

REVIEW AND APPROVALS

GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Arch, New Mexico

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1995

Donald R. Clapp
Refuge Manager

4-9-96
Date

Bud Brown
Division Chief

4/29/96
Date

Con Dull
Geographic Manager, TX

4/25/96
Date



GRL1-1/95

One of the several arroyos adjacent Salt Lake.

DRC

INTRODUCTION

Grulla National Wildlife Refuge is located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico near the small town of Arch, approximately 25 miles northwest of the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge comprises 3,236 acres. The saline lake bed of Salt Lake consists of 2,330 acres and the remainder of the refuge is grassland. 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 is beneficial as a wintering area for lesser sandhill cranes when the lake holds water. Although the flat lake bed is often dry or nearly dry for several years in a row, when sufficient water is present large concentrations of cranes use the refuge as a roosting site.

INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
A. HIGHLIGHTS	1
B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS	1
C. LAND ACQUISITION	
1. Fee Title.....	NTR
2. Easement.....	NTR
3. Other.....	NTR
D. PLANNING	
1. Master Plan.....	NTR
2. Management Plan.....	NTR
3. Public Participation.....	NTR
4. Compliance with Environmental Mandates and Cultural Resource Mandates.....	NTR
5. Research and Investigations.....	NTR
6. Other.....	NTR
E. ADMINISTRATION	
1. Personnel.....	2-3
2. Youth Programs.....	NTR
3. Public Participation.....	NTR

4.	Volunteer Programs.....	4-6
5.	Funding.....	7
6.	Safety.....	7
7.	Technical Assistance.....	NTR
8.	Other Items.....	7-8

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1.	General.....	9
2.	Wetlands.....	10-12
3.	Forests.....	NTR
4.	Croplands.....	NTR
5.	Grasslands.....	13-14
6.	Other Habitats.....	NTR
7.	Grazing.....	15-17
8.	Haying.....	NTR
9.	Fire Management.....	NTR
10.	Pest Control.....	NTR
11.	Water Rights.....	NTR
12.	Wilderness and Special Areas.....	NTR
13.	WPA Easement Monitoring.....	NTR

G. WILDLIFE

1.	Wildlife Diversity.....	NTR
2.	Endangered and/or Threatened Species.....	NTR
3.	Waterfowl.....	18
4.	Marsh and Water Birds.....	18
5.	Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species.....	18
6.	Raptors.....	18
7.	Other Migratory Birds.....	NTR
8.	Game Mammals.....	NTR
9.	Marine Mammals.....	NTR
10.	Other Resident Wildlife.....	18
11.	Fisheries Resources.....	NTR
12.	Wildlife Propagation and Stocking.....	NTR
13.	Surplus Animal Disposal.....	NTR
14.	Scientific Collections.....	NTR
15.	Animal Control.....	NTR
16.	Marking and Banding.....	NTR

17. Disease Prevention and Control..... NTR

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General..... 18-19
2. Outdoor Classrooms - Students..... NTR
3. Outdoor Classrooms - Teachers..... NTR
4. Interpretive Foot Trails..... NTR
5. Interpretive Tour Routes..... NTR
6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations..... NTR
7. Other Interpretive Programs..... NTR
8. Hunting..... NTR
9. Fishing..... NTR
10. Trapping..... NTR
11. Wildlife Observation..... 19
12. Other Wildlife Oriented Recreation..... NTR
13. Camping..... NTR
14. Picnicking..... NTR
15. Off-Road Vehicling..... NTR
16. Other Non-Wildlife Oriented Recreation..... NTR
17. Law Enforcement..... 19-20
18. Cooperating Associations..... NTR
19. Concessions..... NTR

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. New Construction..... NTR
2. Rehabilitation..... 20
3. Major Maintenance..... NTR
4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement..... NTR
5. Communications Systems..... NTR
6. Computer Systems..... NTR
7. Energy Conservation..... NTR
8. Other..... NTR

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Cooperative Programs..... NTR

2.	Other Economic Uses	NTR
3.	Items of Interest	NTR
4.	Credits	20

K. FEEDBACK NTR

L. INFORMATION PACKET

(Inside Back Cover)

A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Precipitation recorded for the year was below normal (Section B)
- Salt Lake was dry all year (Section F.2)
- Few sandhill cranes were observed (Section G.4)

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Dry and unseasonably mild weather prevailed throughout much of 1995. Significant moisture was only received during the months of May (3.82 inches), July (2.00 inches), and September (2.92 inches). No precipitation was recorded during February and November. Total precipitation recorded for the year amounted to 12.78 inches. The average annual precipitation for the area is 16 inches.



GRL2-1/95

Salt Lake comprises 2,330 acres and is often dry year-round.

DRC

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

No personnel are stationed at the refuge. The refuge is administered from Muleshoe NWR.



