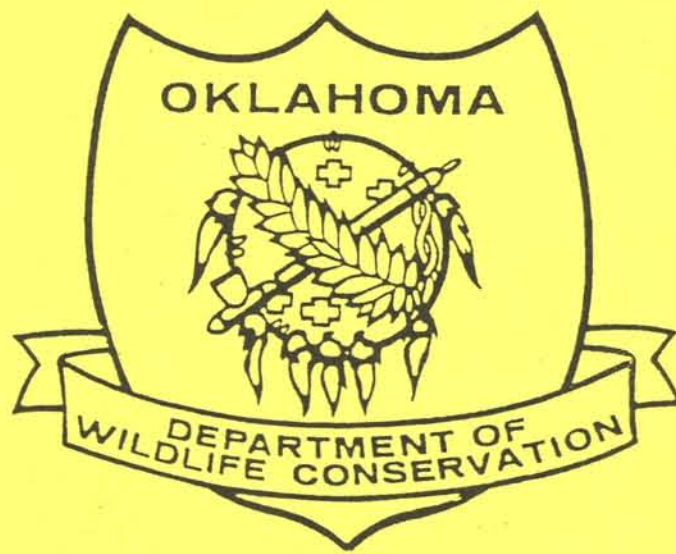


PERFORMANCE REPORT  
SECTION 6  
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



FEDERAL AID PROJECT E-21-13

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

APRIL 1, 2004 - MARCH 31, 2005

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Oklahoma

Project No: E-21-13

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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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

Thirteen clusters were active during the reporting period (Table 1.). Cluster 24 was active for only a part of the year. Cluster 25 was active the entire year with a single female. This site was augmented with a juvenile male from the Kisatchie NF in Louisiana. Both of these clusters were new R-stands in areas where the hardwood midstory had recently been thinned. The mean number of active trees per cluster was 3.0.

### 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-five of the 34 natural cavities at the active clusters were active, while only 14 of the 73 inserts were active. During the year, 1 cavity tree was lost to wind breakage, and 4 to unknown causes. Pine beetles were apparently not the cause of mortality for these cavity trees.

### 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 2004 nesting season, 12 nesting attempts at 11 clusters resulted in 46 eggs, 35 of which hatched (Table 2.). One successful re-nesting occurred at cluster 105, where the first 2 eggs disappeared before hatching. Ten nesting attempts were successful and 21 young were fledged. Eight of these juveniles were subsequently recaptured and color banded. (Table 3.).

#### 5. Stand Management

Approximately 3,345 ac in compartments 2, 3 and 6 were burned in April 2004. Another 1,124 ac of adjacent National Forest land were included in the burn.

Five cavity trees were lost in 2004 but none were apparently killed by southern pine beetles. One tree died after breaking in a wind storm, and the other 4 died from unknown causes. In 2004 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 2005.

#### 6. Artificial Cavities

During the period, 6 inserts were installed at active clusters.

#### 7. Corridors.

No additional corridors, to connect clusters and recruitment stands, were developed. However, approximately 600 acres were thinned by temporary personnel funded through the E-56 grant.

#### 8. Augmentation

A single bird site (cluster 25) was augmented on December 1, 2004 with a juvenile male RCW from the Kisatchie NF in Louisiana. The release went well with the resident female and the translocated male staying in close proximity for about 5 minutes. However, the male has not been seen the release day.

#### 9. Other Activities

No road or trail construction occurred on the area. Approximately 10 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.

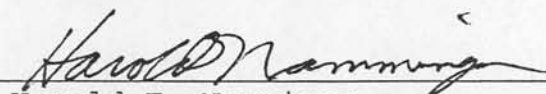
#### V. DEVIATIONS

None.

VI. Prepared by: John Skeen, Senior Biologist

VII. Date: April 20, 2005

VIII. Approved by:



Harold E. Namminga,  
Federal Aid/ Research Coordinator

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND STATUS OF CAVITIES AT ACTIVE CLUSTERS  
ON MARCH 1, 2005

CLUSTER	NATURAL CAVITIES		INSERTS	
	NO.	A	NO.	A
2	2	1	6	4
5	1	1	7	1
12	6	4	5	0
16	2	1	7	1
24	0	0	4	0
25	0	0	5	1
31	2	2	5	0
32	1	1	7	1
105	3	3	6	0
107	7	6	3	0
109	2	1	7	2
111	3	3	4	2
112	5	2	7	2
TOTAL	34	25	73	14

NO. = NUMBER CAVITIES  
A = NUMBER ACTIVE

TABLE 2. NESTING RESULTS FOR MCWA IN 2004

CLUSTER	INITIATION DATE	NUMBER EGGS LAID	NUMBER HATCHED	NUMBER Banded	NUMBER IN NEST	NESTLINGS FLEDGED	JUVENILES Banded
2	27-Apr-04	4	4	3	3	3	1
5	10-May-04	3	2	0	0	0	0
12	06-May-04	4	2	2	2	1	0
16	28-Apr-04	4	3	2	2	2	1
31	28-Apr-04	5	2	2	2	1	1
32	28-Apr-04	4	4	4	4	2	2
105	05-May-03	2	2	0	0	0	
*Renest	10-Jun-04	2	2	0	2	1	0
107	28-Apr-04	3	2	2	3	2	1
109	27-Apr-04	4	4	3	3	3	0
111	27-Apr-04	7	4	4	4	3	1
112	27-Apr-04	4	4	3	3	3	1
TOTAL		46	35	25	28	21	8

TABLE 3. ADULT AND JUVENILE RCW'S TRAPPED ON THE MCWA IN 2004

CLUSTER TRAPPED	BAND NUMBER	BAND COLORS		SEX	AGE WHEN TRAPPED	SITE FIRST BAND ED	YEAR FIRST BAND ED	COMMENTS
		LEFT	RIGHT					
2	8061-07608	DbA	YY	F	A	2	03	
2	8061-07627	DgA	PuP	F	J	2	04	
2	8081-99832	LbW	DgA	M	A	111	99	
2	8081-99852	OA	LgP	F	A	109	00	
5	8081-99888	WA	LbW	F	A	32	02	
12	8081-99877	DgA	LbO	F	A	32	01	
12	8061-07617	YPu	LbA	M	A	12	03	
16	8061-07645	BIO	OA	F	J	16	04	
25	8081-99881	WA	LbPu	F	A	107	02	
25	1891-09555	YW	ADb	M	J	TX	04	TR
31	8061-07626	DbA	YLb	F	J	31	03	
31	8081-32571	LbW	OA	M	A	TX	96	
32	8081-99803	YA	DgO	F	A	111	97	
32	8081-99887	BIP	OA	M	A	32	02	
32	8061-07630	BIPu	OA	M	J	32	04	
32	8061-07633	DgA	PuPu	F	J	32	04	
105	8081-99844	LbO	DgA	M	A	105	00	
105	8081-99846	OA	LgDb	F	A	31	00	
107	8061-07614	YP	LbA	M	J	107	3	
109	8081-99865	WA	LbY	F	A	31	01	
111	8061-07640	BIY	OA	M	J	111	04	
111	8081-99875	DgA	LbY	F	A	107	01	
111	8081-99883	DbA	PuY	F	A	107	02	NBAC
111	8081-99894	LgP	PA	M	A	111	02	
112	8061-07637	DgA	PuY	M	J	112	04	
112	8081-99843	OA	LgLg	F	A	105	00	
112	8061-07651	BIY	OA	M	A	112	03	RB

COMMENT CODES: NBAC = NO BANDS AT CAPTURE ; RB = REPLACED BAND # 8061-07622;

TR = TRANSLOCATED FROM LA



