



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

DO NOT FILL IN THIS BLOCK

State

Project number

W-89-1

PROJECT STATEMENT

PROJECT TITLE

SAND CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To develop the area for maximum production of Big Game Animals with secondary benefits to Migratory Birds.

There is no date on this document but it since it mentions a land purchase it was written some time after that.

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	PERCENT OF PARTICIPATION
WILDLIFE	000.00	100 %
FISH REST	000.00	100 %

The State, through its Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (16 U.S.C. 50 CFR, Part 80. The State agrees as set forth in 43 CFR 17, as amended.

It lists 135 acres that were flood irrigated at least at some point.

For wildlife project detailed in the above-described project approved in accordance with the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1964 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, the State has agreed to contribute and expressly made a part hereof.

Official title of State Fish and Game Department

Idaho Fish and Game Department
Signature

Title

Director

Date

SPECIAL PROJECT CONDITIONS

The project as described in the project outline attached to this document meets the standards of the Secretary of the Interior and is found to be substantial in character and design. This project is hereby approved, subject to any special project conditions set forth above:

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Signature and title

Date

Assistant Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

PROJECT STATEMENT

STATE: IDAHO

PROJECT: SAND CREEK WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA

PROJECT NO.: W-89-D

Perspective and Scope

The initial purchase for the Sand Creek Management Area was made in 1947. The area is managed for wildlife, particularly elk. Depredation and the blocking of migration routes prompted the establishment of an area reserved for wildlife use. The area serves as an important recreational outlet for an estimated 100,000 people who live within commuting distance.

Increased demands on wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in the Upper Snake River Valley show cause for intensive management, particularly big game and upland bird habitat. The Sand Creek area fills a most important need in providing habitat for the species involved. The area furnishes many recreational opportunities.

Elk, deer, moose, antelope, sage grouse, sharptail grouse, forest grouse, doves, Hungarian partridge and waterfowl are produced and hunted on the area. Sand Creek heads on the project and provides fishing for eastern brook trout. Trout fishing is available in several impoundments along Blue Creek, which terminates on the project area. Other popular activities on the area are picnicking, bird watching, sight-seeing and snow machine outings.

Development and Management

I. Name of Area: Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area

A. Location:

The Sand Creek area is located approximately four miles north of St. Anthony in Fremont County.

B. Description:

The project comprises ^{26,915}~~28,833~~ acres. Of this amount, the 4,763 acre Chapman ranch was purchased in 1947 to stop depredation and provide an unobstructed migration route for big game animals from summer ranges to key winter range in the Juniper area. One thousand acres of Bureau of Land Management lands inside the boundaries of the Chapman purchase were withdrawn in 1951. Six hundred forty acres of Parker and Cutler land was purchased in 1958. This land lays in the big game migration route and was purchased to prevent blockage and future depredation problems. One hundred sixty acres were purchased from Fremont County within the key winter range area known as the Junipers. Ten thousand two hundred seven acres of the Ricks property were purchased in 1961. Also incorporated under the same boundary were 1,558 acres of State land, which is being leased from the State of Idaho and 8,587 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands which was put in a non-use category.

id
rth

Redo One thousand nine-hundred eighteen acres of adjoining Forest Service land was reserved entirely for wildlife use. An 80⁰ acre land trade was negotiated with Allen Ricks in 1967 for the purpose of constructing a year-round headquarters 7 miles west of St. Anthony. Secondary headquarters is 24 miles north of St. Anthony.

Blue Creek heads on Forest Service land east of the Sand Creek area. Flowing south it enters in the area on the east side at the bottom of the foothills. All the water is contained on the area in impoundments except for spring run-off. Flood waters are diverted into Sand Creek.

Part of Sand Creek, known as Sharp Springs, heads on the east side of the area near the bottom of the foothills. Meandering south down the east boundary onto private property, it runs into the extreme east portion of the Ricks segment of the Sand Creek area, thence back onto private property where it is contained in two reservoirs belonging to Arcadia Ditch Company.

The north end of the area lies in the foothills at an elevation of 6,600 feet. The area extends approximately 15 miles southwest to the Red Road near the area known as the Junipers. Elevation of the south end is 5,300 feet. Most of the area is range land, covered with lava outcrops, sagebrush and native grass type, interspersed with bitterbrush and chokecherry. Sand dunes cut through the middle of the Ricks segment. (This is where most of the 8,587 acres of Bureau of Land Management land was put into non-use category). Deer and moose winter in this area along with large flocks of sharptail grouse. Elk also utilize this area in early winter.

