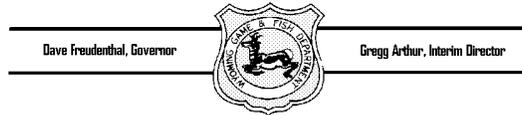


ANNUAL
REPORT
2004

**Wyoming Game and Fish
Department**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



"Conserving Wildlife - Serving People"

The Honorable Dave Freudenthal
Governor, State of Wyoming
Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Governor Freudenthal:

In accordance with Section 23-1-503 of Wyoming Statutes, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you the Game and Fish Department's 2004 *Annual Report*. The report was prepared at the direction of the Game and Fish Commission and covers the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

We appreciate your support on the many issues facing wildlife and wildlife habitat in Wyoming. While there are many challenges facing us, our agency has also experienced many successes during the past year. These successes are the result of a very dedicated agency workforce and a supportive public that wants to see wildlife remain an important component of the Wyoming landscape and lifestyle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hale Kreycik', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Hale Kreycik, President
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

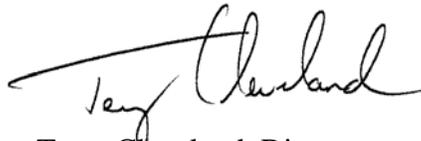
**2004
ANNUAL
REPORT**

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the following pages of this 2004 *Annual Report*, readers will have the opportunity to review summaries of division activities, individual program write-ups, participant expenditure information and other budget and financial data from this past year's operation of the Game and Fish Department. They will also see a narrative record of the successes and challenges during the past year. While this is a considerable amount of material to digest, it doesn't even begin to adequately reflect the full spectrum of activities agency personnel were involved in during the past 12 months to ensure wildlife remains part of Wyoming's future. Time and space simply do not allow for such a recap. As such, I would encourage everyone not to rely just on this *Annual Report* for information, but suggest they also access the Department's many other publications, website, radio and television programs, public meetings and other venues throughout the year to keep abreast of all matters of interest involving Wyoming's wildlife.

That said, I am extremely proud to represent a state where wildlife remains such a significant part of who we are as people and how others perceive Wyoming. I am also honored and privileged to have a dedicated staff of employees to carry out our statutory duties and responsibilities on behalf of all Wyoming's wildlife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry Cleveland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Terry Cleveland, Director

DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY

This section is intended to provide a narrative of the accomplishments of the men and women of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and to provide a record of the important events that have marked our efforts in wildlife conservation during the past year in Wyoming. Each of these events or issues is discussed in some detail below:

Drought/Winter

The winter of 2003-2004 was the first in several years with near-normal precipitation in many parts of Wyoming. While this snow pack was welcome from the standpoint of alleviating chronic drought conditions, it also contributed to severe winter conditions in some areas of western Wyoming. Winter mortality surveys on mule deer winter ranges in western Wyoming indicated significantly higher mortality due to poor habitat conditions and ongoing drought conditions. The spring of 2004 was somewhat wetter than average in many areas, especially in southern Wyoming. As a result, in many these areas, habitat conditions have improved somewhat. Northern Wyoming remains extremely dry. The chronic drought conditions that have dominated Wyoming through much of the last decade have created changes in habitats statewide, and the impacts of these changes will be felt for years to come.

Wolves

Wolf populations continue to thrive in western Wyoming. Current estimates suggest approximately 250-275 wolves, not including young of the year. The Wyoming Legislature passed a bill in 2003 giving wolves a dual status of trophy game animal in a portion of northwestern Wyoming and predatory animal status elsewhere in the state.

In a letter received January 13, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rejected Wyoming's proposed wolf management plan, informing Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director Terry Cleveland that the state's classification of wolves as a predatory animal is not an option. Animals classified as predatory animals in Wyoming can be harvested with unregulated take. The Service alleges that the wolf management plan and state law are inadequate and will need to be changed before the wolf can be taken off the endangered species list.

In answer to the rejection of the plan, the State of Wyoming has filed a lawsuit against the FWS, alleging that the agency had no legal grounds to reject the plan. This case may be heard later in 2004, or early 2005, but with appeals certain no matter what the decision, it may up to two years before a final decision is rendered.

Grizzly Bears

The current estimate of grizzly bear numbers in the Yellowstone Ecosystem is approximately 530. In 2003, a total of 38 unduplicated females with 75 cubs of the year (COY) were reported (mean litter size 1.97). The number of unduplicated females this

year was substantially less than the 52 reported in 2002. However, all the 2002 females would have yearling cubs this year and could not be counted with COY. Therefore, a minimum of 90 females have either COY or yearling cubs in 2003. The 6-year average of unduplicated females with COY is 40. This is more than double the recovery target of 15 females with COY.

Distribution of females with young – identified cubs in 16 of 18 bear management units (BMUs) in 2003. All 18 BMUs have been occupied at least four of the last six years. This compares to the recovery target requiring at least 16 of 18 BMUs to be occupied on a six-year average.

Human-caused mortalities totaled 12, 11 being in the recovery zone and 10-mile perimeter. This is within the mortality limit allowed in the recovery plan. As the population grows, human-caused mortality (as a percent of the total population) is declining.

Currently, the Forest Plans of the six national forests in the Yellowstone Ecosystem are being amended to incorporate the provisions of the Conservation Strategy. This includes the habitat standards, nuisance bear standards and monitoring requirements outlined in the Strategy. The amendment is one of the final criteria that needs to be satisfied to show that “adequate regulatory mechanisms” are in place when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) completes the population status review. The amendments will not be implemented until the Record of Decision is signed and the proposed rule to de-list the Yellowstone grizzly bear population is published in the Federal Register.

Another requirement that needs to be satisfied prior to releasing the proposed rule for status change is a Distinct Population Segment analysis. The FWS is currently conducting that analysis and will have it completed before the proposed rule is released to the public for comment. Since the grizzly bear is listed as threatened in the lower 48 states, in order to delist the Yellowstone population it must be demonstrated that it is distinct from the populations in the other recovery zones and is self-sustaining (from the standpoints of numbers, reproduction, genetic health, etc.).

The FWS will do the analysis of the “five factors” needed for the status review of the population and will complete the distinct population segment analysis for the Yellowstone grizzly population needed to move to a draft rule proposing delisting. These are ongoing and simultaneous and should be complete by the end of 2004.

Although the Wyoming grizzly bear management plan has been completed and is now an appendix of the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy, during its development the Wyoming Game and Fish Department committed to conducting a public process to determine how grizzly bears will be managed in different portions of the area described in the state management plan for grizzly bear occupancy. The Department intended to conduct that process in the winter of 2003-2004, however issues associated with the Wyoming wolf management plan precluded it at that time. The Commission will consider a proposal from the Department for the process and its timeline at its July

meeting. The agency's intent is to develop a draft proposal, conduct public meetings and provide a public comment period in late fall of 2004, then seek approval of a final plan in early 2005.

Chronic Wasting Disease

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) conducted its first statewide surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in 2003. Previously, the WGFD surveyed for CWD only in the southeast quarter of the state, which was the historic endemic area. However, recent findings of CWD in western Nebraska and South Dakota as well as along the entire northern border of Colorado, prompted the WGFD to look for CWD statewide. Deer or elk from these other states could migrate into eastern and southern Wyoming spreading CWD into new areas.

The WGFD divides the state into seven administrative regions. Considering each region as a "population," the surveillance goal was to test 600-800 deer from each region. This number provided a 99% probability of detecting CWD if it existed at = 1% prevalence. The overall goal was approximately 6,000 samples statewide.

Samples were collected at points of concentration, (i.e. meat processors and check stations). WGFD personnel from all divisions – Wildlife, Fish, Services and Fiscal – took samples. Over 125 individuals participated in sample collection. Statewide training of WGFD personnel on sample and data collection was conducted prior to the start of the hunting season. New technology allowed the reporting of results to hunters within three weeks of sample submission.

Also new for 2003 was the use of the WGFD web site to report CWD sampling results. Hunters submitting a sample were given a unique bar-coded number. The hunter could then access the web site, enter the unique number and obtain test results. Hunters having deer or elk testing positive for CWD were also individually notified by letter. The WGFD queried all 49 other state wildlife agencies if they wished to be notified if a hunter from their state harvested a CWD test-positive animal. Those states wishing this information were also notified by mail.

A total of 6,140 deer and elk samples were analyzed, of which 115 (2%) were unusable (i.e. wrong tissue, etc.). Of these 6,025 usable samples, 177 tested positive for CWD representing: 136 mule deer (from 4,754 hunter-killed, 18 targeted, and 88 road-killed samples), 12 white-tailed deer (from 433 hunter-killed, 7 targeted, and 6 road-killed samples), and 11 elk (from 633 hunter-killed and 2 road-killed samples).

All results were posted on the WGFD web site in less than three weeks of sample submission.

Brucellosis

A positive test for brucellosis in a cattle herd from a ranch near Boulder, WY prompted testing of 15 cow elk at the WGF D Muddy Creek elk feedground. At the request of Wyoming State Veterinarian Jim Logan, blood was drawn from 15 adult cow elk on Jan. 28, 2004. Four of 15 elk tested were determined to have brucellosis.

The tests were conducted in the ongoing quest to try and determine the source of brucellosis infection in cattle in the nearby Jensen Ranch cattle herd.

The four positive-testing elk were killed and tissue samples cultured and compared to the brucella bacteria - the organism causing brucellosis -- found in the domestic cows. This work was conducted in the Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory in Laramie with confirmation tests conducted at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa. The State Veterinary Laboratory and G&F laboratory ran separate blood tests on the blood samples with essentially parallel results of four elk testing positive.

The elk tests follow an extensive check of cattle purchases and importations by the ranch. The check revealed no cows were imported to the ranch since at least the mid-1970s. The only new cattle entering the ranch since then were bulls, which are not considered to be a factor in transmission.

Brucellosis can induce cows - both domestic and elk - to abort their calves. Transmission occurs when other cattle or elk sniff or lick the infected fetus, placenta or fetal fluids. The disease is known to infect the WGF D's 22 elk feedgrounds and the National Elk Refuge. The G&F vaccinates elk for brucellosis at 21 of its feedgrounds, including Muddy Creek. When elk were last tested at the Muddy Creek Feedground in 1997, 29 percent of the cows were infected. Tests in 2004 found a 27 percent infection rate.

In June 2004, a single cow in a 105-head herd in western Wyoming tested positive for brucellosis. The positive test means cattle producers in Wyoming will have to continue testing cattle before the animals can be sold or moved out of state. The state will continue to test all test-eligible cattle for brucellosis within 30 days prior to change of ownership and/or interstate movement in order to meet federal requirements for regaining brucellosis-free status. Nebraska, California, Idaho, Montana and Colorado imposed restrictions on Wyoming cattle entering those states after the recent outbreaks. The earliest Wyoming can now regain its brucellosis-free status is July 2005.

Governor Dave Freudenthal appointed a 19-member task force earlier this year to chart a course of the long-term and short-term solutions to the state's brucellosis problem. The group is expected to make specific recommendations for dealing with brucellosis in a final report to the governor in November.

Elk die-off near Rawlins

The mysterious death of approximately 300 elk in south-central Wyoming was first reported to the WGFD on February 8, 2004 when a coyote hunter found two elk approximately 15 miles from Rawlins. The elk were alive, but unable to move. The numbers of dead and dying elk rose steadily as WGFD personnel searched a rugged 10-15 square mile area just north of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

By February 23, the death toll stood at 250 elk, of which only five were bulls. The elk all exhibited similar symptoms, particularly the inability to move. A veterinarian from the state's research lab, as well as a toxicologist and a pathologist were tasked with determining the cause of the die-off. Most of the affected elk were prime breeding-age cows, are all in good condition. No evidence of harassment or mortality due to severe winter conditions could be established.



By mid-March tests on vegetation from the area revealed that the die-off was caused by a lichen known as parmelia that is abundant in desert soils in Wyoming. Investigators found parmelia in the stomachs of afflicted elk, starting an exhaustive chain of research. That effort led to the discovery that captive elk fed a diet of parmelia went down with the same symptoms as those observed on the Daley Ranch south of Rawlins. Parmelia produces an acid that may break down muscle tissue, causing the elk to lose strength in their limbs and results in the inability of the animal to move.

Healthy elk that were wintering on the Daley Ranch moved back to the Sierra Madre Mountains this spring. Research will continue on the movements of this herd and the potential effects of parmelia poisoning. No other animals including horses, cattle, antelope, deer or scavengers in the area were afflicted.

Sage Grouse

The discovery of West Nile virus in three sage grouse in northeastern Wyoming prompted the Department to increase testing on sage grouse and other game birds across the state and close the sage grouse hunting season in northeastern Wyoming in 2003, due to concerns about this disease.

The Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan was approved by the Commission in 2003, and moved into implementation in 2004 with the establishment of three local working groups in central Wyoming, the Powder River Basin and the Upper Green River Basin. These local groups are made up of individuals representing conservation, agriculture, sportsmen, energy industry, land management agencies, local governments, sportsmen and other interests. They have a three-year charter to identify management practices and the means to implement them for the benefit of sage grouse.

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal has endorsed the approach saying, "I believe it is far better to invest the resources now to maintain and enhance sage grouse populations and habitat rather than allow populations to decline to the point where listing under the ESA becomes a reality," said Gov. Freudenthal. "I believe state and local conservation planning to be the cornerstone of this effort."

Colorado River Cutthroat Finding

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) notified the WGFD in April of their finding that the Colorado River cutthroat trout does not warrant listing. The finding was in response to some private groups petitioning the USFWS to have the Colorado River cutthroat listed as a threatened species.

FWS found that the agency's 25-year commitment to improving habitat, removing competition and establishing brood stocks for the native subspecies had been successful. These long-running efforts have improved the plight of the Colorado River cutthroat and call specific attention to the value of the conservation agreement and strategy pursued by Wyoming, Utah and Colorado and U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The G&F recently established Colorado River cutthroat hatchery brood stocks from Wyoming Range and Sierra Madre wild specimens. The fish are used to repopulate streams that become suitable to support the native species again and to provide additional fishing opportunities.

Cutthroats are the only trout native to Wyoming. Colorado river cutthroat are found in south-central and southwest Wyoming. In addition to the Colorado River subspecies, the state also hosts the Snake River, Yellowstone, Bear River or Bonneville and West slope subspecies.

Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame

In June 2004, the WGFD and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming announced the inaugural 2004 inductees into the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame. The hall of fame will recognize individuals who have made significant, lasting lifetime contributions to Wyoming's outdoor heritage through volunteer service, environmental restoration, educational activities, visual and written media, the arts, and political and individual leadership.

Inaugural inductees include:

Curt Gowdy – Mr. Gowdy is a Cheyenne native who became an internationally known broadcaster and sportsman.

Calvin King – Mr. King is a widely educated and pioneering Game and Fish Department game warden, biologist and author.

Frank and Lois Layton – The Laytons are a Casper couple that have dedicated over 35 years to avian rehabilitation.

Olaus and Mardy Murie (posthumously) – Olaus was a pioneering Jackson Hole federal biologist and president of the Wilderness Society. Mardy continued the fight for wilderness preservation and conservation until last year.

D.C. Nowlin (posthumously) – Mr. Nowlin was a visionary legislator, state game warden and first director of the National Elk Refuge.

President Theodore Roosevelt (posthumously) – This conservationist president helped found the Boone and Crockett Club and create the national park, forest and refuge systems.

The Foundation developed the idea for the hall of fame in 2003, to be its annual signature event, and top honor a diverse group of individuals who have demonstrated lifetime commitments and devotion toward conserving Wyoming's great outdoors.

New Commission Leadership

At its March 22 meeting, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission elected Hale Kreycik of Douglas to be its president for the upcoming year and Linda Fleming of Baggs to be vice president. Kreycik is a semi-retired banker representing Converse, Fremont and Natrona counties. Fleming is a retired teacher representing Albany, Carbon and Sweetwater counties.

Commissioner Doyle Dorner of Evanston resigned in March due to a work transfer to Houston, Texas. Bruce Benedict, a businessman from Mountain View, replaced him. He will represent Lincoln, Sublette, Teton and Uinta counties on the Commission through March 1, 2005.

New Director

With the full backing of the Game and Fish Commission, Gov. Dave Freudenthal appointed Terry Cleveland as the director of the WGF on December 15, 2003. MR Cleveland had served as the Wildlife Division assistant chief since 1996. He was a regional wildlife supervisor in Casper from 1978-96, and spent eight years as a game warden in various locations around Wyoming.

Cleveland earned a bachelor's degree cum laude in wildlife biology from Colorado State University in 1969. He is a certified wildlife biologist by the Wildlife Society and is a state-certified professional peace officer. He has earned several awards within the Game and Fish Department over the years, as well as a Shikar-Safari wildlife officer of the year award.

Gregg Arthur had served as WGF Interim Director from September through December 2004.

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INTRODUCTION
AND
DIVISION REPORTS

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the progress and financial status of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department during Fiscal Year 2004. The information documents progress toward objectives in our Strategic Plan for the Comprehensive Management of Wildlife in Wyoming, 1992-1998.

During FY 2004 a total of 3,626,301 hunting and fishing recreation days were provided to the public. Based on the 1989 hunting and fishing expenditure survey conducted by the University of Wyoming, hunters, anglers, and trappers expended approximately \$357,564,114 in pursuit of their sport.

At the end of the period covered by this report (June 30, 2004), the Department was comprised of 345 permanent full-time employees and 114 temporary or seasonal workers.

A summary of Department activities by respective division follows:

FISCAL DIVISION
Ron Arnold, Chief

The Fiscal Division in FY04 again spent significant hours and resources with various automated projects, employee agency wide training, and legislative issues. In addition, several Fiscal employees participated in the Electronic Licensing System Stakeholder Group meetings, which consumed most of the fall of 2003. As mentioned later, the Fiscal Division monitored and coordinated a major audit by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Assistance Program.

Software Technologies, Inc., a firm from Utah, was the successful bidder and started facilitating the Electronic Licensing System analysis last summer. That process was completed last fall and a recommendation was presented to the Commission in February of this year. In March the Commission gave its approval to proceed with the recommended decision of a combined approach using an outside contractor to write the programs and using the agency's Information Technology (IT) personnel to assist in this process. As part of the recommended decision, Game and Fish hired an Electronic Licensing Coordinator, Julie Arp, in June of 2004. Julie has been coordinating with other State Game and Fish Departments, the agency's IT branch, Fiscal Division, MIS personnel from all other divisions, and the Department of Administration and Information's Information Technology Division's personnel on E-Portal and other IT ideas to write design documents and a proposed RFP. A contractor should be on board early in 2005 and the system should be completed by January 1, 2006.

A proposed bill was introduced and passed this past legislative session to implement a preference point system for nonresident elk, deer, and antelope licenses. Our department was in support of this bill because it would generate additional revenues over a course of years. Because adding elk, deer, and antelope preference points to the License Draw System has raised several serious concerns over the agency's ability to accommodate the anticipated significant increase in application volume, it was decided to hold off implementing preference points until 2006 when the new electronic licensing system should go online. The Stakeholder Group determined that the most efficient way to implement a preference point system for nonresident elk, deer, and antelope is through an Internet application.

Fiscal Administration is also involved in overseeing and coordinating the re-write of all internal financial systems. Among the systems that have been updated is the Motorboat Registration System. Enhancements to this system, the ability to access the boating renewal process at the Department's seven Regional Offices and the satellite office in Pinedale, have been completed. Online application for renewing boats directly through the Internet will be part of the Electronic Licensing System. Four out of the other five financial systems undertaken were completed. Those were deposits, vouchers, vehicles and payroll/personnel. Cost accounting is still pending.

Fiscal Division Administration continues as the primary source of financial information for the Department. All Department financial statements are prepared and published on a continuous basis by the Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer. As such, the Assistant Division Chief, has been requested on numerous occasions, to make budget presentations to legislative committees.

These presentations have been made around the State and have resulted in the Legislature and members of the public understanding the revenue crisis facing the Department. Because of these budget presentations, the Wyoming Legislature appropriated approximately four million dollars to fund four separate on-the-ground projects. These appropriated funds resulted in Fiscal setting up separate accounts for reporting purposes. In addition, the Fiscal Administration is the point of contact for all internal and external state government financial audits. Finally, by the Chief Fiscal Officer's membership on the Department's License Review Board, the Fiscal Administration is significantly involved in the decision process for resolving numerous claims arising from a wide variety of circumstances surrounding license applicants' and license holders' claims for remedy.

Finally, the Fiscal Division underwent a United States Fish and Wildlife Federal Assistance audit, which consumed much of the time of the Assistant Division Chief and the Federal Aid Coordinator. The outcome of this audit was very favorable to the Game and Fish Department. There was only one significant finding, which dealt with land disposals. This issue should be resolved after several meetings with the Federal Assistance personnel which meetings should take place this fall.

The Fiscal Division again encountered problems keeping manpower employees during critical draw periods. Also, two managers, General Accounting and License Draw, both resigned to take positions in other agencies. These departures left Fiscal shorthanded and resulted in some projects falling behind schedule.

REVENUE COLLECTION AND LICENSING

The Licensing sections administered the sale of almost 728,000 over-the-counter licenses and conservation stamps during fiscal year 2004. During that period, the number of License selling agents stayed almost constant, increasing from 363 to 365 agents. Additionally, during this period, 20 applications for agents were approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. All new agents receive in-house training upon appointment. In addition approximately 1,130,000 licenses were distributed to these agents located throughout the State, both during the annual December distribution and to replace any depleted stock throughout the year. License selling agents sell over fifty different types of licenses, conservation stamps and other Department permits. In addition, over 268,000 limited quota applications (deer, antelope, elk, turkey, moose, sheep, goat, bison) for licenses and permits were received and processed.

In relation to the other major source of Department revenue (federal funding), in addition to monthly draw downs of grant funds from US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Pitman/Robertson and Dingle Johnson/Wallop Breaux acts and quarterly Section 6(threatened and endangered species) funding requests, the General Accounting section compiled cost information and submitted 130 invoices, a 13% increase in billings from FY03, to federal or nonprofit sources for reimbursement of Department expenditures. Dollars received from grants were also up by approximately \$1.3 million or 13%.

The licensing project is a major endeavor and involves personnel resources of the Revenue Collection and licensing sections beyond day-to-day operations that must continue with these same personnel. Additionally, the cost accounting system, which provides for the billing of all grant programs, is also being rewritten in FY 2005. These additional work requirements must be blended with existing responsibilities of these personnel so that all necessary tasks still are accomplished. These projects also involve developing information related to and training both fiscal personnel and other agency personnel on new system functionality.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset Management is responsible for all Department purchasing, and maintaining Department inventories of fixed assets, uniforms and supplies. Approximately 900 requisitions (in most cases, individual purchases over \$2500 or contracts over \$1500) were processed, with a significant number of those requisitions requiring formal contracts or formal bids (over 100) developed by the Department. This number is slightly lower than the FY03 figures of 1000. The section also added 236 assets to the State's financial systems in addition to processing modifications to 620 assets and deleting 207 assets. Additionally, over 2000 items were taken to surplus for disposal. Information on approximately 3,400 assets was compiled and distributed to agency personnel for verification and certification.

The section has experienced significant personnel turnover in the last two years, including the Section Manager. During this time, changes were made by the State Auditor's office in fixed asset reporting and a new vehicle management system was installed. Accordingly, the section is now concentrating on developing and documenting new procedures to accommodate the large number of changes incurred in the past year.

DISBURSEMENTS

The Disbursements section oversaw the payment of all agency vendors, including employee claims for payroll and travel, and landowner coupons. During the fiscal year, the section processed approximately 48,000 transaction payments to vendors, averaging 4 days to complete processing on over 98% of those claims. In addition, approximately 38,000 landowner coupons, up 6% from FY03, were processed from 2,300 affidavits submitted by landowners between December and February and paid between January and March). Of those payments, 23 Landowners elected to have their landowner coupons utilized for predator management and \$3,641 was transferred to the ADMB. Additionally, the Disbursements section was instrumental in the design and testing of the in-house VPS system which allowed for the elimination of the state mainframe landowner coupon system in the spring of 2003 and adoption of a new Access/Visual Basic voucher processing system by fall 2003. Additionally, this section continued to maintain and expand on the use of the statewide purchasing credit card by Department employees.

While a planned modification of the WOLF's system by the State Auditor was delayed, this modification will potentially be pursued in fiscal year 2005, requiring modifications in Department systems to accommodate these changes.

SERVICES DIVISION
John Kennedy, Chief

During FY04, the Services Division Administration, in coordination with the Director's Office, completed work to reorganize the Division to improve internal communications, leadership, accountability, and overall work unit performance. A new Assistant Division Chief position was established and filled to administer the Information/Education and Conservation Education work units in the Division. This Assistant Division Chief will also serve as the agency's Public Information Officer, responsible for working closely with the Director on high-priority statewide information/media projects. The other Assistant Division Chief position was filled and is responsible for the administration of the habitat and technical support work units in the Division. Services Division Administration focused on re-establishing communications and leadership within the Division and establishing priorities for each work unit in the Division.

The Division Administrators attended other division and regional coordination team meetings to improve communications, discuss priorities and expectations, and communicate management philosophies specific to future administration of the Division. Input from the other work units was considered and addressed during development of new processes for establishing Regional I&E and Lands Administration priorities. Division Administration will continue to focus on improving internal communications and developing priorities that are responsive to the other work units and consistent with the agency's mission and the Director's goals/objectives.

High priorities for Division Administration in FY04 were as follows:

- Recruit and promote the best-qualified candidates for positions within the Division.
- Continue work with the Fiscal Division on the License Issuance Project.
- Incorporate the Regional I&E Program into Division and Department management and priorities.
- Implement goals, objectives, and strategies of the Habitat Strategic Plan.
- Evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Department TV program.
- Improve processes and individual work unit performance in the Division.
- Continue to work closely with the other work units on disease management issues and concerns.
- Coordinate major conservation education efforts and agency programs, including the Expo.
- Improve agency credibility and public support through information, education, and outreach.
- Participate on IAFWA and WAFWA Committees.

Services Division Administration identified several opportunities for improvement and new management strategies to address problems associated with inconsistent administration and leadership during the last few years. Division Administration will continue to focus on these opportunities, which include: establishing consistent leadership; improving communications; reaffirming work unit responsibilities, accountability, and priorities; and implementing process improvements.

CONSERVATION ENGINEERING

Many high-priority projects were completed by the Conservation Engineering branch during FY04. Personnel continue to focus on engineering, surveying, and drafting for statewide projects. Specific activities and accomplishments are addressed below.

Boating access projects continue to present challenges at Flaming Gorge-Firehole, Buckboard, and Anvil Draw access areas (primarily due to drought). A low-water ramp section was placed at Pathfinder Reservoir-Bishop Point. Development of a new boat ramp at Glendo-Indian Point on the east side of the reservoir was completed. The project included development of a low water ramp, a main double ramp with floating dock, parking lot, solar light pole, and signage. Expansion of the Tensleep Fish Hatchery occurred this year with the construction of a large concrete raceway, brood house, two circular raceways, and appropriate piping. A 60 X 80 foot cold storage building was constructed at the Tillett Springs Fish Rearing Station. Work to improve the Speas residences was completed (foundation stabilization and all five houses for basement egress windows and flat work). Carpet was replaced on the second floor and light ballasts replaced in the original building section of the Cheyenne headquarters office. A well was drilled on the Halfmoon WHMA near Pinedale to provide water for wildlife and livestock. The pump is solar powered. Private companies were used to survey the 34-acre land purchase at the Speas Fish Rearing Station and a public parking/access area at the Tongue River (state section of land north of Sheridan). Engineering work on the water rights inventory for Department-managed lands continued during FY04. Engineering staff attended the States Organization for Boating Access Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania and two personnel attended the Association of Conservation Engineers annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

DRAFTING

The Drafting Section designed and ordered 5,728 signs for special regulations, parking information, regulatory, directional, boating access, new access, the PLPW program, Worth the Watching program, Fish Wyoming program, boating safety, and sage grouse leks; updated the ArcGIS standards and training manual; taught the Private Lands Public Wildlife coordinators the ArcGIS software; designed and compiled maps, data and geodatabases for every county in Wyoming at 1:24,000 scale/detail. Layers include: all roads, highways, rivers, lakes, intermittent drainage, draw/mountain/canyon, railroads, reservations, land ownership, sections, townships, forests, divides, and Walk-in Hunting Areas. Using ArcGIS Drafting, personnel compiled data and created the maps and information and designed the booklet and web site for PLPW Walk-in Fishing program; and created brochures and designed the web pages for 21 Hunter Management Areas, including information, maps, printable pdfs, and rules. The Drafting Section is mapping and updating information on all Department administered lands to include: surveyed boundaries, land status/Federal Aid purchases development, topography, signing, mineral ownership, irrigation, water rights and utilities. Hatcheries and Rearing Stations were not mapped in the past and data is being compiled when time permits. Links are included to view photos of water/irrigation structures and legal ownership documentation. The Drafting Section completed the layout, designed, plotted and mounted all the signs, banners, posters, and

numerous displays for the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo. All personnel helped install the signs, helped at the Expo, and volunteered at various activities.

Other Conservation Engineering projects include: Hunt Area maps; boat dock assembly modifications; design logo for Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition; Habitat for Wildlife bumper sticker; float map for the Green River; provided maps and information for the Worth the Watching program; Fear Access Area development; plans for cold storage building at Tillett; well detail at Half Moon; team member for the state recreational map; map of state major wetlands; feedground location maps; fence details; bait location details; and biologist district maps. Using Visual Basic for Applications and ArcObjects, work continues to customize a statewide map that will eventually include information on all Department-managed lands.

SURVEYING

The surveying section completed a lot of work on boundary and topographic surveys. The implementation of our Leica GPS RTK system has improved productivity throughout the fiscal year.

Boundary surveys were conducted for property rights and/or fencing projects. The survey section assisted the drafting section in updating the master plats of all our units.

The land surveyor has addressed numerous water rights questions and correspondence issues throughout the fiscal year. The main water rights issues have arisen in the area known as water division three; general adjudication. The area in question is the Yellowtail WHMA.

The surveyors also conducted topographic surveys at the Speas Hatchery for expansion and improvements to the existing facility. They also mapped the Big Fork Canal at Yellowtail for pre design/construction RFP's. They also conducted numerous surveys for updating our irrigated acres for our water rights database.

As customary, the surveying personnel aided in sign preparation and installation for the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo in Casper and worked as volunteers in the activities.

SUPPORT FACILITIES

The Department maintains seven regional offices, a satellite office in Pinedale, and the Cheyenne headquarters building. Two regional office managers are assigned to each regional facility for logistical support. The majority of Department employees are located either in regional offices or the headquarters facility; excepting hatchery biologists, game wardens, and some terrestrial biologists. The Department had no major repairs or remodeling to office facilities during FY04. However, in addition to routine operational costs, the Department spent \$37,400 on a walk-in freezer in the Jackson office, \$32,885 to replace a boiler and ballasts replacements in the Cheyenne office, \$7,618 for a new phone system in the Pinedale office, and \$14,800 to resurface

the parking lot and add create space in the Casper regional office. Finally, \$25,920 was utilized from FY03 funding to replace carpet on the second floor of the Cheyenne headquarters.

The Pinedale office still needs to be either remodeled or replaced. However, significant overcrowding at the Cheyenne office, which required the conversion of basement storage space into offices, continues and may need to be addressed first. The potential to build a new office in Cheyenne has been discussed, but given the potential cost and the Department's current revenue stream, a new facility seems unlikely. Unless the Department is able to reallocate headquarters personnel to other regional offices, it appears that overcrowding at Cheyenne will continue. However, the Department's goal is still to provide improved service areas for external customers, adequate working space for permanent employees, and a conference room for regional meetings in each facility.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate aspects of support personnel and facilities. Of respondents that worked in a regional office, between 76.2 percent and 100 percent, depending upon location, were satisfied with the clerical, budgeting, and logistical support provided by regional support staff. Of individuals that worked either in the Cheyenne Headquarters or one of the regional offices, between 18.2 percent and 95 percent of respondents, depending upon location, indicated they were satisfied with the work space provided by the facility in which they worked.

