An aerial photograph of the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. The image shows a large, irregularly shaped wetland area with several interconnected ponds and channels. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is a mix of green grass and brownish-yellow soil. In the upper left, a residential area with many houses is visible, separated from the wetland by a road and a utility line. In the lower right, there is a small cluster of buildings and a parking lot, likely a management or maintenance facility. The overall scene is a blend of natural wetland and human infrastructure.

Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area

By
Rich Hansen

Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area (FBWMA)

History

- Constructed in 1935 (3,500 acres)
- Constructed by CCC
- Located on the Jordan river delta
- Developed because of wetland loss and to prevent avian botulism outbreaks
- Managed by the use of water control structures in dikes and roads to manipulate water levels

Description

- 18,000 Acres
- 42 miles of dikes and roads
- Over 200 water control structures
- 4 large management units



Water Management

- Sheet flow



Water management cont.

- Impoundments



Water management cont.

- Back flooding



Water management cont.

- Drought Stress



Noxious Weed control

- Phragmites
 - Large scale operation involving all Northern Utah WMA's
 - Spray in the fall
 - Aerial Spray
 - Mop-up
 - ATV's
 - Track machines
 - Airboats



Aerial Spraying



Burn in the spring



Track Machine spraying





Noxious Weed control cont.

- Dyer's Woad
- Perennial Pepper weed
- Purple Loostrike
- Hoary Cress
- Toad flax
- Salt Cedar

Predator Control

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- Very intensive predator control program
 - Muskrat trappers
 - USDA Wildlife Services trappers
 - FBWMA personnel
 - Prior to 2003
 - 7 Duck broods
 - 2009
 - 187 Duck broods