Climatically, the area is semi-arid, characterized by hot summers, cold winters with deep snow along the foothills and a short growing season. Rain may be expected along the foothills and extending into the desert type land until late June. Temperatures range from -35° F to 100° F; and the growing season averages 100 days. The precipitation averages 16 inches on the area, falling mostly as snow in winter and showers in spring and early fall.

Many types of soil are found on the area, ranging from heavy loam to sand. Most of the soil is deep and interspersed with many lava outcrops. The tillable acreage is sandy loam again broken by lava outcrops. About 600 acres of this area has been farmed, 135 acres by flood irrigation. Three hundred acres has been planted into permanent grass-legume pasture. Twenty-five acres is irrigated for duck and goose pastures. The rest is dry farmed for wheat which is utilized by elk in late fall and geese in the spring.

Water rights include all of Blue Creek, all storage rights on impoundments and 1.2 c.f.s. of decreed water of Sharp's spring. Blue Creek runs approximately 1 c.f.s. in the summer, fall and winter. During the spring it has up to 10 c.f.s. for about 30 days.

Existing capital improvements include:

1. One dam impounding 145 acre-feet.
2. Three developed borrow pit dikes impounding 300 acre-feet.
3. ~~Forty~~ ^{two} miles of fence.
4. Headquarters, one residence, one equipment storage shed, one shop and office. Secondary headquarters, one residence, one equipment storage shed, shop and bunkhouse combination, and building to house power plant.

Game species of the area include: elk, deer, moose, antelope, bear, sage grouse, sharptail grouse, mourning doves, waterfowl, Hungarian partridge, forest grouse, rabbits, pheasants, eastern brook and rainbow trout.

Current annual recreational uses include an estimated 400 man-days spent elk hunting (43 known elk killed last year), 1,000 man-days deer hunting, 10 man-days moose hunting, 3 known killed; 150 man-days antelope hunting, 50 man-days bear hunting, 1,100 man-days sage and sharptail hunting (650 birds known killed last year), 100 man-days mourning dove hunting, 100 man-days forest grouse hunting, 100 man-days waterfowl hunting, 25 man-days Hungarian partridge hunting, 100 man-days rabbit and pheasant hunting, 5,800 man-days fishing. In addition, local trappers harvested 200 muskrats, 10 mink and 2 beaver last year. About 800 people use the area each year for camping, picnics, horseback riding, sightseeing, artifact hunting, hiking, predator hunting, choke cherry picking, and snow machine trips.

C. Potential:

The Sand Creek area is productive from the standpoint of food, cover crops, wildlife produced and harvested. Purchase of more land, construction of ponds, land use trades, habitat improvement, manipulation of livestock grazing, more and better management practices, investigation of wildlife and better public relations could double or triple wildlife and public use of the area. It is estimated that an additional 30 years will be required to complete all development work to realize maximum returns.

D. Objectives:

More winter range in the Juniper area should be purchased as well as access into the impoundments on Sand Creek in the McMinn ranch. We will develop impoundment sites on the area, making them as attractive to waterfowl as possible. A spawning channel will be constructed for impoundments 2 and 3 for reproduction of brook trout.

Co-operative management plans

Land use trades will be expanded in the Juniper area, particularly with the Hillman Cattle Company. Sharptail habitat will be improved along the sand dunes in the Ricks segment. Big game habitat will be improved in the area west of Big Grassy which is in the Juniper area. Help will be given to the Bureau of Land Management to get started in rest rotation type of grazing and see that livestock operators on private land get acquainted with better management practices. Assistance will be given current investigations on the sharptail grouse and the moose study that is getting underway. We hope to have better management of wildlife through maximum harvests, relaxed restrictions, and better use of habitat through wildlife distribution and a better balance between wildlife and livestock use. The public should be kept informed of the hunting and fishing opportunities that exist on the area with more emphasis on the other comparable recreational activities such as horseback riding, camping, and sightseeing.

E. Justification:

There are over 100,000 people residing within commuting distance of the project. Yellowstone Park has become over-crowded and visitors to the park have started spilling over into adjacent recreational areas. Hunters and

fishermen from other states have increased tremendously in the last 10 years. As the population increases, more people are expected to participate in recreational activities. Through use trades, cooperative projects with private land owners, cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and State Land Board approximately eighty percent of Fremont County's 1,000 elk; 1,200 deer; and 350 moose depend entirely on the Sand Creek area's ability to support them in the winter.

F. Long-Term Development Plans:

Siddoway Sheep Company and Hillman Brothers Cattle Company own all the private land in the key big game winter range, known as the Junipers. There are approximately 17 sections involved. This land is not for sale at present but it will be and we should be prepared to buy. Purchase of the McMinn ranch would give the public access into the Arcadia Ditch Company reservoirs, two of these impoundments operate under private pond permits.

