

## Brush Prairie Ponds State Wildlife Area Cattail Removal Final Report



Date Project Completed: June 24, 2009

Brush Prairie Ponds State Wildlife Area (BPP SWA) located two miles south of Brush, CO is a 1600 acre quality waterfowl hunting area that also acts as a refuge for migrating waterfowl. The CDOW manages the property with the assistance of the City of Brush and the Fort Morgan Irrigation Company. The land is owned by the City of Brush, the water is owned and managed for augmentation purposes by the Fort Morgan Irrigation Company, and the CDOW manages the hunting access and some of the habitat projects. There is a temporary lease agreement on the property, expiring 12/31/2012. The State Wildlife Area is composed primarily of sandhills with the northern portion of the property planted into CRP. Within the CRP are approximately 30 scattered ponds varying in size and depth. In the past several years many of the ponds have become choked with cattails. The cattails have made many ponds difficult to hunt and thus diminishing the overall hunting experience for many of the hunters that are fond of the State Wildlife Area. There are currently nine hunting areas composed of many ponds. There are five ponds of primary concern, one each located in hunting areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9.

Starting in the winter months of 2009, CDOW employees utilized a tractor with a Brush-Hog mower to mow the cattails while the ground was still frozen and the cattails were still dormant. Mowing was completed the first week of March. Mowing removed the decadent vegetation. On June 24, 2009 after the cattails had re-grown and reached a mature state, Frontier Helicopter, a helicopter spraying operation, arrived at BPP SWA and applied herbicide to 50 acres of cattails. The herbicide used was Habitat, which is approved for wetland use. On August 22, 2009, District Wildlife Manager Devon Young observed that approximately 95% of the cattails that were sprayed in June had died. Area 3 property technicians plan to mow the property again in the winter of 2010 if weather and water conditions allow. Also, an additional engineering request has been submitted to obtain funding to spray 50 more acres of cattails on the SWA.

The final result of the project was different in that Area 3 was able to contribute in order to get the cattails mowed before the helicopter arrived to spray the vegetation. This opened up the areas more so that the spray was better able to reach cattails that would have otherwise been too thick to cover their surfaces sufficiently with the herbicide.

Partner	Contribution	Project Funded
CDOW Northeast Region	\$10000	\$5000 worth of Habitat herbicide \$5000=50 acres herbicide application via helicopter
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Habitat herbicide</b></li><li>• <b>50 acres cattail removal</b></li></ul>

Before mowing and spraying operations (pictures taken in the fall):



After mowing and spraying operations were completed (pictures taken in the summer, brown color indicates areas where cattails were killed):