WILDLIFE VETERINARY RESEARCH SERVICES BRANCH

The Veterinary Services Branch began a major study to determine how the infectious agent of CWD is transmitted among elk. Thirty elk will be artificially inoculated with the CWD prion and urine, feces, blood, and saliva will be collected monthly. Scientists at the University of Wyoming will develop a method for determining the presence of the CWD prion in these samples. A second study was begun to create a tissue bank of infectious CWD tissues that can be used by other scientists for CWD research. Ten elk, 10 white-tailed deer, and 10 mule deer were orally inoculated with the CWD prion. A subsample of all three species will be euthanized and tissues harvested at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months post inoculation. A third study in progress will determine the efficacy of the strain 19 brucellosis vaccine in elk. These elk were vaccinated as calves and won't be challenged until they are >5 years old. The purpose of this study is to determine how long the vaccine protects elk from abortion. A grant was received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for brucellosis surveillance and vaccination of feedground elk. A total of \$114,215 was received to complete this work.

Chronic wasting disease surveillance was carried out throughout Wyoming. Samples were collected at points of concentration, i.e., meat processors and check stations. WGFD personnel took samples from all divisions (wildlife, fish, services, administration). Over 125 individuals participated in sample collection. This year, the WGFD invested in the BioRad enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to analyze lymph node samples. This allowed much more rapid processing and reporting of results. Also new for 2003 was the use of the WGFD web site to report CWD sampling results. Hunters submitting a sample were given a unique bar coded

number. The hunter could then access the web site, enter the unique number and obtain test results. Hunters having deer or elk testing positive for CWD were also individually notified by letter. A total of 6,140 deer and elk samples were analyzed, of which 115 (2%) were unusable (wrong tissue, etc.). Of these 6,025 usable samples, 177 tested positive for CWD representing: 153 mule deer (from 4,754 hunter-killed, 18 targeted, and 88 road-killed samples), 13 white-tailed deer (from 433 hunter-killed, 7 targeted, and 6 road-killed samples), and 11 elk (from 633 hunter-killed and 2 road-killed samples). All results were posted on the WGFD web site in less than three weeks of sample submission.

The Branch also has an integrated brucellosis management program aimed at reducing the prevalence of brucellosis in elk. A total of 343 elk were trapped and tagged at 4 feedgrounds this past winter (Dell Creek, National Elk Refuge [NER], Alpine, and Muddy Creek). A total of 96 test-eligible female elk were bled for brucellosis evaluation. Adequate samples were collected at all state feedgrounds surveyed excepting Muddy Creek. Dell Creek feedground continues to serve as a "control" population as no vaccination has taken place since inception of the vaccination program at the Greys River feedground in 1985. A total of 8 trap days were recorded this winter between February 3 and March 6. Strain 19 calfhood vaccination was again very successful this winter with a majority of the feedgrounds reporting complete calfhood coverage.

Many feedgrounds reported over 100% coverage, which suggests yearling females were boosted at several areas. A total of 3,325 calves were vaccinated at 19 state feedgrounds, and 1,324 cows and 808 calves were vaccinated at the NER. In the Gros Ventre, gray wolf predation concentrated elk at the Patrol Cabin and Alkali feedgrounds for much of the winter-feeding season. Normally elk in the Gros Ventre would be spread out among three feeding sites. While elk densities were much greater at these feedgrounds than desired, 81% of the calves were successfully vaccinated. Due to mild winter conditions during the past several years (2000-2003), vaccination coverage rates at Bench Corral have been poor. However, colder temperatures and deeper snow allowed >100% of the calves to be vaccinated at Bench Corral during 2004. Since the inception of the strain 19 program in 1985, 61,937 elk have been vaccinated at 21 of 22 state feedgrounds.

Portions of the New Fork/Boulder Basin habitat enhancement project were completed in the Spring of FY04, with the remaining areas scheduled for implementation in the Fall of FY05. Approximately 840 acres of sagebrush and aspen were treated on the Lake Rim unit and 420 acres of sagebrush on the Marsh Creek unit for a total of 1,260 acres. The objectives were to: 1) treat 30-50% of the sagebrush having >15% canopy cover in a mosaic pattern within the project area; 2) Attain >70% mortality of sagebrush plants in burned areas; 3) Attain >50% encroaching conifer mortality by one year post-burn; 4) decrease sagebrush density within identified aspen clones by at least 50% by one year post-burn.

Branch personnel also commit a great deal of time to the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC). Personnel are active members of subcommittees and are responsible for the production of many scientific reports and analyses. The GYIBC continues to be recognized by many state and federal agencies and private organizations as the best process for resolving the problem of brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the services provided by this branch. Of respondents that interacted with the Wildlife Veterinary Research Services staff, 90.5 percent were satisfied with the services provided.

HABITAT AND ACCESS MAINTENANCE BRANCH

Our Branch goal is to maintain and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat for wildlife and provide access for wildlife-related recreational opportunities on Department-managed lands.

With the approval of the Department's Strategic Habitat Plan by the Commission, the Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch has additional management and maintenance responsibilities on Department-managed lands. These additional responsibilities include farming, grazing, and irrigation contract oversight, weed control, trespass control, wetland management, and facility maintenance.

The Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch completed an estimated 94% of the planned maintenance and monitoring of wildlife habitat management areas and public fishing access areas within the limits of existing personnel and manpower. Maintenance and monitoring was completed on all facilities, structures, fences, roads, trail systems, and wetland complexes.

The Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch supported 16 permanent employees with seven crews that average two employees per crew in FY04. There was one permanent administrator in Cheyenne, one part-time contract secretary, an assistant in Lander, seven regional supervisors, seven crew leaders, seven contract positions and eight temporaries (irrigators) in the state to manage and maintain 43 Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and 82 Public Access Areas. This includes 410,000 acres of managed lands for wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunity. These lands contain 121 miles of stream easements and approximately 21,014 surface acres on lakes and reservoirs for public access. The physical inventory on these areas include approximately 408 public parking areas, 1,163 miles of road, 883 miles of fence (8' elk fence and stock fence), 148 restroom facilities, 62 boat ramps, 15 car bridges, 15-foot bridges, 6,000 signs, 300 auto gates, and 95 dam/wetland complexes statewide. The Branch also maintained 4,605 irrigated acres, which include: drains, canals, pipelines, and spring developments associated with farming, grazing, and wetland systems.

Physical inventory includes maintenance of car barriers (post, cable, and boulders), pipe gates (for vehicle control), culverts, irrigation structures (concrete and wood checks), fish barriers, and in-stream structures for trout, bank stabilization projects and many other Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat development projects and related maintenance.

In addition, through the project request system, the branch received an additional 50 to 75 requests for aquatic and terrestrial projects statewide and assistance on 11 hatcheries and rearing stations. This amounts to 8,000 man-hours of work in addition to assigned responsibilities for all managed lands and access areas.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, agency employees were asked to evaluate the performance of personnel working within the Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch. Of respondents that had worked with this branch, 87.4% were satisfied with the maintenance of facilities on Department lands and access areas.

Within the *Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the maintenance of Department lands and access areas. Of respondents that were familiar with the Department's Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, 64.6% were satisfied with the management and maintenance of the facilities within these areas. Of respondents familiar with the Department's Public Fishing Access Areas, 66.8% were satisfied with the management and maintenance of facilities within these areas.

GAME AND FISH LABORATORY BRANCH

A total of 1,110 samples were submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Disease Laboratory and/or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory representing 549 diagnostic cases. As part of the Branch's charge to monitor disease in wild populations, the following surveys were conducted: 1) more than 1,000 elk hunter kits were mailed or hand delivered with 178 returned, of the 178 samples returned, 91 were suitable for testing; 2) approximately 346 coyote, ferret, fox, mountain lion, lynx, and badger samples were analyzed for plague and distemper; 3) 6,140 elk, mule and white-tailed deer samples were analyzed for chronic wasting disease (figure includes statewide and targeted surveillance); and 4) 3 positive rabies samples were received and analyzed from raccoons, skunks and bats. The Branch also continued teaching courses on the chemical capture and safe handling of wildlife for Department biologists and wardens and other agency personnel. The course is necessary in order for non-veterinarians to be trained in the safe use of drugs used to capture wildlife. The course was again very well received and will be repeated next year in order to accommodate those that were unable to attend.

In February-March 2004, WGFD personnel documented 326 free-ranging elk that had developed paresis, became recumbent, and died or were euthanized in the Red Rim habitat area southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming. The estimated total loss was 400–500 elk. Large quantities of "tumbleweed shield lichen" (*Xanthoparmelia chlorochroa*) were found in the area. This lichen was fed to 3 captive elk. Two elk exhibited signs of ataxia, which rapidly progressed to weakness and recumbency after 7 and 10 days on this diet, respectively. Tumbleweed shield lichen was identified as the most likely cause of these elk deaths.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the services provided by this Branch. Of respondents that interacted with the Fish Health staff, 96.1% were satisfied with the services provided. Of respondents that interacted with the Forensics staff, all (100%) were satisfied with the services provided. Of respondents that interacted with the Tooth Aging staff, 91.3% were satisfied with the services provided.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/GIS

Fiscal year 2004 continued to be a critical year for the Department with respect to Information Technology (IT). We reorganized the branch into three distinct sections: Operations/Support, Development, and GIS. Leadership for the IT Branch consists of an IT Branch manager and a supervisor over each section.

Expenditures for technology have been on the rise over the years and concern over how much money is being spent on technology has been growing. Beginning with FY2005, all Information Technology hardware (with the exception of telephones and cell phones), software and technical services budget items were moved from individual budgets to the IT Branch budget. This change will allow the Department to maintain and support consistent technologies throughout the agency, leverage volume discounts, and help to ensure conformance with statewide standards and compliance with State of Wyoming Statutes.

The agency IT Manager was asked to Chair the statewide Policy & Standards Subcommittee of the statewide Information Technology Coordinating Committee (ITCC). While this has been a significant time commitment, it has benefited G&F in that we have had noteworthy representation in determining the direction of technology in State Government. Planning for the direction of technology in order to facilitate better completion of the workload in other work units throughout the agency continues to be a high priority for branch administration.

Operations/Support staff completed several major upgrades to our network infrastructure. A Microsoft Terminal Server for GIS Decision Support System was set up. It can be accessed from anywhere inside the agency firewall and has been tested through the firewall. Additional security needs to be developed before outside access is made permanent. Once this work has been completed, several Terminal Servers will be installed, which will allow eight users throughout the agency to use the GIS Decision Support System at the same time and from any regional office or remote user location.

The GroupWise e-mail system was upgraded to version 6.5, Service Pack 1 in order to keep up with new features, which include an instant messaging system. This instant messaging system had been in testing for several months and has now been implemented throughout the agency. This system should be able to save the Department money on long-distance telephone calls between regional offices, as this allows a 'chat' type conversation between personnel on the system.

During this past year, IT staff continued work on configuration of a Windows 2000 Active Directory Domain (WGFD.STATE.WY.US) and the synchronization between Windows Active Directory and our existing Novell Directory Services (NDS). Staff also completed an upgrade to eDirectory on all G&F Novell servers in preparation for upcoming ZenWorks 4.01 and Netware 6.0 installations.

IT personnel continued to update the Symantec Anti-Virus application on all file servers within the Department and upgraded all the client anti-virus software as well. This software gives us the ability to centrally manage the virus signature update files and release them to all workstations

and servers connected to the agency network at the same time. In addition to the anti-virus application, IT staff installed and configured an anti-virus agent for GroupWise software that has given us the ability to block specific e-mail attachments that have been common carriers of computer virus and worm programs. This software also gave us a means to block e-mail SPAM messages coming into the agency.

An electronic Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance test tracking system was developed during FY2004. This project was initiated to expedite the data entry process for lab personnel to test CWD samples and post results directly to the agency Website. Accomplishments on this project included implementing bar code technology to synchronize lab data with data collected in the field and helped to facilitate processing of more than 6,000 samples.

Another major project involved a revision to the Private Lands, Public Wildlife (PLPW) application. This revision added the ability to conduct drawings for limited Hunter Management Areas and gave system users the ability to print their own permits rather than requiring them to be picked up at a regional office. User Acceptance Training was also conducted with the PLPW Coordinators and Call Center representatives. Counts as of 7/21/2004 included 793 HMA Customers who requested a total of 1189 permits.

Development section staff continued to work with Fiscal Division staff and an independent contractor to convert the Department Unidata database management system on the Application Server to State of Wyoming Standard, Microsoft SQL technology. The Contractor finished the Voucher Processing System (VPS) and Vehicle Management System (VMS) parts and they are now in production. Development staff worked with Fiscal staff on some minor corrections to the BOATS web system. Testing has been completed and the client application is being rolled out to regional offices. The Payroll–Personnel System (PPS) part of this conversion project was also completed and moved into production. The last phase of the UNIDATA conversion project (PPCAS) is underway and the contractor is expected to finish this fall.

Website enhancements included: an IT Project Request & equipment ordering system and tech tips posted on Intranet site; Commission minutes dating back to 1990; Hunter Education on-line application; 2004 resident and nonresident application booklets and revised harvest surveys posted on our Internet Website; and routine additions and changes such as press releases and regulation changes. Development programmers also built the annual radio station survey for the department's A/V section that captures critical information from stations that air agency reports, which should save a significant amount of time and money in printing, folding and mailing these surveys by hand, as has been done in the past. New applications either completed or under development include rewriting the Law Enforcement Case Management System; revising the CWD surveillance system for gathering and reporting data; License Over-the-Counter data entry system; gathering requirements for the Wildlife Observation System (to include data entry and synchronization via Palm Pilot or other handheld device technology); and working on the IT request management system.

Statewide big game data, which includes seasonal ranges, parturition areas, migration routes, migration barriers, herd unit boundaries and hunt area boundaries is now current and available to both Department personnel and the public for use. Big game hunt area boundaries for the 2005

season were updated, and these layers served as base maps for the Drafting Section to create the hunting maps found in application booklets. Additional updates were done on turkey and bobcat management area boundaries, and bison hunt areas and sage grouse management areas were newly created layers added to the list of data maintained by the GIS Section. The Section is now responsible for maintaining a total of approximately 50 Department layers of statewide GIS data. A major GIS initiative began in February to evaluate all of the Commission's WHMAs and PAAs with the Habitat and Access Evaluation Process (HAEP). This project is approximately two-thirds complete, and will be finished in the first half of FY05. The mapping of both aquatic and terrestrial habitat priorities in support of the Strategic Habitat Plan became a major project over the course of the year.

The contract GIS employee hired in FY03 with State Wildlife Grants Program funding continued through FY04. The responsibilities of this position will continue to be limited to species in greatest need of conservation. This effort has become focused particularly on the Department's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy plan, which will include species distribution maps for each species.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Department's IT personnel. Of respondents that had interacted with the IT personnel, 67.9 percent indicated they were satisfied with the services provided by the IT staff.

LANDS ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

The Property Rights (Lands) Management Branch provides support and technical expertise to the Department relative to land acquisition, management, or disposal of surplus property rights. Current state and federal laws, rules, guidelines and policies have been incorporated into Rules and Regulations and Commission Policy. Staff and Commission members also rank acquisition nominations under the Habitat and Access Evaluation Process. The acquisition of public access to landlocked public lands continues to be a high priority.

The Habitat Strategic Plan was completed, which incorporates the landscape-approach to habitat management and land acquisition priorities on a regional and statewide basis.

As a result of the Wyoming Supreme Court's ruling on the Wind River encroachment case (in favor of the Game and Fish Commission) the process of enforcing easement rights was expanded to other areas.

The Game and Fish Department continues to evaluate other areas for possible encroachments. The Salt River easements were investigated and several easement documents were re-written to clarify the language and identify public access rights. Some problems along the Salt River may involve legal action to clear up the encroachments. The Branch continued to investigate the Big Horn River easements and other areas, and a process has been outlined to address problems, including coordination with the involved landowners.

The Property Rights (Lands) Management Branch continues to monitor all Commission-owned property rights. Attempts are made to physically inspect all property rights and Commission-owned lands to establish data photo points, which will set a new benchmark for evaluating possible future encroachments. Photo points are established utilizing digital photography and then downloading the digital information to a database for permanent storage and quick retrieval. Revision of Commission regulations and policies has been completed, which facilitates a more efficient and effective process.

Branch personnel were involved in several high-priority projects, including:

Acquisitions

1. Agreements executed to facilitate boating developments on various lakes and reservoirs around the state.
2. 34 acres were acquired adjacent to the Speas Hatchery to facilitate treatment of effluents to comply with federal regulations.
3. A parking area and access to landlocked federal lands was secured along the Powder River.
4. 12 acres were acquired that was fenced inside the Commission's elk fence at the Greys River Feedground near Alpine.
5. A lease was secured on the Thoman Ranch, which provides crucial winter habitat.
6. An agreement was secured for river access along the North Platte River adjacent to the Dave Johnson Power Plant at Glenrock.
7. Access was secured from the Office of State Lands for public access north of Sheridan.

Surplus Property

1. Two warden stations have been identified for disposal: Sundance and Rock Springs. The Sundance Warden Station project was completed.
2. 100 acres of fee title lands have been identified for disposal involving the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Lease Renewals

1. Over 30,000 acres of state grazing lease lands were renewed.
2. Annual lease with Kimbell, Inc., to allow public parking along the North Platte River near Pick Bridge north of Saratoga.

Special Use Permits Granted

These permits grant temporary use of Commission owned lands:

1. Trail rides across the Teton Wildlife Habitat Management Area.
2. Water usage from the Wind River for Fremont County road projects.
3. Issued a Special Use Permit to Fremont County Road and Bridge to get water from the Little Wind River on the Commission's Spence/Moriarity Wildlife Habitat Management Area.
4. Trigon-Sheehan to conduct preliminary surveying of a proposed oil and gas pipeline across the Commission's Wick, Ft. Steele and Red Rim Wildlife Habitat Management Areas.
5. Saratoga Gun Club to conduct 3-D Archery event on Sanger Area.
6. Dog trials at Soda Lake.
7. On Kerns Wildlife Habitat Management Unit for Kids Camp Activities.

8. A permit was issued to the new landowner for the existing house that is on the Commission's public fishing easement along the North Fork of the Shoshone River.
9. Road access on the Soda Lake Unit.

Permanent Right-Of-Ways Granted

1. A request to lease a small acreage of the Greys River Feedground to Lower Power and Light is being evaluated.

Encroachments

1. The Department continues with efforts to protect the state's property rights by enforcing, through legal actions, unauthorized use of Commission-owned property. The Department actively pursued encroachment along the Wind River, Salt River and Big Horn River easements.
2. Conducted courthouse work for Shoshone River-Willwood encroachments.
3. Monitored the Commission's Wind River easements to assure potential new development didn't encroach on the public fishing easement.
4. Inspected new and existing Jelm area encroachments with Habitat and Access Maintenance personnel.
5. Met with the Commission's representative from the Attorney General's Office concerning ongoing encroachments on the Big Horn River and a property boundary dispute on the North Popo Agie River.

Other Agreements Included

1. Secured easement for water pipeline at Dubois Hatchery.
2. Completed agreement with WyDOT for river access along the Shoshone River.
3. Finalized new agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for management of Bureau lands on the Sand Mesa and Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Areas.
4. Completed Sheridan Bird Farm/Qwest communication line project
5. Finalized a draft Surface Use Agreement for British Petroleum to set stipulations for surface disturbance and reclamation on the Commission's Chain Lakes WHMA.
6. Secured new right-of-ways from the Bureau of Land Management for access along the Green River.

Trades

1. A trade is being investigated with the US Forest Service to allow for the Commission to participate in the Campus complex proposal in Jackson.
2. Closed on exchange for access involving Horse Creek Feedground.

Miscellaneous

1. Property rights monitoring continues on all Commission areas. Encroachments are being addressed as they are encountered. Computerized data imaging is being utilized as a means to better document baseline information on property rights.
2. Lands Administration continues to review all tax assessment schedules prior to payment of the Department's In-lieu of tax to each county.
3. New acquisition nominations continue to be submitted to the Department. Rankings, Staff and Commission action continue to be an ongoing process.
4. Lands Administration personnel continue to be state certified appraisers and keep up with the required continuing education requirements.
5. Reviewed and commented on proposed changes to BLM livestock grazing regulations.
6. Revised Chapter 57 on fee title acquisitions and also on the Commission Policy revisions.
7. Prepared information and responses to various Legislative Bills.

8. Drafted Lands Conservation Strategy white paper and met with Services Administration, Lands Branch, and Habitat Branch to discuss lands conservation strategy.
9. Met with representatives from the town of Green River and Regional personnel to discuss renewing a special use permit to allow the town of Green River to use Commission property along the Green River as a greenbelt.
10. Sat in on interviews.
11. Met with USFWS personnel regarding federal aid audit findings.
12. Met with Anadarko Petroleum, Wildlife Division, and GIS Section to discuss property rights options on property in the Red Desert.
13. Attended meeting with the BLM and the Conservation Fund to discuss various North Platte River projects.
14. Attended committee meetings on Governors Habitat Initiative.
15. Attended a meeting of Wyoming Land Trust organizations sponsored by the University of Wyoming.
16. Began research on BLM agreements with the department.
17. Attended the annual Land Trust Alliance National Conference in Sacramento, CA.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the Lands Administration Branch. Of respondents that had dealt with this branch, 70% were satisfied with the services provided by the Lands Branch personnel.

Within the *Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the access and habitat acquired by the Department. Of all respondents, 39.8% indicated they were satisfied with the level and amount of access acquired by the Department. Of all respondents, 39.3% indicated they were satisfied with the kind and amount of habitat acquired by the Department.

INFORMATION

Information personnel are responsible for distributing department information via the mass media, agency publications, and the department's Telephone Information Center (TIC).

Information personnel are responsible for the production of news releases, radio programs, and video productions. The 1-800 radio actuality line, which was added several years ago, has provided an additional dimension to the department's news dissemination efforts. That message is now available via the MP3 format, which is being used more than the phone lines. The actuality line and the MP3 format allow radio stations access of a broadcast quality news message on a department subject. This message is updated weekly. Print news production has been greatly streamlined by reducing the number of hard copies being produced. Many news releases are now sent electronically. More than 250 subscribers have converted from hard copy to e-mail which has effected a tremendous savings in printing, postage, and personnel time needed to process news release mailings. Finally, information personnel produced approximately 8 radio and video public service announcements as well as feature length video productions.

Finally, during FY04, the Department's TIC answered more than 70,000 phone calls and approximately 1,000 email messages from the public. The TIC personnel were responsible for distributing 17,500 newsletters per year, and providing telecommunications support services to the more than 800 phone numbers used by agency personnel.

Within the *Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the efforts of the Department's TIC. Of respondents that had contacted the TIC through either the Department's 1-800 number, General Information Number, or 1-900 number, 85.9% indicated their information needs had been handled in a good fashion.

The Mailroom personnel are responsible for handling approximately 1.2 million pieces of incoming and outgoing mail each year. This includes thousands of UPS packages as well as Priority and Express Mail parcels. Use of the postal inserting machine continues to reduce the time required to process large license mailings. More than 100,000 licenses were mailed in seven working days. Three people are needed, amounting to 21 man-days, to process licenses. Prior to using the inserting machine, a crew of 10-12 individuals would take ten working days for this same process.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the mailroom personnel. Of respondents that had interacted with the mailroom staff, 79.4 % indicated they were satisfied with the incoming and outgoing mail services provided.

REGIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

All elements of the annual work plan were achieved. This included the production of over 780 news releases, radio spots, programs and interviews, television interviews, and public service announcements. Approximately 12,375 youth and adults participated in conservation education programs, workshops, and seminars. Participation in education outreach programs such as Hunter Education, Aquatic Education, Project WILD, Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW), Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (OREO), Whisky Mountain Youth Conservation Camp, Living in Bear and Mountain Lion Country workshops, Ft. Laramie Bat Festival, Jackson Elk Festival, International Migratory Bird Day celebrations, and the annual Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo remain priorities. Ten programs and tours were given to over 200 individuals at the Department's Story, Sybille, and Lander education centers. Three hunter information stations and one hunter festival provided 400 non-resident and resident hunters with useful hunting-related information.

Materials and equipment (canoes, stream trailers, education trunks) were loaned to 41 schools, youth, scout and church groups for OREO. In addition, all of the Regional I&E personnel participated in the WILD About OREO camp and several received training in the Archery in the Schools program. Twenty-five man-days were spent assisting the Wildlife Division during the 2003 fall Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance effort.

Regional I&E personnel provided assistance to other regional personnel and participated in intra- and inter-agency coordination efforts on nearly 300 occasions. Some of this assistance included: sage grouse lek surveys, first-aid training, moose surveys, antelope classifications, electro-fishing and gill netting, hunter check stations, season setting meetings, regional coordination team meetings, facilitation of department meetings, and strategic communication planning. Regional I&E personnel in the Laramie, Jackson, and Sheridan regions facilitated local sage grouse working groups.

Information on the number of man-days of assistance related to issues management, species, and disease-based program management and planning is available from the Department's Daily Activity Report system which is maintained by the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne. Examples of these programs include facilitating local sage grouse working groups, the Jackson elk and bison environmental impact statement, aquatic nuisance species, Strategic Habitat Management Plan, chronic wasting disease, brucellosis, and Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bear work.

The Regional I&E Specialists were involved in the hunter education volunteer instructor program and classes on 41 occasions, which included workshops, coordinating, advertising, teaching, and providing classroom materials.

Allocating a limited amount of available work hours between competing demands and priorities is an increasing problem. This problem is illustrated by the diverse comments from the survey regarding efforts within versus outside the regions, efforts toward information versus education, efforts to assist other regional personnel with their projects vs. efforts on I&E projects, and efforts in the regions versus efforts outside the regions.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Regional Information and Education Specialists. Of respondents that had interacted with the Regional Information and Education Specialists, depending upon location, between 52.6% and 92.3% were satisfied with the specialists' ability to disseminate information to the public, between 64.5% and 93.3% were satisfied with the specialists' ability to disseminate information internally and act as part of the regional team, between 58.8% and 88.8% were satisfied with the specialists' ability to conduct education efforts, and between 58.9% and 97.5% were satisfied with the overall services provided by the specialists.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Education Branch personnel in Cheyenne and the regions conducted conservation education programs, workshops and seminars for about 14,870 people. An additional 13,009 participants attended the 2003 Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.

Volunteer coordination and work for the Department is also a part of our Education Objective. Four hundred and thirty-seven volunteer instructors conducted 210 hunter education classes certifying 4,379 students. Volunteer hunter education instructors provided 11,920 hours of

service to the Department, and the volunteer program, WILD WORK, had 372 volunteers who provided 5,515 service hours. Wildlife In Learning Development (WILD) facilitators conducted 19 workshops for 538 teachers. Three Water Education for Teachers (WET)/WILD/Project Learning Tree workshops were conducted for 62 additional teachers.

The Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.) program was presented to 23 new instructors. One hundred and ninety-eight instructors are now certified to teach O.R.E.O. Approximately 100 schools or youth organizations incorporate O.R.E.O. into their curriculums or programs.

Aquatic Education assisted in 25 community fishing clinics for about 7,000 Wyoming youth. In addition, 5000 Wyoming youth participated in the fishing skills activities at the Expo. The Aquatic Education Program completed eleven brochures on fish hatcheries and other high-priority Fish Division programs.

Over 38,000 Wyoming citizens were exposed to the Department's education programs, camps, workshops, and the Expo. Approximately 437 volunteer instructors assisted in the hunter education program, and 372 volunteers assisted in wildlife and fish management efforts. Volunteers contributed over 17,435 hours. Over 95 percent of all participants in workshops, programs, and camps rated the program quality and content as acceptable to excellent. The availability and accessibility of our conservation education services were not a hindrance to customer satisfaction. Educational and communication opportunities appear to be adequate for customer demand.

Personnel cannot meet the demand for education programs when conservation education personnel assistance is required for media, information, issue resolution, and public involvement efforts during high demand periods. Quality, availability, and accessibility of these programs may also suffer.

The Education Branch will evaluate current priorities and programs to identify necessary process improvements and establish new priorities that are responsive to the other work units and the public (during FY05).

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Branch produced 12 issues of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine, which was mailed to more than 30,000 subscribers. Six issues (37,000 each) of *Wyoming Wildlife News* were produced and distributed free of charge to license selling agents within Wyoming and some 6,800 paid subscribers. Collectively, *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine* and *Wyoming Wildlife News* earned \$269,238 in gross receipts.

Three personnel continue to produce all publications in this section, making it difficult to meet all deadlines and, therefore, causing delays in production and distribution. Publications has been without an official photographer for nearly five years. This vacancy has resulted in an out-of-date photo file and additional costs related to purchasing photos for publications and/or

personnel having to take time to obtain photos for specific articles. A new position, that of publications and information office manager, was added in late 2004 to address these problems and help add strength to the department's publications work.

WILDLIFE DIVISION
Jay Lawson, Chief

Thousands of hours were spent collecting and analyzing big game population data, preparing hunting season recommendations, presenting them at public meetings, and preparing regulations and hunting orders.

A total of 8 local sage grouse working groups were created, with representation from industry, agriculture and sportsmen's organizations being included in each group. Through conversion of existing positions, a statewide sage grouse coordinator was hired and located in Green River.

A prairie ecologist position was created to focus efforts on that ecosystem. In addition, black-tailed prairie dog inventories were completed as part of that effort. Black-footed ferret inventories indicated good reproduction in the wild at the initial Shirley Basin release site.

Work continued on the statewide grizzly bear management plan and a process for finalizing management strategies for grizzly bear occupancy is now in place. The public input process will involve all affected interests, including county commissions.

An extremely unusual elk die-off in the Red Rim area of south central Wyoming garnered national and international press and required the division to expend thousands of hours of unpredicted work effort to deal with incapacitated and dying elk and to determine the cause of the die-off. A species of lichen in their diet was found to be the culprit, and future habitat management will be geared towards preventing future events of this nature.

In FY04, Division permanent law enforcement personnel worked 7,197 man-days and drove 704,127 miles on law enforcement activities. This effort resulted in the issuance of 2,486 citations, 2,635 warnings and documentation of 1,122 law enforcement actions in which there were no suspects.

Wildlife damage compensated under W.S. §23-1-901 continues to absorb considerable personnel time in the Division. In FY04, Division personnel expended 930 man-days and drove 115,575 miles on activities to prevent wildlife from causing damage to private property. They expended 370 man-days and drove 27,317 miles investigating, processing and handling damage claims and landowner coupon redemption. A total of 117 damage claims worth \$456,406.41 were filed and the Department paid \$240,054.85. In addition, personnel spend 859 man-days and drove 98,000 miles responding to nuisance wildlife issues that were not consider wildlife damage under W.S. §23-1-901.

As part of the Annual Big and Trophy Game Harvest surveys, the Department asks hunters to evaluate the quality of their overall hunt. As reported within the *Annual Report of Big and Trophy Game Harvest, 2003*, 85% of resident antelope hunters, 69% of resident deer hunters, and 65% of resident elk hunters indicated they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with the overall quality of their hunt. Likewise, 90% of nonresident antelope hunters, 78% of

nonresident deer hunters, and 75% of nonresident elk hunters were either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the overall quality of their hunt.

A compilation of data from the *Annual Report of Big Game and Trophy Game Harvest, 2003* and the *Annual Report of Small and Upland Game Harvest 2003* indicates that hunters spent 1,130,186 recreation days during the 2003 season (the most recent year for which data is available).

The *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* indicates there were 3,924,000 days of wildlife-associated recreation that did not involve hunting or fishing (the most recent year for which data is available).

There are still too few employees to deal with existing workloads and emerging issues. At the same time, administrators, politics and the public’s changing attitudes and demands are adding significantly to workloads. Existing budgets do not allow us to fully address the multitude of issues we are now faced with. For example, issues surrounding grizzly bears, wolves, brucellosis, bison, sage grouse, chronic wasting disease, and prairie dogs were virtually non-issues a decade ago. Many more species of wildlife are suggested for listing as threatened or endangered, and this could present problems for management and be a large drain on our budget, which comes entirely from license revenue and excise taxes on equipment used for hunting and fishing. It is imperative that increased funding be obtained to fully deal with all of these problems.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Identified output measures for regional terrestrial habitat management include; 1) percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, 2) number of trust fund projects and grants developed, 3) number of watersheds surveyed, and 4) number of projects planned or implemented. Fast paced energy development continues to impact wildlife habitat and place additional workloads on habitat biologists and other Department personnel. Two terrestrial habitat biologists were assigned and continue to provide the lead roles on the Pinedale and Casper Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Planning (RMP) efforts and habitat mitigation needs resulting from the impacts. Our other habitat biologists provided planning and comments on the Bighorn and Medicine Bow Forest plans, the Rawlins and Kemmerer BLM RMP’s, and the Coalbed Methane extraction impacts in the Powder River Basin and the Platte River/Green River Basins. The benefits from these efforts are unclear at this time.

