

Elliott State Wildlife Area Water Control Structures Final Report



Date Project Completed: August 5, 2009

Elliott State Wildlife Area (SWA) is located in eastern Morgan County along the South Platte River. The SWA is separated into several tracts, these tracts are mainly managed as quality waterfowl hunting areas following construction of shallow wetland impoundments on the Lone Tree, Hamlin (north and south), and Union Tracts in 2007 and 2008. Water is delivered to the property via the Union Ditch. Area 3 Property Technicians requested funding from the Northeast Region to purchase several Agri Drains and a culvert to improve water delivery and distribution on the Hamlin and Union Tracts of Elliott. The Agri Drains were placed on Hamlin South Tract between hunting areas one and two as well as between hunting areas 1 and 3. On the Union Tract the Agri Drains were placed between hunting area 4 and impoundment B on Lone Tree. The last Agri Drain was placed between Union Tract hunting area 3 and impoundment C on Lone Tree. Property technicians placed the culvert with a slide gate valve between the main channel of the Union Ditch and hunting area 1 on the Hamlin South Tract. Work began and was completed on this project in early August. These structures will improve water delivery on the property even in drought years. Two ditches were also constructed on the Union Tract to improve flows between impoundments. An additional Agri Drain was purchased to be installed on the North Tract of Elliott SWA, but water and weather conditions have not been favorable as of yet to get that structure installed. It will be installed after the waterfowl seasons are over in 2010 in order to avoid hunter conflicts.

After the first irrigation season with the structures in the ground, the new structures allowed for more efficient water delivery to the property. Property Technicians were able to fill ponds more quickly and were able to manage water conditions more efficiently in order to prevent possible overflow conflicts with neighboring landowners, the county, as well as with the railroad. Being able to fill ponds more quickly meant that more open water was available to hunters sooner, than if water would have been delivered with the original method.

Area 3 Property Technicians completed all the work on this project, Region funds were used to purchase the water control structures. Area 3 Property Technicians were able to construct two ditches on the Union Tract of Elliott SWA in order to further improve water delivery on the SWA. The desired outcome of this project was achieved.

Partner	Contribution	Project Funded
CDOW Northeast Region	\$528.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24' of 18" corrugated culvert • 20' of 30" corrugated culvert • 110' of 12" PVC plastic pipe • 18" toggle gate • 2 Inline AgriDrains 2'X12" PVC • 3 Inline AgriDrains 4'X12" PVC • Freight Charges
	\$660.00	
	\$462.00	
	\$265.00	
	\$1115.10	
	\$2268.00	
	\$253.88	
Total	\$5551.98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott SWA Water Control Structures

Area 3 Property Technicians and District Wildlife Managers will continue to manage the property yearly in order to improve the habitat for wildlife species utilizing the area.

There is a high probability that additional projects will need to be completed on the Union Ditch within Elliott SWA. The soil is highly erodible in the area, and the ditch banks will likely need to be reinforced in the near future. CDOW Wetlands funding or Capital Construction funding will likely be pursued to accomplish future projects.

