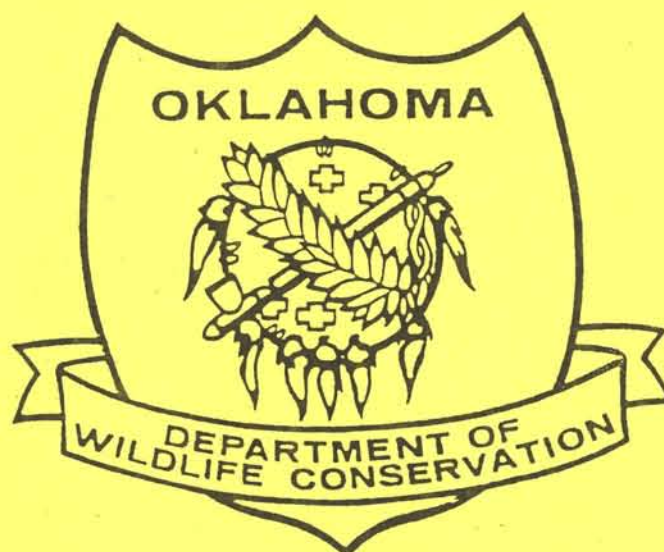


PERFORMANCE REPORT
SECTION 6
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



FEDERAL AID PROJECT E-21-12

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) Recovery
on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA)

APRIL 1, 2003 - MARCH 31, 2004

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Oklahoma

Project No: E-21-12

PROJECT TITLE: Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (Picoides borealis)
recovery on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area
(MCWA)

I. PROGRAM NARRATIVE OBJECTIVE

Recover the RCW population on the MCWA to 45 active clusters by implementing procedures outlined in the MCWA Implementation Plan

II. JOB PROCEDURES

1. Monitoring

- a. Locate, tag, and map new cavity trees within 300 yards of active clusters.
- b. Determine the status of each cavity tree and cluster, especially during the nesting period.
- c. Band adult and nestlings to obtain data on production, dispersal, and mortality and to aid in identifying single bird clans that would benefit from augmentation.

2. Cluster Stand Management

- a. Reduce hardwood midstory and understory trees within 10 acre blocks adjacent to active clusters.
- b. Control the hardwood midstory within clusters by cutting and fire (controlled burns will be done under the Wildlife Restoration Act).

3. Recruitment Stand Management

Identify, mark, and control hardwoods within blocks of suitable habitat within ½ mile of active clusters.

4. Corridors

When needed and feasible, maintain or develop corridors among clusters and recruitment stands.

5. Restrictors and Predator Guards

- a. Place restrictors on RCW cavities to prevent enlargement by other woodpeckers and rehabilitate enlarged cavities.
- b. Install predator guards on all active cavity trees.
- c. Place squirrel guards on trees where flying squirrels have taken over cavities.

6. Artificial Cavities

Install cavity inserts in active clusters to provide at least 5 usable cavities at each site. Install 3 inserts at recruitment sites. When inserts at recruitment stands are activated, install 2 additional inserts.

7. Augmentation

Identify single bird clans and move sub-adult birds to the sites.

III. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

1. Clusters

Eleven clusters were active during the reporting period (Table 1). Cluster 5, which had been sporadically active during previous years, was active through out this period. The mean number of active trees per cluster was 3.3.

2. Cavity Trees

Cavities at active clusters were checked at intervals of approximately 8 weeks throughout the year and cleaned and repaired as needed. Twenty-two of the 34 natural cavities at the active clusters were active, while only 11 of the 61 inserts were active. During the year, 1 active insert tree was killed by southern pine beetles.

3. Restrictors and Predator Guards

All usable natural cavities at active and inactive clusters have been restricted. All active cavity trees have been fitted with a 3 or 5 foot section of aluminum flashing - predator guard. When a cavity tree at a recruitment stand or inactive cluster showed RCW activity, a predator guard was installed.

4. Population

During the 2003 nesting season, 11 nesting attempts at 10 clusters

resulted in 44 eggs, 24 of which hatched (Table 2). One successful re-nesting occurred at cluster 112, where the first 4 eggs failed to hatch. These eggs were collected and sent to Gina Crowder for research. Ten nesting attempt were successful and 18 young were fledged. Nine of these juveniles were subsequently recaptured and color banded. (Table 3).

5. Stand Management

Approximately 4,630 ac in compartments 1, 4, 5, and 7 were burned in April 2003. Another 2,180 ac of adjacent National Forest land were included in the burn.

That only 1 cavity tree was destroyed by southern pine beetles in 2003 reflects the low beetle activity on the area. Beetle spots were infrequent and contained less than 1 acre. Cooperative monitoring of the southern pine beetle population with the Oklahoma Division of Forestry indicated that the beetle population remained relatively low and the predator population high. Beetle monitoring will continue in 2004.

6. Artificial Cavities

During the period, 9 inserts were installed at 3 new recruitment stands, located within the area where hardwood thinning was completed.