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed varied between regions, but was 85% on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the department, or were low priority.

Over 107 landowner habitat extension projects were developed and/or implemented during FY04. Due to budget constraints, the Department suspended the habitat grants program in FY04, so no new grant projects were developed. In addition, thirteen trust fund projects were funded in which program personnel were involved.

Habitat inventories were conducted on nine large landscapes. Satellite imagery and shrub/steppe change detection was used on some very large areas in the Casper, Sheridan and Laramie regions.

A total of 176 habitat projects were implemented and 45 additional habitat projects were planned this period.

Major work Plan Elements: There were 45 major elements scheduled with 38 accomplished for an 84% completion rate.

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues and problems statewide. We currently have 10 permanent and one contract terrestrial habitat biologists covering an average of 5.2 million acres each with some individuals covering more than 8 and 10 million acres each. This does not allow this strategy to adequately address the long-term needs of Wyoming's wildlife and habitat.

STAFF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Permitting continues to increase in both the time and effort spent daily reviewing applications, coordination with each of the Regions, and the issuance of permits. Permits are issued on a calendar year and during 2003 there were a total of 426 active Chapter 10 permits, with 210 of these either being new or renewals. There were 81 of these permits issued for dog training activities. There were a total of 145 Chapter 33 permits issued during 2003, in addition to numerous Chapter 56 and Chapter 45 permits being issued.

During FY04 a data base was developed for the Violator Compact, to include a list of individuals for which due process letters were sent as a result of Wyoming Court action and of Wyoming residents from other violator compact states courts systems. In addition a list was developed of individuals failing to comply with terms of citations issued within Wyoming. The violator compact suspension list was compared to our SLD/OTC license sales and as a result several individuals were found to be in violation and appropriate enforcement action was taken. There are currently 19 states within the violator compact, with a total of 3659 individuals currently suspended within these compact states.

During FY 2004 a data base was developed for all of the forfeited and seizure items currently held by each of the Regions. This current list was shared with each of the Regions and an ongoing effort is underway by each of the Regions to determine final disposition of each of the items.

The current Case Management System is being revised by our own MIT personnel and a finished product is expected within the next few months. The revision is an effort to increase the efficiency of the system and will allow each of the Regions to generate their own enforcement reports based on their past years activities. This new CMS will be web based and will allow for

easier access by Regional law enforcement personnel, and will allow updates to go out immediately.

During FY 2004 an annual report was compiled and addressed the areas of general law enforcement, case management system, permitting, wildlife violator compact, stop poaching program, wildlife investigative unit, and the boating safety program.

During FY 2004, the Department experienced another very successful year for the Boating Safety Program. The Department continues to register approximately 26,000 watercraft each year and is allocated monies from the U.S. Coast Guard based on the number of watercraft registered. The wildlife technicians within each of the Regions assigned are spending approximately 5 months of their time each year on our watercraft safety program. Boater violation rates varied depending upon the body of water, but, statewide, 75 to 80 percent of boaters were estimated to have been in compliance with Wyoming's boating statutes and regulations. The most frequent violation detected each year is failing to provide sufficient personal flotation devices for all individual aboard the watercraft.

As the number of states within the violator compact continues to increase, the amount of time required to effectively address all areas of responsibility will also be increased. This task, along with the permitting process will continue to increase, not allowing the WLEC to adequately address all of the other areas of responsibility.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

The Wildlife Investigative Unit is comprised of six full-time Wildlife Investigators stationed at all regional offices except Casper. The unit is supervised by one supervisor/investigator stationed at the Casper Regional Office.

The unit is responsible for investigating large, complex, lengthy, overt and covert cases. They also assist the region wardens with cases, task forces, and other special projects. The unit maintains several databases including the department's CrimeNtel intelligence system. Unit members operate with unmarked vehicles and typically out of uniform. The unit is equipped with modern evidence collection, surveillance, tracking, and other equipment items. They also work closely with other state's wildlife investigators and with several federal agencies, including the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

In FY04 the unit was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes. Several undercover cases have also been worked. Investigators spent 5,582 hours investigating cases. The unit closed 69 cases and convicted 132 defendants. These defendants paid \$113,255.00 in fines and an additional \$137,228 in state and federal restitution, a total of \$250,483.00.

The unit continues to assist wardens and to rely on wardens for assistance, on many cases. Each investigator also works very closely with the states three U.S. Fish & Wildlife agents.

The number of investigators and the 40-hour workweek continue to hamper effectiveness. Available overtime money continues to restrict total work hours.

BIRD FARMS

During FY04, the Department raised and released 27,249 pheasants from its bird farms. These birds were released on Department lands, private lands leased through the PLPW program, and private lands where landowners allow public hunting access.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES

Biological Services completed 96% (22 of 23) major work elements and 100% (16 of 16) minor work elements.

Major elements included: Big game and small and upland game harvest surveys; Job Completion Report (JCR) reviews; administration of the Wildlife Observation System (WOS); hunting season proposal review; production distribution of various publications for the division, including the annual harvest reports, JCRs and special publications; represent the Department on the WAFWA (Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) Sage Grouse Technical Committee and Framework Team; assist in development of the WAFWA conservation plan; preparation of the Commission season setting information notebook; coordinate development of the Wyoming sage grouse habitat management guidelines; represent the Department on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee; wildlife conflict resolution and wildlife rescue; public assistance/information; annual CITES bobcat report; public assistance and information; technical assistance to Wildlife Division and Department Administration; revision of the Handbook of Biological Techniques; data entry for harvest surveys and management databases; fiscal administration and planning; compile black bear and mountain lion harvest data and maintain hunt area quota hotlines; interagency communication; regulation review; supervision and administration.

The big game harvest surveys were rebid in FY03, and the same outside contractor we worked with the previous 3 years was awarded that bid. Biological Services and the harvest survey contractor continue to improve upon the big game surveys each year. The small and upland game harvest surveys were conducted 'in house' for the first time in FY03 after approximately 3 decades of having them conducted by an outside contractor. That process worked well in its first year, and we hoped to improve it over the next couple of years. However, the Biological Services Harvest Survey Coordinator position experienced turnover at the beginning of FY04. During FY04, the new employee in that position was preoccupied with learning and keeping up with the many complex processes of the big game and the small and upland game harvest surveys. Many areas where improvements could be made were noted, but there was little opportunity to make those improvements in FY04. A major Wildlife Observation System (WOS) software revision was essentially completed in FY03, and while working with the system in FY04, we noted a number of areas where corrections and additional improvements were needed. We will work with the MIS section to make those improvements in FY05. These

improvements include developing a software routine that allows direct transfer of electronic observation data (i.e. from PDAs and data loggers) into the system and to add a 4-township buffer around the state boundary so observations in areas adjacent to Wyoming can be included in WOS. In FY04, the Cheyenne Staff Biologist continued to edit contributed chapters for the division's Handbook of Biological Techniques and edited the proceedings of the Deer and Elk workshop held in Jackson during May 2003. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist was diverted frequently from completing the Handbook of Biological Techniques, so progress has been slow. As well, several contributors have not completed draft chapters. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist will again carry this assignment over into the next fiscal year, and the handbook will be completed in FY05. The Alpine Staff Biologist represented the Department on interstate sage grouse groups, participated in completing several state and interstate sage grouse conservation planning documents and assisted with information programs related to sage grouse conservation efforts during FY04. That position was also involved in Pacific Flyway activities, including waterfowl data collection, participation on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee, planning and proposing a Joint Ventures project for the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and development of migratory game bird hunting seasons. The section conducted the fourth annual in depth review of Job Completion Reports (JCRs) in FY04.

Minor elements included: Maintain herd unit files; assist regions with wildlife surveys, hunting check stations and chronic wasting disease surveillance; cooperate with the big game harvest survey contractor to conduct a bias check for the big game harvest surveys; interagency coordination; fulfill WOS system report requests; policy analyses; document review and comment; Wyoming Bird Record Committee; Wyoming Natural Diversity Database Advisory Board; assist with grizzly bear and wolf management planning; interagency coordination and outreach; intra-agency committees (Mule Deer Working Group, Pronghorn Working Group); development of databases and data transfers; special papers and analyses; maintain bird banding records and administration of agency's banding permit; and assist other work units.

During FY04, there were a number of significant unplanned work elements. The section supervisor was involved frequently throughout the year in training the section's new personnel and assisting with conduct of the harvest surveys. The supervisor also responded to spur-of-the-moment assignments and requests from the division and Department administrations for assistance. In the spring of calendar year 2004, the Cheyenne Staff Biologist was assigned to lead an internal working group tasked with developing programmatic mitigation recommendations for oil and gas development on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He was also assigned oversight of an intern to do an annotated bibliography associated with the programmatic oil and gas mitigation document. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist continued to receive requests from administration to do policy, regulation and document review.

The Alpine Staff Biologist increased the agency's involvement in Joint Venture projects in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming in FY03 and continued developing project proposals for migratory game bird habitat improvement projects in FY04, which included coordination with the regional Joint Ventures staff and a presentation to the Wyoming Heritage Foundation board. The Alpine Staff Biologist has been the state's representative in the WAFWA interstate sage grouse conservation effort and, in mid-FY04 assumed the chairmanship of the WAFWA

committee. That position was involved in a number of planning meetings and made several presentations related to sage grouse conservation in FY04. The Alpine Staff Biologist assisted the new sage grouse program biologist, who was hired in FY04, begin the intrastate sage grouse conservation program. The Alpine Staff Biologist assisted with JCR review and other assignments given to the section.

The Harvest Survey Coordinator became a member of the intra-agency committee established to develop an electronic license sales system and was involved in a variety of unanticipated work related to the recent revision of the WOS. She was involved in troubleshooting and coordinating data entry of big game and small and upland game license data. She also had numerous information and assistance requests and considerable coordination with the agency's MIS staff that were not planned.

The section's Administrative Clerical Specialist, biologist and wildlife damage technician all had a variety of unplanned assignments during the year. Some of these came from within the Section while others were either generated from elsewhere within the agency or in response to requests for assistance from our constituents. Personnel changed in the section biologist position early in FY04. The new person in that position was required to learn the duties of the position while completing scheduled work and responding to unscheduled assignments. There was also turnover in the Administrative Clerical Specialist position at the beginning of FY04. The new person in that position spent the year learning the position's duties and assisting the new Harvest Survey Coordinator. The Administrative Clerical Specialist made several significant contributions to improving license data entry, assisted with the surveys conducted in-house, and helped with trouble shooting and training for license data entry. The Administrative Clerical Specialist also initiated electronic production of several of the section's annual reports, including harvest surveys and JCR. We were able to have the herd unit files scanned with the funds saved by having the annual reports produced digitally. This was a project we had been considering, and we unexpectedly were able to complete that effort in FY04. The section biologist and wildlife damage technician helped prepare the documents for scanning. Intra-agency generated tasks included special reports, data compilations and analyses, and assisting with surveys.

TROPHY GAME – MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

The Section addresses routine activities that are the result of annual assignments from the Wildlife Division. Other work plan elements are established through coordinated management activities with Federal and state agencies related to grizzly bears. However, many of the Section's assignments are very unpredictable which can affect final outcomes for any annual cycle. The Section continually has to adjust to handle requests from the various Divisions within the Department, federal agencies, other state wildlife agencies and the general public.

Major annual work plan elements included:

MANAGEMENT/RESEARCH GRIZZLY BEAR TRAPPING – Nine grizzly bears and 4 black bears were trapped. The purpose of this trapping is to monitor these bears to obtain survivorship, reproduction, distribution, home range, and habitat selection data for the population. Trapping

occurred in Long and Horse Creeks on the Shoshone National Forest and from Moran to the continental divide on the Bridger Teton National Forest.

DATA MANAGEMENT (GRIZZLY BEAR TELEMETRY FLIGHTS) – The section is responsible for monitoring all radio-collared grizzly bears in the southern half of the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The WGFD conducted 65 telemetry flights that assisted in monitoring 47 different individual bears from July through June.

GRIZZLY BEAR OBSERVATION FLIGHTS – Trophy Game coordinated 28 observation flights for the WGFD. The Section actually conducts the surveys in 8 of the 14 Survey Units. All of the assigned BMU's were covered during July and August 2003.

MONITORING BEAR USE OF MOTH FEED SITES – The section conducted one flight to document grizzly bear use of known moth concentration sites in the ecosystem in August 2003. One flight surveys known feed sites, while the other surveys the Wind Rivers. While grizzly bears are not thought to be using feed sites in the Wind River Mountains, several known moth sites do exist. No bears were observed in the Winds

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS – The section responded to all required EA's/EIS's for the fiscal year.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION – Objectives were met. We assisted state and regional personnel in conducting appropriate educational programs. We assisted, as needed, in developing and revising presentations related to living with mountain lion workshops that were initiated by the Department. The Section also assisted with the statewide EXPO held in Casper every September.

MOUNTAIN LION/BLACK BEAR HARVEST – The section maintains statewide databases to manage all of the harvest information for these two species. We also coordinate collection and analysis of all tooth, tissue and hair samples obtained from harvested animals. Annual harvest summaries for both species were prepared and distributed to Wildlife Administration and Regions for use in setting harvest quotas for both species.

AGGRESSIVE WILDLIFE/HUMAN INTERACTIONS – The Section maintains a statewide database to quantify the number and type of encounters that occur throughout the state. Regions provide the Section with updates on a monthly basis.

BLACK BEAR BAIT SITE DATABASE – The Section developed and maintains a statewide database to monitor the use of baits in harvesting black bears.

INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR STUDY TEAM – The Section's Coordinator is the Department's representative on this management/research study team. This team develops data collection priorities for the entire ecosystem. It also assists in all research efforts, regardless of who is conducting the research. We also participate in preparation an annual report that summarizes all of the data collected for the Yellowstone Population. The Section is responsible for writing specific chapters for this annual report. Those goals were met this fiscal year.

We are also responsible for maintaining specific databases that monitor moth feed sites, telemetry relocations, hunter numbers and distribution, and active frequencies for collaring grizzly bears.

YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE (GRIZZLY BEAR) – Section coordinator serves as WGFDD representative on technical committee for this population of grizzly bears. Also serves as technical advisor on the YES and IGBC Subcommittees. Coordinated all activities related to management of research activities.

SECTION 6 COORDINATION – Prepared annual Section 6 Justification and Summary for 2003. In addition, a five-year summary for future budget justifications was completed. Coordinated updating of permits from USFWS and YNP to conduct nuisance and research activities.

Research included:

BLACK BEAR FECUNDITY - We visited several female black bear dens last winter to assess reproductive status as part of an ongoing study to increase the amount of this data to assist in developing reproductive parameters that may be used to assist in future management. Work is being conducted north of Jackson. Three females were sampled this year.

All of the major outputs assigned to the Section were achieved.

During FY04, the Management/Research Branch of the Trophy Game Section continued its participation in preparing several chapters for the 2003 Annual Report for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population. The section continues to cooperate with the USFWS and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team in data collection and analysis. Several new manuscripts that were co-authored by section personnel will be printed in upcoming editions of The Journal of Wildlife Management.

The section prepared annual harvest reports for black bears and mountain lions, as well as recommendations for female black bear and mountain lion harvest quotas. The Section also maintains the statewide database that documents interaction for aggressive interactions between wildlife and humans. The Section also coordinated with the Wyoming COOP on research on mountain lions in the Snowy Range.

Other activities included presentations at department bear workshops and meetings of various citizens' groups, providing environmental comments on a variety of proposed projects by land management agencies and industry, and participation in several bear-related research projects.

Two 12-month AWEC positions were converted to permanent positions to provide some program stability to this strategy.

TROPHY GAME – CONFLICT RESOLUTION

During FY04, There were 15 major elements with 14 accomplished. The Section investigates and manages conflicts between grizzly bears, black bears and humans. Other work plan elements are established through coordinated management activities with Federal and state agencies related primarily to grizzly bears. However, many of the Section's assignments are very unpredictable which can affect final outcomes for any annual cycle. The Section continually has to adjust to handle requests from the various Divisions within the Department, federal agencies, other state wildlife agencies and the general public.

The section personnel spent approximate 8,000 hours managing bear damage and associated tasks in the Jackson, Cody and Lander regions. The section investigated and/or managed 134 conflicts or encounters between humans and grizzly bears. Captured and relocated, or removed, 16 grizzly bears for management purposes. Investigated 11 human caused grizzly bear mortalities. The section investigated and/or managed approximately 64 conflicts or encounters between humans and black bears. Captured and relocated, or removed, about 6 black bears for management purposes. Presented numerous information and education programs about bear biology and conflict prevention to the public. Made numerous informal informational and educational contacts with the public to inform them about bear biology and conflict prevention. Maintained grizzly bear conflict and mortality database. Co-authored report on "Grizzly Bear-Human Conflicts, Confrontations, and Management Actions in the Yellowstone Ecosystem." Participated with the National Outdoor Leadership School in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of portable electric fence designs to deter bears. Retrieved dropped radio collars from the field. Conducted biannual performance review for employee. Submitted and received funding for two ADMB projects. Completed numerous damage claim investigations. Managed the Wildlife Services contract at the field level. Distributed numerous free bear proof garbage containers to the public. Obtained funding for bear proof garbage dumpsters on a Dubois area subdivision. Maintained all of the Section's equipment in good working condition.

This section still suffers from high work demands during the field months (March-November) because of insufficient staffing.

TERRESTRIAL NONGAME

This strategy is responsible for monitoring, management and dissemination of information on over 300 species of birds and 100 species of mammals. They accomplished 100 % of the major and minor work plan elements (17 of 17 major and 5 of 5 minor elements). However, one of the minor elements environmental commenting could receive additional attention if we reduce or eliminate efforts toward other elements. Additional elements (3 major and 4 minor elements) relative to sage-grouse data collection, management, and planning were added during FY04. Conversion of one at-will-employee position in Jackson to a permanent position will help some with addressing a workload larger than current staff can handle.

Major work plan elements included: Strategy administration and planning; Monitoring population trends of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, common loons, and

colonial nesting water birds; Coordination of Partners in Flight and Wyoming Bird Records committee; Black-footed ferret monitoring; inventory of bats and habitats associated with caves and mines; black-tailed prairie dog surveys; swift fox surveys; raptor surveys in eastern Wyoming; completion of State's Wildlife Grants Projects; reports and dissemination of information. Initiating grassland ecosystem monitoring and management planning and assisting development of the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) were added as major elements. Major sage-grouse elements include initiating local sage-grouse conservation planning efforts; Writing the Diseases and Parasites section of the WAFWA Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats document; and Directing the drafting of statewide seasonal range maps for sage-grouse as identified in the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.

Minor plan elements included: Surveys of other species of special concern; breeding bird survey (BBS) and riparian bird transects; monitoring avian productivity and survivorship (MAPS); maintaining the Wyoming Bird and Mammal Atlas and providing environmental comments; Preparing a public friendly sage-grouse habitat management guide based on the WGF's Sagebrush Management Guidelines in Sage-Grouse Habitat document; Drafting the sage-grouse section of the WGF Biological Techniques Manual; Assisting in the re-printing of Robert Patterson's 1952 classic book, "Sage Grouse in Wyoming", including writing a new forward describing changes in sage-grouse populations and habitats since 1952; and Coordinating the state's sage-grouse data collection and reporting responsibilities.

We continue to plan and focus on a limited number of elements that can reasonably be completed with existing personnel. Funding will never be sufficient to address all species or management concerns and the strategy consistently faces a large discrepancy between work that *needs* to be accomplished and work that *can* be accomplished. The increase in number of species proposed for listing and the need to work on many of these before listing has greatly increased workloads without adequate funding and personnel. New Federal appropriations as State Wildlife Grants have provided additional funding and some assistance. However, the effectiveness of additional funding is limited without additional permanent personnel. In order to continue receiving SWG money the Department must complete the CWCS planning effort. The Department lead on this effort has been faced with other priorities during the past two years, resulting in a recent condensed schedule that has been extremely difficult for nongame to accommodate and is anticipated to be especially problematic in FY05. The increasing need to address West Nile virus (WNV) impacts on sage-grouse and the accelerated planning schedule has affected precluded completion of two minor elements. The public friendly guides to sage-grouse habitat management and the reprint of Patterson's "Sage Grouse in Wyoming" have not been completed.

Numerous projects were conducted to fulfill the nongame mission to manage and conserve Wyoming's nongame wildlife, especially rare and sensitive species. In recent years, we initiated several new projects with one-time appropriations from Congress under the States Wildlife Grants Program funding (SWG). This funding allowed us to complete surveys of high mountain streams in wilderness areas of northwestern Wyoming for Harlequin Ducks. SWG and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funding also allowed us to compare several different techniques for monitoring black-tailed prairie dogs and initiate the most cost effective technique. The inventory uses aerial infrared photography to locate and map over 230,000 acres of prairie dog

colonies and aerial surveys to classify the colonies as healthy or impacted by sylvatic plague or control efforts. We also initiated a mapping effort of white-tailed prairie dogs in western Wyoming and attempted to locate complexes where black-footed ferret surveys might be warranted. We also initiated projects to design and prioritize Trumpeter Swan habitat improvement projects, develop a bat conservation plan, and a grassland ecosystem plan

Nongame personnel conduct intensive monitoring annually on nesting Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. Data accumulated on these species have been used to develop effective management strategies. For the third consecutive year, the number of Trumpeter Swan nest attempts has been above average and a record number of young have fledged. However, swan mortality, especially due to collision with power lines, continues to be high and of significant management concern. Cooperative research and management programs helped to increase Wyoming's Bald Eagle population from 20 pairs in 1978 to over 100 pairs. Peregrine Falcons were once extinct in Wyoming, but the Department played an instrumental role in reintroducing over 385 peregrines (1980-1995). The statewide peregrine population reached at least 72 nesting pairs in 2004.

The Nongame Section annually monitors nesting success of Common Loons and colonial nesting waterbirds, and oversees monitoring of Long-billed Curlews by Department biologists. Population trends of many species of birds are being monitored on over 70 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in Wyoming as part of a continent-wide cooperative effort administered by the U.S. Geologic Survey - Biological Resources Division. Population trend data on species not adequately monitored by the BBS are provided via the Monitoring Wyoming's Birds program, first initiated in FY02. Riparian birds are also surveyed four times a year on six riparian transects in Wyoming. Songbird populations, production, and survival are annually monitored at a bird banding station in riparian habitat in Red Canyon near Lander. All of these efforts depend on nongame personnel, skilled volunteers, and systematic cooperation with groups such as Audubon Wyoming, The Nature Conservancy, and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. A considerable amount of time is required to plan and coordinate these surveys, train volunteers, compile data, and provide reports to volunteers and other interested publics and agencies. However, these data may prove invaluable as we continue to evaluate the potential impacts of new threats, such as West Nile virus.

Nongame personnel continually provide landowners and land management agencies with information for evaluations of wetland development, forest and recreational planning, oil and gas development, or flood control projects through the Department's environmental commenting process. The contract biologist in Jackson is under constant pressure to provide information for numerous developments in Teton County and identify potential effects on sensitive species.

Additional inventories and projects are completed annually through cooperative cost-share agreements with other agencies and private organizations. Recently, the Nongame Section completed the seventh year of a cooperative raptor nesting survey over a large area in eastern Wyoming. The U.S. Forest Service (Thunder Basin National Grassland) and Bureau of Land Management provided funding for aircraft rental, and the Nongame Section provided personnel to conduct surveys, compile data, and write reports.

Although black-footed ferret reintroduction has not been attempted since 1994, monitoring of the Shirley Basin reintroduction area has consumed a large portion of available resources for the Nongame Section. In August 2003, we documented the continuing persistence of a small population of black-footed ferrets that consisted of at least 50 ferrets, including 10 litters with 30 young.

Adequate coordination of management programs and information transfer can increase effectiveness of wildlife programs. Nongame personnel continue to participate in numerous committees or working groups, including chairing Wyoming Partners In Flight, the Wyoming Bat Working Group, and the Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group and the Greater Yellowstone Bald Eagle Working Group. These groups coordinate or plan management for different nongame species on a statewide, interstate, or international basis (i.e. Partners In Flight, Western Bat Working Group, Trumpeter Swan Working Group, Western Forest Carnivore Committee, and the Western Region Colonial Waterbird Conservation Planning Committee). Personnel also chair and compile records for the Wyoming Bird Records Committee, which reviews bird records for inclusion in the statewide database. Numerous reports, technical publications, and popular articles were completed this year. Completion of the Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan and Best Management Practices for several habitat types was of primary importance for the nongame bird biologist. The section made numerous presentations at summer camps, in school classrooms, at professional and public meetings, at the International Partners in Flight Conference, and for Audubon Wyoming and affiliate state chapters, and operated multiple booths at the annual Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo in Casper. Recently we completed an update of the Avian and Mammal Atlas and provided a significant portion of the Species Strategies for the CWCS effort. Nongame personnel also continue to assist in the planning, development, and fieldwork of various research projects.

The Sage-Grouse Coordinator addressed many issues during FY04. A Charter for local sage-grouse working groups (LWGs) was drafted in the fall of 2003. Participants were selected for three LWGs in early 2004. Training for LWG facilitators was conducted in January 2004. The first meetings of the LWGs were held in March 2004. These groups met, on average, once per month though the spring and summer of 2004. Most of the early meetings provided participants with information and background. Specific management recommendations aimed at benefiting sage-grouse will be forthcoming in FY2005.

The Diseases and Parasites section of the WAFWA Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats was drafted, edited and published on schedule. Due to the sudden and unexpectedly lethal outbreak of West Nile virus in sage-grouse, especially in NE Wyoming, WGF is cooperating with many other agency, university and private interests in monitoring West Nile virus impacts to sage-grouse. WNV has been demonstrated to have potentially serious impacts to sage-grouse populations. Research conducted to date has resulted in at least two, peer-reviewed scientific publications and numerous articles in the popular press.

A GIS technician was hired in January 2004 to assist in the development of seasonal range maps for sage-grouse as well as complete other mapping and data collection tasks recommended by the state's sage-grouse conservation plan. These efforts are proceeding as planned and products are being distributed to LWGs for their use in conservation planning and project implementation.

The sage-grouse section of the WGF Wildlife Techniques Manual was drafted and submitted to BioServices in Cheyenne. Drafting the sage-grouse section of the WGF Wildlife Techniques Manual address this task by standardizing data collection and reporting protocol around the state. In addition, standard stipulations for projects potentially impacting sage-grouse were drafted and approved for statewide use.

WATERFOWL

The Central Waterfowl Biologist is responsible for coordinating the collection of waterfowl and sandhill crane data, analyzing that data, preparing recommendations for the waterfowl hunting season, and representing the Department at the Central Flyway Technical Committee meetings. Work is much more predictable than in some other sections. The section completed 70% (6 of 9) of major work plan elements and 100% (10 of 10) minor work plan elements.

Duties for the Pacific Flyway are divided between the Central Waterfowl Biologist, Jackson Nongame Biologist and the Alpine Staff biologist. Waterfowl surveys are conducted by the Central Waterfowl Biologist and the Nongame Biologist. The Alpine Staff Biologist represents the Department at the Pacific Flyway Technical Committee meetings and is responsible for developing migratory game bird seasons in the Pacific Flyway in collaboration with the Central flyway biologist.

Major annual work plan elements included; migratory bird surveys, early crane and goose harvest survey, migratory bird hunting regulations, Central Flyway *and Pacific Flyway Technical* Committee meetings, Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt, Bump-Sullivan check station, dissemination of information, annual completion reports, and management of goose nesting structures.

Management of goose nesting structures was not achieved. Work must be prioritized, and some work simply does not get done. Clerical support continues to be an issue. The Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt and check station were not achieved because the hunt was cancelled due dry conditions at Bump-Sullivan Reservoir.

Minor annual work plan elements included; Technical assistance to Division personnel, preparation of printed regulations, participation on the regional team, interagency coordination, data entry, fiscal paperwork, goose banding, file organization, aerators, and management of hunter activity.

Banding of migratory game birds remains a priority. For the first time since 1995 Canada geese were band this year. No ducks, cranes, or doves were banded during FY04. The Waterfowl Section/Department is providing financial support to the Central Flyway preseason duck banding effort. That crew banded ducks in North Dakota during FY04.

Maintenance and evaluation of over 1,000 goose nesting structures throughout Wyoming is also a priority. In response to reductions in personnel and funding, and during the last twenty years the number of Canada geese in Wyoming during April has increased 32%, the Department is

evaluating its need and ability to bed and maintain the structures and eliminating less effective structures where possible.

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Waterfowl Section participated in annual surveys to estimate waterfowl populations and provide information necessary for setting waterfowl seasons. Included were September crane, mid-winter waterfowl, and Canada goose breeding surveys.

The Waterfowl Section remains strongly involved in Central and Pacific Flyway waterfowl management efforts, development and revision of management plans for the various migratory game bird populations, and in annual season setting. These processes require participation on the Flyway Technical Committees at the December/January, March and July Flyway meetings. The Central Flyway Waterfowl Biologist started his term as chairman of the Central Management Unit/Central Flyway Webless Migratory Game Bird Technical Committees during FY04.

The Waterfowl Section is also directly or indirectly involved in the management of all other migratory game birds in the two Flyways. There has been increasing involvement in the management of trumpeter swans.

The Bump-Sullivan managed goose hunt, initiated in 1993 to alleviate competition among hunting parties, was not operational this year. The hunt includes daily drawings for 12 reservoir blinds at Bump-Sullivan Reservoir as well as 4 pass-shooting blinds available first-come-first-served on the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The public continues to be very supportive of the hunt. In FY04, Bump-Sullivan Reservoir was dry and the hunt was cancelled.

In FY04, Wyoming continued the light goose conservation order under the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act in the Central Flyway portion of the state. In FY04, 221 hunters harvested 1364 light geese.

The Section was involved in the Intermountain West Joint Venture through the Central North Platte Action group. The northeast part of Wyoming is included in the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture.

Work must be prioritized since some work simply cannot get done. Coordination and communication could be improved with personnel who are assigned duties that pertain to the Waterfowl Section. Clerical support continues to be an issue.

PRIVATE LANDS PUBLIC WILDLIFE ACCESS PROGRAM

This strategy accomplished 100% (12 of 12) of major tasks in their work plans and 90% (9 of 10) minor tasks during FY04.

The PLPW Access Program continues to provide valuable hunting and fishing access throughout the State. In FY04, there were 21 Hunter Management Areas with 672,367 private acres enrolled. There were 402 Walk-in Hunting Areas with 426,695 Private land acres, 29 stream

miles and 80 lake acres. Together, the HMA and WIA Hunting Programs provided access to 1,099,062 private land acres along with a conservative estimated 1.3 million public acres for total of around 2.4 million hunting acres. Walk-in Fishing provided access to 110 lake acres and 81 stream miles of privately held waters on 53 areas. Most importantly, the PLPW Access Program has made it easier on hunters and anglers to find a place to go, the landowners in allowing access, and Department personnel in dealing with multiple aspects such as damage, population objectives and public relations including landowners and sportspersons.

Access Yes donations are declining due to several factors such as license fees increasing and the newness of the Program wearing off. For FY04, Access Yes donations totaled \$651,354. PLPW staff has taken direct measures by contacting License Selling Agents and putting out news releases reminding people where their donations go and how it helps in providing access. There is still a segment of the population that does not like or agree with the Program. This will be an ongoing problem.

FEEDGROUNDS

During FY04, There were 11 major work schedule elements and 16 minor elements, all of which were completed.

Snow came early in the winter of 2003-04 and feeding began sooner than in recent years. Counts indicated that 16,111 elk were fed, which is the second most ever fed and the most fed in the past 15 years. It appears that early snow and poor forage conditions (brought on by the continuing drought) resulted in the increased number of elk that attended feedgrounds. The early starting date and high elk numbers resulted in the possibility of running out of hay at several locations. However, snowfall was minimal during mid and late winter. This allowed the elk to leave earlier than expected and prevented the need to haul hay into several feedgrounds. In spite of the early spring, hay was hauled into two feedgrounds.

A total of 8,742 ton of hay was fed during the winter of 2003-04. This amount of hay has been exceeded only twice since 1975-76 and, presumably, since feedgrounds have been in operation.

Wolves preyed on feedground elk. A total of 39 elk were killed by wolves on 12 different feedgrounds. Elk have been killed on 15 of the 22 feedgrounds by wolves since their introduction. Management problems that resulted from wolf activity were minimal. Elk were chased from several feedgrounds at various times this winter, but they returned or were hazed back by Department personnel before damage/co-mingling problems occurred.

