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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE REPORT

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1992

Michael B. Caudell

South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department
Columbia, S. C. 29202

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OSAGE - Assist the U. S. Department of Energy in reviewing proposals on the Savannah River site for wildlife impacts to wildlife. Continue the turkey project on the OSAGE and other public lands in the region. Provide technical management assistance to interested landowners in the OSAGE region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - A total of 149 days were spent administering the OSAGE and the Cranberry Wildlife Management Area. Work included outdoor recreation for 1,747 individuals. Biological data was collected on 307 deer, 21 turkeys, 114 feral hogs, 319 ducks and geese, 204 squirrels, 14 chipmunks, 4 raccoons, 2 rabbits, and 1,000 fish and 2 species of birds. To facilitate outdoor recreation, roads were brushed and mowed and boundaries remarked with signs annually. Habitat improvement work included the creation and planting of 8 acres of wildlife openings, planting 6.5 miles of roads and 4 miles of firebreaks. As part of a cooperative project between the USFWS, OSAGE, GCMWR, and Quail Unlimited, 10,000 bicolor lespedeza seedlings were planted, and linear strips of Kobe lespedeza and partridge peas were established.

Serving as a Coordinating Land User for the SRS site use committee entailed evaluating 278 land use proposals with regard to their effects on wildlife populations. Thirty-four SRS timber prescriptions were reviewed. Served on the Natural Resources Coordinating Committee and Set-Aside Subcommittee. Evaluated the Natural Resources Management Plan for the SRS. Assisted the USFWS with SRS deer hunts, nuisance animal control, environmental collections, endangered species and wetlands compliance, hardwood management, herbicide applications, the future of Parr Pond, and biodiversity maintenance on the SRS.

The antlerless deer quota program continued in the region with 962 private landowners in Aiken, Barnwell, and Orangeburg Counties being approved for antlerless harvest. Biological data on 4,578 deer from 281 clubs in Aiken and Orangeburg Counties were evaluated with a harvest report including future recommendations being provided to each club. An additional 4,407 deer jawbones from district V clubs were evaluated for age classification. Assistance was provided annually with measuring deer racks in Aiken, Barnwell and Columbia for the state records program.

Turkey trapping activities resulted in the capture of 113 hens and 87 gobblers on the SRS and 11 hens in the Western Piedmont. 89 turkeys were used for instate restoration, 106 turkeys were relocated to North Carolina and Maryland, and 16 were banded and released on the SRS for future study.

Other NMA work included reposting as necessary 860 miles of boundary in Aiken and Lexington Counties. Assisted Western Piedmont personnel with data collection at deer check stations and in the field with planting on 24 days. Tick samples from hunter traps in the OSAGE and the Western Piedmont were

collected for a Lyme Disease study. Sites in Aiken County and
plots were evaluated annually. Assisted the SRS in
cooperation with planting bobwhite food plots on the state
highway system. WMA maps and hunting brochures were updated
annually and regional check stations were maintained.

Herbicide plots in Jones County, Barnwell, Columbia and Marion
counties included: treated (200), cultivated (96), planted (100),
brushed (225), brusher plowed (15), and prescribed burn (10).
40 plots were conducted and data collected.

- Twenty new wood duck boxes were erected on Crackerneck WMA. All
boxes on Crackerneck and Lake Okechuchee were annually checked for
maintenance records and productivity. 10 wood duck hens and 4
muddy plovers were banded and released on Crackerneck. 10
Canada Geese were released on an Aiken County site.

Wildlife census work involved annual surveys on the SRS and in
the region for turkey, bobwhite, mourning dove, Canada goose,
American, few quail and bald eagle.

Fifteen private landowners were provided management assistance
for deer, turkey, bobwhite and waterfowl. Wildlife plots for 4-H
FADE competition were judged annually. Assisted the SCS in
judging 5th grade essays on wildlife conservation. 12
environmental review notices for the region were evaluated.
Assisted with 5 SCWMD 4-H fishing rodeos in Aiken and
Barnwell. Assisted in McEllen'sville with clean up after
Hurricane Hugo. Injured wildlife were transported to
rehabilitation centers.

Talks on department activities were presented to the American
Nuclear Society, Aiken Seniors Club, USDOE/Environmental
Division, Clemson Extension Service, Clemson University wildlife
class, Quail Unlimited, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Savannah Rifle
and Pistol Club, and area hunt clubs. Department exhibits were
provided for "Earth Awareness Day" at SRS.

Assisted SCWMD conservation officers and Wackenhutt Security
with game law violations and trespassing offenses. Underwent
annual pistol requalification at the Criminal Justice Academy.

RESULTS - All goals were achieved with some activities exceeding
expectations. Assistance to the USDOE progressed beyond the goal
of simply evaluating site uses to include serving on the NRCC and
Set-aside Subcommittee, and providing expertise on deer hunts,
nuisance animal control, environmental collections, endangered
species and wetlands compliance, herbicide usage, and a host of
other matters.

Turkey trapping activities far exceeded expectations. In 1992 over
104 turkeys were captured on the SRS which was the most for any
SCWMD region.

Wildlife opening work on the project area is to be completed by the end of this contract and include the following: 1. Aerial survey of the USDOE, GRS, SCWMP and other related to the project area. 2. Habitat on the area.

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