7. Corridors.

No additional corridors were developed to connect clusters and recruitment stands and to improve foraging habitat. However, between 400 and 500 acres will be contracted for thinning under project E-56.

8. Augmentation

No single bird clusters were identified, and no RCW translocation occurred on the area.

9. Other Activities

No road or trail construction occurred on the area. Approximately 11 miles of interior roads were graded. One controlled deer hunt and one controlled turkey hunt were conducted.

IV CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of clusters will continue through out the year. If a single bird cluster is found, attempts will be made to move a

surplus RCW from a donor population to the site.

Although southern pine beetle activity at this time is low to moderate, monitoring of the beetle population on the area will continue.

Efforts to locate suitable sites for new R-stands in the areas recently thinned in the E-56 project will continue.

V. DEVIATIONS

None.

VI. Prepared by: John Skeen, Senior Biologist

VII. Date: April 21, 2004

VIII. Approved by:

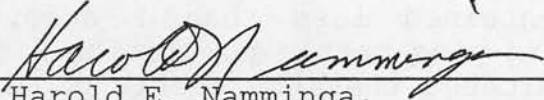

Harold E. Namminga,
Federal Aid/Research Coordinator

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND STATUS OF CAVITIES AT ACTIVE CLUSTERS
ON MARCH 1, 2004

CLUSTER	NATURAL CAVITIES		INSERTS	
	NO.	A	NO.	A
2	3	1	6	3
5	0	0	6	2
12	5	5	5	0
16	3	1	7	1
31	3	2	5	0
32	2	2	6	1
105	3	3	6	0
107	5	3	3	0
109	3	1	5	1
111	4	3	5	1
112	3	1	7	2
TOTAL	34	22	61	11

NO.= NUMBER CAVITIES

A = NUMBER ACTIVE

TABLE 2. NESTING RESULTS FOR MCWA IN 2003

CLUSTER	INITIATION DATE	NUMBER EGGS LAID	NUMBER HATCHED	NUMBER BANDED	** NUMBER IN NEST	NESTLINGS FLEDGED	JUVENILES BANDED
2	29-Apr-03	4	3	2	2	2	2
12	05-May-03	4	2	2	3	2	2
16	07-May-03	4	2	1	1	1	0
31*	29-May-03	*	*	*	*	2	2
32	24-Apr-03	4	4	4	4	2	0
105	05-May-03	4	2	2	2	2	0
107	29-Apr-03	4	4	4	4	1	1
109	08-May-03	4	2	2	2	2	1
111	12-May-03	8	3	2	3	2	1
112	29-Apr-03	4	0	0	0	0	
Renest	03-Jun-03	4	2	2	2	2	0
TOTAL		44	24	21	23	18	9

* CAVITY WAS NOT LOCATED UNTIL THE YOUNG WERE CLOSE TO FLEDGING

** NUMBER OF BIRDS IN THE NEST AT TIME OF BANDING.

11 NESTING ATTEMPTS OCCURRED AT THE 10 ACTIVE CLUSTERS

TABLE 3. ADULT AND JUVENILE RCW'S TRAPPED ON THE MCWA IN 2003

CLUSTER TRAPPED	BAND NUMBER	BAND COLORS		SEX	AGE WHEN TRAPPED	SITE FIRST BANDED	YEAR FIRST BANDED	COMMENTS
		LEFT	RIGHT					
2	8061-07608	DbA	YW	F	J	2	03	
2	8061-07609	DbA	YY	F	J	2	03	
2	8081-99832	LbW	DgA	M	A	111	99	
2	8081-99852	OA	LgP	F	A	109	00	
5	8081-99890	DbA	YO	F	A	112	2	NCBAC
12	8061-07617	YPu	LbA	M	J	12	03	
12	8061-07624	YO	LbA	M	J	12	03	NBAC
12	8081-99808	WLb	LbA	M	A	31	97	
16	8081-99888	WA	LbW	F	A	32	02	
31	8061-07625	DbA	YLg	F	J	31	03	
31	8061-07626	DbA	YLb	F	J	31	03	
31	8081-99874	DgA	LbY	F	A	107	01	NCBAC
32	8081-99803	YA	DgO	F	A	111	97	
105	8081-99844	LbO	DgA	M	A	105	00	
105	8081-99846	OA	LgDb	F	A	31	00	
105	8081-99876	DgA	LbP	F	A	32	01	
105	8081-99893	YW	LbA	M	A	111	02	NCBAC
107	8061-07614	YP	LbA	M	J	107	3	
107	8081-99850	PP	WA	M	A	107	00	
109	8061-07619	DbA	YP	F	J	109	03	
109	8081-99865	WA	LbY	F	A	31	01	
111	8061-07620	YY	LbA	M	J	111	03	
111	8081-99883	DbA	PuY	F	A	107	02	NBAC
111	8081-99894	LgP	PA	M	A	111	02	
112	8081-99843	OA	LgLg	F	A	105	00	
112	8081-99854	PY	WA	M	A	32	00	

Comment Codes: NBAC = NO BANDS AT CAPTURE ; NCBAC = NO COLOR BANDS AT CAPTURE