There are three impoundment sites left on the area that will flood approximately 150 more acres. Two of the sites will be in the same area as existing impoundments. One will be on Sand Creek in the Ricks segment. An agreement with Arcadia Ditch Company will have to be negotiated before construction can begin. Agreements for two small parcels of land must also be completed.

A spawning channel, 700 feet long, will be excavated into Blue Creek from impoundment numbers 2 and 3. The primary purpose of this channel will be to provide a natural reproduction area for eastern brook trout.

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Land use trades will be continued with private land cooperators. We plan to make a use trade with Hillman Brothers Cattle Company for winter grazing on the North Lake Wildlife Management Area. Use trades give us some control on private lands and their management. By written agreement, it allows public access, stops uncontrolled burning by the operator, distributes livestock over a larger area, retires livestock from critical winter range at a time when they are in direct competition with the game animals and stops harmful brush spraying.

More sharptail habitat will be created along the south side of the sand dunes on the Ricks segment. Approximately 400 acres of sagebrush will be cleared by burning or beating, allowing native grass, predominantly stipa, to take over. Decadent stands of chokecherry will be bulldozed to encourage re-sprouting. Snow fences creating snow drifts for moisture will be erected near resprouting areas. Small plantings of wheat, alfalfa and sainfoin will be planted in the area.

Several years ago, approximately five sections of land west of the Junipers, controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, were burned off. This area was predominantly bitterbrush, sage brush and grass. The fire killed the brush and has been replaced by grass and annuals. The soil is sandy and broken by lava outcrops. A cooperative agreement will be drawn up to replant the area to bitterbrush. Habitat could be doubled for big game in the Juniper area by reseeding and rest rotation grazing in this particular area.

We will urge livestock men to inquire about rest rotation grazing on public lands and attend classes that are sponsored for their benefit and use. These are the services of the Soil Conservation Service, county agents and Bureau of Land Management.

Assistance will be given in current investigations on sharptail grouse and moose. We will help locate dancing grounds, broods and population concentrations of sharptail grouse. We will also trap, tag and record movements. Moose concentrations will be recorded; the tagging program will be continued. Tag sightings will be recorded and stomach samples will be collected when possible. Any assistance we can give to complete these studies will be given.

Better management of wildlife will be helped through maximum harvests and relaxed restrictions. The entire area will conform to hunting and fishing regulations of unit 60, with no refuges or special closures, except for elk, planned. Assistance in obtaining hunter harvest data will be given.

Good fall and winter elk distribution has been accomplished on the area by planting wheat patches in areas we wish to have utilized. This also helps keep these animals off key winter range until a later date. Waterfowl benefit from these plantings in the spring and have been observed feeding with elk in the middle of winter on the desert. These plantings will be continued and expanded in all areas we own or control. Some fencing will be done to prevent livestock trespass.

Currently we have a study on the area to determine the quality and degree of summer use by livestock of herbaceous and woody plants on the big game winter range. We will determine methods by which seasonal livestock grazing may be used without use of bitterbrush. This study will be facilitated with the development of permanent water facilities and the replacement of approximately one mile of perimeter fence.

As public use on the area increases, parking areas and campgrounds will be constructed. Existing parking facilities will be enlarged and additional toilets will be installed.

Project equipment and technical personnel will assist with work on other management areas such as road building, dike construction, land leveling, and other semi-heavy construction.

G. Plans for First Five Years:

Item No.	Work Item	Description	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
1.	Buildings <i>Done</i>	Finish rooms in headquarters basement	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
		Landscaping	1	250.00	250.00
2.	Dams, Dikes, or Levees	Control dikes or dams	3	5,000.00	15,000.00
3.	Canals and Channels	Spawning channel	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
4.	Bridges	Access across spawning channel and dikes	4	200.00	800.00
5.	Roads	Access to new campgrounds	4	1,000.00	4,000.00
		Graveling 5 mi. of access road	5	800.00	4,000.00

G. Plans for First Five Years (Continued)

Item No.	Work Item	Description	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
7.	Fences	Building fences, boundary and enclosure	10 miles	\$ 1,000.00	\$10,000.00
8.	Public Use Facilities	Toilets	4	300.00	1,200.00
		Parking lots	4	1,000.00	4,000.00
		Campgrounds	4	1,000.00	4,000.00
11.	Signs and Boundary Markers	Entrance and boundary signs	200	2.50	500.00
12.	Planting trees, shrubs, or aquatic plants	Bitterbrush seeding	3,000 acres	4.00	12,000.00
13.	Herbaceous seedings	Wildlife food cover	2,500 acres	5.00	12,500.00
		-Heavy duty disk	1		3,500.00
		-Grain drill	1		2,000.00
		-Electric welder	1		500.00
14.	Thinning or Clearing	Brush removal	500 acres	22.00	11,000.00
15.	Noxious Vegetation Control	Weed spraying	300 acres	2.50	750.00
21.	Area Supervision	Administration			89,000.00

