

LCMR FINAL WORK STATUS REPORT

I. Wildlife Oriented Recreation Facilities/Sandstone Unit - Wildlife 12

Program Manager: Ralph O. Lloyd
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rice Lake NWR
Route 2, Box 67
McGregor, MN 55760
218-768-2402

A. M.L. 91 Ch 254 Art. 1, Sec. 14 Subd: 9 (j)

Appropriation: \$9,000.00
Balance: \$1,786.17

Wildlife Oriented Recreation Facilities at Sandstone Unit [Rice Lake] National Wildlife Refuge: This appropriation is to Commissioner of Natural Resources to contract with Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge for recreation facility development and access at the Sandstone Unit of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

II. NARRATIVE

No public use facilities currently exist on Sandstone Unit. Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge will develop public use facilities at the 2,000 acre Sandstone Unit, Pine County, Minnesota. Project will include construction of a visitor parking area, information kiosk, design and printing of wildlife observation and hunting information pamphlets.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. Off Road Parking for Visitors

- A.1. Narrative: Construct a centrally located, graveled surface parking area, approximately 15 vehicle capacity, with post and rail vehicle stops adjacent to Pine County Highway 20.
- A.2. Procedures: Site planning and design will utilize best existing terrain and approach facilities. Design and construction standards for vehicle travel ways will be gravel sub-grade and Class V gravel surface to accommodate passenger cars and light trucks. Vehicle travel area will be delineated with wood post and rail or wood-metal combination.

A.3. Budget:

		<u>LCMR Funds</u>			
a.	Amount Budgeted	\$4,000.00			
b.	Balance	\$1,439.22			
A.4. <u>Timeline</u> :		<u>July91</u>	<u>Jan92</u>	<u>June92</u>	<u>Jan93</u>
	Design	****			
	Archeological Review	***			
	Environmental Review	***			
	Construction	***			

A.5. Status: The parking lot design along with archeological and environmental review processes were completed in July 1991. Construction included spreading a 200 cubic yard gravel base to accommodate passenger vehicles. The parking lot was delineated by 8'x8' wooden posts and 4"x6" wooden rails. Due to some settling of the original gravel, an additional 200 cubic yards of Class V gravel was delivered and stockpiled for future spreading.

A.6. Benefits: Parking area will provide a safe, all weather parking area for Refuge Visitors at a convenient location.

B. Inform Refuge Visitors

- B.1. Narrative: Construct Refuge identification sign and information kiosk at visitor parking area. Design and print pamphlets that contain specific information about area resources and permitted public use.
- B.2. Procedures: Sign and kiosk design and placement will conform to FWS standards. General layout information will be provided to graphic design specialist for detailed design specifications of display and pamphlet material. Printing will be completed by commercial vendor to specification.

B.3. Budget:

a. Amount Budgeted \$5,000.00
b. Balance \$ 346.95

B.4. Timeline: July91 Jan92 June92 Jan93

Kiosk and Sign				
Design/Print	****			***
Pamphlet Design/Print	****			***
Kiosk Structure				
Construction	***			
Kiosk Panel, Leaflet				
Dispenser and Sign In-Place				***

B.5. Status: The kiosk structure was completed in August, 1992. Interpretive panels to be mounted on the kiosk were ordered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sign Shop, but had not been received as of this reporting. The panels were not funded through LCMR. Informational pamphlets, describing the Sandstone Unit and public uses were designed and printed and are currently available to the visiting public at the kiosk.

B.6. Benefits: Sign, kiosk and pamphlets will provide identification of the area, information about permitted public use and education about area natural resources and resource management.

IV. EVALUATION

The following information will be used to evaluate the project: 1) number of people using the facilities; 2) impact of public use on refuge resources; 3) public comment on facilities.

V. CONTEXT

- A. This will be an initial project by the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop quality public use facilities and provide readily available information concerning available wildlife related public uses at the Sandstone Unit. The project will provide minimal standard use facilities and information.
- B. Although this is an initial project on these Federal lands, the project will add to available area, public use facilities including Wildlife Management Areas and Banning State Park.
- C. No public use development has occurred with or without LCMR funding in the past. Potential future proposals include cooperative development of trail and educational programs with the nearby Kettle River Environmental Education Center.

D. None

E. Unknown

VI. QUALIFICATIONS1. Program Manager:

Ralph O. Lloyd
 Refuge Manager, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge
 Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 M.A. Wildlife Ecology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.
 Project Leader at Rice Lake NWR since August, 1992.
 Professional management experience in a variety of
 positions of increasing responsibility in the USFWS
 since 1975.

2. Cooperators:

Project plans will be coordinated with Minnesota
 Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Lee Hemness,
 Area Wildlife Manager, Hinckley, Minnesota.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than
 January 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; January 1, 1993 and a final
 status report by June 30, 1993.

1991 WILDLIFE PROJECT ABSTRACT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1993

This project was supported by MN Future Resources Fund (MS 116P.13)

TITLE: Wildlife Oriented Recreation Facilities at
Sandstone Unit of Rice Lake National Wildlife
Refuge.
PROGRAM MANAGER: Mr. Ralph Lloyd
ORGANIZATION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LEGAL CITATION: 9(j)
APPROP. AMOUNT \$9,000

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Construct a centrally located graveled surface parking area, approximately 15 vehicle capacity, with post and rail vehicle stops and a kiosk to supply information about the Refuge to visitors.

RESULTS

The completed parking area dimensions are 112 feet x 56 feet with an approach of about 100 feet in length entering from Pine County Road 20. The area is surrounded by 8 inch x 8 inch vertical wooden posts with a single 4 inch x 6 inch wooden rail to act as a vehicle barrier. The driving surface of the entire area is gravel. A two-panel wooden kiosk was constructed on the west side of the parking area. The kiosk currently houses a leaflet dispenser which includes a leaflet describing the Sandstone Unit to visitors. In the near future, the kiosk will also include interpretive panels describing the biological significance of the Refuge Unit.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Annual visitation to the Sandstone Unit is anticipated to be 2,000 visitors, who will be engaging in activities such as hunting, hiking and wildlife viewing.