

REVIEW AND APPROVALS

GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Arch, New Mexico

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1990

Donald R. Clapp
Refuge Manager

4-30-91
Date

Johnny D. Beall
Complex Manager

5-13-91
Date

Billy D. Knutson
Associate Manager Review

6/6/91
Date

Thomas E. Smith
Regional Office Approval

6/12/91
Date

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Grulla National Wildlife Refuge is located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico near the small village of Arch, approximately 25 miles northwest of Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge contains 3,236 acres of which 906 are grassland, and 2,330 are saline lake bed. Grulla was officially established as a National Wildlife Refuge on November 6, 1969 by Public Land Order No. 4742 transferring the land from BLM.

The refuge provides a unique, specialized and strategically located habitat type necessary to accomplish distributive management of the lesser sandhill cranes on their wintering grounds. The normally dry lake bed within the area is used as a roosting ground for large concentrations of cranes, especially during periods of severe weather when fresh water playas are frozen.

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G. WILDLIFE

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K. FEEDBACK NTR

L. INFORMATION PACKET

(Inside Back Cover)

A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Salt Lake remained dry throughout most of the year (F.2).
- Boundary signs and posts were rehabilitated along the entire refuge boundary (I.2).

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Mild and windy weather prevailed during the first of the year. The only snowfall was in mid-January. Moisture was nearly adequate until May and none was received in June when weather conditions were hot and dry. Temperatures were cooler in July accompanied by a few cloudy days and some moisture. August temperatures ranged from 80° F to 95° F and 2.09 inches of rain fell during mid-month. The most precipitation recorded for a single month was 3.34 inches in September. Weather the remainder of the year was mostly dry and unseasonably warm. Total precipitation was 12.40 inches, 3.60 inches below the annual average and 2.18 inches less than was received last year.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

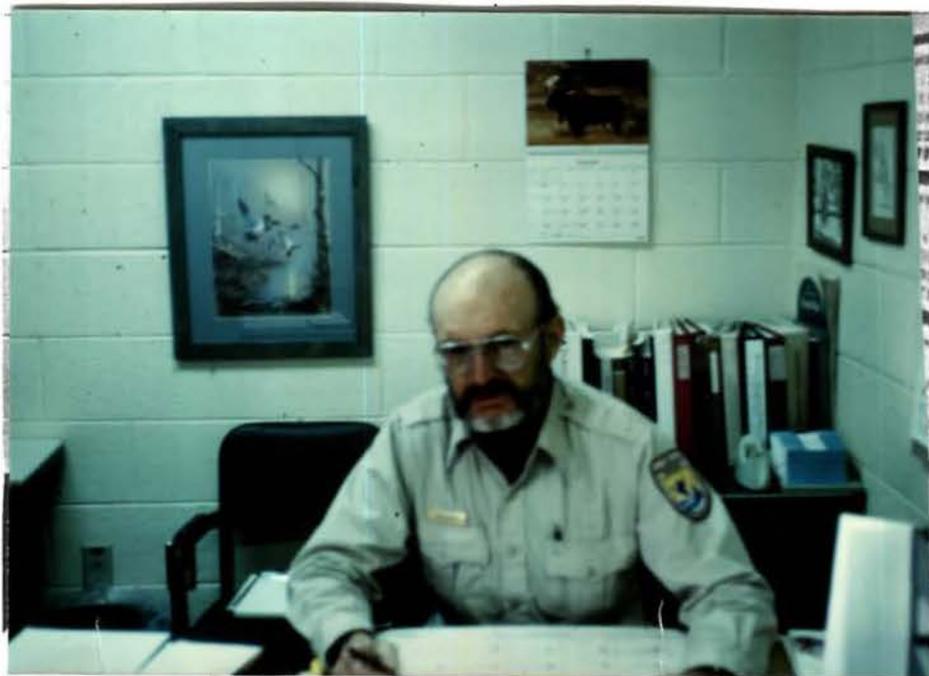
No personnel are stationed at the refuge. The refuge is administered from Muleshoe NWR which is part of the Buffalo Lake NWR Complex.



GRL1-12/90

DRC

Johnny Beall - Complex Manager, GS-11, PFT,
Buffalo Lake NWR - Complex Headquarters



GRL2-12/90

GKC

Don Clapp - Refuge Manager, GS-9, PFT



GRL3-12/90

DRC

Glenda Copley - Office Assistant, GS-6, PFT



GRL4-12/90

DRC

Dean Gilliam - Maintenance Worker, WG-8, PFT

Maintenance Worker Gilliam received a Sustained Superior Performance certificate and cash award in recognition for a high level performance rating regarding performance of duties in a highly efficient and commendable manner.

4. Volunteers

Raymond Stokes, who lives three miles northwest of the refuge at Arch, New Mexico, was a refuge volunteer throughout the year. Mr. Stokes maintained precipitation records and also reported general observations of waterfowl and sandhill crane populations in the area.

