Whyoming has extraordinary wildlife resources — arguably the best in the world — and uses an incredible model for wildlife conservation. Since 1890, our state’s leaders have been at the forefront of conservation. In Wyoming, the public owns the wildlife, and this state has a more equitable system for allocating hunting and fishing licenses than almost any other state in the country.

Continued investments in wildlife and habitat as well as favorable weather recently have helped our wildlife. This has translated into opportunity for hunters, anglers and those who love to see wildlife. Elk populations are robust statewide, mule deer and pronghorn populations have rebounded after a long decline and native and sport fish are in great shape.

### Economic impact

Hunters and anglers spend an estimated $792 million annually on travel and equipment in Wyoming according to the most recent national report. This shows the importance of sportsmen and women to our economy. The total does not include the $359 million spent by wildlife watchers on travel and retail nor does it include the $32 million spent to purchase nearly 600,000 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses each year.

### Habitat work

One of Game and Fish’s priorities is to develop on-the-ground habitat projects independently and with a variety of partners to maintain and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat. These projects increase wildlife-based recreation, support the diversity of Wyoming’s wildlife and promote public awareness of the importance of habitat. In 2018, Game and Fish and its partners completed 167 projects with contributions from partners outpacing money spent by Game and Fish.

### Access Yes!

For 20 years, Game and Fish has continued to work with landowners across the state to help provide access to hunting and fish on private lands. All told, the Access Yes program opens up more than 2.8 million acres, 89 stream miles and nearly 4,007 lake acres for public access.

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**Wyoming Game and Fish revenue**

One of Game and Fish’s priorities is to develop on-the-ground habitat projects independently and with a variety of partners to maintain and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat. These projects increase wildlife-based recreation, support the diversity of Wyoming’s wildlife and promote public awareness of the importance of habitat. In 2018, Game and Fish and its partners completed 167 projects with contributions from partners outpacing money spent by Game and Fish.

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### Public engagement

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s strategic plan was implemented in 2019 and helps prioritize the department’s work to ensure a sustainable future for a fish and wildlife resource that benefits all Wyoming citizens. The plan emerged from feedback from a Wyoming public passionate about hunting, fishing, and conservation.

To create the plan, Game and Fish looked at what is working well for Wyoming’s fish and wildlife management and what can be improved. The work involved 10 focus groups with the public, a scientific telephone survey of more than 3,000 stakeholders, a survey of more than 300 employees, an online discussion group and 10 public meetings hosted throughout the state.

Game and Fish carries out the strategic plan by referring to the information from the surveys and meetings and continual feedback from the public and partners. It is the compass that guides all current and future Game and Fish projects.

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### Funding sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licenses &amp; Fees*</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Tax Revenue**</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other***</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund****</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Hunting & Fishing Licenses, Conservation Stamps, Application Fees, Preference Points

** Tax Revenue on Guns, Ammo, and other hunting and fishing equipment

*** Income from Investments & Land, publication sales, Access Yes donations, other items

**** License recoupment is legislative reimbursement for the issuance of free and reduced priced licenses as defined in WY state statute.
BY THE NUMBERS

- **Over 800** species managed by your Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- **340,548** individuals purchased at least one hunting or fishing license in 2019
- **6.23 million** fish stocked each year
- **30,000+** pheasants stocked annually
- **2,670,173** acres of public access areas providing high-quality public access for hunting and fishing
- **304,038** habitat acres WGFD improved as part of its Strategic Habitat Plan
- **3,321** violations documented in 2019. This number includes warnings, citations and unknown-suspect violations
- **$511,105** in fines levied by courts resulting from violations in 2019. This money goes to the school district in the county where violations occurred
- **304,038** habitat acres WGFD improved as part of its Strategic Habitat Plan
- **27** Wyoming cases analyzed by the forensic lab
- **43** Game and Fish managed Wildlife Habitat Management Areas
- **40** years Game and Fish and its partners have been working to restore native cutthroat trout to a portion of its historical range

Thank you to our partners

When Wyoming became a state in 1890, elk, mule deer, beaver, pronghorn and other species were in decline. There were only a few hundred wildlife left. Thanks to far-sighted legislators and the commitment of Wyoming citizens recovery efforts succeeded. There is still much to do today. Game and Fish carries on the tradition of rolling up our sleeves and working with people from all over the state to create strategies to conserve wildlife for future generations.

Thank you to Wyoming landowners

Many landowners across the state assist Game and Fish in wildlife management, habitat improvement and conservation techniques on their properties. These stewardship programs in research and recreation on thousands of acres across the state.

A partnership for mule deer

The Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative started in 2007. Using a collaborative approach hunters and wildlife enthusiasts from across the state are now engaged in creating and understanding management needs and opportunities for their local deer herds and working with Game and Fish to develop solutions. The Game and Fish Commission has invested $2.5 million over two years toward locally developed projects.

Find out more at wgfd.wyo.gov

- [facebook.com/WyoGFD](http://facebook.com/WyoGFD)
- [instagram.com/wygameandfish](http://instagram.com/wygameandfish)
- [youtube.com/wygameandfish](http://youtube.com/wygameandfish)
- [wgfd.wyo.gov/email-sign-up](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/email-sign-up)