IND RES
LONG LAKE NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE
ARROWWOOD NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE
UPPER SOURIS NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE
AUDUBON NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE
SHEYENNE NAT'L GRASSLANDS
MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE
CENTRAL TIME ZONE

CHASE LAKE PRAIRIE PROJECT

A PARTNERSHIP
DEDICATED TO
PROFITABLE AGRICULTURE
AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

A NATIONAL FLAGSHIP PROJECT
FOR THE
PRAIRIE POTHOLE JOINT VENTURE
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

CRAIG BIHRLE–N.D.G. & F.

The Chase Lake Prairie Project

Initiated in 1989, the Chase Lake Prairie Project (CLPP) embraces 5.5 million acres (8,600 square miles) in 11 counties; 97% of this land is privately owned. With its diversity and abundance of wetlands (up to 100 per square mile) and adjacent grassy uplands, the project area has always been rich in wildlife. For most duck species, the CLPP provides some of the best breeding grounds within the prairie pothole region.

WHITE PELICANS–TOM PABIAN/USFWS

The Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a cornerstone for CLPP, supports the largest nesting colony of white pelicans in North America. The Refuge is surrounded by a sea of native grassland on public and private lands, one of the largest blocks of prairie left in North Dakota. Together, these areas create a rich mosaic of habitat teeming with birdlife. At least 120 bird species nest in this area, and an additional 110 species stop here during their yearly migrations. Due to the extensive grassland cover, this is one of the few remaining places where ferruginous hawks still nest on the ground.

The Refuge attracts a number of rare, threatened, and endangered bird species, including the Baird's sparrow, bald eagle, loggerhead shrike, peregrine falcon, and piping plover.

THE CLPP IS WORKING TO:

- **promote conservation farming and ranching practices on private lands**
- **protect unique prairie ecosystems**
- **increase duck production by 300%**
- **increase all prairie wildlife species, especially rare, threatened, and endangered species**
- **provide consumptive and nonconsumptive public use**
- **enhance public awareness of North Dakota's prairie pothole country**

Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands

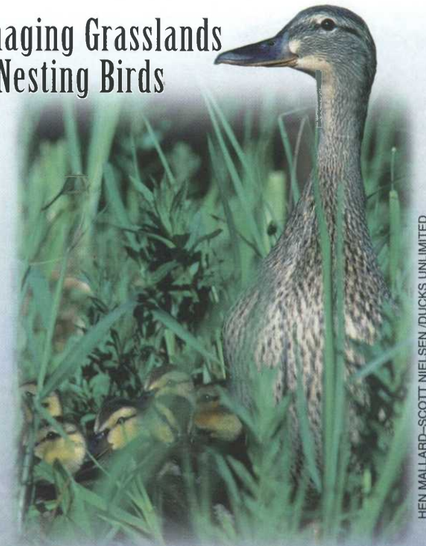
Ducks and many other migratory birds require healthy wetland complexes for feeding, nesting, raising young, and migrating. Migratory bird numbers have recently dropped to all-time lows due in large part to loss and degradation of wetland habitats.

WORKING WITH COOPERATING LANDOWNERS, THE CLPP IS:

- Restoring wetlands on private lands, including those enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, a federal set-aside program that reduces soil erosion and provides excellent wildlife habitat by maintaining grass cover on highly erodible land. Wetlands are restored at no cost to the landowner.
- Purchasing wetland easements from willing landowners. These easements protect wetlands in perpetuity from being drained, filled, or leveled.

- Building stock/wildlife dams or ponds in grassland areas that lack wetlands to provide water for cattle and wildlife. CLPP provides technical assistance and shares the cost with landowners.
- Promoting sound conservation practices such as leaving crop stubble in the field over winter to protect the soil, capture moisture, and provide food for wildlife; using minimum till and no-till agricultural practices; reducing or eliminating the use of persistent herbicides that leach into groundwater supplies, and the use of pesticides that harm young birds and invertebrates (an important food source for waterbirds). CLPP provides financial and technical assistance to landowners.