January at FBWMA

- End of Waterfowl Season
- Finish Draw down of water



February at FBWMA

- Carp control
- Bald Eagles

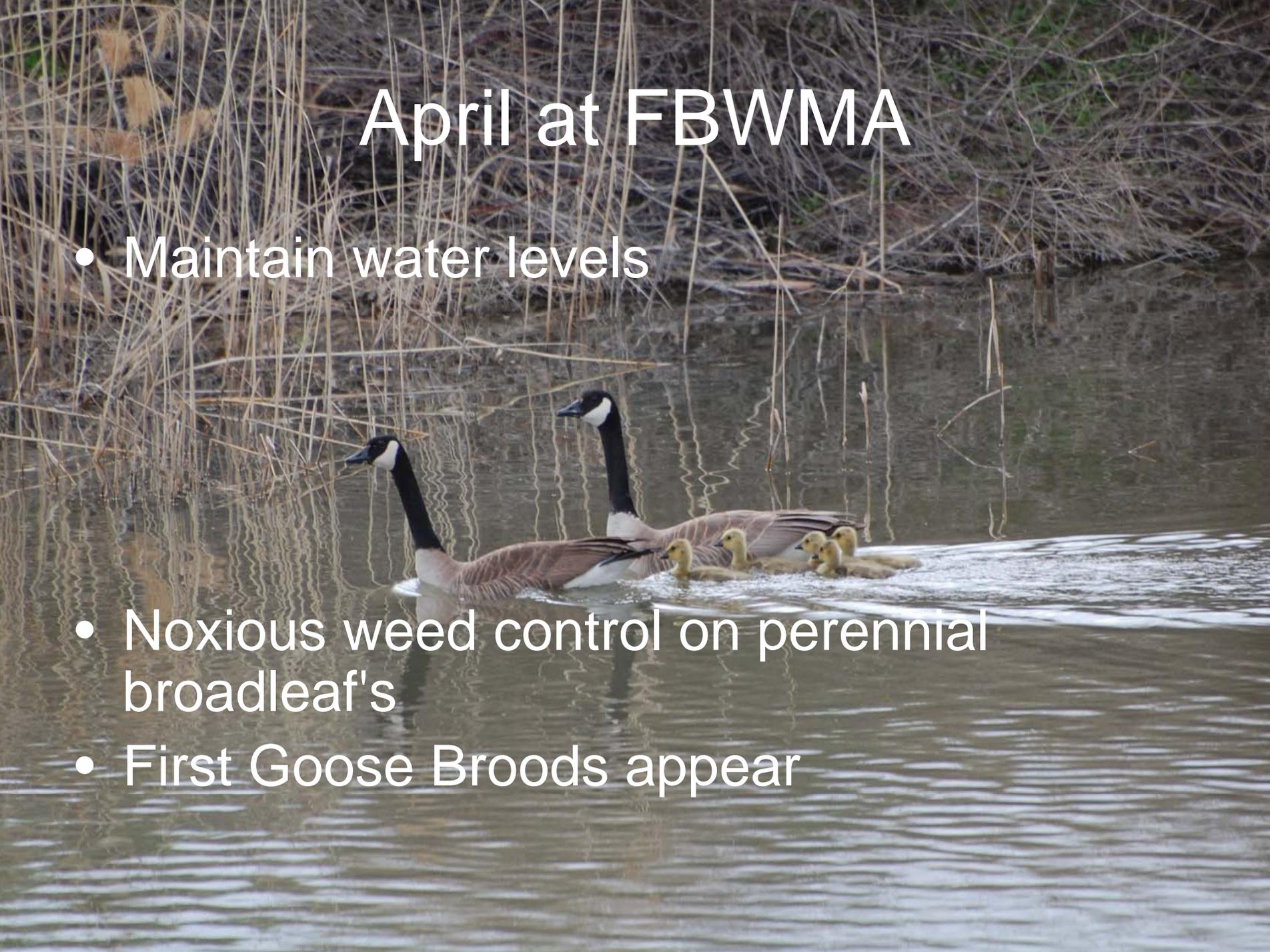


March at FBWMA

- Water management (Filling impoundments back up)
- Goose and Great Blue Heron nesting begins
- Duck and Goose nest maintenance
- Duck migration numbers peak
- Burn Phrag



April at FBWMA

- Maintain water levels
 - Noxious weed control on perennial broadleaf's
 - First Goose Broods appear
- 

May at the Bay

- Maintain water levels (run-off increasing)
- Seal off Drought stress areas
- See first mallard broods
- Other ducks and shorebirds initiate nesting



June at FBWMA

- Water in river stabilizes

- Goose Banding

- Ducks and shorebirds hatching



July at FBWMA

- Salt Cedar Control
 - Fix Fence
 - Band Ducks and Mourning doves
 - Mow Dikes
 - Service and prepare machinery for spraying
- 
- A wide-angle photograph of a wetland area. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by shallow water interspersed with clumps of tall, green reeds. Numerous birds are visible, many of which appear to be on nests. Some birds are dark-colored, while others are lighter. The background shows a flat expanse of wetland extending to a distant, low horizon under a clear, light blue sky.

August at FBWMA

- Phragmites Spraying



September at FBWMA



- Finish up Phragmites spraying
- Flood Drought stressed areas
- Prepare for Waterfowl season
 - Finish mowing
 - Post signs
 - Plant fields
 - Submit pre-hunt conditions
- Duck numbers peak (Brown ducks)

October at FBWMA

- Waterfowl Season
- Bag Checks

-Regulate water levels for the hunters

- Seed perennial plant plots



November at FBWMA

- Waterfowl season
 - Bag checks
 - Water regulation

- Write up habitat proposals



December at FBWMA

- Waterfowl season continues
 - Bag checks
- Pull boards at freeze up
 - Maintain open water for the birds
 - Protect risers and bridges



Great Salt Lake Nature Center at FBWMA

- Justina Parsons-Bernstein is the Director
- Teach 6,000 + students/year
- Volunteer Naturalists

— www.greatsaltlakenaturecenter.org





The End

- QUESTIONS???????