GRL3-8/95

Don Clapp - Refuge Manager, GS-11, PFT

GKC



GRL4-8/95

Glenda Kay Copley - Office Assistant, GS-6, PFT

DRC



GRL5-8/95

Dean Gilliam - Maintenance Worker, WG-8, PFT

DRC

4. Volunteers



GRL6-8/95

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stokes, Arch, N.M.

GKC

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.



GRL7-8/95

Scott Modderman - Volunteer

DRC

During 1995 volunteers from the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge contributed 35 hours of volunteer time. Duties pertained mostly to periodic inspections of parking area and boundary sign rehabilitation.



GRL8-8/95

Carlos Contreras - Volunteer

DRC



GRL9-8/95

Hilda Contreras - Volunteer

DRC

5. Funding

Refuge Funding FY 91-95		
FY	Total	MMS
95	0	
94	2,000	
93	1,000	5,900
92	2,000	5,800
91	1,200	

Grulla NWR received no funding at all for FY-95, all funding had to be used from the Muleshoe NWR budget. Since Muleshoe NWR's budget was nearly deleted after salaries and fixed costs, expenses for the Grulla NWR were held to a minimum amount. Force account expenses for Grulla NWR amounted to nearly \$1,000 and pertained to checking for and repairing acts of vandalism and rehabilitating boundary posts/signs and fences.

6. Safety

Monthly safety meetings were conducted at the Muleshoe NWR.

8. Other Items

Training and Meetings

Refuge Manager Clapp

- Ecosystems Team Meeting
Austin, TX
January 26 - 27

- Law Enforcement Refresher
Training, Tucson, AZ
February 27 - March 4

- National Environmental
Policy Act Training,
Portland, OR
June 12 - 15
- Project Leaders Meeting
Albuquerque, NM
July 31 - August 4
- Ecosystems Team Meeting
Austin, TX
August 23 - 24
- Firearms Requalification
Elk City, OK
October 5
- Conservation Reserve
Program Meeting, New Mexico
State & Ag. Exp. Field
Station North of Clovis, NM
October 12
- Using Microsoft Windows
Course, Lubbock, TX
January 12
- Administrative Conference
Albuquerque, NM
July 17 - 21

Office Assistant Copley

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.



GRL10-1/95

The flat lake bed of Salt Lake covers over 2,000 acres.

DRC

2. Wetlands



GRL11-1/95

Salt Lake remained dry all year.

DRC

The 2,330 acre lake bed of Salt Lake remained dry or nearly dry throughout the entire year. September rains contributed traces of water in the lake bed for a short time. There is no management of the lake basin since part is privately owned as well as is most of the lake access.



GRL12-11/95

The south side of Salt Lake.

DRC



GRL13-11/95

The north side of Salt Lake.

DRC



GRL14-11/95

The shifting sands of Salt Lake.

DRC



GRL15-1/95

Blowing dust on Salt Lake.

DRC

5. Grasslands



GRL16-1/95

DRC

Livestock occasionally wander across the lake bed only to become "mired down".

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.



GRL17-1/95

Vegetation adjacent Salt Lake is often buried in sand.

DRC

7. Grazing



GRL18-1/95

DRC

One of the few areas where cattle are fenced out of the refuge.

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.



GRL19-9/95

DRC

Over the years fences had been built out into the lake by adjacent land owners.

Adjacent land owners have expressed an interest in some type of land exchange which might be to their advantage as well as the Service's. So far nothing has been accomplished towards any type of land exchange due to the lack of refuge personnel and adequate funding.



GRL20-9/95

DRC

Nearly 600 acres of grassland is grazed adjacent Salt Lake.

Inspections of grasslands during 1994 and 1995 indicated that approximately 570 acres of the nearly 760 acres of grassland with access from adjacent privately owned grasslands was actively grazed during the year. Remaining areas on both sides of the lake were not grazed due to cross fences or were adjacent farm fields and contained mature grasses.

G. WILDLIFE

3. Waterfowl

No waterfowl were observed on Salt Lake this year.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

Due to the extreme dry conditions again this year, few shorebirds were observed.

A few hundred lesser sandhill cranes were observed adjacent the refuge throughout the fall months.

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

During October 17 American avocet were observed along the north side of Salt Lake.

A few Baird's sandpipers were seen on Salt Lake in the fall.

6. Raptors

Turkey vultures and golden eagles were occasionally seen on the refuge or nearby. Others observed included northern harrier, American kestrel, Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk, and red-tailed hawk.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

Ring-necked pheasant, scaled quail, and lesser prairie chicken were often seen on or near the refuge. One bobcat was observed in October.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Nearly 910 visitors used the refuge this year, this is nearly the same number recorded for 1994. 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.



GRL21-10/95

Overlook near parking area.

DRC

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.

Surprisingly, vandalism only occurred at the refuge parking area once this year. Apparently someone had rammed one of the parking area posts with a vehicle.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

2. Rehabilitation

Due to vandalism, rail fence repair was conducted at the parking area in October.

J. OTHER ITEMS

4. Credits

This report was written by Manager Clapp and printed and assembled by Office Assistant Copley.

