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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE REPORT

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992

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Thirty-four days were spent administering hunts on Crackenberry Wildlife Management Area with 1,778 people participating. Biological data was collected on 71 deer, eight wild turkeys, 83 feral hogs, 58 ducks of two species, 75 gray squirrels, 1 raccoon, 9 bobwhites, and 49% of 9 species. Preparatory work prior to hunts included 10 miles of roads brushed, 5 miles of roads mowed, and UMA boundary signs being replaced as necessary. As part of the cooperative mall game project between USDOE, USFS, SCWMD and Quail Unlimited, 9,000 bicolor leopards seedlings and strips of lake leopards and partridge fern were planted on 12 logging decks. Eight acres of permanent openings were created and they along with 2 miles of firebreaks and 15 miles of logging roads were planted to beneficial plants. Wood duck nest boxes were maintained and checked for utilization on the area. 5 wood duck hens and 4 hooded mergansers were banded and released for future study.

Serving as a Coordinating Land User for the CCC Site Use Committee entailed evaluating 81 land use proposals with regard to effects on wildlife populations. Some timber harvest plans by the U. S. Forest Service were the most time consuming, involving records review, field investigations, meetings with the authoring agency and a report to USDOE detailing potential impacts. Served on the Natural Resources Coordinating Committee necessitating meeting attendance, document review for the task groups reporting to NRCC, and issued opinion statements on the future of Bass Pond, herbicide use on powerlines, endangered species, etc. Assisted USDOE with wetlands determination and mitigation. Served on the Habitat Set-aside Scheme. The Assistance was also provided to USDOE and other CCC users with deer hunts, nuisance animal control and a variety of other matters.

The antelope deer quota program continued in the district with 122 landowners in Allen, Barnwell, and Orangeburg Counties being approved for antelope harvest which included field investigations, license verification at tax offices, and various recommendations. Biological data on 1070 deer from 44 plots in Allen and Orangeburg Counties was evaluated with a final report and future management recommendations being provided to the club. An additional 122 plots were from District 4 users evaluated for age, status, size and harvest records submitted to the Barnwell Club. Assistance was provided with the planning for the water control project at openings in Allen, Orangeburg and Columbia Counties. Eleven days were spent in Edgefield Co. assisting with data collection on the first District deer hunts.

Bait sites for turkey trapping were maintained by the CCC and two other 104 turkeys (64 hens, 50 gobblers) were captured. This was the most successful season ever on the CCC. A total of 1000 turkeys were banded and released. Twenty-five gobblers were used for bait in preparation with the completion of

the turkeys being transported to North Carolina to assist with that state's restoration work. Programs on the turkey project were presented to DOE/Environmental Division, Aiken Sertoma Club, and the Savannah River Rifle and Pistol Club. News articles on the turkey project were provided to the SRS newspaper and the NRCR news letter. Evaluated data on 171 turkeys harvested in Aiken County during the spring of 1992.

Wildlife census work was conducted on wild turkey, bobwhite, mourning dove, furbearers, fox squirrels, and bald eagles on the SRS and in Aiken and Barnwell Counties.

Evaluated three wetlands in Aiken County for suitability with regard to wood duck boxes. Two wetland environmental review notices for the SRS were evaluated.

Additional work on Wildlife Management Area land included replotting 50 miles of boundary in Aiken and Lexington County and erecting signs from several tracts lost from the program. Work on the Barnwell Airport WMA dove field included 50 acres firelogged and 29 acres disked and planted. Sixteen acres were planted on the Head of the Creek WMA dove field in Gaston. Ten public dove hunts on these areas were conducted and data collected. Maps, brochures, tags, signs and data gathering equipment were provided to 18 Aiken County check stations. Turkey recommendations for the turkey and regulations brochures were submitted and WMA maps covering Aiken and Lexington Counties were updated.

SRS (Food / Cover Establishment) plots for 4-H competition were judged in Aiken and Barnwell Counties. 21 fifth grade essays on "Wildlife Conservation" were judged for the Soil Conservation Service. Provided a SCWMP exhibit for "Earth Awareness Day" at the SRS. Assisted with two SCWMP sponsored kids fishing rodngs at Phenixville and Barnwell. Teacher's assistance was provided for Aiken Co. landowners with deer, turkey, and quail management.

Assigned conservation officers on numerous occasions with game law violations. All personnel went through pistol regulation at the Delmarva Justice Academy.

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