5. Funding

Refuge Funding FY 86-90			
<u>FY</u>	<u>1260</u>		<u>8610</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>ARMMS</u>	
90	2,300		
89	2,000		107
88	5,000		100
87	4,000	4,000	
86	4,000	4,000	

6. Safety

Monthly safety meetings were conducted at the Muleshoe NWR.

8. Other ItemsTraining and Meetings

Muleshoe NWR personnel

- Refuge Manager Clapp - Annual Bailey County Agricultural Conference Muleshoe, TX, January 8.
- Inspect Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) inventory lands, Terry and Yoakum Counties, TX, January 17, 18.
 - Interagency Playa Lakes Disease Council, Borger, TX, January 22.
 - Interagency Playa Lakes Disease Council, Lubbock, TX, April 24.
 - Playa lake inspection tour, potential Joint Venture projects, Clovis, NM, May 23.
 - Project Leaders Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, August 6-10.
 - Inspect FmHA inventory lands, Levelland, TX, September 14.
 - Plains Nursery Trade Show and program, pesticide certification credit, Lubbock, TX, September 26, 27.
 - Dedication ceremony, interagency experimental shelter belt, Needmore, TX, October 29.
 - Firearms Requalification, Washita NWR, October 24.
 - Inspect FmHA inventory lands, Lubbock County, TX, December 6.
 - Assist with opening day of pheasant hunting program, Buffalo Lake NWR, December 8.

- Office Assistant Copley - Communication Skills Workshop,
Lubbock, TX, November 27.
- Maintenance Worker Gilliam - Plains Nursery Trade Show and
program, pesticide certification
credit, Lubbock, TX,
September 26, 27.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

The refuge comprises 3,236 acres of which 906 acres are
grassland and 2,330 acres are saline lake bottom.

2. Wetlands



GRL5-11/90

DRC

Salt Lake was dry most of the year except during the fall.

During April there were traces of water in Salt Lake due to
spring rains. The lake bottom remained dry throughout the
summer. Due to increased rainfall there were 400 surface
acres in the lake during September and part of October. By
mid-November the lake was again dry and remained dry the rest
of the year.



GRL6-6/90

DRC

Salt Lake remained dry most of the year. The white stuff is alkali-not snow.



GRL7-10/90

DRC

There was some water in Salt Lake after late summer rains.

There is no management of the lake basin since part is privately owned as well as is most of the lake access.

5. Grasslands



GRL8-11/90

DRC

Wildlife habitat in fenced portion of the refuge.

Except for a small area adjacent the entrance road the refuge boundary is not fenced since it extends through the lake bed in several areas. Although acquisition of an abandoned road right-of-way in 1983 allowed access to a small portion of the refuge, acquisition of adjacent land would be required before any boundary fencing could be accomplished.



GRL9-11/90

DRC

Fenced area in the northwest corner of the refuge adjacent irrigated private lands.

7. Grazing

Cattle from adjacent lands have grazed on the refuge grasslands since 1969 when the land was acquired from the Bureau of Land Management and fencing was determined to be unfeasible.

G. WILDLIFE

3. Waterfowl

Since the lake remained dry all winter there was no waterfowl use at all. Although several hundred Canada geese used adjacent fields on privately owned land.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

Lesser sandhill cranes were roosting at the refuge this year as long as some water was available which was October and through mid-November. The peak number counted was 1,000 in October while several thousand were seen adjacent the refuge.

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

Only long-billed curlew, killdeer, and common snipe were observed in the spring months.

There was some shorebird use on Salt Lake during August when it held water. One of the most prevalent species was Wilson's phalarope. Other species present included avocet, black-necked stilt, Baird's sandpiper, least sandpiper and killdeer.

Wildlife surveys are quite difficult to conduct since there are no access roads around Salt Lake.

6. Raptors

Golden eagles were occasionally seen on the refuge or nearby. Others observed included Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk, Cooper's hawk, northern harrier, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, and burrowing owl.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

Ring-necked pheasant, scaled quail, and lesser prairie chicken were often seen on or near the refuge.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Only 590 visitors used the refuge compared to 1,350 last year. Many of the refuge visitors are from the Portales, New Mexico area, approximately 30 miles west of the refuge. The Eastern New Mexico University is at Portales.

During recent years improvements to the refuge have included an entrance road, parking area, interpretive trail and signs, entrance signs, and a traffic counter.

11. Wildlife Observation

The majority of the public use at Grulla pertains to wildlife/wildlands observation. There are no facilities on the site.

17. Law Enforcement

Enforcing refuge regulations at Grulla is difficult because of the distance from Muleshoe NWR and few available personnel. There is only one staff member at the Muleshoe NWR with law enforcement authority.

During the year occasional vandalism has occurred at the refuge parking area. Mostly, damaged signs, damaged parking

During the year occasional vandalism has occurred at the refuge parking area. Mostly, damaged signs, damaged parking barriers, and littering.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

2. Rehabilitation



GRL10-11/90

DRC

The refuge boundary was rehabilitated.

This year boundary signs and posts were replaced where needed along the entire refuge boundary. Many are located in or near the bed of the alkaline Salt Lake and deteriorate rapidly.

