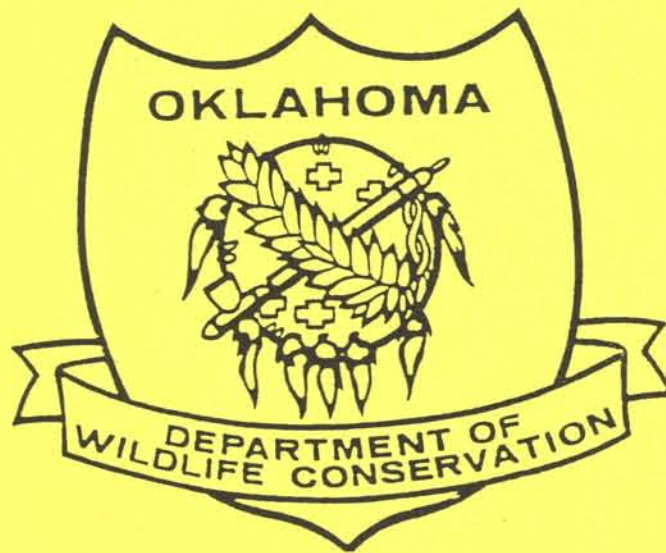


PERFORMANCE REPORT
SECTION 6
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



FEDERAL AID PROJECT E-21-11

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

APRIL 1, 2002 - MARCH 31, 2003

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**State:** Oklahoma**Project No:** E-21-11**PROJECT TITLE:** Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (Picoides borealis) recovery on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA)**I. PROJECT 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 subadults to the sites.

III. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

1. Clusters

Ten clusters were active during the reporting period (Table 1.). Cluster 5, which was sporadically active during the previous year, was inactive 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 4 weeks throughout the year and cleaned and repaired as needed. Twenty-four of the 33 natural cavities at the active clusters were active, while only 9 of the 57 inserts were active. During the year, 1 active insert tree was struck by lightning and subsequently 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 2002 nesting season, 11 nesting attempts at 10 clusters resulted in 37 eggs, 31 of which hatched. One nest was lost before the nestlings reached banding age (5 to 7 days), and 1 was lost after banding. All nest trees were ringed with flashing at least 4

feet wide. No evidence was found to suggest the cause or causes of these nest losses. Eight nesting attempts were successful and 15 young were fledged. Eight of these juveniles were subsequently recaptured and color banded. (Table 3.).

5. Stand Management

Additional blocks totaling 4 ac were thinned near clusters 31 and 112. Approximately 5,723 ac in compartments 8, 9, 10, and 11 were burned in April 2002. Another 1,370 ac of adjacent National Forest land were included in the burn.

That only 1 cavity tree was destroyed by southern pine beetles in 2002 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 2003.

6. Artificial Cavities

During the period, 1 insert was installed at an active cluster.

7. Corridors.

No additional corridors, to connect clusters and recruitment stands and improve foraging habitat, were developed. However, 700 ac were thinned near several clusters 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.

Older, less serviceable inserts will be identified and replaced,

first at active clusters and then at inactive clusters and R-stands. Possibly, new R-stands will be established in the areas recently thinned in the E-56 project.

V. DEVIATIONS

None.

VI. Prepared by; _____

John Skeen, Senior Biologist

VII. Date: April 17 2003

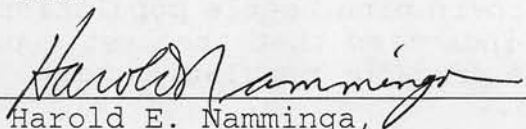
VIII. Approved by:  _____
Harold E. Namminga,
Federal Aid/Research Coordinator

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND STATUS OF CAVITIES AT ACTIVE CLUSTERS
ON MARCH 1, 2003

CLUSTER	NATURAL CAVITIES		INSERTS	
	NO.	A	NO.	A
2	2	2	6	2
12	6	4	4	0
16	2	1	6	2
31	3	2	5	0
32	2	2	6	3
105	3	3	7	0
107	7	4	4	0
109	2	1	5	1
111	3	3	5	0
112	3	2	9	1
TOTAL	33	24	57	9

NO. = NUMBER CAVITIES
A = NUMBER ACTIVE

TABLE 2. NESTING RESULTS FOR MCWA IN 2002

C L U S T E R	I N I T I A T I O N D A T E	N U M B E R E G G S L A I D	N U M B E R H A T C H E D	N U M B E R B A N D E D	* N U M B E R I N N E S T	N E S T L I N G S F L E D G E D	J U V E N I L E S B A N D E D
2	4/24	3	2	2	2	1	1
12	5/30	3	3	0	3	2	0
16	4/30	3	2	1	1	0	0
31	4/25	4	3	3	3	0	0
Renest	6/28	2	2	0	0	0	0
32	4/30	4	4	3	3	3	2
105	4/30	4	3	2	3	2	2
107	4/30	4	3	3	3	2	1
109	5/14	3	2	2	2	2	1
111	4/29	4	4	2	2	1	1
112	4/29	3	3	3	3	2	0
TOTAL		37	31	21	25	15	8

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

TABLE 3. RCW'S TRAPPED ON THE MCWA IN 2002

CLUSTER TRAPPED	BAND NUMBER	BAND COLORS		SEX	AGE WHEN TRAPPED	SITE FIRST BAND DATE	YEAR FIRST BAND DATE
		LEFT	RIGHT				
2	8081-99832	LbW	DgA	M	A	111	99
2	8081-99852	OA	LgP	F	A	109	00
2	8081-99880	LgY	PA	M	J	2	02
12	8061-07601	LgO	PA	M	A*	12	02
12	8081-99808	WLb	LbA	M	A	31	97
16	8081-99860	DgA	LbLg	F	A	111	01
16	8081-99888	WA	LbW	F	J	32	02
32	1681-76325	YM	DpA	M	A	TX	99
32	8081-99803	YA	DgO	F	A	111	97
32	8081-99815	YW	OA	M	A	32	98
32	8081-99889	LgPu	PA	M	J	32	02
105	8061-07062	WA	LbP	F	J	105	02
105	8081-99844	LbO	DgA	M	A	105	00
105	8081-99876	DgA	LbPu	F	A	32	01
105	8081-99897	LgLb	PA	M	J	105	02
107	8081-99850	PP	WA	M	A	107	00
107	8081-99874	DgA	LbY	F	A	107	01
107	8081-99881	WA	LbPu	F	J	107	02
109	8081-99865	WA	LbY	F	A	31	01
109	8081-99898	LgW	PA	M	J	109	02
111	49244	OA	BILb	F	A	109	93
111	8081-99894	LgP	PA	M	J	111	02
112	8081-99843	OA	LgLg	F	A	105	00
112	8081-99854	YP	WA	M	A	32	00

* Adult without bands at capture