Two cattle herds were located in Region 1 that contained brucellosis infected animals. Tests indicate that the DNA of cattle from one herd was similar to that found in elk. A task force was formed and directed by the Governor to find a solution to the brucellosis problem in Wyoming.

Wolves continue to be a concern with feedground management. The number of elk killed on feedgrounds is not significant. However, when elk are chased off feedgrounds the possibility of damage and co-mingling are greatly increased. The two cases of brucellosis in cattle herds will

only make this a more important issue. Also, problems associated with hay storage and waste occurs when elk are chased from one feedground to another.

There is a growing effort from various factions to reduce or eliminate feedgrounds. A viable alternative to feedgrounds has not been presented. An increasing amount of time is being spent dealing with this issue.

The permanent work force for this strategy was cut in half by the Total Quality Management exercise within the Department, and workloads have increased significantly for the remaining personnel. In addition, the time spent with administrative tasks is steadily increasing. There is more work to do than can be done by two permanent employees. The additional work was done by several independent contracts, plus one Department contract employee, which increases the amount of supervision required and is costly. It results in the existing permanent feedground personnel reacting to problems/situations after the fact, and falling behind in needed feedground facility maintenance.

JACKSON/PINEDALE REGION

The Jackson/Pinedale regional supervisor had nine major work elements scheduled and all were achieved. Projects included: JPR Administration; JPR Budget Development; Feedground Administration; JPR Planning; Regulation Development; Regulation Public Meetings; Agency Contacts; Public Contacts; and Environmental Comments Likewise, there were eight minor work elements and seven were achieved.

The Pinedale/Jackson Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one coordinator) had 13 major work schedule elements for Fiscal Year 2003. All 13 major elements were accomplished. Concurrently, 7 minor elements were also accomplished. Elements included: wildlife environmental reviews; making public contacts; drafting big game and trophy game season recommendations; conducting pre- and post-season big game classifications; conducting spring mule deer mortality surveys; surveying sage grouse leks; managing bison hunts; and conducting field checks of big game hunters.

There were 24 major elements with 23 accomplished. There were 17 minor elements with 16 accomplished.

The regions law enforcement program continues to be a priority. During fiscal year 04, region law enforcement personnel spent 6,561 hours on law enforcement. This effort resulted in 470 violations, 173 citations, 261 warnings and 36 no actions. The region's top law enforcement priority was patrolling mule deer winter ranges in the Pinedale/Big Piney areas to detect and deter the illegal taking of mule deer bucks. Region law enforcement personnel and game wardens from other regions patrolled the mule deer winter ranges daily from November 17, 2003 – January 19, 2004. During that time period, 613 hours and 13,478 miles were coded to mule deer winter range patrol resulting in over 100 vehicles being contacted. Wardens located two mule deer bucks that had been shot and one other buck was found with head missing. No arrests were made.

Pinedale/Jackson personnel worked the annual Jackson antler auction May 10-15, 2004. During this time, 527 Interstate Game Tags and 19 written warnings for game tag violations were issued. Approximately 50 commercial dealers transported heads into the state, with 12 having large lots of shed deer, elk and moose antlers for sale or trade. With a growing interest in antler hunting, wardens estimated that over 700 antler hunters searched for antlers east of the National Elk Refuge on the May 1st opener. Wardens estimated about 255 vehicles were present at the 8:00 a.m. opener with 12 different states represented.

Pinedale/Jackson region registered over 615 spring black bear bait sites. Wardens checked a total of 58 bait sites with 26% of them in violation and a total of 20 citations issued for non-compliance. A hunter unintentionally shot a grizzly bear over a black bear bait site in the south Pinedale warden district; which; was the first confirmed grizzly bear sighting in this district.

Big game and trophy game damage continue to be a problem in the region. The workload related to grizzly bear damage on sheep and cattle continues to increase in the Upper Green River and Gros Ventre drainages. Assistance from conflict resolution personnel and a contract with Wildlife Services has helped decrease the damage workload for region wardens. During FY04, 39 damage claims were submitted. This included 13 claims for elk, 5 for moose, 6 for deer, 2 for black bear, 9 for grizzly bear and 1 for Canadian Geese. A total of \$74,131.10 was paid by the Department to settle these claims.

Workloads continue to increase in the Jackson/Pinedale region with oil/gas issues, development, migration corridors, brucellosis/feedgrounds, wolves, and grizzly bear expansion. Wardens continue to spend a great deal of time with elk depredation and keeping cattle and elk separated because of disease issues. The region ran late elk hunts in many areas to minimize elk depredation to haystacks and cattle feed lines and to prevent co-mingling of elk and cattle. This was in lieu of depredation hunts.

Two Hunter Management Areas (HMAs) for late season elk hunting were administered again this year. The Big Piney HMA in the North Piney and Cottonwood Creek drainages (elk areas 92 and 94) were conducted to address increasing elk numbers and damage concerns. Ten private landowners allowed access to 27,640 acres of deeded land interspersed with 26,000 acres of public land. Of the 100 access permits available, 94 were issued for the season that ran from November 16, 2003, to January 31, 2004. The season was for antlerless elk, but due to a large group of bulls causing damage on Cottonwood Creek, an emergency regulation was implemented to allow any elk harvest along a section of Cottonwood Creek. Approximately 30 elk were harvested in this hunt and bull harvest was minimal. The second HMA was Chimney Butte in elk area 98. Eight landowners enrolled 10,470 deeded acres that also provided access to several thousand acres of BLM and USFS land. Of the 100 access permits available, 87 were issued for the season that ran from November 17, 2003, to January 31, 2004. Approximately 30-40 elk were harvested in this hunt. This season has reduced elk depredation in this area, however elk have learned to only feed in haystacks during the night and leave area before daylight. As in the past, both HMA elk hunts were well received by the landowners, hunting public and addressed chronic damage problems.

CODY REGION

The Cody Region Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had 9 major work schedule elements and 9 were completed (100%). Six of 6 (100%) minor work schedule elements were completed. In the Cody region, Wildlife Division personnel responded to 231 damage complaints (down 14 [5.7%] from FY03 figure of 245), commented on 58 WERs (down 52 [47.2%] from FY03 figure of 110), made 1,730 landowner contacts (up 260 [17.7%] from FY03 figure of 1,470), and conducted 2358 big game field checks.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was documented in two mature buck deer (1 whitetail, 1 muley) in the Bighorn Basin during fall 2003. Both cases occurred along the Bighorn River, within 2 miles up and downstream of Worland. Basin-wide, 425 deer were sampled for CWD during fall 2003, as well as 89 elk (elk were all negative).

Bison movements from Yellowstone National Park (YNP) were very limited in FY04, so no hunt was held in the Cody region during winter 2003-04. On August 15, 2003, 3 bull bison were seen on a hillside east of Pahaska Tepee. A maximum of 7 bull bison wintered along the North Fork of the Shoshone River; all 7 bulls returned to the Park for the summer by May 31, 2004.

Regional personnel classified 4,040 antelope in 5 herd units, 11,806 mule deer in 8 herd units, 337 white-tailed deer in 1 herd unit, 8,011 elk in 4 herd units, 1,343 bighorn sheep in 4 herd units and 142 mountain goats in 1 herd unit.

Regional personnel made 1,730 landowner contacts during FY04, and spent 7,481 hours contacting hunters and fishermen and collecting harvest and management information (activity codes 510-512 and 520). Harvest field checks totaled 932 elk, 1,278 deer, 100 antelope, 43 bighorn sheep, and 5 mountain goats.

A total of 2,627 hunters and 3,151 licenses were checked through the Cody check station in fall 2003. Due to budget cuts, the check station was open for 18 hours/day, for a total of 59 days. Four temporary, part-time employees operated the check station from October 13, 2003 to December 14, 2003. Seven moose, 18 bighorn sheep, 47 antelope, 713 deer, and 424 elk were checked through the check station during fall 2003.

The Cody Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) had 34 major work schedule elements with 34 completed (100%). Nine of 9 (100%) minor work schedule elements were completed.

Winter 2003-04 conditions were favorable in many areas of the Bighorn Basin in FY04. Spring/early summer 2004 precipitation was still below normal, but better than in recent years, initiating good herbaceous forage production in foothill and montane zones in the Absaroka and Bighorn Mountains; forage production remained poor in lower-elevation, interior basins.

Pronghorn populations were considered below objective in all herd units (N=5) in the Bighorn Basin. Pre-season fawn:doe and buck:doe ratios in August 2003 were generally below 5-year averages. Persistent drought conditions and resultant habitat conditions appear to be impacting

pronghorn herds and other shrub-dependent wildlife species in the region. Doe/fawn antelope licenses were reduced for fall 2003, due to chronically depressed fawn recruitment and population status. Minimal doe harvest is anticipated in the next 2-3 years, until normal precipitation patterns return and fawn recruitment improves. However, due to poor habitat conditions, maintaining herds below objective is a recommended strategy, so some doe/fawn harvest will intentionally occur.

Mule deer populations were estimated to be below objective in 7 of 8 herd units (i.e., except for Paintrock) in the region. Post-season 2003 fawn:doe ratios improved (compared to 2002) in 7 herds (i.e., except for Basin), but were still below 5-year averages. Post-season buck:doe ratios ranged from 18-32:100 does, similar to 2003, but somewhat lower than past 5-year ratios. Type 6 doe/fawn licenses were decreased slightly for the 2003 hunting season in the Bighorn Basin. Even though deer numbers were generally below objective, some antlerless deer harvest is necessary to address deer concentrations near irrigated lands. Also, maintaining deer herds below population objectives was deemed desirable, due to poor habitat conditions resulting from persistent drought. This will be the anticipated management approach until normal precipitation patterns return and fawn recruitment improves.

White-tailed deer numbers rebounded somewhat following the summer 2001 epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak. For all hunt areas in the Bighorn Basin, any white-tailed deer licenses were increased by 40 for the 2003 season, while doe/fawn white-tailed deer only licenses were unchanged. White-tailed deer typically occur along major drainages, and numbers are generally managed in accordance with landowner tolerance and potential depredation.

Three elk herd units (i.e., Medicine Lodge, Cody, Clarks Fork) were considered at objective and 1 herd (Gooseberry) was more than 30% above objective. Two other elk sub-herds (parts of North Bighorns and South Bighorns herd units) were respectively at, and still dramatically above, sub-objectives. Liberal hunting seasons, increased cow elk harvest, and reduced calf recruitment have lowered elk numbers in many, but not all, hunt areas. Potential wolf predation on calf elk remains a significant public and agency concern, as wolf numbers and distribution continue to expand. For 2003, Type 6 cow/calf licenses have been sharply reduced, and late (i.e., January) hunting seasons have been trimmed or eliminated in several hunt areas.

Based on hunter/outfitter reports and limited department observations, numbers and recruitment of moose appear to be declining in the Absaroka Mountains. Residual habitat problems from the 1988 fires and persistent drought, combined with increasing numbers of grizzly bears and wolves, likely have contributed to this decline in moose numbers. Despite lowered moose numbers and significantly reduced hunter opportunity along the Absaroka Front, hunter success remained $\geq 75\%$ in all hunt areas. Moose numbers and distribution on the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains appear to be increasing slowly, which should lead to increased hunter opportunity.

Bighorn sheep in Hunt Areas 1-5 continue to do well, with over 4,000 sheep estimated to occur in these 5 areas. Over 80% of Wyoming's licenses and harvest typically occur in Hunt Areas 1-5. Any-ram limitations have been in place for 5-9 years in several hunt areas; Area 1 changed to any ram for 2003, with very successful results (16 rams taken by 16 hunters, 100% success).

Hunters continue to harvest 88-92% “3/4-curl” rams in areas where any ram is legal, and total hunter success in Hunt Areas 1-5 continues to be $\geq 70\%$.

Mountain goats in the Beartooth herd appear to be doing well. Kid production and recruitment are good, and overall herd size remains near 200 wintering animals. Mountain goats continue to be observed in the Sunlight Creek drainage and other areas south of the Clarks Fork River. Improved coordination on goat management has occurred with Yellowstone National Park and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. WGFDD management goals include minimizing expansion of goats into prime bighorn sheep habitat south of the Clark’s Fork River. Hunter success was 100% in 2003 and is expected to remain high in 2004.

Hungarian and chukar partridge hunter success was down again in 2003, due to poor nesting success and chick survival caused by the summer drought. Blue grouse and pheasant hunting were fairly good. Fair numbers of pheasants, chukars, and gray partridge entered winter but had to deal with poor cover and poor food conditions for the fifth year in a row. Over-winter survival was considered fair, since winter conditions were not severe. However, due to poor grass production in 2003, residual nesting cover was less available in spring 2004; this was partially offset by decent spring 2004 moisture, resulting in improved herbaceous production, which helped nesting. Since pheasants are closely tied to irrigated cropland in the Bighorn Basin, drought conditions have less effect on their nesting success. Pheasant hunting on the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area received considerable attention during FY04. Additional effort was, and will be, placed on improving food production and nesting cover on Yellowtail. More intensive pheasant management planning will occur, with particular emphasis on ensuring a safe and efficient pheasant stocking program.

Increased data collection for sage grouse continued in FY04. Fall 2003 harvest and spring 2004 lek count data are summarized in the annual Cody Region Sage Grouse Job Completion Report, but were unavailable for this Annual Report. Samples of wings collected from hunters were very limited again; consequently, the decision was made to cease placing wing barrels, at least until sage grouse numbers improve. Initial planning occurred during FY04 to implement a Sage Grouse Local Working Group for the Bighorn Basin, with the intent to develop specific habitat treatment recommendations and “Best Management Practices” for sage grouse.

Wild turkey populations have been doing well since the initiation of aggressive transplanting efforts in 1996. A total of 580 Rio Grande and 219 Merriam’s turkeys have been transplanted from Oklahoma, Lusk, Douglas and Sheridan over the last 8 years to several locations along the Shoshone, Bighorn, Greybull and Nowood Rivers and on Pat O’Hara, Shell, Rattlesnake and Gooseberry Creeks. Several broods of turkeys have been observed along the Shoshone, Bighorn and Greybull Rivers the last 3 years. Hunters were very successful in both areas 6 and 10 during the spring 2004 turkey season. Suitable turkey habitat also occurs along the Bighorn River near Thermopolis and along the lower end of Owl Creek, but landowner support still needs to be obtained before turkey releases can occur in these sites.

Regional personnel spent 359 hours (activity code 540) reviewing 58 project proposals, up 26 hours (8%) from FY03, providing comments on potential impacts to wildlife and recommending mitigations measures to minimize or eliminate negative impacts.

The Cody Region Game Warden Strategy (nine wardens) had 30 major work schedule elements and 30 were completed (100%). Nine of 9 (100%) minor work schedule elements were completed.

Law enforcement efforts throughout the year were routine. The number of violations detected, the number of citations issued, and the number warnings issued increased in FY04. Law enforcement officers spent 5,302 hours on enforcement activities (activity codes 300-310-320), resulting in 357 incident reports, 215 citations, and 254 warnings. Regional personnel participated in task forces at Glendo, Jackson, Evanston and Lander.

The number of damage complaints decreased in FY04 to 214 and the number of claims received decreased from 37 to 31. The 37 claims resulted in the payment of \$85,136 for damage to crops and livestock, an increase of \$21,722 from FY03. Twenty-three claims were paid in full, 5 claims were partially paid, and 3 claims were denied. Game wardens and a seasonal damage aid spent 2,005 hours (activity codes 610-620-30) preventing and evaluating damage to crops and livestock caused by big and trophy game animals. In addition, Trophy Game section personnel spent numerous hours looking at livestock damage and trapping nuisance bears. Damage to livestock by trophy game animals made up 42% (\$35,603) of the total damage, followed by damage to hay 34% (\$29,295), damage to corn 6% (\$10,927) and other damage 5% (\$9,311). Drought conditions caused many animals to move onto hay fields to get feed and water, resulting in a significant increase in hay damage.

SHERIDAN REGION

During FY04, the Regional Wildlife Administrator had 4 major work elements and all were completed.

Gary Shorma served his twenty-sixth year as the Sheridan Region Wildlife Supervisor. This stability coupled with the long-term knowledge of issues and problems contributed to the efficient management of both on-going and emerging issues. Responsibilities included the oversight of the Wildlife Management Coordinator and three District Wildlife Biologists, seven District Game Wardens, one Game Warden Trainee, one Wildlife Technician, and two Office Managers. Major work schedule elements for subordinates were all addressed in spite of changes in personnel, illnesses, or other factors that impacted employees.

The Game Warden Trainee position, filled by Irah Leonetti, was moved from Gillette to Sheridan and the new Wildlife Technician position, filled by Jason Sherwood, was stationed in Gillette. The transition of both positions was completed with the individuals taking on workloads in the respective areas and also being used around the region. As long time Sheridan Game Warden Terry Cram prepared for retirement, Supervisor Shorma participated in the interview and selection for transfer of Bruce Scigliano from the North Gillette District to the Sheridan District.

Department budget limitations continue to pose problems for the Sheridan Region. With one of the most conservative region budgets in the state, the Sheridan Region absorbed the new Wildlife

Technician position as well as take on management responsibilities for a portion of the Casper Region when regional boundaries were realigned.

Expectations for WGFD services continued at a high or increasing level in the Sheridan Region. Seasoned employees held all but the Game Warden Trainee and Wildlife Technician positions. Because of past experience, the relatively small force of dedicated employees handled wildlife damage, trophy game nuisance or safety concerns, injured or sick wildlife, hunter assistance, law enforcement, and information and education requests. An identified challenge for the Sheridan Region will be providing training and experience to new employees to handle the variety of problems that continually occur in a predominantly private land region.

The Sheridan Region experienced the continued influx of people because of CBM development. Wildlife habitats and hunting opportunities were also negatively impacted by this development. Subdivision of agricultural lands for homes or hobby farms and the immigration of part time residents and retirees continued to add to the workload. Some of the new residents do not have an appreciation for living amongst wildlife or respect for wildlife laws and regulations. An identified need is additional WGFD personnel to meet the ever-increasing workload in the Sheridan Region.

Changing and increased demands have limited the amount of time the Sheridan Region Supervisor can leave the office to work with and mentor outlying region personnel. However, during FY04 efforts were successful to visit and work in all districts during the fall hunting season.

For Sheridan Region biologists, there were 14 major work schedule elements (listed below) and all were addressed/achieved.

During FY04, Lynn Jahnke (Wildlife Management Coordinator), Dan Thiele (Buffalo Wildlife Biologist), Olin Oedekoven (Gillette Wildlife Biologist), and Tim Thomas (Sheridan Wildlife Biologist) addressed all major and minor work schedule elements as well as many unscheduled items. Sheridan Region Wildlife, Fisheries, and Services Division personnel and the Sheridan Regional Office Managers all contributed to gathering wildlife management data and assisting with accomplishing a variety of projects.

Emerging issues that required considerable time and effort on the part of the Sheridan Region Wildlife Biologists included: intensified sage grouse lek surveys, the formation of the Powder River Basin local sage grouse working group, West Nile Virus (WNV) in sage grouse and closing of the sage grouse hunting season, WNV in raptors and other wildlife, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling of hunter harvested deer and elk, hunter assistance inquiries due to difficult private land access, injured and nuisance wildlife, beaver habitat surveys on the Bighorn National Forest, the Bighorn National Forest Plan revision, and Coalbed Methane (CBM) development impacts. While scheduled activities were addressed, it would have been desirable to spend additional time and effort on scheduled activities but other items were expected to be addressed.

Regional wildlife biologists were again able to conduct aerial surveys of sage grouse leks in the spring of 2004. Funding for this effort was provided by the BLM. Nearly 90% (255 of 290) of leks were checked from either the air or ground by WGFD, USFS, BLM, private consultants, and volunteers. The surveys included discovery of 36 previously undocumented leks and the monitoring of activity on known leks. In six years of intensified survey efforts, 110 undocumented leks have been found. Attendance at leks by sage grouse again decreased indicating another decline in the population. This was the fourth year of decline since the most recent peak in 2000.

During the summer of 2003, West Nile Virus was found in sage grouse from a research project in the Powder River Basin. Subsequently, the majority of marked birds from the Spotted Horse study site died from the disease. Because of the unexpected mortality, the hunting season was closed in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties. In early 2004, planning for a local sage grouse working group commenced. Olin Oedekoven was assigned as the Sheridan Region representative to the Powder River Basin working group that has made good progress towards the goal of developing a local plan for implementation.

Personnel classified big game before and after hunting seasons. For herds where the Sheridan Region has Job Completion Report writing responsibility, 17,534 antelope, 182 elk, and 178 moose were classified during the 2003 preseason surveys. Postseason 2003 classifications were conducted on 2739 elk, 2727 white-tailed deer, 13,187 mule deer, and 98 moose.

Personnel on patrol, at check stations and locker plants checked 397 elk, 115 white-tailed deer, 1177 mule deer, 1013 antelope, and 21 moose. These figures include animals checked by Sheridan Region personnel and animals that were harvested in Sheridan Region hunt areas but checked by personnel from other regions. Sheridan Regional personnel also provided field checks to surrounding regions for big animals from their areas. Game wardens and regional office personnel inspected mountain lions, black bear, bighorn sheep and checked small game, game birds and fish.

Sheridan Region non-law enforcement personnel were tasked to collect CWD samples from hunter killed deer and elk. Collection sites were located at meat processors in Gillette, Buffalo, Kaycee, and the Sheridan/Dayton area. Samples were also collected at check stations in Dayton and Kaycee as well as from taxidermists, field checks, and from hunters contacting WGFD personnel. Around one thousand samples were collected in the Sheridan Region with none of the hunter-killed animals testing positive.

Problem areas include limited budgets generated from hunting license sales but having to use those funds and personnel to address non-hunting related issues and impacts. Coalbed methane development has been cited by some landowners as a reason for curtailing hunting opportunities. Decreased access has likely negatively impacted license sales. Yet, CBM development has resulted in numerous calls regarding injured wildlife, review and commenting on project proposals, and requests for information from landowners, consultants, and companies as well as new residents interested in participating in hunting and fishing. Identified Department needs include additional personnel to focus on CBM issues and alternative sources of funding to pay the added personnel and fund research and cooperative mitigation type projects.

Difficult access to private lands for hunting has been identified as a primary cause of big game populations not being able to be managed at population objectives as well as generating less income for Department programs. Sheridan Region Wildlife Biologists spend considerable time on access issues. While the Regional Access Coordinator for the Casper and Sheridan Regions has made efforts to acquire access in the Sheridan Region through the PLPW program there is ample need for an Access Coordinator to be based in the Sheridan Region. It has also been proposed that other large-scale access to private land for hunting type programs would benefit hunters and managing big game herds toward objective in private land areas.

Injured, sick, and nuisance wildlife calls as well as trophy game calls concerning human safety caused interruptions to Sheridan Region Wildlife Biologists scheduled activities, particularly at the Sheridan Region Office. Other activities such as loading damage fence and helping at the Bird Farm also impacted the Sheridan District Biologist and Wildlife Management Coordinator. The stationing of a Wildlife Technician in Gillette and the Game Warden Trainee in Sheridan has helped alleviate some of this load but another Wildlife Technician stationed in Sheridan would allow Wildlife Biologists to better address scheduled activities.

A challenge for the Sheridan Region during FY04 was Gillette Wildlife Biologist, Olin Oedekoven, had added commitments to the Wyoming National Guard with Wyoming soldiers deployed to the war in Iraq and the domestic "war on terror". Oedekoven spent many days away from the Gillette District that added to the workload of other Sheridan Region personnel.

Sheridan Region Game Wardens successfully addressed major work schedule elements and other unplanned activities. Firearms and Custody & Control training sessions were held with all personnel successfully meeting qualifications. Specific duties such as handling landowner licenses and coupons were addressed. Contributions to wildlife surveys and harvest field checks are included in the Sheridan Region Wildlife Biologist narrative.

Sheridan Region Game Wardens handled several wildlife damage situations. In many cases advice to landowners, provisions of fencing materials, or deterrent actions were adequate to alleviate the situation. In other situations damage claims were filed. Damage complaints were dominated by black bear and mountain lion depredation of domestic sheep near Kaycee and Buffalo. Ten claims totaling \$44,811.13 were received of which \$42,580.12 was paid. Damage to stored or growing crops by deer increased in FY04. Six claims totaling \$9,223.83 were received and \$8,657.83 was paid. One claim for \$653.00 because of antelope damage was paid in full and one claim for \$1,506.00 because of elk damage was paid in full. No claims were received for damage done by wild turkeys. Total damage claims for FY04 increased significantly to \$56,193.96 with \$53,396.95 approved for payment.

The Sheridan region continued to feel the impacts of energy development in the Powder River Basin in FY04. Human population growth and increased violation detection efforts likely resulted in a substantial increase in detected violations. Regional officers documented 873 violations in FY04 compared to 743 violations in FY03 and 492 violations documented in FY02. This represented a 17% increase in the number of detected violations from FY03 to FY04 and a 77% increase over FY02.

Watercraft violations increased 39% during the reporting period (242 in FY04 versus 174 in FY03). This is the second year in which detected violations increased in excess of 30%. Due to watercraft enforcement concerns at Keyhole reservoir, watercraft patrols were concentrated almost exclusively at Keyhole rather than at DeSmet in calendar years 2003 and 2004. As expected, officers encountered a relatively heavy enforcement load at Keyhole State Park, even early in the boating season.

A Wildlife Technician was stationed in Gillette beginning in September of 2003. The technician served as the primary regional watercraft enforcement officer, facilitated Gillette area False Oath efforts, responded to urban wildlife calls and assisted other wardens. This position was extremely effective in meeting regional enforcement goals. The Game Warden Trainee position was moved to Sheridan from Gillette.

Damage by big and trophy game continues to be a problem. Depredation of domestic livestock by wolves was first documented in the Sheridan Region during FY04. Because of this additional predator, investigation of depredations became more complex and time consuming.

Law enforcement demands continued at a high level. The influx of new residents, availability of trophy quality big game, and difficult access to private lands all added to enforcement problems. Ever-increasing numbers of watercraft and wildlife violations pose a challenge to regional officers faced with stagnant budgets and manpower constraints. Enforcement efforts should be placed in the context of the total warden workload. This workload appears to be increasing as result of energy development, trophy game conflicts and the spread of wolves into the region. Need to determine if current number of officers are capable of effectively addressing ever-increasing numbers of violations while performing their other management duties.

GREEN RIVER REGION

The Green River Regional Wildlife Administrator had 6 major work elements and all were achieved. There were 12 minor work elements scheduled and all were achieved.

The Green River Region Wildlife Supervisor spent the majority of his time on administrative and supervisory activities. During FY04, the region lost one warden district and position and through conversion of the AWEC Enforcement/Damage position two new Wildlife Technician positions were added. Because of testing, selection, hiring, and training requirements the region did not have both Technicians in place during most of FY04. Also because of the loss of the North Rock Springs Warden position, the Supervisor spent time assisting with the disposal of the vacant warden station.

The Green River Supervisor assisted with summer and fall field enforcement projects. Other completed normal responsibilities included budget development and oversight, regulation development, and coordination with other agencies and adjoining states. We were able to acquire new handguns for law enforcement personnel.

A significant amount of time was spent on two statewide assignments. Steve DeCecco chaired a committee to evaluate the Department procedures and Commission Regulation and Policy governing property rights acquisition and disposal. This project was completed in FY04 and the outcomes were revisions to the regulation, policies, and procedures. Steve DeCecco also was assigned to assist the Legislature with a revision of the residency requirement statutes.

External challenges include drought, habitat concerns, and tight budgets. Budget development was very challenging but our personnel have adapted and have been able to perform our function. There have been several important issues and priorities that have affected the Regional Wildlife Supervisor's work schedule and availability. Staffing and increased workload continued to pose challenges throughout FY04.

The Green River Regional biologists achieved all 17 major work elements.

There are three district wildlife biologists and one coordinator in the Green River Region. The region continued to transition with Grant Frost taking Tom Christiansen's position as the Green River district biologist and with the terrestrial habitat position being filled and then vacated for the second time in two years. There were 17 major elements in the FY04 work schedule including big game surveys, public use inventory, line transect surveys, environmental review, and others Table 3. All major elements were addressed.

There were 24 minor elements in the FY04 work schedule including such things as in-service training, sage grouse lek surveys, injured wildlife handling, etc. All but one minor elements were addressed.

Routine big game surveys were completed for several big game herds in the region last year. These include; Antelope surveys in the Sublette and Bitter Creek herds, Mule Deer surveys in the Baggs, Wyoming Range, South Rock Springs and Steamboat and Uinta herds, Elk surveys in the Baggs, West Green River, South Rock Springs and Steamboat herds and Moose surveys in the Uinta and Lincoln herds.

Game Harvest Data Collection was conducted at several check stations across the region and numerous harvest checks were made including a very extensive effort to collect CWD samples in mule deer herds in the region. Seasonal Range Updates were completed for several herds in the Kemmerer region in conjunction with the BLM RMP revisions. Environmental Review continues to be a heavy workload with over 70 projects reviewed along with numerous requests from consultants and federal and state agencies, and hundreds of gas related projects. In addition, there are two major BLM Resource management Revisions taking place in our region as well as a completion of the Jack Morrow Hills Activity Plan.

The pace of oil and gas development in the region continues to accelerate. Regional biologists have been involved with gas development impacts at several levels from working on statewide mitigation recommendations to reviewing large numbers of applications for drilling. Several presentations were given to several groups to communicate concerns from gas development. Regional personnel continue to be concerned about the long-term impacts from habitat loss and increased disturbance to wildlife from human activity.

Regional personnel assisted with an elk die off that occurred in the Sierra Madre elk herd. Over 300 elk died from at first unknown causes but later was discovered to be from ingestion of lichens. This occurred in the area south and west of Rawlins on our daily Management Unit.

The Green River regional game wardens achieved all 19 major work elements and 21 of 22 minor work elements.

Green River Region Game Wardens and Wildlife Technicians met all major data collection, season setting, law enforcement, damage handling, and public relations elements in FY04.

Law Enforcement duties continued to be a top priority and regional personnel spent 4,960 hours and drove 69,500 miles enforcing fish, wildlife, and watercraft laws resulting in 506 cases yielding 681 documented violations (243 citations, 374 warnings, 64 violations with no suspect). Regional enforcement personnel also participated in task forces and special projects within and outside of the Green River Region. There was some specific attention to furbearer trapping enforcement in the winter of 2003-2004.

The region's damage program was also an important priority in FY04. Game Wardens and the one Technician spent 1,026 hours and drove 15,767 hours preventing and investigating wildlife damage and handling damage claims. There were eight big game damage claims with payments totaling \$4,592 and two trophy game damage claims with payments totaling \$5,075.

Wardens and Wildlife Technicians devoted considerable time to data collection, management review, habitat monitoring, and hunting season recommendations. We had growth in our access program in two warden districts with the addition of two Hunter Management Areas.

The loss of one warden position, resulting redistricting, and transition into new Technician positions presented some workload challenges. Increased energy-related activities, public calls for service, and added priorities have increased workloads.

LARAMIE REGION

The Laramie Region Wildlife Supervisor had 4 major work schedule elements (all completed), 11 minor work schedule elements (all completed), and 2 other region specific element/assignment (work completed or in progress). Details are provided in the table below. In addition this person is responsible for the regional terrestrial wildlife biologist strategy which completed 19 of 19 major work schedule elements/region specific elements or assignments, and all 10 minor ones; the regional game warden strategy which completed 20 of 20 major work schedule elements/region specific elements or assignments and all 3 minor ones; and the regional office manager strategy which completed 7 of 7 major work schedule elements/region specific elements or assignments and all 11 minor ones.

The Laramie regional wildlife supervisor addressed the issues of short staffing with the loss of the Saratoga wildlife biologist, the absence of the Elk Mountain game warden and the

unavailability of enforcement certified officers in one wildlife technician position in FY04. Increased workload demands in the region with Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring and surveillance, and the revisions of the Medicine Bow National Forest Plan and the BLM Rawlins Resource Area Management Plan were also addressed.

The supervisor also administered conservative wildlife budgets in the region within department guidelines to address department-wide budget issues. Regional wildlife personnel were aware of the situation and participated to keep spending within established amounts.

Regular meetings with the Laramie Regional Coordination Team were held to discuss and address increased staff and office space limitations in the Laramie office with personnel from most divisions as well as some with statewide responsibilities represented.

The Laramie Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists had 12 major work schedule elements (all completed), 7 other region specific elements (all completed) and 10 minor work schedule elements (all completed).

Laramie Region Biologists spent the majority of their time involved in the various aspects of wildlife management.