Managing Grasslands for Nesting Birds



HEN MALLARD–SCOTT NIELSEN /DUCKS UNLIMITED

Most prairie birds build their nests in grassy cover, often near wetlands. Grazing cattle and harvesting grass for hay can destroy nests and remove protective cover, preventing these birds from raising young.

CLPP programs provide farmers and ranchers with incentives to alter the timing of these practices to benefit nesting birds and improve the health of the grasslands. Programs include:

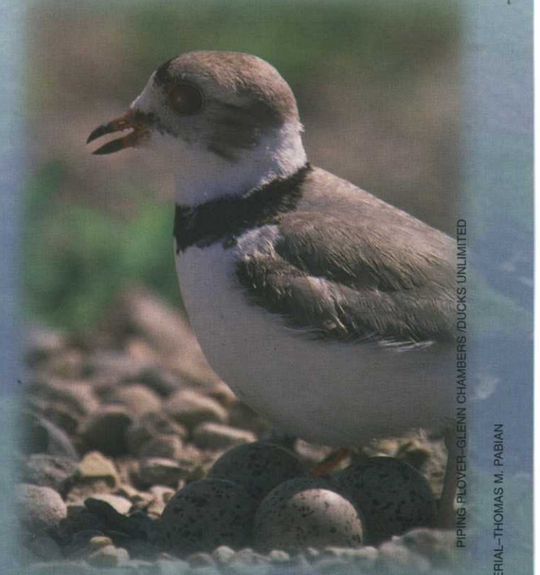
- Promoting rotational grazing systems that allow a rancher to move cows from pasture to pasture, preventing them from feeding too long on any section. This increases grassland productivity, puts more weight on cattle, and provides improved nesting cover. CLPP provides technical assistance and shares the cost with landowners.
- Purchasing grassland easements from willing landowners. These easements protect grasslands in perpetuity from being plowed. Cattle grazing is allowed; haying can be done after July 15 when most birds have normally finished nesting.
- Restoring grasslands on private lands. Marginal cropland is planted with native grass species and a rotational grazing system is established. CLPP provides technical assistance and shares the cost with landowners.

Protecting Nesting Birds From Predators

The loss of large expanses of grasslands has robbed ground-nesting birds of protective cover in which to hide, giving predators an unnatural advantage. In many areas with poor grassland cover, predators eat or destroy the eggs and also frequently eat hens in over 90% of the nests. Human settlements also provided new habitat for predators historically not found in prairies, such as raccoons and skunks, that now take a heavy toll on bird eggs.

While habitat restoration provides the only long-term solution to excessive predation, CLPP funds several initiatives that provide nest protection, including:

- Constructing electric predator fences to keep predators out of nesting areas. Special one-way exits allow ducklings to leave the enclosure when they're ready to travel to nearby wetlands.
- Erecting nesting structures that keep the birds and eggs safely away from predators.
- Building nesting islands and peninsula cut-offs. Because water acts as a barrier to many predators, islands and peninsulas cut off with fencing from the mainland provide safe nesting areas.