Estimated Costs Development

From July 1, 1969 To June 30, 1974

\$177,000.00

H. Recreational Plans and Benefits:

No refuges are planned. All hunting and fishing will be in compliance with State regulations. Relaxed restrictions on the area and surrounding area may include a general hunt on bull elk.

The current estimated usage for each type of recreation is included in the "Description" section.

172
5
175
2
177
3
180

182
2

181,000

MAINTENANCE

2. Name of Area: Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area

A. Justification:

Capital improvements have been constructed with Federal Aid funds and, as such, are eligible for maintenance through Federal Aid.

B. Items to be Maintained:

1. Buildings: The headquarters residence, equipment storage shed, shop and office; also secondary headquarters residence, shop, bunkhouse and power plant require annual maintenance in the form of painting and repairs. Estimated cost: \$1,200.00. *5,000*
2. Dams and Dikes: Four dams impounding 445 acre-feet of water require annual repairs. Estimated cost: \$1,600.00 *8,000*
3. Canals and Channels: Annual maintenance in the form of cleaning and weed control is necessary to facilitate the movement of water. Estimated cost: \$600.00. *3,000*
5. Roads: Interior roads on the area require some annual maintenance, in the form of grading, draining and miscellaneous. Estimated cost: \$1,000.00 *5,000*
7. Fences: Forty miles of fence have been built to control livestock use. Due to heavy snow in the area, fence maintenance costs are above average. Estimated cost: \$2,000.00 *12,000*
8. Public Use Facilities: Parking lots and campgrounds will require annual maintenance and periodic servicing. Estimated costs: \$2,000.00

C. Estimated annual maintenance costs: \$8,400.00

29. 26,000 Summary of Project Costs

Development	\$177,000.00
Maintenance	<u>42,000.00</u>
Total	\$219,000.00

26,000
25,000
41,000

68,000
188,000
242,000
245,000
191
49,000
245,000

Summary of Costs and Related Data

(101-102) SALARIES AND WAGES:

Name	Title	Period	Total
Dick Wilson	Project Leader	12 mo.	
Arnold Rowen	Wildlife Assistant	10 mo.	\$ 8,076.00
Vernal Welker	Wildlife Assistant	10 mo.	4,780.00
Afton Jenkins	Wildlife Assistant	9 mo.	4,780.00
			4,302.00

TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES \$21,938.00

(201) TRAVELING EXPENSES:

Name	Title	Period	Total
Dick Wilson	Project Leader and Assistants as assigned 50 days		\$ 300.00

TOTAL TRAVELING EXPENSES \$ 300.00

(211-253) OPERATING EXPENSES:

Item	Period/Amount	Total
Administrative Charges		\$ 1,566.00
Life Insurance		239.00
Group Insurance		1,784.00
Retirement		1,595.00
Postage and Mailing		10.00
Utility Service - General		450.00
Motor Vehicle Rental:		1,260.00
	4 wd pickup, 12,000 miles	960.00
	1 ton truck, 8,000 miles	1,200.00
	2 ton dump, 8,000 miles	875.00
	2 ton truck, 6,250 miles	210.00
	4 wd pickup, 2,000 miles	
Machinery and Equipment Rental:		
	weed burner	125.00
	county weed sprayer	150.00
	combine rental	350.00
Repair to Equipment		2,440.00
Repair and Maintenance to structures		1,460.00
Advertising and Publicity		75.00
Feed, Forage, and Seed		700.00
Oil Lubricants and Supplies		1,650.00
Minor Tools and Instruments		120.00
Supplies not Classified		400.00

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$17,619.00

(301-351) CAPITAL OUTLAY

Item		Total
Agriculture and Landscaping Equipment:		
	heavy duty disk	\$ 3,500.00
	grain drill	2,000.00
Shop and Plant Equipment:	electric welder	500.00
Unclassified Equipment		150.00
Building and Other Structures:		
	headquarter basement improvements	<u>1,093.00</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		\$ 7,243.00

Summary of Estimated Costs

SALARIES AND WAGES	\$21,938.00
TRAVELING EXPENSE	300.00
OPERATING EXPENSE	17,619.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY	<u>7,243.00</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$47,100.00