During FY04, 98 environmental impact or planning documents were reviewed. Comments designed to lessen project impacts to wildlife and to mitigate unavoidable impacts consistent with the Commission's Mitigation Policy were submitted. Significant effort during the year was spent on the revision of the Medicine Bow National Forest Plan (completed 12/2003) and the still ongoing revision of the BLM Rawlins Resource Area Management Plan. Because of reduced personnel, increasing workloads and since few BLM Casper Resource Area lands occur within the Laramie Region, our involvement in this Resource Management Plan has been minimal.

Data collection and analysis continues to be a major function. Laramie Region biologists and wardens classified just over 16,000 pronghorn, 9,100 mule deer, 4,100 elk and 140 bighorn sheep in 2003. Pronghorn and mule deer fawn ratios remain below long-term averages reflecting the effects of drought, over mature sagebrush stands, and habitat losses resulting from human activities. Elk production was about average. Observed ewe:lamb ratios were very low in the Laramie Peak bighorn sheep herd. Monitoring of this ratio will be a priority for the next couple years to determine if low production has become the norm in this herd.

Extensive sage grouse lek monitoring efforts continued. All four survey blocks established to determine population trends based on lek count data were completed this past spring (Bosler – MA 28 [hunting closed], Leo – MA 22, Old Carbon – MA 22, Jack Creek/Spring Creek – MA 25). Other leks outside these intensive area were surveyed for activity as time allowed. Sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground routes (MA 30) were completed with the help of several volunteers from the Cheyenne Office. Generally sage grouse populations are flat and sharp-tailed grouse populations have declined due to drought and low production in CRP fields.

Sage grouse local working groups were established during the past year. The Bates Hole-Shirley Basin group started in March 2004. The South central working group will be formed in September 2004. The goals of these groups is to attempt, via collaborative planning, to address the root causes of sage grouse declines in the hopes of arresting this decline while maintaining management authority with the state.

Big game seasons were designed to address population objectives, the needs of habitat and the realities of access. Because of concerns for habitat condition, seasons for mule deer and pronghorn have become somewhat more liberal in most of the region during the past several years in order to hold steady or decrease populations. Elk seasons have become somewhat more conservative (i.e. less licenses) because populations for the most part have been reduced to objectives. Any ram hunting was authorized for the first time in the Laramie Peak herd in 2003. Interviews with 3 of the 4 hunters indicated satisfaction with this change. One sheep harvested in 2003 would have been short under the old $\frac{3}{4}$ curl regulation.

2003 seasons provided significant opportunity. This table shows some harvest statistics for some of the more popular game in the Laramie Region. Data were obtained from the 2003 harvest surveys.

SPECIES	HUNTERS	HARVEST	REC DAYS	% SUCCESS	DAYS/ANIMAL
Pronghorn	10,511	9,378	32,188	89	3.4
Mule Deer	10,625	4,871	45,639	46	9.4
Elk	8,145	2,071	55,411	25	26.8
Moose	10	10	126	100	12.6
Sheep	8	6	227	75	37.8
Black Bear	432	39	3,742	9	95.9
Waterfowl*	3,329	22,598	20,320	--	0.9
Pheasants	2,188	9,673	7,527	--	0.8
Grouse**	1,998	5,811	7,477	--	1.3
TOTALS	37,246	54,457	172,657		

* Included geese and ducks

** Includes blue grouse, sage grouse and plains sharp-tailed grouse

Laramie Region biologists were part of three studies during FY04. Personnel continue to cooperate with the University of Wyoming and the Pronghorn Working Group to determine pronghorn adult survival rates in the Shirley Basin. Habitat use and habitat carrying capacity will be the primary topics of a moose study currently getting underway in the Snowy Range. Bighorn sheep distribution and ratios were investigated via summer ground and winter helicopter surveys conducted in the Laramie Peak Herd. Based on results of this work, mostly funded by private conservation groups, an additional license type is being proposed in Hunt Area 19 in 2005.

Two instead of three biologists continues to limit our ability to become involved, or the degree of our involvement, in projects. The third position was converted into the Department's sagebrush ecologist position. This position has taken the lead on most Department sage grouse activities.

For the first part of FY04 (July – October), the Wheatland Biologist position was filled via a one year contract. Beginning in November 2003 this position was again made permanent. As was expected, workloads did not decrease with less people. Instead the same amount of work, previously assigned to three people, was spread between two. In addition, additional nongame and habitat surveys were completed. Federal agency planning efforts, driven by short deadlines and massive document reviews, have also increased workloads. The result of these changes is that the emphasis formerly placed on some duties has significantly decreased. Continued cooperation among all within this and the game warden work unit to prioritize job duties and improve time management skills will continue to remain critical to our ability to “get the job done” as best we can. To this point, budget allocations have been adequate.

The Laramie Region Game Wardens had 13 major work schedule elements (all completed), 7 other region specific elements/assignments (all completed) and 3 minor work schedule elements (all completed).

Priorities for the Laramie region game wardens continued to be wildlife management data collection and analysis, law enforcement, and damage prevention and investigation. Wardens were involved along with regional biologists in big game and game bird management, sage grouse lek monitoring and habitat transect monitoring.

Wildlife law enforcement continued to be a priority in the Laramie region in FY04. Officers spent 10,875 hours and drove 141,000 miles patrolling and investigating reported violations. Big game seasons, yearlong fishing seasons, summer recreational boating, and game bird seasons in southeastern Wyoming required a substantial enforcement effort. 1034 enforcement actions were taken in the region and a total of 520 citations and 474 warnings were issued for game and fish violations.

Watercraft use on Platte County reservoirs remained high despite low water levels due to drought conditions. Laramie regional personnel continued to emphasize boating safety and spent almost 2600 hours patrolling the waters in southeast Wyoming. The Glendo reservoir crew and wildlife technicians checked over 600 watercraft, contacted over 2000 boaters and fishermen, and issued 114 citations and 103 warnings.

Elk Mountain Game Warden Brian Nesvik was called to active duty in Iraq in early 2004 leaving his warden district vacant, and the responsibilities were divided among the neighboring wardens.

One contract reservoir crew officer in the Laramie region left the department in July 2003 leaving the region with only one person on the crew most of the 2003 FY04 summer. In October 2003 the remaining contract enforcement technician position was converted to a permanent wildlife technician position. Another wildlife technician was hired in November with plans of attending the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in January but left the department in February, and another person was hired in April and immediately attended the academy, leaving one wildlife technician to work the reservoirs the three 2004 FY04 summer months.

The Laramie region received 11 damage claims in FY04 with approved payments of \$13,565. Regional personnel spent 473 hours and drove 9300 miles on damage prevention activities, and

spent 212 hours and drove 2200 miles on damage claim evaluations and investigations. Most of the claims involved elk damage to standing crops.

Laramie region game wardens continued to be involved in the department's access program assisting in signing up, evaluating and patrolling lands enrolled in the program. Nine hunter management areas and 181 walk-in areas were signed up in FY04 providing various hunting opportunities on nearly 400,000 acres of private and public land for the 2004 hunting seasons, the most areas and acres of any region.

With the loss of the Saratoga wildlife biologist, the absence of the Elk Mountain game warden and the unavailability of enforcement certified officers in one wildlife technician position in FY04, the Laramie region game wardens had to address heavy workload demands in the region.

Urban wildlife calls in the Cheyenne area, people feeding deer and the resultant problems and conflicts in some smaller communities, the difficult situation of high pronghorn numbers on F. E. Warren Air Force Base, and increasing summer elk damage in the region were problem areas for the wardens.

LANDER REGION

There were 9 major work plan elements for the Wildlife Supervisor during FY04. All elements were accomplished and included: subunit review; public contacts; firearms training; custody/control training; big game season recommendations/regulations; performance appraisals; and region budget proposal and analysis.

All Peace Officer Standard Training (P.O.S.T) requirements were met by Regional law enforcement officers to retain Wyoming peace officer status.

Chronic wasting disease monitoring took place throughout the Region with coordination of all sections and Divisions. After training in collection techniques, check stations, locker plants and field check schedules were established as the main sample collection points. No positive samples were collected from deer harvested in the Region.

A major elk die-off near Rawlins on Red Rim resulted in the documentation of over 300 elk deaths. Hunting season modification, addressing Department and public inquiries, locating and handling dead and dying animals, collecting plant and animal samples, documentation of activities, scheduling personnel & resources, and maintaining necessary equipment was part of the effort to determine the cause of this elk malady. A common ground lichen was determined to be cause of the muscle paralysis-like condition and management options are currently being evaluated.

Over 100 persons attended meetings to discuss proposals for 2004 hunting seasons. Five "open house" meetings were held in communities around the Region, with a formal public information-gathering meeting in Riverton. In addition to these scheduled public meetings, input from land

management agencies, individual public contacts, and landowner contacts were all considered in final hunting season recommendations.

Due to the retirement of Wildlife Management Coordinator Joe Nemick, recruitment procedures were implemented to fill the vacancy. Applications and interviews were held late in the fiscal year and Wildlife Biologist Tom Ryder was selected to take on those responsibilities.

A new permanent Wildlife Technician position was added to the Region in FY04. Wildlife Technician positions are responsible for watercraft safety and enforcement, Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) activities, and will assist in all Region responsibilities. This position is funded primarily by watercraft and access dollars.

The legislatively authorized “One Shot Antelope Hunt” requires involvement by the Department to coordinate license distribution and issuance, law enforcement issues, and act as a liaison between all involved entities. Up to 80 licenses are issued for this antelope hunt and the proceeds from the event are dedicated to water for wildlife projects.

Threatened and endangered species and species of concern will require increased personnel and resources to assist in management and monitoring efforts. Grizzly bear, gray wolves, and sage grouse are requiring increased attention.

Increased oil and gas exploration and development with emphasis on methane is an unknown at this time as to what will be required of Region personnel to manage and protect wildlife resources.

Twenty-three major work plan elements were included in the Wildlife Biologist Strategy for FY04. All 23 elements were accomplished including: wildlife environmental reviews; big and upland game completion reports; pronghorn, deer, and elk classification surveys; big game season recommendations/regulations; pheasant transplant program; Dubois Check Station administration; pronghorn, deer, and elk harvest field checks; sage-grouse wing barrels; sage-grouse lek surveys; aerial antelope surveys; elk trend counts; and subunit review.

Weather conditions during FY04 were generally not favorable for wildlife across Lander Region. Drought continued during the summer of 2003, although near normal precipitation, coupled with below normal temperatures during June caused the national drought severity index to decline from “extreme” to “severe” for the remainder of the summer and fall. Most of the winter of 2003-04 had near normal temperatures, but continued very dry and drought status remained in the “severe” category. A combination of heavy snowfall and rainstorms resulted in above normal precipitation in April 2004, increasing mountain snow pack across Lander Region from the approximately 70% recorded during most of the winter to 110% of normal by month’s end and lessening the overall impact of a dry winter period. Greater than normal April precipitation resulted in early plant green up and rapid plant growth. Climatic conditions fluctuated erratically for the remainder of FY04, with periods of extremely warm weather followed by cold, rainy periods throughout May 2004.

Winter range habitat conditions remained poor across the Region. Leader growth of sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush plants appeared greatly reduced and overall browsing pressure by wildlife, wild horses, and domestic livestock resulted in generally poor plant health and vigor. In spite of extremely poor habitat trends, mild winter conditions generally benefited big game by reducing winter stress and improving over-winter survival. As stated previously, a major elk die-off was documented in the Red Rim area of the Rawlins Biologist District. Over 300 elk, primarily adult females, were documented to have died from consuming a naturally occurring ground lichen, *Xanthoparmelia chlorochroa*. The effort to determine causes for this die-off was extraordinary and involved numerous agencies, businesses, groups and individuals. Lander Region Wildlife Biologists played a primary role in solving this mystery, although many questions remain unanswered.

Pronghorn antelope populations changed very little during FY04 in Lander Region. Of the Region's 8 pronghorn herd units, all were estimated to be at or below objective. A total of 14,470 pronghorn were classified in FY04 to determine herd composition ratios. Fawn to doe ratios remained below long-term average levels, ranging from a low of 23 fawns/100 does in the Wind River Herd Unit to a high of 68 fawns/100 does in the North Ferris Herd Unit. Buck to doe ratios varied from 24 (Wind River Herd) to 62 (South Ferris Herd)/100 does. A line transect survey was flown in the Badwater Herd Unit and suggested this herd is gradually increasing toward objective. Hunter success remained high during 2003 hunting seasons, suggesting current license levels are providing favorable hunting conditions in spite of below-objective population status across the Region.

Mule deer populations also remained depressed during the past year. Of the 7 herds within Lander Region, all were below objective. Continuing drought, poor forage conditions, and reduced water availability during the year prevented any measurable improvements in fawn survival. Field personnel classified 6,242 deer in 2003, with fawn production ranging from a low of 53 fawns/100 does in the Sweetwater Herd Unit to a high of 78 fawns/100 does in the Ferris Herd Unit. As mentioned previously for pronghorn, mule deer fawn ratios received well below long-term averages. Regional buck/doe ratios ranged from 15 (Sweetwater and South Wind River Herds) to 26 (Ferris Herd)/100. Most Hunt Areas had very short, antlered-only hunting seasons in 2003. As a result, both hunter success and total harvest were considerably below long-term averages.

Elk populations were at or above objective Region-wide in FY04. Field personnel classified 6,226 elk in 2003. Observed calf production ranged from 26/100 (Wiggins Fork Herd Unit) to 39/100 (South Wind River Herd Unit), while bull/cow ratios varied from 12/100 (Wiggins Fork Herd) to 29/100 (Green Mountain Herd). Favorable conditions during fall 2003 resulted in good harvest rates and hunter success values. Although above objective, all Lander Region herds area currently being hunted to reduce populations toward management targets. In response to the elk die-off near Red Rim, however, antlerless elk hunting seasons were reduced or eliminated in Hunt Areas 21 and 108 for the coming Fiscal Year.

Lamb production in the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep population remained low in 2003. A total of 624 sheep were classified, with ratios of 33 rams and 26 lambs/100 ewes. Several prescribed fires are planned in the coming year to improve winter and transition range habitat

conditions in an effort to reverse poor lamb survival rates. No transplanting operations were conducted on the Whiskey Mountain herd during FY04.

Sage-grouse continued to rebound across the Region during FY04. In spring 2003, Regional personnel, with assistance from the public and Bureau of Land Management personnel, inventoried 307 of 339 known lek sites. Of leks inventoried, 203 were active with 5,248 males in attendance (mean of 25.7 males/lek). Both total males and average males/active lek were greater than levels observed the previous year (i.e., 4,844 and 24.5, respectively). A study examining effects of various livestock grazing practices on sage-grouse nesting success and chick survival was completed in spring 2004. The University of Wyoming initiated a new study in the same area designed to determine components of late brood-rearing habitats. To begin this new study, 40 birds were captured and fitted with radio transmitters in spring 2004. Seventeen marked birds from the previous study, when added to the 40 new birds, gives researchers a total of 57 marked birds for research monitoring during the coming year.

Lander Region Wildlife Biologists reviewed and submitted comments on 48 Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and other NEPA documents in FY04. Region Biologists further participated in 6 Coordinated Resource Management teams, 2 professional Technical Committees, and the Department's sage grouse, moose, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn Working Groups. They were also involved in numerous contacts with members of the public, landowners, and State, Federal, and local agencies personnel to minimize environmental impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Nineteen of 20 minor work plan elements were accomplished for this strategy including: grizzly bear observation flights; sage-grouse brood distribution surveys; moose and bighorn sheep harvest field checks and classification surveys; Red Canyon elk counts; winter range habitat investigations; big game herd unit updates; and clerical duties.

Ongoing drought will continue to impact local game populations and challenge Lander Region personnel to effectively manage these populations to maximize public satisfaction while preventing long-term habitat changes from heavy use of drought stressed plant communities. Accelerating oil and natural gas developments in northern and southern portions of the Region will result in increasing demands on the Region's staff and exacerbate impacts to already drought-stressed habitats. Greater demands on personnel time and increasing impacts to wildlife habitats are coming at a time of reduced operating budgets, greatly challenging the Region's ability to stay abreast of these impacts at a scale necessary to adequately mitigate their effect on wildlife resources.

There were 24 major work plan elements for Lander regional game wardens and all 24 were accomplished. Nineteen minor elements were included in the game warden strategy and seventeen were accomplished.

Among the major work plan elements accomplished were fishing enforcement; antelope, deer and elk hunting season enforcement; general enforcement; antelope, deer and elk classification surveys; big game season recommendations; landowner coupons; watercraft enforcement; winter

range enforcement; big game damage handling; grizzly and black bear damage handling; creel census; and sage grouse lek surveys.

The elk die-off near Rawlins on Red Rim involved a number of Region Game Wardens dedicating time and resources to locating and handling dead and dying animals, collecting plant and animal samples, addressing public inquiries, and maintaining necessary equipment. This extraordinary effort was completed in addition to normal activities.

Wildlife damage assessment and control activities occupied a moderate amount of time for Region Game Wardens. Big game animals, trophy game animals, and game birds were all involved in depredation activities. Overall, Game Wardens spent 440 hours and drove 5,175 miles in damage handling and prevention. There were 3 damage claims submitted by landowners and handled by Region Game Wardens in FY0\$. Investigations and recommendations resulted in total payment of about \$8,500.00 for these claims. Assistance provided by trophy game personnel greatly reduced Game Warden involvement with grizzly bear depredation prevention and handling.

Commissioned officers were kept busy with the enforcement of Game and Fish statutes and regulations. In FY04, officers initiated 292 cases involving 412 violations. These violations resulted in 175 citations and 201 warnings being issued. Coordinated enforcement efforts were put forth to patrol big game winter ranges, work decoy operations, work scheduled hunting seasons, work fishing derbies, and other peak fishing periods on Boysen and Seminole Reservoirs. During this period, over 5,000 man/hours were dedicated to routine law enforcement, investigations, and administration of the law enforcement program.

Some of the minor elements included: antelope archery seasons; license agency administration; moose and bighorn sheep classification surveys; bobcat hide tagging; pheasant hunting seasons; sage grouse brood distribution surveys; furbearer seasons; and clerical duties. Additionally, chronic wasting disease samples were collected during field checks of deer hunters and this monitoring did not detect the disease in the Region.

Addressing resource and public needs/requests while maintaining a professional field presence is becoming more difficult during periods of high demand.

Proposed enhancement of oil and gas exploration and development with emphasis on methane is an unknown at this time as to what level of law enforcement will be required of Region Game Wardens.

CASPER REGION

During FY04, the Regional Wildlife Supervisor had 3 major work elements and all were completed.

During FY04, three different individuals held the Casper Region Wildlife Supervisor position. This was due to Scott Talbott being promoted to Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Division, Daryl

Lutz filling in as acting Casper Region Wildlife Supervisor, and Scott Edberg promoted from Jackson-Pinedale Region Game Warden Supervisor to Casper Region Wildlife Supervisor. The transition period went smooth with all work being accomplished in an effective and efficient manner.

The Casper Region wildlife budgets continue to be conservative with expenditures well within Department guidelines. The Casper Region Office continues to be an excellent central meeting location for many inter and intra-agency meetings and training sessions. The Casper Regional Coordination Team is meeting on a monthly basis to discuss inter-division and Department issues. Two new administrative assistants were hired for the Casper office. One was to fill a vacant position, and the other was an AWEC conversation. This brings the administrative assistance staff for the Casper Office to three permanent personnel and with the hiring of two permanent wildlife technicians; the Casper Wildlife Region is at full staff.

Department wide budget problems continue to be a problem for Region personnel and Casper Region Office maintenance and operation. Personnel are aware of the situation and are doing what is necessary to deal with and work within budgets. Department and Region administrative demands are not allowing the Region Wildlife Supervisor to assist with fieldwork as much as in past years. However, he does work fall hunting seasons and other high use recreation periods.

The Casper Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one coordinator) had 15 major work schedule elements. All 15 were accomplished. Concurrently, all of the 11 minor elements were accomplished.

Big game hunting seasons were relatively liberal in 2003 and comparable to 2002 with increased doe/fawn and cow/calf tags to address continued habitat decline. Most deer and antelope herds were at or below their population objectives. Considering the condition of key deer and antelope habitats, holding populations below objective is, and will continue to be, necessary to properly manage these herds for future generations. Elk populations continue to do quite well throughout the region and are either over or at management objectives. The number of elk licenses issued was similar to 2002. Dry and mild conditions prevailed throughout much of the Region keeping elk spread out and made finding and stalking them difficult.

It was dry and mild in the Casper region in FY04. This was particularly true in the Black Hills portion of the Region. Shrub productivity transects revealed poor to very poor leader growth. Overall, the winter of 2003-04 was considered mild. The summer of 2003 and spring 2004 was again quite dry. Monsoon rains in July and August, 2003 were essentially absent. We did receive some moisture in September, which caused a late season green up and likely benefited wildlife entering winter. Habitat conditions on both summer and winter ranges throughout the region were poor to very poor and reflective of old and decadent shrub stands and poor moisture conditions. Some browse transects on winter range in Bates Hole and the South Bighorns again showed only a few millimeters of current annual growth. To enhance and augment wildlife management in the Casper region, we continue to collect shrub production and use data in Bates Hole, the Rattlesnakes, the South Bighorns, the Laramie Range, the Grasslands, and in the Black Hills. This data better enables managers to calibrate population size and to evaluate population objectives with reference to habitat condition. These projects and monitoring efforts target

mountain mahogany, sagebrush/grass, oak, and aspen communities in pronghorn, mule deer, and white-tailed deer (Black Hills) summer, transition, and winter range. We are purposefully holding many pronghorn and mule deer populations below objective to relieve browse pressure on key ranges. Nonetheless, recovery of key habitats to maintain robust wildlife populations will require more than proper wildlife management. It will be necessary to relieve other grazing pressures, receive adequate moisture, and to renew shrub stands with young vigorous plants.

Despite dry conditions and poor habitat for big game throughout the Casper Region the past several years, turkey populations have and continue to do quite well. Similarly, sage grouse population levels, based on spring lek counts, have remained relatively constant in the Casper Area but have likely decreased in the Thunder Basin Grasslands and northeastern portion of the Region. Blue grouse, based on a few brood counts and hunter harvest, have remained constant at a relatively good level. Other bird species such as chukars and Hungarian partridge are down compared to the high levels observed in the mid 90s.

Monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continued in the Casper Region in 2003. CWD was not documented in any new areas. But, hunt area 65 had an unprecedented prevalence rate of over 30%.

In 2003, personnel in the Casper region classified 13,034 antelope, 11,039 mule deer, 5,725 white-tailed deer, and 2,032 elk. Compared to 2002, proportions of antelope and white-tailed deer fawns were down by 9:100 and 13:100, respectively. The number of mule deer fawns:100 does and elk calves:100 cows was up by 8:100 and 11:100, respectively. On average, we observed 63 antelope fawns:100 does, 71 mule deer fawns:100 does, 44 white-tailed deer fawns:100 does, and 45 elk calves:100 cows. Antelope line-transects were flown in the North Natrona and Cheyenne River herd units within the Casper region.

From a wildlife management perspective the greatest challenges the Casper Region faces are:

1) Habitat condition - It is imperative our personnel continue to work to address habitat condition issues. Currently, we are attempting to address poor conditions by holding, or attempting to hold, wild ungulate populations at levels below our current objectives and identifying habitat improvement projects (i.e., Muddy Mountain Aspen Project).

2) Access - Throughout much of the Casper Region our ability to change deer, elk and antelope population size is hindered by access to private lands and land locked public lands. Certainly, the hunter management and walk-in areas have resolved some issues, but not yet on a scale necessary to address entire populations.

3) CWD – While we know very little about the impact CWD has on deer populations, this disease has impacts on our management ability. If for no other reason than hunters are deterred from hunting in those areas with CWD. One interesting note – while it may only be coincidence, deer area 65 had the highest prevalence of CWD ever recorded in a mule deer population. This population is also declining at a rate unpredicted and unexpected based on our observed and projected harvest rates.

4) Drought – Summer and winter range conditions throughout the entire region are in poor or very poor condition. While there are many contributing factors, lack of moisture in the form of snow and spring rain has had a measurable impact on key forage species.

Game Wardens in the Casper Region had 15 major work elements and all were achieved. There were 11 minor elements and all were achieved.

Investigating and preventing big and trophy game animal damage on private lands remains a work priority of Region game wardens and wildlife technicians. Personnel spent 729 hours and drove 8,690 miles on damage related work. A total of 11 damage claims were filed for a total of \$5,915.46, with the Department paying \$5,260.19. Injured and nuisance wildlife calls in and around Casper continues to be a high profile and heavy workload for Casper area wildlife personnel as they responded to 806 injured/nuisance wildlife calls.

The region's law enforcement program continues to be a priority. For FY04, a total of 5,280 hours and 79,106 miles were coded to enforcing wildlife and watercraft laws resulting in 680 cases yielding 923 enforcement actions (438 citations and 409 warnings being issued and 76 violations with no suspects being documented). As in past years, the region continues to utilize the task force approach to deal with large numbers of recreational watercraft users and walleye fishermen at Glendo Reservoir during the Memorial Day and July 4th holidays. The North Platte River from Grey Reef Dam to Casper has become a very popular and outstanding trout fishery resulting in heavy fishing pressure from early spring until the river freezes. This has resulted in an increased enforcement effort by enforcement personnel. Fall hunting seasons continue to be busy with lots of routine violations as well several excellent cases being discovered and successfully prosecuted.

In October/November 2003, the 2 Casper AWEC enforcement technician positions were converted over to permanent wildlife technician positions. One of the technicians was new to the Department and had to attend and successfully complete the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy peace officer basic class in the spring of 2004 prior to being able to conduct any law enforcement duties, this affected the watercraft enforcement effort through June. This entry-level enforcement position is a great benefit to the Region as they assisted with a wide variety of Region and Department work duties. During the watercraft use season (April-August), watercraft safety and enforcement were their primary duties, thus allowing district game wardens to work on other issues.

Region wardens and biologist continue to be involved with enrolling private lands into the PLPW program. For FY04, the Casper Region 3 Hunter Management Areas totaling 153,831 acres and 35 Walk In Areas totaling 120,189 acres. These allowed hunter's access to private lands and inaccessible public lands to hunt big game, small game, game birds and waterfowl. Landowners and the hunting /fishing public greatly support the PLPW program.

Urban wildlife calls in the vicinity of the City of Casper continue to a very emotional issue for the public and high workload for Casper area personnel. The Region continues to work with other governmental agencies to help deal with the problem.

Public demands for game warden/wildlife technician services continue to grow, especially with the growth in Natrona County. As the population and outdoor recreationists (hunters, fishermen, and boaters) increase, the work demands on the current employees is increasing, thus not allowing them to complete their traditional job duties at previous levels.

FISH DIVISION
Mike Stone, Chief

Aquatic wildlife management work focused on providing diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities while working to conserve and enhance all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations. A primary management and communication tool is the Basin Management Plans. These plans provide the basis for resource management and are constantly evaluated and revised. Fisheries crews worked in the Green River (Black's Fork River) and Sheridan (Powder River) fisheries regions to survey the distribution and abundance of native fishes. Regional fishery managers conducted angler surveys and responded to public requests for information on fish and fishing. A significant amount of time was invested in habitat protection related to coalbed natural gas development. This was particularly acute in the Powder River Basin.

Regional fisheries crews invested more time working to define distribution and relative abundance of fish native to Wyoming waters. Work was particularly focused on streams. This is an important step in updating information on native fishes. Statewide fisheries crews further fine-tuned sonar-based fish counting methods, completed preparation of a "standard sampling manual for standing water fisheries, and a graduate research project to assess inter-relationships between gillnet and sonar sampling estimates of fish stocks in standing waters began. Regional fisheries management and aquatic habitat people further developed close working partnerships for more effective management of Wyoming fishes. The project to define sauger distribution and habitat in the Wind River upstream of Boysen Reservoir was completed during the year. The boating access program completed most major developments planned for the year.

Percentage of anglers satisfied with the overall fishing experience: Every indication from creel surveys, angler groups, and reports received indicates that the angler satisfaction level (84%) reported for FY-99 continues. Fishing in the Rocky Mountain region remains of high interest compared to the rest of the nation. Nearly 31% of Wyoming residents fish, more than any other state. Because of cost (\$35,000 to \$40,000) another formal survey may not happen again for a few more years. It is very important to know that Wyoming anglers believe that fishing is important to the state and that they are well pleased with state fisheries work.

Number of angler days per year. A formal fishing pressure survey has not been completed for several years, mostly because of cost of the surveys. Previous national surveys of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation shows that fishing in the Rocky Mountain Region continues to increase more than any other region in the USA. We believe angling recreation days in FY-03 were comparable to that reported in the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for 2001, about 4.6 million fishing recreation days.

One important challenge for aquatic resource management is protecting aquatic resources during the boom in natural gas development. In some areas we have a difficult time keeping up with environmental commenting demands. We continue to work to inventory nongame fish populations and have increased efforts to inventory amphibians and mollusks.

FISH CULTURE

All Wyoming state fish hatcheries maintained disease free status while producing the requested numbers, pounds, sizes and species of salmonid fishes as requested by the Aquatic Wildlife Management Objective. In addition to meeting the majority of fisheries management requirements, fish eggs and excess salmonid production were traded to other state and federal agencies; in return Wyoming waters were stocked with cool and warmwater species via these trades.

Evaluations found no evidence of *Myxobolus cerebralis*, the causative parasite of Salmonid Whirling Disease, in the Story Hatchery water supplies although previous sampling in FY03 indicated the possible presence of the parasite. Further testing and management of the water supply is further eliminating the possible threat of finding the disease at the hatchery.

Endemic cutthroat trout brood stock development continued for Colorado River cutthroat and Yellowstone River cutthroat in their native drainages with assistance from Wyoming fisheries management crews, US Forest Service and US Park Service. These operations are essential in developing and maintaining captive brood stocks to produce eggs needed for viable stocking programs of our cutthroat trout heritage. Additionally, continued development of rainbow trout and other species sources within the boundaries of Wyoming ensures internal maintenance of unique species and protect the fish culture system from external disease influences.

Land adjacent to Speas Rearing Station was purchased to meet future effluent discharge requirements. This acquisition could not be accomplished without the funding partnership of the Wyoming Fly Casters, providing additional public access to the North Platte River and development of the Wyoming Fly Casters Memorial Access Area.

The prolonged drought cycle continues concerns of reduced spring water supplies at several facilities although significant influences are not detected to date. Stocking coordination and surplus fish from cancelled stocking due to drought conditions also impacted operations. Kokanee salmon, Colorado River cutthroat and golden trout brood stock development continues to be a challenge to obtain these species from restrictive or limited sources also impacted by the long-term drought.

Maintenance of capital facilities continues to be a challenge although strides are being made. After two years, all previously identified housing safety issues were corrected, leaving numerous structural remodels and house replacements pending funding. Pre-1960 rearing and support facilities are in need of replacement in order to maintain present levels of productivity, safety, and morale. Work completed in recent years, including major projects to protect the Auburn Hatchery, Daniel Hatchery, Boulder Rearing Station, Dubois Hatchery, Ten Sleep Hatchery and Tillett Rearing Station has improved conditions and removed the threat of disease. The increase of whirling disease in Wyoming waters has intensified plans to protect facilities, but at the same time continues to defer facility maintenance and repair needs at facilities not threatened by the parasite.

REGIONAL AQUATIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Regional fisheries managers reviewed or developed 410 fisheries related plans. Most of the effort was in review of various plans bearing on the fisheries resource. The most detailed work focused on reviewing and updating about 38 Basin Management Plans describing aquatic resources in all fisheries management regions. Fisheries people completed 239 fishery surveys of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 302 surveys of streams or stream sections to determine the condition of fisheries or need to change fish management approaches. There were creel surveys of Alcova Reservoir, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Healy Reservoir, Granite Reservoir, Crystal Reservoir, Encampment River, Lake DeSmet, Soda Lake and Torrey, Ring and Trail lakes. Over 4,500 anglers were contacted during these creel surveys as well as spot creel surveys and at check stations. In addition, many informal surveys on streams and lakes throughout the state were completed to gain understanding of success of fisheries programs from the point of view of the angler.

Basin Management Plans for each fisheries region provide information about fisheries management goals and objectives, the status of native and introduced sport and non-sport fishes and have been valuable to other agencies and in working with the public. These plans are available at WGF regional office and at the central office in Cheyenne.