PIPING PLOVER–GLENN CHAMBERS /DUCKS UNLIMITED

AERIAL–THOMAS M. PABIAN

WORKING

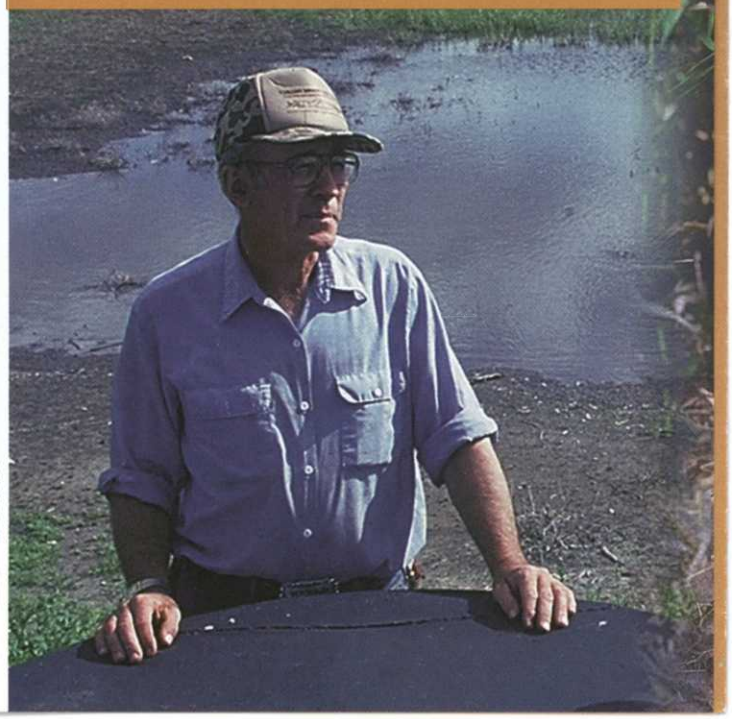
Profitable Agriculture

Throughout North Dakota's rolling hills and the abundant wetlands between them, an exciting partnership is growing. Farmers, ranchers, and wildlife professionals are working together to take full advantage of the riches the prairies can provide—wildlife, crops, cattle, and a valued way of life. Dispelling the belief that farming cannot coexist with native plants and animals, the Chase Lake Prairie Project is promoting both profitable agriculture and abundant wildlife on the same landscape.

For centuries, these fertile lands, often called "the prairie pothole region" had supported multitudes of wildlife species—bison, pronghorn, elk, wolves, plains grizzly bears, whooping cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, and much more. While many of the larger mammals are gone, this area still harbors some of the most productive

"Projects like this should have been started a long time ago. This cooperative approach really encourages farmers to participate in the conservation of wildlife and wetlands on their lands."

Ray Heupel, third generation farmer/rancher from Medina, ND



CRAIG BIHRLE–N.D.G. & F.

TOGETHER

Abundant Wildlife

waterfowl breeding habitat in the lower 48 states.

Within the last 50 years, much of the prairie pothole region has been converted into fertile agricultural land that produces an abundance of grain and cattle for the nation. At the same time, these changing land uses have diminished wetland and upland habitat for many wildlife species.

By working with willing landowners and improving public lands, the Chase Lake Prairie Project is restoring needed habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other prairie wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. The project is also advancing land-use practices that improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, improve farm and ranch profitability, and enhance the quality of life for people throughout the region.

"We're proving that by forming partnerships and building trust, we can provide many benefits to the landowner and to the landscape. Wildlife, wetlands, and farmers all come out winners."

Steve Kresl, project manager, Chase Lake Prairie Project

HEN MALLARD–GLENN CHAMBERS /DUCKS UNLIMITED

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan

CRAIG BIHRLE–N.D.G. & F.

In the late 1970s and early 80s waterfowl numbers dropped to all-time lows due to losses of wetland and upland habitats and prolonged droughts in the Canadian and American prairies. To combat this trend, both governments signed the North American Waterfowl Plan (NAWMP) in 1986, calling for international action to restore waterfowl populations to levels present in the mid–1970s.

The NAWMP established 14 joint ventures to promote cooperation among government agencies and private organizations in planning, funding, and implementing habitat projects.

The U.S. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture seeks to protect and enhance 1.1 million acres by the year 2000 on public and private land in the prairie pothole region in North and South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa. The Chase Lake Prairie Project is a national flagship project of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Some of the many partners involved in the Chase Lake Prairie Project include:

Private landowners
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
North Dakota Wetlands Trust
Delta Waterfowl, Inc.
Local soil and water conservation districts
Local wildlife clubs
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Due to its diversity of partners, the CLPP remains flexible and innovative and can modify or expand its programs in response to new opportunities. CLPP also provides a variety of educational opportunities for all ages. For more information, contact:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chase Lake Prairie Project
5924 19th Street SE
Woodworth, ND 58496
701/752-4218 Fax 701/752-4216

Sept. 1995