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GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

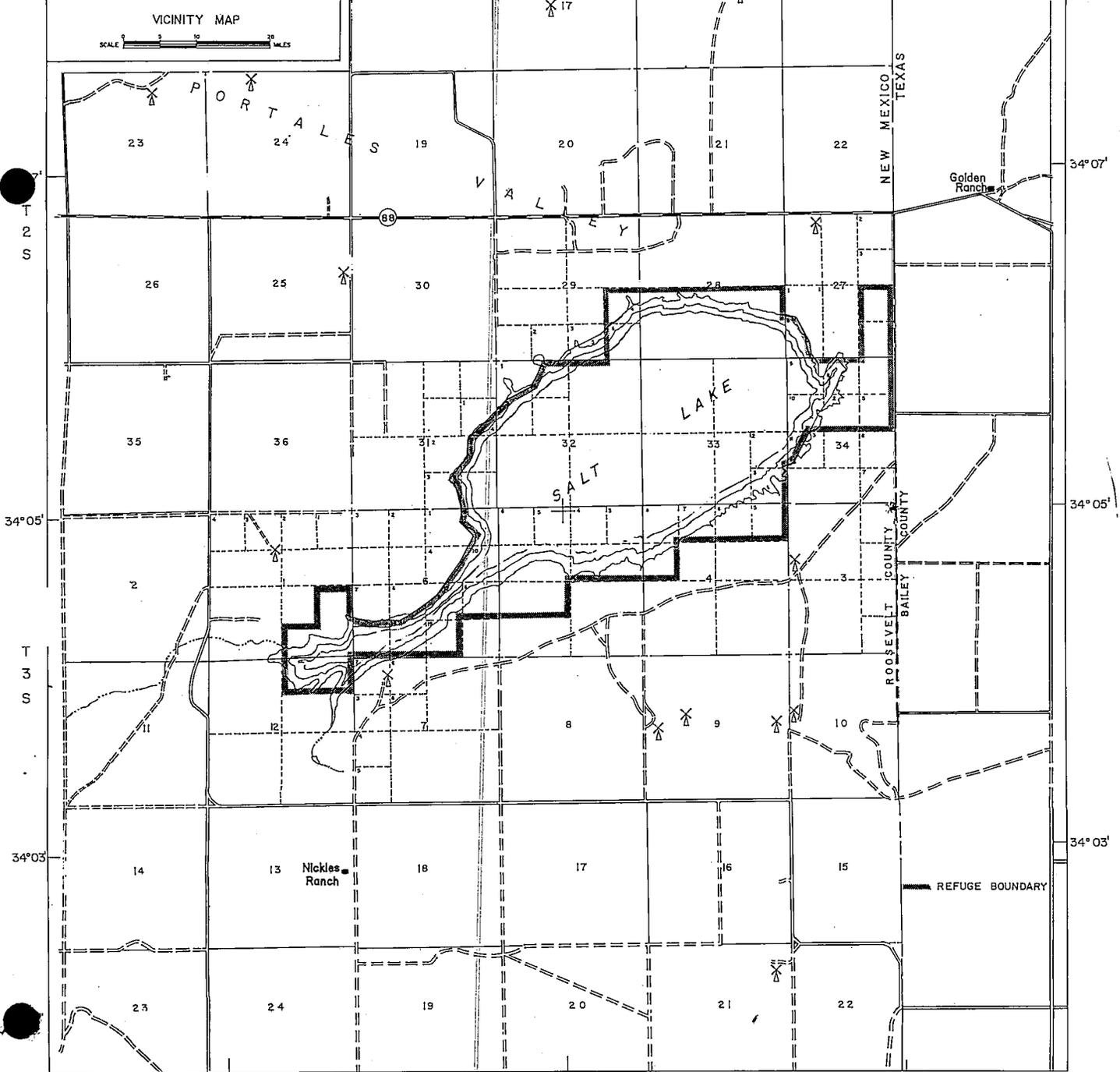
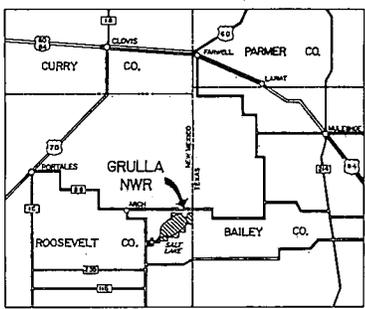
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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.D. PLATS, U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLES,
AND OTHER OFFICIAL INFORMATION. REVISED JANUARY 1972

SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN



6	5	4	3	2	1
7	6	5	4	3	2
8	7	6	5	4	3
9	8	7	6	5	4
10	9	8	7	6	5
11	10	9	8	7	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	12	11	10	9	8
14	13	12	11	10	9
15	14	13	12	11	10

TOWNSHIP
DIAGRAM

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC N
MEAN
DECLINATION
1965

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE, 1979

2R N. MEX. 814 404