J. OTHER ITEMS

4. Credits

This report was written by Manager Clapp, printed and assembled by Office Assistant Copley, and reviewed and edited by Complex Manager Beall.

Photograph credits: DRC - Don Clapp, GKC - Glenda Copley.

GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Roosevelt County, New Mexico

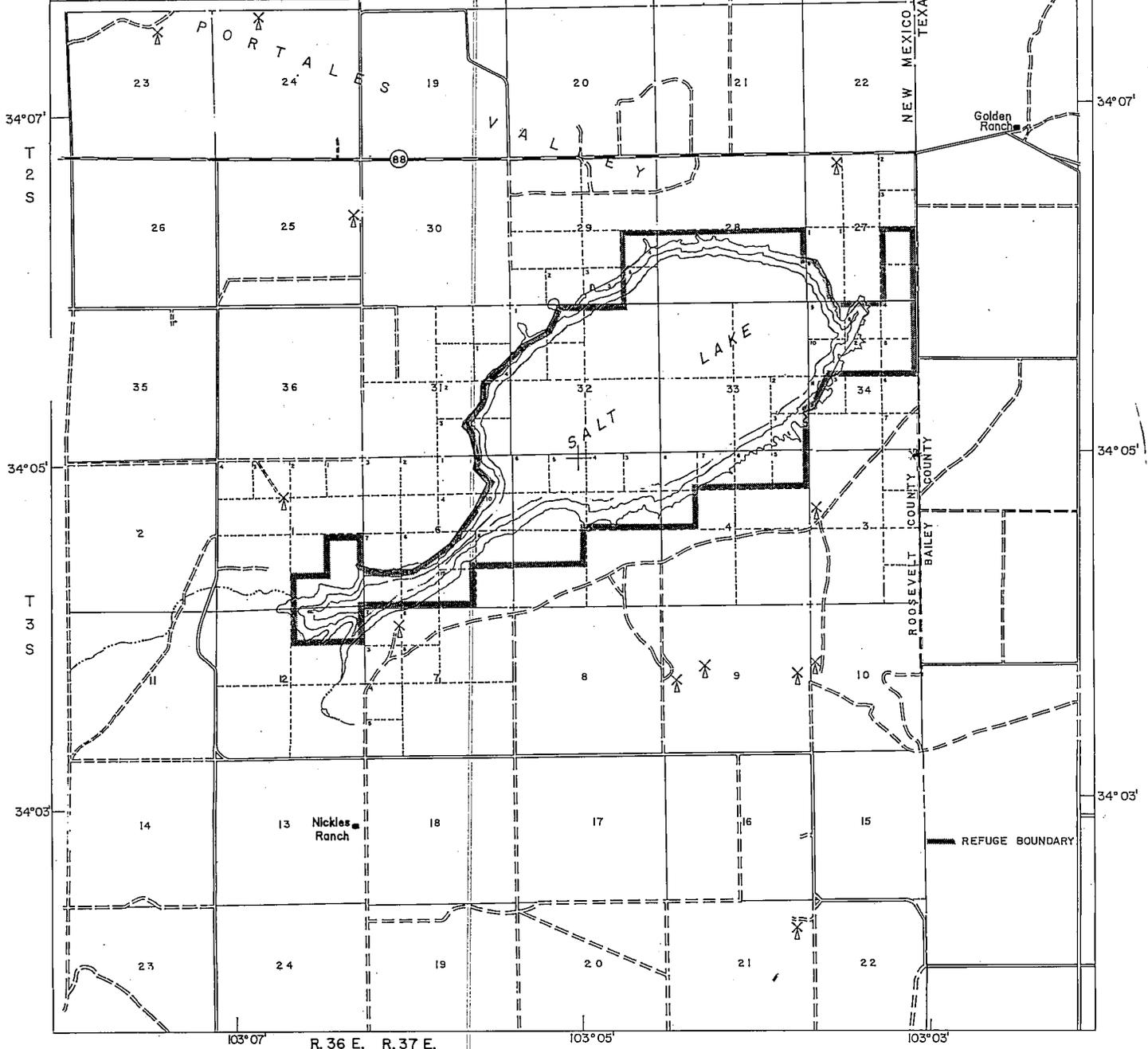
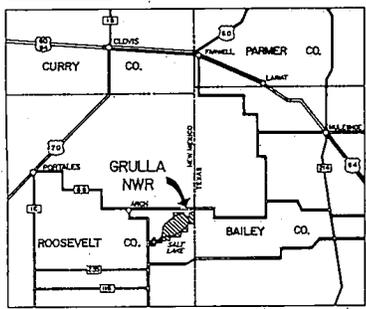
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

R. 36 E. R. 37 E.

103° 05'

103° 03'



COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF ENGINEERING
FROM G.L.O. PLATS, U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLES,
AND OTHER OFFICIAL INFORMATION, REVISED JANUARY 1972

SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN



6	3	4	5	2	1
7	8	9	0	1	1
0	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8	9
5	6	7	8	9	0

TOWNSHIP
DIAGRAM



MEAN
DECLINATION
1965

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE, 1970

2R N.MEX. 814 404