REGIONAL AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Identified output measures for regional aquatic habitat management include; 1) percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, 2) number of trust fund projects and grants developed, 3) number of watersheds surveyed, and 4) number of projects planned or implemented. A summary of all habitat efforts during 2003 is contained in the Department's annual "Strategic Habitat Plan" report. Additional major efforts by the section during FY04 included the continued participation of personnel in Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service planning efforts, responding to requests from legislative committees and the Governor's Office relative to habitat funding efforts, management of Grizzly/Red Rim WHMA and mitigation evaluation for the High Savery Reservoir project.

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed varied greatly between regions, but was 80% on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the department, or were low priority.

Nine trust fund projects/grants were developed and/or implemented during FY04. 15 watershed inventories were initiated and/or completed. 28 habitat projects were initiated and/or completed. In addition, 26 major and numerous minor extension/public education efforts were participated in, with significant time committed to the EXPO.

Finally, training was received in stream restoration, watershed modeling, water law, geographic information systems, grazing management and vegetation ecology.

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues and problems statewide. We currently have 8 regional aquatic habitat biologists to cover the state of Wyoming. This results in an inadequate number of personnel to address the long term needs of Wyoming's aquatic wildlife and habitat. Application of our watershed priorities should help better prioritize our efforts.

Within the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2004*, agency employees were asked to evaluate the performance of personnel working within the Regional Aquatic Habitat section. Of respondents that had interacted with these individuals, 58.5 percent were satisfied with the number of aquatic habitat projects. Regarding the quality of projects, 69 percent were satisfied with the quality of aquatic habitat projects. Regarding the quality of habitats on Department lands, 68.2 percent were satisfied with the quality of aquatic habitats on Department lands.

BOATING ACCESS

Boating Access funds in FY04 were largely devoted to extending ramps at major reservoirs impacted by diminished water levels, construction of new areas and renovation of older developments on several large reservoirs. Another major, new development was completed at Glendo Reservoir, the Indian Point development on the east side was completed to provide boating access near the very popular Sandy Beach area. A quarter million dollar renovation at Flaming Gorge included extending three boat ramps and upgrading courtesy docks at two facilities. All told, about \$626,000 was devoted to renovation and new construction. Another \$100,000 was used for upkeep and repair of existing facilities.

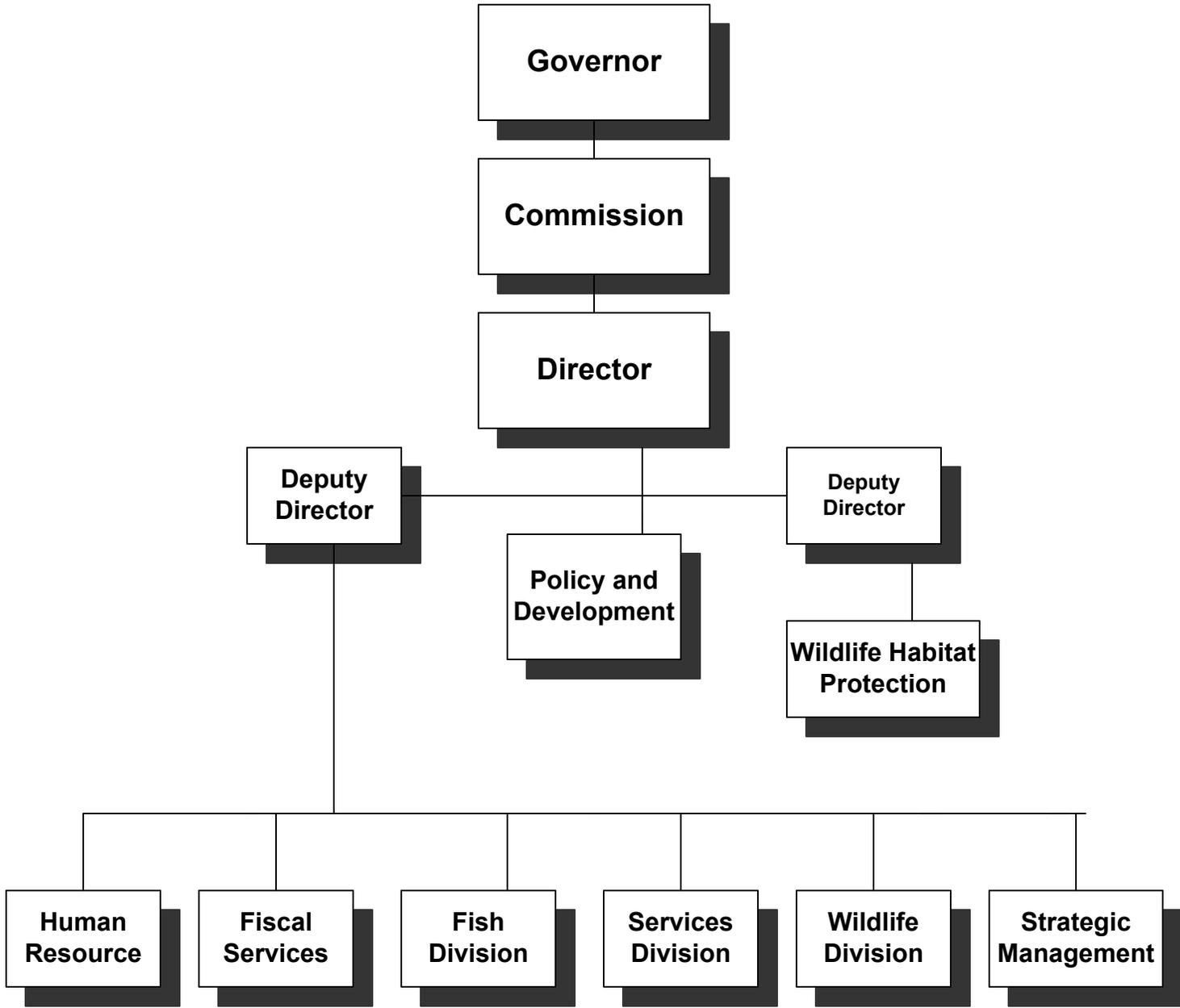
WATER MANAGEMENT

The crew completed 89% of scheduled annual work plan items. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the department. Water management team activities involved several meetings to coordinate decisions on Commission water rights and assisting with development of a database to store water rights records. A public information series on instream flow and water management was begun in the Wyoming Wildlife News publication. The instream flow web page was initiated. Flow monitoring was continued on the Greybull River but was curtailed on other proposed instream flow segments pending more guidance from the State Engineer's Office on how this information would be used. A report was prepared to document annual flow monitoring activity. Instream flow water right applications were submitted for 5 stream segments in the upper Greybull River drainage. These segments, if approved by the state engineer, will protect Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat primarily on public land administered by the Federal Land Management agencies. Instream flow studies were initiated for 2 stream segments in the upper Shoshone River basin. Inter-agency coordination on a new annual operations plan to provide winter instream flows for the Shoshone River below Buffalo Bill Reservoir made reasonable progress. Public involvement efforts have been initiated.

Public awareness of instream flow needs and issues is lacking. Continued effort to provide information via all means including web page is needed. Legal and institutional obstacles still exist to changing water rights from one type of use to instream flow for both private and governmental interests.

DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATION CHART

Wyoming Game & Fish Organization Chart



INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

BIG GAME

Pronghorn Antelope

Elk

Mule Deer

White-tailed Deer

Moose

Bighorn Sheep

Rocky Mountain Goat

Bison

PRONGHORN

2003:

Population:	456,814^a	Licenses Sold:	43,826
Population Objective:	461,950^b	License Revenue:	\$ 3,829,118
Harvest:	34,393	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 1,516,613
Hunters:	36,867	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 5,335,731
Success Rate:	93%	Program Costs:	\$ 2,497,594
Recreation Days:	109,948	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 11,441,887
Days/Animal:	3.2	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 73
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 333

^astatewide population was calculated from 41 of 44 pronghorn herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

^bstatewide population objective calculated from 43 of 44 pronghorn herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

Wyoming's pronghorn numbers grew strongly through the late 1990s, but growth slowed dramatically in the last few years. In 2003, the state population was estimated to be 456,814 animals compared to the objective of 461,950. The recent stabilization of pronghorn numbers is due primarily to drought conditions resulting in a loss of available forage and depressed fawn production and survival rates. As drought conditions persist in areas of the state, habitat conditions become more critical. The Department continues to monitor habitat conditions, recommend improvements where necessary and establish hunting seasons accordingly.

The Department increased license quotas in 2002 and again in 2003 to limit the number of animals the state's drought-depleted habitats must support. Harvest increased 23 percent in 2002 from a recent low in 2001. The 2003 harvest of 34,393 animals was a 14 percent increase over the 2002 harvest. Hunter effort has decreased since 2001 and is slightly below average.

In 2003, a total of 36,867 hunters generated over \$5.33 million in revenue to the Department, and they spent more than \$11.4 million in pursuit of pronghorn.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pronghorn antelope program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	30,694	94,012	93%	3.1	38,467	3,288,444	2,508,466	\$33,316,675
2000	33,977	108,726	92%	3.2	43,095	3,761,336	2,804,623	\$41,342,068
2001	26,864	93,652	87%	3.5	36,851	3,273,946	2,904,751	\$36,515,455
2002	30,260	101,989	91%	3.4	39,720	3,487,196	2,827,952	\$40,509,266
2003	34,393	109,948	93%	3.2	43,826	3,819,118	2,497,594	\$11,441,887

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures*, 1998. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk, and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004 using average per day expenditures.
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

ELK

2003:

Population:	92,293^a	Licenses Sold:	59,428
Population Objective:	83,485^b	License Revenue:	\$ 7,415,739
Harvest:	21,365	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 2,701,344
Hunters:	53,600	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 10,117,083
Success Rate:	40%	Program Costs:	\$ 8,837,890
Recreation Days:	397,458	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 33,213,218
Days/Animal:	18.6	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 414
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 1,555

^astatewide population was calculated from 30 of 35 elk herds. Population estimates for the other 5 herds were not available.

^bstatewide population objective calculated from 34 of 35 elk herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

The Department continues to manage for a reduction in Wyoming's elk population. The population was at a high in the 1990s and is now just 10 percent above the statewide objective of 83,485 animals. The population decreased again in 2003, this year by 1.3%.

The 2003 harvest was similar to that of 2002 (only 0.04% lower) and is slightly below the 5-year average (22,231). Hunter success remained stable over the past 3 years at approximately 40 percent. Hunter effort (days/animal) increased in 2002, but then decreased in 2003 to below average (19 days/animal).

Overall, management strategies will continue to be focused on decreasing the population, however some herds are at objective and will be managed to maintain them at their current elk numbers. Access to private and land-locked public lands continues to hamper obtaining adequate harvest in many herds. The Department will continue to work to improve hunter access.

In 2003, a total of 53,600 hunters generated over \$10.1 million in revenue to the Department, and they spent more than \$33.2 million in pursuit of elk.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's elk program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	21,830	460,618	36%	21.1	62,884	6,382,569	7,275,732	\$83,130,998
2000	23,727	398,614	44%	16.8	63,596	6,441,010	7,845,909	\$73,382,902
2001	22,772	426,574	40%	18.7	62,493	6,333,000	9,523,439	\$81,874,237
2002	21,462	423,409	39%	19.7	62,013	6,310,310	8,550,907	\$83,316,849
2003	21,365	397,458	40%	18.6	59,428	7,415,739	8,837,890	\$33,213,218

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures*, 1998. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk, and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004 using average per day expenditures.
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

MULE DEER

2003:

Population:	499,978^a	Licenses Sold:	84,557
Population Objective:	564,650^b	License Revenue:	\$ 8,021,018
Harvest:	35,382	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 2,742,760
Hunters:	65,714	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 10,763,778
Success Rate:	54%	Program Costs:	\$ 5,260,386
Recreation Days:	328,720	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 30,089,124
Days/Animal:	9.3	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 149
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 850

^astatewide population was calculated from 37 of 40 mule deer herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

^bstatewide population objective calculated from 39 of 40 mule deer herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

Wyoming's mule deer population increased again in 2003 (by 3% that year) and is now 88.96% of the statewide objective. The population is currently lower than the recent peak in 2000. The decline is due to the persistent drought and the resulting poor range conditions. The Department will continue to monitor habitats and recommend improvements where necessary. Field personnel are proposing a further reduction in some herds to lessen the impacts of deer on drought-depleted browse plants until moisture conditions improve.

Harvest and hunter success decreased again in 2003. Both are below average (average harvest = 336,750; average success = 57%). Hunter effort, which remained constant from 2002 to 2003, is above average.

Hunter access and habitat conditions continue to be a concern in 2001. The Department has been working to address these issues through walk-in access areas, hunter management areas, and habitat improvement projects.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's mule deer program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold ¹	Lic. Rev. (\$) ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	39,652	344,972	57%	8.7	79,452	6,645,159	3,695,162	\$109,367,461
2000	43,544	322,226	63%	7.4	85,960	7,295,589	3,754,746	\$103,125,884
2001	38,305	338,077	56%	8.8	85,624	8,014,220	4,854,044	\$111,906,571
2002	37,580	349,753	55%	9.3	85,200	8,111,773	4,170,980	\$118,398,495
2003	35,382	328,720	54%	9.3	84,557	8,021,018	5,260,386	\$30,089,124
¹ Figures included both mule deer and white-tailed deer. ² Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, <i>Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures</i> , 1998. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, <i>Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk, and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey</i> , 2004 using average per day expenditures. *includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.								

WHITE-TAILED DEER

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	see mule deer
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ see mule deer
Harvest:	10,328	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ see mule deer
Hunters:	20,994	Total Program Revenue:	\$ see mule deer
Success Rate:	49%	Program Costs:	\$ 362,474
Recreation Days:	78,383	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 7,197,675
Days/Animal:	7.6	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 35
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 697

It is difficult to collect data on Wyoming's white-tailed deer populations because of the habitats in which they live and their behavior. Most white-tailed deer inhabit private lands in eastern Wyoming where access for hunting has become difficult to obtain and is often expensive. This makes white-tailed deer difficult to manage. Management throughout the state is primarily dictated by local perceptions of deer numbers and by landowner tolerances. The white-tailed deer is an undesirable species to some landowners and hunters, while to others it has a status similar to other big game species.

The 2003 white-tailed deer harvest was 12% higher than the 2002 harvest. Although hunter numbers decreased again slightly in 2003 (from 21,925 in 2001 and 21,078 in 2002), hunter success increased to the highest value in 5 years. Hunter effort also improved for the second year in a row.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's white-tailed deer program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold ¹	Lic. Rev. (\$) ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	5,918	73,975	29%	12.5	79,452	6,645,159	300,691	\$23,216,468
2000	10,833	77,998	48%	7.2	85,801	7,295,589	416,952	\$25,323,173
2001	9,638	87,624	44%	9.1	85,624	8,014,220	573,571	\$29,255,500
2002	9,216	74,750	44%	8.9	85,200	8,111,773	436,408	\$25,530,820
2003	10,328	78,383	49%	7.6	84,557	8,021,018	362,474	\$7,197,675

¹includes both mule deer and white-tailed deer.
²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures*, 1998. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk, and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004 using average per day expenditures.
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

MOOSE

2003:

Population:	10,804^a	Licenses Sold:	1,189
Population Objective:	14,680	License Revenue:	\$ 252,323
Harvest:	999	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 170,979
Hunters:	1,147	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 423,302
Success Rate:	87%	Program Costs:	\$ 646,341
Recreation Days:	7,530	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 939,520
Days/Animal:	7.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 647
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 940

^astatewide population was calculated from 8 of 10 moose herds. Population estimates for the other 2 herds were not available.

Although Wyoming's largest moose populations are in the west and northwest, moose occur in other areas of the state. Moose have recently expanded into the mountain ranges of south central Wyoming, providing additional viewing and hunting opportunities.

Management strategies for moose in Wyoming are quite conservative, and, as a result, success rates are traditionally excellent for those hunters fortunate enough to draw a license. The 2003 hunting season was the sixth year in which a restriction against taking cow moose accompanied by a calf was in effect. This restriction has improved calf survival, which has the potential to increase hunting opportunities. However, recent declines in moose numbers in northwest Wyoming for reasons that have yet to be fully understood are resulting in license quota reductions.

Harvest declined for a second year in 2003. Hunter success remained essentially unchanged from the previous year after decreasing from 2000 and 2001. Hunter effort decreased slightly from a recent high in 2002. The 2003 hunter success rate is slightly below average (88%), and the 2003 effort rate is slightly above average (6.8 days/animal harvested).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's moose program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	1,101	7,906	87%	7.2	1,378	285,641	337,270	\$1,462,393
2000	1,209	7,815	91%	5.5	1,393	292,250	496,519	\$1,518,127
2001	1,215	7,592	89%	6.2	1,406	297,850	594,652	\$1,476,711
2002	1,160	9,048	86%	7.8	1,386	263,800	617,427	\$1,863,146
2003	999	7,530	87%	7.5	1,189	252,323	646,341	\$939,520

²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

BIGHORN SHEEP

2003:

Population:	5,344^a	Licenses Sold:	248
Population Objective:	7,685^b	License Revenue:	\$ 142,949
Harvest:	183	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 120,816
Hunters:	234	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 263,765
Success Rate:	78%	Program Costs:	\$ 986,233
Recreation Days:	2,192	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 562,978
Days/Animal:	12.0	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 5,389
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 3,076

^astatewide population was calculated from 10 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. Population estimates for the other 4 herds were not available.

^bstatewide population objective calculated from 12 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. There are no objective for 2 herds.

The estimate of Wyoming's bighorn sheep population declined slightly again in 2003 (2002 = 5513). Larger herds maintained or slightly increased population levels while smaller populations continued to struggle in some areas. Bighorn sheep are highly susceptible to severe weather events and disease outbreaks. In addition, poor habitat conditions limit bighorn sheep population increases.

The 2003 bighorn sheep harvest was the same as that of 2002 and slightly below average (186). Hunter success has remained constant for the past 3 years, while hunter effort has vacillated. The 2003 hunter success rate is above average (76.8%); the 2003 hunter effort value is approximately equal to average (11.9 days/animal harvested).

The Department will continue to set conservative bighorn sheep hunting seasons. It will continue to monitor disease, evaluate habitat conditions and implement habitat improvement projects for Wyoming's bighorn sheep.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's bighorn sheep program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	173	2,108	68%	12.2	263	124,361	1,090,871	\$607,879
2000	185	2,012	72%	10.9	268	121,275	920,962	\$605,452
2001	206	2,146	77%	10.4	282	122,325	1,000,238	\$642,835
2002	183	2,558	77%	14.0	258	116,139	736,527	\$809,656
2003	183	2,192	78%	12.0	248	142,949	986,233	\$562,978

²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, 1989 *Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures.
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

2003:

Population:	265	Licenses Sold:	17
Population Objective:	250	License Revenue:	\$ 8,381
Harvest:	15	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 15,266
Hunters:	15	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 23,647
Success Rate:	100%	Program Costs:	\$ 90,268
Recreation Days:	59	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 14,665
Days/Animal:	3.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 6,018
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 978

Mountain goats inhabit some of Wyoming's most rugged and remote areas in the northwestern part of the state. Throughout the years, successful transplant operations in Montana and Idaho have resulted in mountain goat populations overlapping into Wyoming. The Department manages these populations as the Beartooth and Palisades Herd Units.

Until 1999, the only hunted population of mountain goats was the Beartooth Herd near Cody. The Palisades population near Jackson has increased to a point where it has been able to sustain limited harvest since 1999. The Department will continue to closely monitor both populations and will continue to set conservative hunting seasons.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Rocky Mountain goat program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	16	38	100%	2.4	16	6,904	102,929	\$13,959
2000	15	48	100%	3.2	16	6,900	38,221	\$18,128
2001	17	79	100%	4.6	17	6,975	62,592	\$31,002
2002	15	47	94%	3.1	16	6,904	85,146	\$18,724
2003	15	59	100%	3.9	16	8,381	90,268	\$14,665

²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures.
¹includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

BISON

2003:			
Population:	792	Licenses Sold:	56
Population Objective:	400	License Revenue:	\$ 21,815
Harvest:	40	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 25,213
Hunters:	56	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 47,028
Success Rate:	71%	Program Costs:	\$ 69,759
Recreation Days:	245	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 36,364
Days/Animal:	6.1	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,744
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 909

The bison population in the Jackson Herd has increased at a steady pace over the years. In the past 2 years, it is estimated to have increased 14% and 8%. A post-harvest objective of 400 bison, based on a running five-year average, has been established for this population. The Department shares management responsibility of the Jackson Herd with the National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Bison of the Jackson Herd spend summers in and around Grand Teton National Park, and most spend winters on the National Elk Refuge.

Hunters harvested 40 bison in 2003, following harvests of 47 bison in 2002, 19 in 2000 and 41 in 2001. License quotas will be increased as possible to attempt to reduce this population to its objective. Hunter success in 2002 was 71 percent compared to 83 percent in 2002 and, 91 percent in 2001. Hunter effort was 6.1 days per bison harvested, which is a substantial increase from 2.7 days per bison harvested in 2002 and 3.8 days per bison harvested in 2001. Social and political concerns continue to influence management of the bison herd.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's bison program.					
Year	Harvest	Recreation Days	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
1999	12	N/A	19	8,051	125,183
2000	19	89	25	9,701	61,853
2001	41	157	44	14,926	79,895
2002	47	126	59	22,740	26,313
2003	40	245	56	21,815	69,759
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.					

TROPHY GAME

Black Bear
Grizzly Bear
Mountain Lion

BLACK BEAR

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	2,890
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 161,373
Harvest:	261	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 64,511
Hunters:	2,260	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 225,884
Success Rate:	12%	Program Costs:	\$ 466,154
Recreation Days:	21,432	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 1,438,738
Days/Animal:	82	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,786
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 5,512

Black bears occupy the major mountain ranges of Wyoming, with the exception of the Black Hills. Most black bears are found in the northwestern part of the state, the Bighorn Mountains and the mountains of south central Wyoming.

Black bears are hunted in Wyoming during the spring and fall each year. Successful bear hunters are required to report bear harvest to a Department game warden, wildlife biologist, or at a regional office within three days of the harvest. Black bear hunting season regulations should be consulted for baiting regulations, season restrictions, and harvest reporting procedures. Accurate harvest information is vital to management of black bears in Wyoming.

The 2003 harvest is 20% lower than the 2002 harvest (323 bears). Quotas have been increased in recent years to address increasing bear/human and bear/livestock conflicts. Bear/human conflicts are most often a result of the bears' attraction or habituation to human related foods. At the same time, the chronic drought has undoubtedly affected bear food sources as much as it has those of other animals, which exacerbates the problem of bears seeking access to human related foods and coming into conflict. The 2003 hunter success rate was slightly lower than that of the previous year (2002 = 14 percent). Hunter effort increased for the third year in a row and is above average. In 2001, it was at a recent low of 61.3 days per animal harvested in 2001, from which it increased to 68 days per animal harvested in 2002 and to 82 days per animal harvested in 2003.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's black bear program.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	193	18,579	11%	96.0	2,222	104,583	462,146	\$1,851,510
2000	203	14,917	13%	74.0	2,157	97,710	561,421	\$1,522,161
2001	261	16,006	20%	61.3	2,422	108,740	718,130	\$1,672,076
2002	323	21,965	14%	68.0	2,907	146,045	809,961	\$2,333,475
2003	261	21,432	12%	82.1	2,890	161,373	466,154	\$1,438,738

²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures.
^{*}includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

GRIZZLY BEAR

OBJECTIVES:

To meet those parameters identified in the revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Yellowstone ecosystem.

To maintain at least 7,229 square miles of occupied grizzly bear habitat.

To obtain the informed consent of all potentially affected interests in structuring the population objectives, management strategies, and regulations.

Grizzly bears are presently classified as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Grizzlies occupy 16,200 square miles in Wyoming, mainly in Yellowstone National Park and the Caribou-Targhee, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests. In the past several years, grizzly bears have expanded their distribution into habitats on the periphery of the recovery zone that has not been used by them for several decades. The population has attained the recovery goals stipulated in the grizzly bear recovery plan, and the agencies involved with grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem are completing the steps necessary for removing ESA protection and returning management of this population to states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

The Department and its counterparts in Idaho and Montana completed state management plans for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, and in 2002 (FY03) the Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Subcommittee completed the “Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area.” The Department will continue to participate in interagency monitoring of this population and in conflict resolution through the final steps of status change and after the state assumes full management of grizzly bears in Wyoming.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s grizzly bear program.	
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)
FY 2000	1,033,815
FY 2001	1,600,388
FY 2002	1,434,981
FY 2003	1,378,442
FY 2004	937,890

MOUNTAIN LION

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	1,608
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 69,272
Harvest:	199	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 30,371
Hunters:	Not available	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 99,643
Success Rate:	Not available	Program Costs:	\$ 250,254
Recreation Days:	796 ^a	Hunter Expenditures ^a:	\$ 122,584
Days/Animal:	4.0 ^a	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,258
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 616

^acalculated only from successful legal mountain lion hunters who reported days hunted.

Mountain lions are distributed throughout most of Wyoming and have been managed as a trophy game species in Wyoming since 1974. They prefer rugged foothills and mountainous terrain, which provide cover, denning locations, and suitable prey bases. Mountain lions are opportunistic predators within established and well-defended territories.

Mountain lions are generally secretive and solitary animals, but sightings of the elusive cats have been increasing over the past several years, indicating that mountain lion populations are healthy and expanding in Wyoming. This same trend is being observed in other western states. They are currently managed in Wyoming through annual mortality quotas. When a hunt area harvest quota is reached, that area is closed for the remainder of the season. Annual harvest quotas have been increased in recent years to limit population growth and to address lion/human and lion/livestock incidents in some areas.

The 2003 mountain lion harvest is slightly less than that of 2002 (201 mountain lions). Hunter effort increased substantially from 3.8 days per lion harvested in 2001 to 5.1 days per animal harvested in 2002, then decreased in 2003 to 4.0 days per lion harvested. The 2003 effort rate is slightly above average.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's mountain lion program.						
Year	Harvest	Success ¹	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter Expend. (\$) ²
1999	201	14%	1,408	68,072	755,152	\$5,618,352
2000	186	13%	1,436	68,450	540,901	\$11,626,018 ³
2001	213	15%	1,397	53,005	718,591	\$11,675,679 ³
2002	201	13%	1,545	61,627	499,805	\$13,128,916 ³
2003	199	12%	1,608	69,272	250,254	\$122,584

¹calculated based on the number of licenses sold.

²Calculations prior to 2003 were reported to be derived from the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*. However these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures.

³starting in year 2000, recreation days are no longer estimated in the harvest survey; therefore, hunter expenditures for this year were recalculated to reflect the change.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

SMALL GAME

Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
Squirrel

COTTONTAIL

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	34,996	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	4,882	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	7.2	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	18,655	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 4,365,270
Days/Animal:	0.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 125

The cottontail rabbit is the most popular small game animal in Wyoming. The cottontail is found in a variety of habitats throughout the state including brushy areas, farmlands, and towns in middle to lower elevations. While the cottontail population cannot be accurately monitored, hunter success and harvest are directly associated with the dramatically cyclic nature of this species' abundance.

The 2003 harvest statistics and general observations of cottontail abundance over the past year indicate that the population may be increasing. Harvest decreased from 39,874 in 2001 to 23,287 in 2002, but then increased to 34,996 in 2003. Hunter numbers and recreation days continued to decrease, but success rate increased in 2003. The 2003 animals/hunter value increased dramatically from the previous few years (2003 = 7.2 animals/hunter vs. 5yr mean = 5.56 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal harvested was half the 2002 value and dropped to below the 5-year average (0.69 days/animal).

The Department will maintain liberal hunting seasons and bag limits since hunting has little effect on cottontail populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's cottontail program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	60,937	37,531	6.1	0.62	9,967	90,960	47,727	\$6,154,771
2000	44,207	22,609	5.7	0.51	7,772	80,599	53,626	\$3,842,448
2001	39,874	29,118	4.8	0.70	8,374	53,067	52,241	\$4,974,709
2002	23,287	25,566	4.0	1.1	5,814	67,850	29,504	\$4,608,817
2003	34,996	18,655	7.2	0.5	4,882	**	**	\$4,365,270
<p>** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.</p> <p>² based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures.</p> <p>*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.</p>								

SNOWSHOE HARE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	410	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	319	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	1.3	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	1,171	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 274,014
Days/Animal:	2.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 668

Snowshoe hares are distributed throughout the higher coniferous forests of the western and southern parts of the state and in the Bighorn Mountains. Snowshoe hare hunting is not as popular as other small game hunting, and most snowshoes are likely taken incidentally during big game seasons.

Snowshoe hare populations are cyclic, and hunter participation and harvest appear to follow population trends. During most years, fluctuations of hare populations are not consistent across the state; peak snowshoe harvest varies from region to region.

The snowshoe harvest decreased from 2002 to 2003. The 2003 harvest was below the 5-year average (1999-2003 = 502). Fewer hunters harvested snowshoe hares at a lower rate than in 2002 and invested greater effort. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2003 was slightly above the 5-year average (1.22 animals/hunter), and the 2003 effort rate was slightly above the 5-year average (3.2 days/animal).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	552	1,861	1.0	3.4	558	4,510	2,367	\$305,198
2000	409	1,617	1.0	4.0	407	3,428	3,835	\$274,822
2001	532	1,620	1.2	3.0	435	2,952	2,906	\$276,701
2002	609	1,505	1.6	2.5	385	4,493	1,954	\$271,342
2003	410	1,171	1.3	2.9	319	**	**	\$274,014

** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses..

²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

SQUIRREL

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,127	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	245	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	4.6	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	1,013	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 237,042
Days/Animal:	0.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 210

Squirrel hunter participation and harvest continued to decline in 2003 for Wyoming's two hunted species. Red squirrels can be found throughout the state in mountain coniferous forests. Fox squirrels continue to increase their range and can be found in deciduous forests, along cottonwood-riparian areas, and in agricultural and urban areas.

In 2003, a total of 245 hunters harvested 1,127 squirrels. Hunters invested slightly more effort per squirrel harvested than in 2001 and 2002, but each hunter harvested about 1 squirrel more during the 2003 season than in the previous 4 years.

Squirrel hunting in Wyoming is not as popular as it is in other parts of the country. In Wyoming, most squirrel harvest is incidental to other hunting pursuits. The Department will maintain liberal season structures since hunting has little effect on squirrel populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's squirrel program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	2,734	3,514	3.7	1.3	730	8,517	4,468	\$576,247
2000	1,388	1,314	3.7	1.0	378	5,075	3,117	\$223,304
2001	848	711	3.3	0.8	256	1,296	1,276	\$121,426
2002	1,637	1,313	3.6	0.8	455	5,310	2,309	\$236,721
2003	1,127	1,013	4.6	0.9	245	**	**	\$237,042

** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses..

²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

UPLAND GAME

Pheasant

Gray Partridge

Chukar

Sage Grouse

Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Blue Grouse

Ruffed Grouse

Mourning Dove

Turkey

PHEASANT

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	28,005 **
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 527,316 **
Harvest:	29,927	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 760,544 **
Hunters:	6,367	Total Program Revenue:	\$1,287,860 **
Bird/Hunter:	4.7	Program Costs:	\$3,207,361 **
Recreation Days:	26,101	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 6,107,634**
Days/Bird:	0.9	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ 107
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 204

Pheasants are not as abundant in Wyoming as they are in neighboring states, but opportunities to harvest the popular upland game bird in the state are available. Weather and habitat conditions are the primary influences on most of Wyoming's pheasant populations. Pheasant hunting has improved considerably with the implementation and expansion of Wyoming's Walk-In Access Program. The Department's game wardens and biologists have played key roles in opening thousands of acres of private lands to hunting over the past few years.

The vast majority of Wyoming's pheasant hunting occurs in Goshen County in the southeastern part of the state. Established pheasant populations throughout the state are supplemented by releases from the Department's Downar and Sheridan Bird Farms.

The 2002 and 2003 pheasant seasons show the effects of consecutive years of drought on wild pheasant reproduction. Harvest, hunter numbers, and recreation days declined over the past 5 years, but opportunities for pheasant hunting were still plentiful. Harvest and effort rates remained constant in 2002 and 2003. The 2003 harvest rate and success rate are better than average (1999-2003 = 4.14 birds/hunter and 0.95 days/bird, respectively).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pheasant program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	55,475	50,951	3.8	0.92	14,468	69,330	698,704	\$6,492,856
2000	45,946	47,470	3.7	1.03	12,544	82,189	695,497	\$6,320,663
2001	38,892	38,836	3.8	1.00	10,162	70,778	870,916	\$5,093,642
2002	31,831	28,999	4.7	0.9	6,816	79,544	895,270	\$3,935,817
2003	29,927	26,101	4.7	0.9	6,367	**	**	\$6,107,634
<p>** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.</p> <p>²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures.</p> <p>*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.</p>								

GRAY PARTRIDGE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,719	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	676	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.5	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	2,360	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 552,240
Days/Bird:	1.4	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 321

Populations of gray (Hungarian) partridges, native to eastern Europe and central and southwest Asia, can be found primarily in Sheridan County and the Bighorn Basin. Gray partridges were introduced to Wyoming early in this century to provide additional hunting opportunity for the sportsmen of Wyoming.

Wyoming's gray partridge population has suffered from prolonged drought and its influence on habitat conditions. This species' numbers have dropped considerably since the turn of the century. Between 1999 and 2003, harvest has declined 90 percent, hunter numbers have declined 82 percent, and recreation days have declined 86 percent. But, harvest and effort rates actually improved in 2003 compared to the previous 2 years.

Because gray partridges are very sensitive to drought and severe winters, weather conditions can dictate abundance of partridge and resulting hunter interest. This is borne out in the harvest statistics of the past 5 years. Hunting is a minor influence on gray partridge populations. Like other upland game birds, nesting and brood rearing success from the summer preceding the hunting season play a major role in hunter success and participation.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's gray partridge program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	17,160	16,640	4.5	0.97	3,808	40,329	4,834	\$2,120,515
2000	16,154	13,953	4.3	0.86	3,780	5,191	40,376	\$1,857,850
2001	3,031	6,416	1.6	2.10	1,845	11,693	25,852	\$853,385
2002	1,414	3,807	1.3	2.7	1,086	12,674	19,856	\$516,688
2003	1,719	2,360	2.5	1.4	676	**	**	\$552,240

¹ ** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.
²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.
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CHUKAR

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	4,146	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	1,323	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	3.1	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	4,210	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 985,140
Days/Bird:	1.0	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 231

The chukar partridge, which is native to Europe and Asia, was first released in Wyoming in the 1930s. Small populations of chukars are scattered throughout Wyoming in rocky, steep habitats, but the largest concentrations are found in the Bighorn Basin.

Chukar populations have suffered from prolonged drought and have dropped considerably since 1999. Between 1999 and 2002, harvest declined 73 percent, however it increased 28% in 2003. Hunter numbers declined 58 percent from 1999 to 2003, dropping dramatically (50%) between 2000 and 2001. Recreation days declined 68% from 1999 to 2003, then increased slightly (7%) between 2003 to 2003. The result for 2003 was a harvest per hunter that was above average (1999-2003 = 2.78), and an effort rate that was also better than average (1999-2003 = 1.8 days/bird).

Because the chukar is very sensitive to drought and severe winters, weather conditions can dictate its abundance and the resulting hunter interest. Hunting seems to play a minor role in chukar abundance. Like other upland game birds, nesting and brood rearing success from the summer preceding the hunting season play a major role in hunter success and participation.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's chukar program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	11,806	12,328	3.7	1.0	3,172	29,878	3,587	\$1,539,383
2000	10,016	10,347	2.92	0.97	3,433	3,849	30,459	\$1,377,674
2001	3,327	16,535	1.8	5.0	1,838	30,135	66,624	\$2,186,799
2002	3,244	3,921	2.4	1.2	1,369	15,976	25,030	\$532,219
2003	4,146	4,210	3.1	1.0	1,323	**	**	\$985,140

¹** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses

²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

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SAGE GROUSE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	5,263	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	2,504	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.1	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	5,946	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 1,391,364
Days/Bird:	1.1	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 264

Depressed sage grouse populations have been a concern for states within the historic range of the species since sharp declines were detected in the early 1990s. Wyoming's sage grouse populations are considered to be well below desired levels. They continue to sustain the light harvest allowed by conservative season structures. Harvest has little effect on sage grouse populations compared to the influence of habitat loss and condition. Since 1995, sage grouse seasons have been shortened and have opened later in the year to protect hens with broods, and over the past 2 years closures have been in effect in parts of the state. Sage grouse seasons were again conservative in 2003.

After experiencing a small population increase up through 1999, statewide sage grouse numbers declined considerably in subsequent years due, in part, to prolonged drought. The 2003 harvest was 75% of the 1999 harvest, although it is a slight increase over the 2002 harvest. Hunter numbers decreased again in 2003, as did recreation days. Harvest rate and effort improved slightly from 2002 to 2003 and were approximately equal to their 5-year averages (1999-2003 = 2.2 birds/hunter and 1.2 days/bird, respectively).

The Department will continue to monitor sage grouse populations and to improve habitat conditions throughout the state. The Department completed the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan in 2003 as part of the interstate conservation effort to identify and address sage grouse issues. The Department also created a sage grouse coordinator position in 2003 to implement sage grouse conservation efforts in the state.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sage grouse program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	21,556	21,759	2.8	1.0	7,625	52,735	815,621	\$2,772,804
2000	20,685	21,330	2.4	1.0	8,667	82,189	949,900	\$2,840,159
2001	12,742	14,840	2.3	1.2	5,593	27,046	921,657	\$1,946,785
2002	4,835	7,164	1.6	1.5	2,947	34,392	979,917	\$972,330
2003	5,263	5,946	2.1	1.1	2,504	**	**	\$1,391,364

¹** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses
²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.
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SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	2,130	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	909	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.3	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	3,832	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 896,688
Days/Bird:	1.8	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 421

Sharp-tailed grouse populations and hunter interest increased in Wyoming as the benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program manifest themselves. Thousands of acres of marginal farmlands in the state were converted to wildlife habitat over the past decade under this program. The Department's implementation of the Walk-In Access Program in 1998 has greatly improved sharp-tailed grouse hunting opportunities.

After several years of record harvest, consecutive years of drought in Wyoming have impacted sharp-tailed grouse populations. The 2003 harvest is 77% of the 2000 harvest, which is the highest of the 5-year period. However harvest increased 54% between 2003 and 2003. The most dramatic decrease in harvest was between 2000 and 2001. The numbers of hunters and recreation days have also declined since 1999, but both increased slightly in 2003. The 2003 success and effort rates also improved in 2003, but they are still slightly poorer than average (1999-2003 = 2.6 birds/hunter and 1.7 days/bird, respectively).

Sharp-tailed grouse occur, and are harvested in, eastern Wyoming where they occupy shrub-grassland habitat and lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Various lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program were hayed in 2002 and 2003 for emergency livestock feed because of drought conditions, further reducing the availability of adequate sharp-tailed grouse habitat.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sharp-tailed grouse program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	9,349	12,463	3.5	1.3	2,644	30,205	43,512	\$1,588,183
2000	11,676	13,944	3.6	1.2	3,220	5,188	42,802	\$1,856,702
2001	3,963	6,618	2.1	1.7	1,915	12,061	42,812	\$880,053
2002	1,376	3,658	1.7	2.7	821	9,581	39,304	\$496,450
2003	2,130	3,832	2.3	1.8	909	**	**	\$896,688
<p>** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses</p> <p>²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures.</p> <p>*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.</p>								

BLUE GROUSE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	11,421	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	3,456	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	3.3	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	15,566	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 3,642,444
Days/Bird:	1.4	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 319

Blue grouse occupy most of Wyoming's coniferous, mountainous areas, except for the Black Hills in the northeast corner of the state. They winter among conifers and migrate to lower altitudes with more open cover for the spring and summer.

Blue grouse harvest, blue grouse hunter numbers, and recreation days dropped again in 2003. The 2003 harvest was 65% of the 1999 harvest (highest for the 5-year period), and the 2003 hunter number was 57% of the 1999 value (also highest for the 5-year period). The 2003 harvest rate was an increase, and the effort rate was a decrease from the previous year's values. Both were improvements for the third year in a row. The harvest rate is above the 5-year average, and the effort rate is average.

The Department maintains liberal seasons and means of harvest since hunting has little influence on blue grouse populations. Blue grouse numbers fluctuate due to adverse weather events and detrimental land use practices.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's blue grouse program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	17,325	23,268	2.9	1.3	6,042	56,392	11,555	\$2,965,151
2000	14,864	20,025	2.8	1.3	5,341	7,450	7,384	\$2,666,364
2001	14,279	24,240	2.4	1.7	5,885	44,177	18,190	\$3,173,526
2002	13,861	21,102	2.8	1.5	4,898	57,160	11,997	\$2,864,042
2003	11,421	15,566	3.3	1.4	3,456	**	**	\$3,642,444

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²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

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RUFFED GROUSE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	6,792	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	1,771	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	3.8	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	10,245	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 2,397,330
Days/Bird:	1.5	Cost Dept. Per Bird :	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 353

Ruffed grouse are found in the western and northern forests of Wyoming, including the Black Hills and the Uinta Mountains. They occupy dense, brushy habitats within mixed conifer and deciduous tree stands, usually in and along creek bottoms. The Wyoming Range and the various mountainous regions around Jackson offer some of the best ruffed grouse habitat and provide the best hunting opportunities in Wyoming.

The 2002 ruffed grouse season provided good hunting opportunities throughout the state. The ruffed grouse harvest increased in 2003 from a 5-year low the previous year and was above average (1999-2003 = 6435). Hunter numbers decreased again in 2003, as did recreation days. However, harvest and effort rates improved. Both these 2003 rates were better than average (1999-2003 = 3.0 birds/hunter and 1.6 days/bird, respectively)

Like blue grouse, ruffed grouse populations appear to be affected by weather, land use changes, timber management, and grazing practices, with hunting playing a minor role in population changes.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's ruffed grouse program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	5,694	10,897	2.2	1.9	2,618	26,410	5,474	\$1,388,633
2000	6,710	10,261	3.2	1.5	2,092	3,818	3,794	\$1,366,227
2001	7,146	9,686	3.1	1.4	2,310	17,653	7,269	\$1,272,077
2002	5,564	10,565	2.6	1.9	2,175	25,383	5,327	\$1,433,883
2003	6,792	10,245	3.8	1.5	1,771	**	**	\$2,397,330

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²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

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MOURNING DOVE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	27,837	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	2,078	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	13.4	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	5,978	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 1,398,852
Days/Bird:	0.2	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 50

The mourning dove is the most abundant and widespread game bird in North America. More mourning doves are harvested throughout the country than all other game birds combined. The mourning dove nests throughout the continental United States and in Canada and Mexico. The mourning dove occupies a wide variety of habitats in Wyoming, from farmlands to urban areas.

The Wyoming mourning dove harvest decreased 24% in 2003 from a 12-year high of 36,431 in 2002. Hunter numbers declined 21%, and recreation days dropped sharply (59%). However, the 2003 harvest rate and effort rates were better than their 5-year averages (12.9 birds/hunter and 0.3 days/bird, respectively). Harvest in Wyoming can be greatly reduced by early mourning dove migrations due to cold weather in late August and early September.

Mourning dove hunting seasons are set at the national level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in accordance with conditions of the Migratory Bird Treaty. Seasons are generally liberal since harvest has little impact on dove populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's mourning dove program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	32,702	8,191	13.5	0.3	2,418	19,852	82,080	\$1,043,782
2000	34,250	8,499	13.2	0.3	2,594	29,097	105,984	\$1,131,656
2001	29,075	8,371	10.4	0.3	2,807	15,256	113,928	\$1,101,400
2002	36,431	14,470	13.8	0.4	2,648	30,902	111,845	\$1,963,915
2003	27,837	5,978	13.4	0.2	2,078	**	**	\$1,398,852

**all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses

²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

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TURKEY

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	7,674
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 187,894
Harvest:	4,052	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 163,053
Hunters:	7,144	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 352,947
Hunter Success:	57%	Program Costs:	\$ 214,604
Recreation Days:	24,243	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 5,701,514
Days/Bird:	6.0	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ 53
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 1,407

The wild turkey was originally introduced to Wyoming in 1935 when New Mexico traded nine hens and six gobblers of the Merriam's subspecies to Wyoming in exchange for sage grouse. Until recently, that has been the predominant subspecies in the state. The wild turkey is found primarily in the southeastern, northeastern, and north-central portions of Wyoming. Translocations and favorable winter weather over the past decade have resulted in an abundance of turkeys spread over most habitats in the state that will support them. Recent introductions of the Rio Grande subspecies to riparian habitats have further expanded the species' presence. The majority of turkeys in Wyoming are found in river-bottomland habitats on private land, in the Black Hills and around Laramie Peak.

The turkey harvest increased 44% from 2002 to 2003, and the 2003 harvest is the highest of the 5-year period. Hunter number in 2003 is 26% above the 2002 value. Hunter success increased from a recent low in 2002 to a value equal to average. As the turkey population in Wyoming has increased under the generally favorable weather regime of the past several years, particularly the mild winters, managers have increased the number of hunt areas with general instead of limited quota licenses. As a result, hunter opportunity and harvest have increased.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's turkey program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Hunter Success	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
1999	2,446	10,572	61%	4.3	4,000	109,530	285,125	\$1,606,944
2000	3,398	15,683	59%	4.6	5,733	132,550	235,259	\$2,438,824
2001	3,946	18,987	59%	4.8	6,645	141,850	299,900	\$3,049,184
2002	2,815	16,845	50%	5.6	5,688	141,915	272,393	\$2,847,492
2003	4,052	24,243	57%	6.0	7,144	189,894	214,604	\$5,701,514

¹based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.
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WATERFOWL

Duck

Goose

Sandhill Crane

Rail, Snipe, Coot

DUCK

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	53,233	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,861	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	9.1	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	33,522	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 7,844,148
Days/Bird:	0.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 147

Wyoming supports a variety of duck species throughout the year. Ducks migrate to and through the state along the Central and Pacific Flyways. They occupy most habitats in Wyoming where water is present in good quantity and quality.

Drought conditions have prevailed over the last several years and continued through spring and summer of 2002, leading to comparatively poor breeding conditions and fall recruitment. However, water conditions were markedly improved in the spring of 2003 throughout the core breeding range in the Canadian prairie provinces and northern prairie states. Despite the adverse conditions in 2002, duck population surveys indicate numbers of most duck species were not substantially below long-term averages. Harvest levels and success rates did not change substantially from 2001.

Although the number of hunters and recreation days decreased in 2003, harvest and harvest rate increased and effort improved from 2002. Both harvest rate and effort rate were better than in any of the previous 4 years.

The Department remains concerned with the degradation and loss of wetlands and other duck habitats. The Department will continue to work with private landowners, other government agencies, and conservation organizations to improve habitat conditions for ducks and to increase the amount of habitat available to them.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's duck program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days /Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	62,932	54,262	7.5	0.9	8,378	131,510	120,064	\$6,914,886
2000	50,912	39,446	7.4	0.8	5,740	135,048	143,184	\$5,252,284
2001	49,743	39,725	7.6	0.8	6,584	109,598	183,435	\$5,226,984
2002	49,529	44,850	7.9	0.9	6,239	72,810	185,602	\$6,087,133
2003	53,233	33,522	9.1	0.6	5,861	**	**	\$7,844,148

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²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.
*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

GOOSE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	23,163	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,127	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	4.5	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	28,485	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 6,665,490
Days/Bird:	1.2	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 288

Goose hunting in Wyoming has been excellent for a number of years, but the recent drought has begun to have an impact. Canada geese traditionally have provided most of the goose hunting in Wyoming, but shifting migration patterns due to drought conditions throughout the west and expanding populations of lesser snow geese have increased hunter opportunities for them.

The 2003 harvest of 23,163 geese reversed a recent downward trend. Although the 2003 hunter number and number of recreation days were the lowest of the 5-year period, the 2003 harvest and effort rates were better than average (1999-2003 = 4.1 birds/hunter and 1.4 days/bird). Liberal season lengths and bag limits designed to lower goose populations continue to afford hunters abundant harvest opportunities. Liberal seasons will continue, especially the late season Conservation Order, for snow and other light geese as the flyway councils attempt to lower populations to protect sensitive nesting areas.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's goose program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	22,649	40,512	3.1	1.8	7,196	98,185	422,332	\$5,162,626
2000	31,956	38,020	5.2	1.2	5,533	130,048	434,626	\$5,062,459
2001	25,507	36,467	3.7	1.4	6,846	100,610	568,739	\$4,800,291
2002	22,337	32,110	3.9	1.4	5,708	66,613	431,698	\$4,358,092
2003	23,163	28,485	4.5	1.2	5,127	**	**	\$6,665,490

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²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

SANDHILL CRANE

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	72	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	152	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	0.5	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	348	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 81,432
Days/Bird:	4.8	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 1,131

Two populations of sandhill cranes are found in Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain greater sandhill crane and the mid-continent sandhill crane. Sandhill cranes are managed in cooperation with various western states and the federal government. Most crane harvest occurs in the western part of Wyoming.

During the 2003 season, 152 hunters harvested 72 cranes. These values are the lowest in the past 5 years. The annual count and recruitment index for sandhill cranes were both low in 2003, so the number of permits allotted was reduced for that year. Success rates vary slightly from year to year, however the 2003 success rate is the lowest of the 5-year period. The 2003 effort value is the highest of the 5-year period.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sandhill crane program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)²	Hunter (\$) Expend.³
1999	127	431	67%	2.3	189	1,045	87,897	\$54,955
2000	159	556	60%	3.5	263	1,904	42,957	\$73,995
2001	142	563	57%	4.0	248	1,553	42,312	\$74,671
2002	132	437	63%	3.3	210	2,451	44,203	\$59,295
2003	72	348	47%	4.8	152	**	**	\$81,432

** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses

²management costs are for both greater and lesser sandhill crane.

³based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

RAIL, SNIPE, AND COOT

2003:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	787	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	257	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	3.1	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	862	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 201,708
Days/Bird:	1.1	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 256

Rail, snipe, and coot are harvested in both the Central and Pacific Flyways in Wyoming. Since these birds are not highly valued as game species or as food sources, the demand is low. Generally, these species are incidentally taken in conjunction with other migratory game birds and upland game birds.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's rail, snipe and coot program.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Birds/ Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
1999	1,259	1,276	3.2	1.0	388	3,092	**	\$162,735
2000	710	695	2.5	1.0	281	2,380	**	\$92,618
2001	754	555	3.5	0.7	215	1,531	**	\$71,738
2002	302	717	1.7	2.4	178	2,077	**	\$97,362
2003	787	862	3.1	1.1	257	**	**	\$201,708

** all small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.
²based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small Game/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures.
 * includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.
 **because program costs were negligible, they are included with other waterfowl management costs.

FISHERIES

Sport Fisheries
Commercial Fisheries

SPORT FISHERIES

2003:

Recreation Day Objectives: 3,418,000
Recreation Days: 2,497,000
Fish/Day: 2.5
Licenses Sold: 361,976
Economic Return Per Day: \$84.71

License Revenue: \$4,729,055
All Other Agency Revenue: \$5,833,323
Total Program Revenue: \$10,562,378
Program Costs: \$14,101,248
Angler Expenditures: \$211,530,000

In 2001, Wyoming was estimated to have provided almost 2.5 million angler days, with each angler fishing an average of nine days. Due to technical issues related to data entry on fishing licenses, the WGFD has not been able to conduct detailed participation or expenditure surveys for anglers. As such, the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* is being used to provide this information. Previous research conducted by the Fish Division has indicated anglers fish chiefly within the fisheries management region where they bought their license. Overall, the distribution of angling in the state is believed to have been 45% for flowing waters and 55% for standing waters.

Boating Access funds in FY04 were largely devoted to extending ramps at major reservoirs impacted by diminished water levels, construction of new areas and renovation of older developments on several large reservoirs. Another major, new development was completed at Glendo Reservoir, the Indian Point development on the east side was completed to provide boating access near the very popular Sandy Beach area. A quarter million dollar renovation at Flaming Gorge included extending three boat ramps and upgrading courtesy docks at two facilities. All told, about \$626,000 was devoted to renovation and new construction. Another \$100,000 was used for upkeep and repair of existing facilities.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sport fisheries program.						
Year	Rec. Days	Fish/Day	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Angler Expend. ¹
1999	4,564,031	2.5	497,064	4,242,445	13,494,171	\$267,699,618
2000	4,667,115	2.5	507,437	4,531,805	13,757,732	\$632,829,438
2001	4,457,099	2.5	400,996	5,078,144	15,129,474	\$698,527,102
2002	4,236,800	2.5	368,952	4,574,077	14,029,271	\$609,552,859
2003	2,497,000	2.5	361,976	4,729,055	14,101,248	\$211,530,000

¹ Prior to 2003, angler expenditure figures were calculated to include nonlicensed anglers, pioneers, and 6-13 year olds. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. For 2003, figures related to angler participation and expenditures were derived from the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation*.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Objectives: The statewide objective for the program is to provide licensing, monitoring, and extension services for minnow seiners, private bait dealers, commercial hatcheries, and private fishing preserves.

2003:

License Sold: 140

License Revenue: \$19,682

All Other Agency revenue*: \$461

Total Program Revenue: \$20,143**

Program Costs*: \$20,690

During 2003, 62 fishing preserves, 16 commercial fish hatcheries, 533 seining, and 62 live bait dealers were sold, resulting in \$20,143 in revenue to the Department. Costs of commercial fisheries management in Wyoming totaled \$20,690 for all activities.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.			
Year	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
1999	579	\$13,105	\$10,789
2000	578	\$23,410	\$21,093
2001	617	\$23,965	\$28,262
2002	682	\$19,225	\$17,674
2003	673	\$19,682	\$20,690
* Beginning in 2000, all monetary information is for a fiscal year. Other information is tracked on calendar year schedule.			
** Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.			

FURBEARERS

Bobcat

Beaver

Other Furbearers

FURBEARERS

2003:		Licenses Sold:	1,388
Bobcat Harvest¹:	2,165	License Revenue:	\$ 52,471
Bobcat Trappers²:	401	Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 34,944
Bobcats per Trapper³:	5.4	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 87,415
Recreation Days:	Not available	Program Costs:	\$ 255,062
Days/Animal:	Not available	Benefits to the State:	\$11,142,776
		Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ Not available

A variety of fur bearing species occurs in Wyoming. Coyote, red fox, bobcat, beaver, muskrat, mink, badger, weasel and marten are the most commonly harvested furbearers in the state. Furbearer harvest levels are determined by fur prices and by species abundance. These factors, combined with harvest quotas (where used), ensure that trapping has little impact on furbearer populations. Trapping statistics for the past 5 years illustrate the influence of fur prices. The number of licenses sold and the bobcat harvest increased annually with the price of pelts. The harvest rate also increased, following along with the increase in the bobcat population.

The response rate for the annual furbearer harvest survey has been poor for a number of years. The Department has tried each year to impress upon trappers the importance of responding to the survey so the state has information to accurately portray this activity. The harvest survey was revised several times to make it more user friendly. These efforts were not successful, and response continued to be approximately 30%. Because there is no way to estimate total harvest from the survey results, it was decided in 2002 to discontinue the survey for all furbearers and to concentrate solely on annual bobcat surveys since it is a species listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Because of the bobcat's inclusion in Appendix II of CITES, the Department must analyze harvest and population data and report this information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Scientific Authority in order to allow trapping to continue in the state. For 2003 and subsequent years, the decision has been made to discontinue bobcat harvest surveys, again because of poor trapper response. The Department will rely on agency personnel who tag bobcats with CITES tags to collect information on age and sex of each bobcat and on effort values. This information will be available for the annual CITES report and for Department use. This will only provide information for successful bobcat trappers, but it is more reliable than information collected previously.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's furbearer program.							
Fiscal Year	Bobcat Statistics			Entire Furbearer Program			
	Reported Harvest ¹	Bobcats/Trapper ³	Number Trappers	Licenses Sold ⁴	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Benefits to the State (\$) ⁵
1999	1,452	5.5	251 ²	976	34,909	91,067	\$443,443
2000	728	2.9	255 ²	1,084	32,539	136,299	\$2,061,258
2001	1,467	5.9	249 ²	1,128	35,056	169,776	\$2,197,301
2002	1,847	3.0	240 ²	1,289	46,045	223,555	\$2,572,645
2003	2,165	5.4	401²	1,388	52,741	255,062	\$11,142,776

¹the number of bobcats tagged in Wyoming.

²the number of trappers who had bobcats tagged.

³the number of bobcats per successful trapper.

⁴the total number of furbearer licenses sold.

⁵based on 1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, University of Wyoming. Includes estimated trapper expenditures and value of furs taken (based on total furs purchased). In 2003, the total trapper expenditure figure was derived from the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures In Wyoming During the 2001 season* and adjusted for inflation into 2003 dollars.

*includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants and interest earned on Game and Fish cash balances.

RAPTORS

RAPTORS

OBJECTIVES:

To provide a harvest, through capture, of 50 raptors annually.

To maintain a harvest success rate of 50 percent, based on capture permits issued.

Establish 30 breeding pairs of peregrine falcons in Wyoming by 1996.

There are approximately 31 species of raptors known or thought to occur within Wyoming’s borders. Raptors include hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures. Some species are present only seasonally, and densities vary with climatic conditions and prey abundance.

In 2003, 21 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry. The capture success rate was 49 percent, the lowest rate of the 5-year period. The 2003 success rate and the total harvest are decreases from 2002.

Nonresidents captured 3 times more raptors than residents, and they were more successful than residents. Twenty resident licenses were issued and 5 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 25 percent. Twenty-three nonresident licenses were issued and 16 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 70 percent.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s Raptor Program					
Fiscal Year	Capture	Success ¹	Licenses Sold ²	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
1999	27	55%	49	6,410	103,493
2000	23	56%	41	3,655	116,140
2001	21	45%	47	5,615	100,238
2002	29	58%	50	4,495	58,004
2003	21	49%	43	6,245	135,319

¹based on capture licenses sold.
²includes permits to hunt with falcon.

NON-GAME PROGRAMS
AND
NON-LICENSED USES

NONGAME PROGRAMS AND NON-LICENSED USES OF WILDLIFE

Included under this heading are programs for trumpeter swan, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, black-footed ferret, wolverine, and lynx. All of these species are either federally listed as threatened or endangered, or national political pressures are pressing for listing. Hence, all require special management attention and intensive restoration efforts. The nongame programs also include planning, information and education, environmental commenting, inventories, and monitoring specifically for species of special concern such as black-tailed prairie dog, swift fox, common loon, harlequin duck, ferruginous hawk, merlin, colonial nesting water birds, long-billed curlew, mountain plover, and and several bat species. The Nongame Section participates in and coordinating monitoring of many species during broader efforts such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival Survey, and small mammal capture transects. Nongame personnel are also involved in many committees and working groups that coordinate interstate and intrastate planning and implementation efforts to maintain wildlife diversity.

In 2003 non-consumptive users spent approximately 3.9 million days enjoying such endeavors as observation, photography, nature study, etc. Non-consumptive wildlife users expended an average of \$63 per day, resulting in \$247 million in expenditures throughout the state that year.

The Department's "Wyoming's Wildlife – Worth the Watching®" program has provided economic support for non-game, habitat, and non-consumptive projects. Department interpretive sites include the Cheyenne Visitor Center, Sybille Visitor Center, Sheridan Visitor Center, Story Fish Hatchery, and Lander Visitor Center. Other interpretive efforts include signing at highway rest areas, cooperative Department/U.S. Forest Service signing, exhibits, nature trails on Department lands, The Wildlife Heritage Expo, and cooperative projects with some city governments. In addition, five wildlife-viewing guides have been developed, and a variety of publications have been produced to inform and educate the public about nongame wildlife. Beginning in 2003, a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of big game licenses the Governor donates to conservation groups for fund raising are being made available for nongame programs in the state.

Trends in Wyoming's non-licensed uses of wildlife program.		
Year	Recreation Days	Non-consumptive Users' Expenditures (\$)
2002	3,924,000	264,931,000
2003	3,924,000	264,931,000
The number of recreation days and expenditures are reflective of those found in the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.		

HUNTER AND ANGLER EXPENDITURES

Estimates of 2001 Expenditures in Wyoming
by Hunters and Anglers

Restitution Values of Game Animals

**SUMMARY OF 2003 HARVEST, LICENSE SALES AND EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING
BY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMALS	LICENSE SALES	LICENSE INCOME	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES
ANTELOPE								
RESIDENT	14,722	16,608	88.6%	51,313	3.5	20,290	\$411,278	\$4,464,231
NONRESIDENT	19,671	20,259	97.1%	58,635	3.0	23,536	\$3,386,465	\$6,977,565
MULE DEER								
RESIDENT	18,773	38,294	49.0%	208,261	11.1	51,307	\$1,185,266	\$19,368,273
NONRESIDENT	16,609	27,420	60.6%	120,459	7.3	33,250	\$6,788,600	\$10,720,851
WHITE-TAILED DEER								
RESIDENT	6,193	13,436	46.1%	55,397	8.9	-----	-----	\$5,151,921
NONRESIDENT	4,135	7,558	54.7%	22,986	5.6	-----	-----	\$2,045,754
ELK								
RESIDENT	16,471	43,114	38.2%	331,852	20.1	48,678	\$1,615,445	\$24,225,196
NONRESIDENT	4,894	10,486	46.7%	65,606	13.4	10,750	\$4,470,000	\$8,988,022
MOOSE								
RESIDENT	840	969	86.7%	6,454	7.7	1002	\$75,150	\$573,502
NONRESIDENT	159	178	89.3%	1,077	6.8	187	\$187,000	\$366,018
BIGHORN SHEEP								
RESIDENT	128	168	76.2%	1,798	14.0	182	\$13,650	\$306,882
NONRESIDENT	55	66	83.3%	394	7.2	66	\$99,000	\$256,096
ROCKY MTN GOAT								
RESIDENT	12	12	100.0%	52	4.3	12	\$900	\$10,809
NONRESIDENT	3	3	100.0%	7	2.3	4	\$6,000	\$3,856
BISON								
RESIDENT	35	51	68.6%	225	6.4	51	\$14,025	\$35,390
NONRESIDENT	5	5	100.0%	20	4.0	5	\$8,440	\$974
BLACK BEAR								
RESIDENT	205	1,991	10.3%	19,807	96.6	2601	\$78,030	\$1,048,186
NONRESIDENT	56	269	20.8%	1,625	29.0	289	\$72,250	\$390,552
MOUNTAIN LION²								
	199	-----	-----	796	4.0	1,608	\$66,655	\$122,584
TURKEY								
RESIDENT	2,767	5,360	51.6%	16,673	6.0	5,752	\$57,520	\$3,801,444
NONRESIDENT	1,285	1,784	72.0%	7,570	5.9	1,922	\$96,100	\$1,900,070
COTTONTAIL								
	34,996	4,882	716.8%	18,655	0.5	-----	-----	\$4,365,270
SNOWSHOE HARE								
	410	319	128.5%	1,171	2.9	-----	-----	\$274,014
SQUIRREL								
	1,127	245	460.0%	1,013	0.9	-----	-----	\$237,042

**SUMMARY OF 2003 HARVEST, LICENSE SALES AND EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING
BY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMALS	LICENSE SALES	LICENSE INCOME	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES
PHEASANT	29,927	6,367	470.0%	26,101	0.9	28,005*	\$527,316*	\$6,107,634
GRAY PARTRIDGE	1,719	676	254.3%	2,360	1.4	-----	-----	\$552,240
CHUKAR	4,146	1,323	313.4%	4,210	1.0	-----	-----	\$985,140
SAGE GROUSE	5,263	2,504	210.2%	5,946	1.1	-----	-----	\$1,391,364
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	2,130	909	234.3%	3,832	1.8	-----	-----	\$896,688
BLUE GROUSE	11,421	3,456	330.5%	15,566	1.4	-----	-----	\$3,642,444
RUFFED GROUSE	6,792	1,771	383.5%	10,245	1.5	-----	-----	\$2,397,330
MOURNING DOVE	27,837	2,078	1339.6%	5,978	0.2	-----	-----	\$1,398,852
DUCK	53,233	5,861	908.3%	33,522	0.6	-----	-----	\$7,844,148
GOOSE	23,163	5,127	451.8%	28,485	1.2	-----	-----	\$6,665,490
SANDHILL CRANE	72	152	47.4%	348	4.8	-----	-----	\$81,432
RAIL	37	24	154.2%	66	1.8	-----	-----	\$15,444
SNIPE	287	120	239.2%	271	0.9	-----	-----	\$63,414
COOT	463	113	409.7%	525	1.1	-----	-----	\$122,850
RAPTOR	21	43	48.8%	-----	-----	43	\$6,245	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMALS	LICENSE SALES	LICENSE INCOME	TOTAL ANGLER EXPENDITURES
SPORT FISHING	-----	-----	2.5	2,497,000	-----	361,976	\$4,671,365	\$224,730,000
COMMERCIAL	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	830	\$18,365	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST ³	HUNTERS ⁴	SUCCESS RATE ⁴	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMALS	LICENSE SALES ⁵	LICENSE INCOME ⁵	TOTAL TRAPPER EXPENDITURES ⁵
TRAPPING	2,165	401	539.9%	No Data	No Data	1,388	43,720	\$11,142,776

SUMMARY								
TOTALS	312,426	224,402	-----	3,626,301	-----	593,734	\$23,898,785	\$357,564,114

¹License Income figures will vary slightly from Statement of Revenue and Expenditures due to timing differences between subsidiary and general ledger reporting.

²Calculated only from successful legal mountain lion hunters who reported days hunted.

³Only successful bobcat trappers surveyed.

⁴Bobcat trappers only.

⁵All trappers, *Derived from Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming in the 2001 Season, 2002*

* License sales and license revenue information related to all small game, upland game bird, and migratory game birds is presented under the pheasant schedule as separate information cannot be reliably generated due to combination licenses.

RESTITUTION VALUES OF GAME ANIMALS TO THE STATE OF WYOMING

The Game and Fish Department has reviewed the state's valuation of wildlife and recommends that the following monies be used in determining the restitution value of illegally killed animals. The factors used in determining the dollar values varies yearly and thus, the values will fluctuate accordingly. Questions concerning the factors used in calculating these values should be directed to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wildlife Division, 5400 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82006.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>2003 DOLLAR VALUE</u>
Elk.....	\$6,000
Pronghorn Antelope.....	3,000
Mule Deer.....	4,000
White-tailed Deer.....	4,000
Moose.....	7,500
Bighorn Sheep.....	15,000
Rocky Mountain Goat.....	12,500
Black Bear.....	5,000
Grizzly Bear.....	25,000
Mountain Lion.....	5,000
Bison.....	6,000
Wolf.....	1,000

Because the factors used in determining the valuation of big game animals is not currently available for small game, waterfowl and furbearer, the best information is based on estimates of the money spent by hunters in harvesting these animals (hunter expenditures divided by harvest):

Cottontail.....	\$ 200
Snowshoe Hare.....	200
Squirrel – Fox, Grey and Red.....	200
Pheasant.....	300
Gray/Hungarian Partridge.....	300
Sage Grouse.....	300
Sharptail Grouse.....	300
Blue Grouse.....	300
Ruffed Grouse.....	300
Chukar.....	300
Sandhill Crane.....	250
Turkey.....	500
Duck.....	150
Goose.....	250
Mourning Dove.....	100
Rail, Snipe, Coot.....	100
Bobcat.....	550
Beaver.....	125
Other Furbearer (not designated).....	120
Other Wildlife (not specified).....	10-100
Game Fish.....	100

BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

FY 05 BUDGET SUMMARY

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Director		\$2,031,455
Fiscal Services		3,569,888
Services (1)		9,426,638
Fish (1)		8,979,167
Wildlife		14,890,882
TOTAL M&O		38,898,030
COUPONS		500,000
EARLY RETIREMENT		138,276
DAMAGE		500,000
COST ALLOCATION		432,000
SALECS		252,000
ACCESS EASEMENTS		660,000
PROPERTY RIGHTS		200,000
ELECTRONIC LIC PROJECT		1,400,000
WILDLIFE TRUST		877,637
STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS		680,099
REIMBURSED CONTRACTS		2,488,000
FY 05 BUDGET		47,026,042
AUTHORIZED CARRYOVER		2,985,164
AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR FY 05 SPENDING*		50,011,206

(1) does not include FY 05-06 general fund appropriation of \$4.075 million capital construction funds for use at three Department hatcheries and the Yellowtail unit

*previous year authorization was \$47,331,820

**FY 05 DETAIL BUDGET
STRATEGIC PLAN
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMB PROJECTS)**

	FY 05	FY 04	% CHNG
<u>OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR</u>			
ADMINISTRATION	687,932	650,351	6%
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH	397,145	337,535	18%
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	381,788	363,363	5%
PERSONNEL	288,705	264,835	9%
STATEWIDE HABITAT PROTECTION	277,574	276,781	0%
LEGAL SERVICES	133,794	140,282	-5%
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	114,984	116,784	-2%
COMMISSIIION	82,651	74,711	11%
sub-total	2,364,573	2,224,642	6%
<u>FISCAL AND ADMIN SERVICES</u>			
REVENUE COLLECTION	2,845,606	1,618,534	76%
LEGISLATED EXPENSES(coupons, damage, salec,	1,822,276	1,726,062	6%
REGIONAL OFFICE MANAGEMENT	1,086,399	1,033,963	5%
ASSET MANAGEMENT	481,416	438,466	10%
ADMINISTRATION	224,956	199,127	13%
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	187,418	187,717	0%
FINANCIAL SYSTEMS	144,093	144,208	0%
early retirement, cost allocation)			
sub-total	6,792,164	5,348,077	27%
<u>SERVICES</u>			
HABITAT ACCESS & MAINTENANCE	2,186,380	1,909,078	15%
MANAGMENT INFO SYSTEMS	1,606,715	1,346,061	19%
HEADQUARTERS & SUPP FACILITIES	791,272	755,066	5%
PUBLICATIONS	636,695	635,361	0%
MAIL SERVICES	611,020	536,945	14%
PROPERTY RIGHTS	560,863	807,238	-31%
VETERINARY SERVICES	503,692	677,452	-26%
REGIONAL I/E	483,838	475,974	2%
GAME & FISH LABORATORY	470,241	467,642	1%
ADMINISTRATION	409,588	390,423	5%
CUSTOMER OUTREACH	404,301	418,075	-3%
CONSERVATION ENGINEERING	390,144	383,115	2%
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	381,226	358,480	6%
CUSTOMER SERVICES	187,022	175,427	7%
HUNTER EDUCATION	165,824	175,692	-6%
sub-total	9,788,821	9,512,029	3%

**FY 05 DETAIL BUDGET
STRATEGIC PLAN
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMB PROJECTS)**

	FY 05	FY 04	% CHNG
<u>FISH DIVISION</u>			
HATCHERIES & REARING STATIONS	3,993,685	3,954,425	1%
REG AQUATIC WILDLIFE MNGT	2,333,074	2,310,224	1%
AQUATIC HABITAT MNGT	847,268	819,335	3%
BOATING ACCESS	726,900	726,900	0%
STATEWIDE WIDLIFE MNGT	585,428	514,177	14%
ADMINISTRATION	374,804	322,772	16%
WATER DEVELOPMENT	198,751	213,360	-7%
FISH SPAWNING	191,547	189,856	1%
FISH DISTRIBUTION	176,817	74,122	139%
FISH WYOMING	-	-	0%
sub-total	9,428,274	9,125,171	3%
<u>WILDLIFE DIVISION</u>			
REGIONAL GAME WARDENS	4,711,658	4,748,251	-1%
REGIONAL TERRESTERIAL BIOLOGISTS	2,333,437	2,326,724	0%
WILDLIFE FEEDING	1,629,570	1,439,606	13%
TERRESTERIAL HABITAT	1,227,881	1,139,384	8%
PROPERTY RIGHTS (ACCESS YES AMDIN)	1,220,271	1,092,758	
REGIONAL WILDLIFE SUPERVISORS	1,182,129	1,069,381	11%
BIOLOGICAL SERVICES	733,821	762,261	-4%
ADMINISTRATION	611,699	601,420	2%
STATEWIDE WLDLFE ENFORCEMENT	605,736	624,391	-3%
TROPHY GAME	586,824	523,132	12%
TERRESTRIAL NONGAME	401,650	464,764	-14%
BIRD FARMS	387,953	342,453	13%
BOATING SAFETY & INVEST ADMIN	172,079	173,330	-1%
SAGE GROUSE MNGT	132,449	138,600	-4%
WATERFOWL	127,053	125,251	1%
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT	100,000	100,000	0%
sub-total	16,164,210	15,671,706	3%
BUDGETS ON A STRATEGIC BASIS	\$ 44,538,042	\$ 41,881,625	6%

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FY 05 BUDGET

WILDLIFE TRUST FUND PROJECTS:

HABITAT PROJECTS

Native CT Spawning and Migration Enhancement	\$ 20,000
Winward Technical Assistance Contract	14,000
Sagebrush/Shrub Inventory Rattlesnake Hills^	20,985
Sublette County Vegetation/Wildlife Inventory^	29,687
Lander Mule Deer Habitat Mngt plan	7,000
Big Horn Mt East Slope prescribed burn	4,000
PLPW habitat grants	10,000
Roth Grazing/Habitat Technical Supplement	8,000
NE Habitat Extension Biologist	19,142
Habitat extension grants	45,000
Other habitat projects & grants	125,000
habitat projects	\$ 302,814
Property Rights Specialist Program*	66,031
Habitat Biologist Program*	402,850
habitat programs	\$ 468,881

CONSERVATION EDUCATION(WORTH THE WATCHING) PROJECTS

Wild Times publication*	25,000
Alternative Funding Program	\$ 80,942

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRUST PROGRAMS/PROJECTS **\$ 877,637**

^ projects/programs are partially funded from a one year appropriation for a multi-state project from the USFW State Wildlife competitive program

STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROJECTS:

Conservation of Prairie Streams	\$ 70,680
Shortgrass Prairie Biologist	63,789
Salt River Spawning of Snake River CT	58,740
Wildlife Conservation Plan	56,231
Conflict Resolution with Grizzly Bears	53,000
Green River Watershed Assessment	50,565
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Protection*	41,145
Life History Requirements of Sauger in Wind River*	41,060
Making Gis Useful *	38,868
Herpetological Program	33,431
Enhancing Understanding of Species at Risk through GIS	32,284
Statewide Tasks Identified in Sage Grouse Conservation	30,602
Upper Yellowstone River Basin Cutthroat Study	21,330
Eradication of Brook Trout from NF Little Snake River	20,874
Trumpeter Swan Summer Habitat Enhancement Study	12,500
Sage Grouse GIS	55,000

TOTAL DEPARTMENT FY 05 State Wildlife Projects **\$ 680,099**

*multi year projects approved in prior year are in bold type

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS BUDGETS (FY 85 - FY 05)
(Does not include Enhancements, Trust Projects, Property Rights, Capital Facilities or Reimbursed Projects)

Salary Contingency 493,544

FY 85	\$18,374,317	FY 90 Continued		FY 96	\$31,402,001	FY 01	\$36,571,119
Game Division	6,580,211	Agency Common	474,219	Wildlife Division	10,288,181	Wildlife Division	12,900,839
Fish Division	3,873,060	Coupons	550,000	Fish Division	6,803,683	Fish Division	8,617,707
HATS Division	2,112,384	Damage	500,000	HATS Division	4,587,011	Services Division	7,884,777
Communications Division	1,247,265	Early Retirement	125,000	I&E Services Division	3,504,112	Fiscal Services Division	3,355,319
Fiscal Division	2,089,271			Fiscal Services Division	3,018,908	Office of Director	1,917,494
Administration Division	1,272,126	FY 91	\$22,518,236	Office of Director	1,249,286	Coupons	515,000
Coupons	700,000	Game Division	8,711,427	Coupons	600,000	Early Retirement	305,000
Damage	500,000	Fish Division	4,787,533	Early Retirement	333,820	Damage	500,000
		HATS Division	2,876,190	Damage	500,000	Cost Allocation	350,000
FY 86	\$18,870,228	I&E Services Division	1,941,699	Cost Allocation	300,000	SALECS	224,000
Game Division	6,983,611	Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,383,147	SALECS	217,000		
Fish Division	4,184,358	Office of Director	746,640				
HATS Division	2,724,196	Agency Common	876,600	FY 97	\$30,484,636	FY 02	\$39,727,021
Communications Division	1,460,214	Coupons	600,000	Wildlife Division	11,479,769	Wildlife Division	14,047,986
Fiscal Division	2,174,897	Damage	500,000	Fish Division	6,255,709	Fish Division	9,107,324
Administration Division	1,362,952	Early Retirement	95,000	Services Division	7,033,623	Services Division	8,982,248
Coupons	750,000			Fiscal Services Division	2,780,604	Fiscal Services Division	3,648,879
Damage	500,000	FY 92	\$27,073,153	Office of Director	984,931	Office of Director	2,081,384
		Game Division	9,893,600	Coupons	560,000	Coupons	475,000
FY 87	\$19,913,441	Fish Division	5,708,203	Early Retirement	378,000	Early Retirement	262,200
Game Division	7,483,347	HATS Division	4,035,772	Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000
Fish Division	4,451,347	I&E Services Division	2,723,179	Cost Allocation	300,000	Cost Allocation	370,000
HATS Division	2,843,805	Fiscal Services Division	2,469,238	SALECS	212,000	SALECS	252,000
Communications Division	1,538,464	Office of Director	942,412				
Fiscal Division	2,359,229	Coupons	600,000	FY 98	\$33,776,380	FY 03	\$40,545,447
Administration Division	1,236,638	Damage	500,000	Wildlife Division	12,747,313	Wildlife Division	14,843,001
Coupons	750,000	Early Retirement	200,749	Fish Division	6,755,891	Fish Division	8,856,919
Damage	500,000			Services Division	7,332,429	Services Division	9,015,519
		FY 93	\$29,674,362	Fiscal Services Division	3,097,432	Fiscal Services Division	3,904,386
FY 88	\$21,040,674	Game Division	10,561,574	Office of Director	1,822,313	Office of Director	2,165,017
Game Division	7,381,078	Fish Division	6,124,559	Coupons	602,000	Coupons	450,000
Fish Division	4,602,523	HATS Division	4,114,019	Early Retirement	369,002	Early Retirement	208,605
HATS Division	2,920,979	I&E Services Division	3,253,794	Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000
Communications Division	1,553,215	Fiscal Services Division	2,377,512	Cost Allocation	330,000	Cost Allocation	350,000
Fiscal Division	1,436,749	Office of Director	1,632,904	SALECS	220,000	SALECS	252,000
Administration Division	702,834	Coupons	860,000				
Agency Common	1,193,296	Damage	500,000	FY 99	\$33,582,267	FY 04	\$39,572,909
Coupons	750,000	Early Retirement	250,000	Wildlife Division	12,155,687	Wildlife Division	14,520,159
Damage	500,000			Fish Division	7,017,794	Fish Division	8,780,831
		FY 94	\$30,946,580	Services Division	7,615,445	Services Division	8,921,007
FY 89	\$20,465,981	Game Division	10,423,261	Fiscal Services Division	3,025,520	Fiscal Services	3,622,015
Game Division	7,576,046	Fish Division	6,185,826	Office of Director	1,824,772	Office of Director	2,002,835
Fish Division	4,146,592	HATS Division	4,539,758	Coupons	515,000	Coupons	400,000
HATS Division	2,540,610	I&E Services Division	3,568,632	Early Retirement	358,249	Early Retirement	164,062
I&E Services Division	1,583,581	Fiscal Services Division	2,996,836	Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,337,388	Office of Director	1,687,267	Cost Allocation	342,200	Cost Allocation	410,000
Office of Director	689,602	Coupons	750,000	SALECS	227,600	SALECS	252,000
Agency Common	1,217,162	Early Retirement	295,000				
Coupons	750,000			FY 05	\$40,720,306	FY 05	\$40,720,306
Damage	500,000	FY 95	\$30,672,321	Wildlife Division	12,970,024	Wildlife Division	14,890,882
Early Retirement	125,000	Wildlife Division	10,126,225	Fish Division	8,377,249	Fish Division	8,979,167
Damage	500,000	Fish Division	6,187,409	Services Division	7,765,569	Services Division	9,426,638
		HATS Division	4,195,529	Fiscal Services Division	3,297,221	Fiscal Services	3,569,888
FY 90	\$20,533,195	I&E Services Division	3,204,102	Office of Director	1,860,511	Office of Director	2,031,455
Game Division	8,084,170	Fiscal Services Division	2,692,088	Coupons	515,000	Coupons	500,000
Fish Division	4,406,561	Office of Director	1,956,424	Early Retirement	325,600	Early Retirement	138,276
HATS Division	2,693,910	Coupons	650,000	Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000
I&E Services Division	1,661,592	Early Retirement	150,000	Cost Allocation	400,000	Cost Allocation	432,000
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,329,610	Damage	500,000	SALECS	227,600	SALECS	252,000
Office of Director	708,133	Cost Allocation	300,000				
		SALECS	217,000				

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**

**% CHNG
FY 01 TO**

AS OF JUNE 30,

	2004	2003	2002	2001	FY 04
ASSETS:					
PETTY CASH	\$ 14,450	\$ 14,675	\$ 14,675	\$ 14,675	
CASH - OPERATIONS	16,862,195	15,221,185	16,651,727	21,268,183	-21%
CASH- WLDLFE TRUST INTEREST	1,620,801	1,718,782	2,320,767	2,498,820	-35%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	<u>827,509</u>	<u>716,722</u>	<u>570,477</u>	<u>312,003</u>	<u>165%</u>
	19,324,955	17,671,364	19,557,646	24,093,681	-20%
CASH - WLDLFE TRUST CORPUS	18,121,434	17,017,938	15,999,547	15,172,663	19%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,436,869	1,890,305	1,288,312	1,020,039	139%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,000	50,000	50,110	50,000	0%
CASH - APPS/LICENSES IN PROCESS	12,618,476	10,614,144	10,509,441	10,274,201	23%
RETURNED CHECKS	<u>3,996</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u>3,935</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>106%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>52,555,730</u>	<u>47,249,430</u>	<u>47,408,991</u>	<u>50,612,520</u>	<u>4%</u>
 LIABILITIES:					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	248,900	152,632	163,678	226,538	10%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	93,135	100,000	100,000	98,119	-5%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	34,296	49,496	115,317	106,242	-68%
UNDISTRIBUTED DRAW/APPS PENDIN	12,618,476	10,614,144	10,509,441	10,274,201	23%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	49,607	28,266	26,540	26,540	87%
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	<u>161,500</u>	<u>210,449</u>	<u>203,121</u>	<u>42,240</u>	<u>282%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,205,914	11,154,987	11,118,097	10,773,880	23%
 FUND BALANCE:					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBERANCES	2,985,165	2,961,197	3,344,086	2,640,065	13%
WLDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS	18,121,434	17,017,938	15,999,547	15,172,663	19%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST	1,516,725	1,506,505	2,055,084	2,320,100	-35%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS	812,709	706,722	554,477	312,003	160%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,436,869	1,890,305	1,288,312	1,020,039	139%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,000	50,000	50,110	50,000	0%
 UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND	13,426,914	11,961,776	12,999,278	18,323,770	-27%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>39,349,816</u>	<u>36,094,443</u>	<u>36,290,894</u>	<u>39,838,640</u>	<u>-1%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>52,555,730</u>	<u>47,249,430</u>	<u>47,408,991</u>	<u>50,612,520</u>	<u>4%</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2004**

EXPENDABLE FUNDS			%PR CH
<u>REVENUE RECEIVED</u>			<u>FY 03</u>
Hunting & Fish Lic@	\$ 25,621,216	\$ 24,032,899	7%
Conservation Stamps	644,664	664,758	-3%
Boating Registration	372,396	404,235	-8%
Pooled Interest Opr	930,431	909,400	2%
Pooled Interest Trt	645,558	597,706	8%
Income from Inv&Land	65,943	50,526	31%
100% Reimbursable	2,012,380	1,803,136	12%
Application Fees	1,530,079	1,345,716	14%
Publication Sales	187,306	176,049	6%
Access Yes c-stamp/donations	673,819	614,513	10%
Federal Aid & Grants	8,806,758	7,750,243	14%
Other Items	<u>43,074</u>	<u>38,396</u>	12%
TOTAL REVENUE EARNED	41,533,624	38,387,577	8%
 <u>EXPENDITURES MADE</u>			
Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	1,601,732	1,905,351	-16%
Fiscal Division	2,930,168	2,894,972	1%
Services Division	7,813,543	8,042,647	-3%
Fish Division	7,437,920	7,500,128	-1%
Wildlife Division	<u>13,067,036</u>	<u>13,490,405</u>	-3%
TOTAL M&O EXPENSES	32,850,399	33,833,503	-3%
Access Payments	544,835	461,043	18%
Trust Projects	663,687	1,076,322	-38%
Legislated Expenses	1,493,233	1,408,707	6%
Carryover M/O /Trust FD	<u>2,105,441</u>	<u>1,549,580</u>	36%
TOTAL OPERATING EXP	37,657,595	38,329,155	-2%
Reimbursable Contracts	1,430,473	1,294,055	11%
State Wildlife Grants	392,450	0	
Property Rights	333,197	750	44326%
Carryover	<u>277,353</u>	<u>738,180</u>	-62%
TOTAL NONOP EXPENDTRS	2,433,473	2,032,985	20%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>40,091,068</u>	<u>40,362,140</u>	-1%
DEFICIT OF REV OVER EXP	<u>\$1,442,556</u>	<u>(\$1,974,563)</u>	-173%

All Department revenue is recognized above excepting: 1)\$702,108 in lifetime license sales & interest earned on those licenses(W.S. provides that the corpus of the lifetime license fund cannot be spent, but up to 6% of the corpus balance may be transferred annually to the Game and Fish Operating fund;

2)\$455,550 in lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp (\$644,664) revenue deposited in the wildlife trust fund;W.S. provides the corpus cannot be spent, but interest earned may be used for operations

3)access donations of \$125,100 which are deposited into an access fund & are budgeted and spent in the year following receipt; they can only be used for purchasing nonfee title access easements;

4) and \$3,761 (net profit on a cash basis for revenue of \$122,691 & expenses of \$118,929) from sale of promotional products and publications.

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004**

		EXPENDITURES			
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>G&F FUND</u>	<u>WLD TRUST FUND</u>	<u>ACCESS FUND</u>
AQUATIC WILDLIFE MNGT	8.98%	\$ 3,518,613	\$ 3,518,613	\$ -	\$ -
BIRD FARMS	0.85%	\$ 332,409	332,409		
CO-OP UNIT RESEARCH	0.86%	\$ 337,535	337,535		
CONSERVATION ENGNING	0.82%	\$ 321,879	321,879		
DEPARTMENT ADMIN	5.26%	\$ 2,061,109	2,061,109		
EDUCATION	1.35%	\$ 529,074	504,714	24,360	
FEEDGROUNDS	2.59%	\$ 1,013,993	1,013,993		
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	5.56%	\$ 2,178,404	2,178,404		
FISH CULTURE	10.01%	\$ 3,920,135	3,920,135		
HABITAT ACCESS/MAINT	9.55%	\$ 3,738,458	3,090,376	648,082	
INFORMATION	2.89%	\$ 1,132,908	1,132,908		
LEGISLATED EXPENSES	3.93%	\$ 1,538,233	1,538,233		
MAILROOM	1.40%	\$ 549,852	549,852		
MANAGEMENT INFO SYSTEMS	2.78%	\$ 1,088,597	1,088,597		
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	0.58%	\$ 225,832	225,832		
PROPERTY RIGHTS	6.20%	\$ 1,883,153	1,338,318		544,835
REGIONAL INFORMATION/ED	1.19%	\$ 465,015	465,015		
SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCMNT	1.82%	\$ 711,494	711,494		
STRATEGIC MNGT	1.02%	\$ 400,549	321,956	78,593	
SUPPORT FACILITIES/PERSNL	4.34%	\$ 1,699,138	1,699,138		
TERRESTRIAL WLD MNGT	24.52%	\$ 9,603,386	9,603,386		
WILDLIFE HABITAT PRCTCN	0.66%	\$ 256,691	256,691		
WILDLIFE HEALTH & LAB SVCS	2.84%	\$ 1,111,249	1,111,249		
 TTL DEPT OBJECTIVES	 100.00%	 38,617,706	 37,321,836	 751,035	 544,835
REIMBURSEABLE GRANTS		1,473,362	1,473,362	-	
MITIGATION FUNDS		-	-	-	
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES		118,929	118,929		
 TTL AMT EXPND DURING FY 04		 <u>40,209,997</u>	 <u>38,914,127</u>	 <u>751,035</u>	 <u>544,835</u>

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

BIG GAME LICENSES	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Antelope	\$22.00	12,721	13,700	11,583	12,260	12,970
Depredation Resident Antelope	\$22.00	84				
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,340	2,376	1,942	2,094	2,110
Depredation Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	12				
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$20.00	4,901	5,467	3,162	3,724	4,308
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	750	684	385	434	527
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	627	649	440	379	324
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	82	91	50	54	51
Depredation Resident Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	4				
TOTALS		21,521	22,967	17,562	18,945	20,290
Nonres Special Antelope	\$285.00	1,924	2,236	1,790	1,803	1,886
Nonres Antelope	\$185.00	10,185	11,710	11,168	11,709	12,861
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	550	576	557	587	674
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$50.00			5,483	6,261	7,604
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$80.00	4,014	5,221			
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$50.00	273	385			
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$30.00			291	413	511
TOTALS		16,946	20,128	19,289	20,773	23,536
TOTAL ANTELOPE LICENSES		38,467	43,095	36,851	39,718	43,826
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$75.00	190	197	211	189	182
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,500.00	68	71	71	69	66
TOTAL BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSES		258	268	282	258	248
Resident Deer	\$22.00	40,903	42,857			
Resident Deer	\$25.00			41,682	41,556	40,698
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	6,339	6,500	6,122	5,933	5,718
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00	2,082	2,817	3,382	3,266	3,790
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	225	262	359	305	337
Depredation Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00				167	
Depredation Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00				28	
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	1,290	1,298	993	861	718
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	36	43	59	48	46
TOTALS		50,875	53,777	52,597	52,164	51,307
Nonres Special Deer	\$285.00	4,426	4,885			
Nonres Special Deer	\$310.00			4,372	4,263	4,149
Nonresident Deer	\$185.00	22,200	24,696			
Nonresident Deer	\$210.00			24,787	25,198	24,933
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	720	873	910	953	1,022
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$50.00			2,807	2,466	2,984
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$80.00	1,137	1,636			
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$50.00	61	93			
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$30.00			151	147	162
Nonresident Depredation Deer	\$210.00				6	
TOTALS		28,544	32,183	33,027	33,033	33,250
TOTAL DEER LICENSES		79,419	85,960	85,624	85,197	84,557

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

BIG GAME LICENSES (CONT)	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Elk	\$35.00	43,023	42,328	41,548	41,106	39,734
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	5,055	4,716	4,457	4,255	4,025
Depredation Resident Elk	\$35.00	3				
Depredation Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	1				
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	1,386	1,379	1,083	927	788
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$30.00	2,743	3,773	3,684	3,955	3,835
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	220	284	265	268	244
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	42	68	47	49	52
TOTALS		52,473	52,548	51,084	50,560	48,678
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$600.00	2,836	2,822	2,821	2,809	2,807
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$400.00	6,969	6,838	6,599	6,387	5,959
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	156	149	171	147	164
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$200.00	580	1,206			1,751
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$150.00			1,738	2,023	
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$150.00	14	33			
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00					69
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$75.00			80	86	
TOTALS		10,555	11,048	11,409	11,452	10,750
TOTAL ELK LICENSES		63,028	63,596	62,493	62,012	59,428
Resident Moose	\$75.00	1,110	1,190	1,198	1,167	1,002
Nonresident Moose	\$1,000.00	194	203	208	219	187
TOTAL MOOSE LICENSES		1,304	1,393	1,406	1,386	1,189
Resident Mountain Goat	\$75.00	12	12	13	12	12
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$1,500.00	4	4	4	4	4
TOTAL MOUNTAIN GOAT LICENSES		16	16	17	16	16

COMMERCIAL LICENSES	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Comm'l Fish Hatchery	\$125.00	19	16	18	14	16
Deal in Live Bait	\$45.00	56	55	64	61	62
Fishing Preserve	\$90.00	91	88	84	75	62
Resident Fur Dealer	\$35.00	20	15	15	19	13
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$190.00	5	7	8	7	9
Game Bird Farm	\$90.00	93	109	104	103	108
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$25.00	413	428	451		
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$15.00				532	533
Resident Taxidermist	\$45.00	155	155	152	152	157
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$500.00	6	5	4	5	2
TOTAL COMMERCIAL LICENSES:		858	878	900	968	962

FUR BEARING/TRAP LICENSES	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$30.00	856	965	1,001	1,156	1,256
Res Youth Fur Bear Trap	\$6.00	99	99	101	106	100
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$170.00	21	20	26	27	32
TOTAL FUR BEARING/TRAPPING LICENSES:		976	1,084	1,128	1,289	1,388

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

GAME BIRD/SML GAME LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$15.00	24,680	17,385	14,129	12,326	11,091
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$5.00	1,351	900	879	765	859
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$50.00	1,842	2,034	2,191	1,925	2,004
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$10.00	6,971	7,895			
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$15.00			5,089	4,465	4,417
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	49	56	68	68	81
TOTAL COMBINATION LICENSES		34,893	28,270	22,356	19,549	18,452

GAME BIRD LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Game Bird	\$10.00		6,203	7,776	7,652	7,821
3-Day Special Bird	\$15.00	164	185	128	115	74
TOTAL GAME BIRD LICENSES		164	6,388	7,904	7,767	7,895

SMALL GAME LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Small Game	\$10.00		1,735	1,479	1,510	1,658
TOTAL SMALL GAME LICENSES			1,735	1,479	1,510	1,658

TURKEY LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Spring Turkey	\$10.00	2,608	3,427	3,888	3,728	3,814
Resident Fall Turkey	\$10.00	1,476	2,303	1,952	1,756	1,938
TOTALS		4,084	5,730	5,840	5,484	5,752
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$50.00	695	912	1,147	1,187	1,251
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$50.00	303	593	522	511	671
TOTALS		998	1,505	1,669	1,698	1,922
TOTAL TURKEY LICENSES		5,082	7,235	7,509	7,182	7,674

GAME FISH LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Fishing Annual	\$15.00	94,136	95,456	87,873	81,394	78,750
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	10,605	10,415	8,341	7,413	6,780
Resident Daily Fish	\$3.00	24,126	26,066	31,952	31,950	35,565
TOTALS		128,867	131,937	128,166	120,757	121,095
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$65.00	8,662	9,577	16,203	16,644	17,011
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,099	1,615	3,941	3,858	3,733
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$6.00	348,300	350,496			
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$10.00			252,686	227,693	220,137
Tourist Youth 10-Day Fish	\$10.00		3,713			
TOTALS		360,061	365,401	272,830	248,195	240,881
TOTAL FISHING LICENSES		488,928	497,338	400,996	368,952	361,976

LIFETIME LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$400.00	20	12	39	82	162
Fishing	\$250.00	28	27	41	41	110
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$475.00	265	536	623	644	1,407
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$325.00	146	263	423	429	1,279
Conservation Stamp	\$75.00	58	849	1,845	1,739	6,032
TOTAL LIFETIME LICENSES		517	1,687	2,971	2,935	8,990

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

OTHER LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Archery	\$10.00	8,642	8,962	9,265	9,716	10,111
Nonresident Archery	\$20.00	2,165	2,377	2,490	2,580	2,930
TOTAL ARCHERY LICENSES		10,807	11,339	11,755	12,296	13,041
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$25.00	20	25	23	25	20
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$170.00	29	16	24	26	21
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$10.00	98	87	96	95	91
License to Capture Fur Bearing Animal	\$15.00		2	1	2	3
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00					22
Duplicate with Coupon	\$3.00	939	1,086	964	875	948
Duplicate without Coupon	\$3.00	103	96	116	133	113
Duplicate Multi-Purpose Lic.	\$3.00	525	528	488	426	425
Duplicate Commercial Lic.	\$3.00	2	12	1	2	1
TOTAL OTHER LICENSES		1,716	1,852	1,713	1,584	1,644
PERMITS:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Goose Special Management Permit	\$10.00	385	348	266	186	87
Pheasant Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00	5,954	4,747	4,855	5,839	6,013
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00			314	229	243
TOTAL PERMITS		6,339	5,095	5,435	6,254	6,343
STAMPS AND TAGS:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Conservation Stamps	\$5.00	190,210	195,953			
Conservation Stamps	\$10.00			191,929	186,535	181,599
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$10.00					15,762
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	5,794	5,954	7,563	7,809	6,577
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$5.00		362	245		
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00				240	220
Interstate Game Tags	\$3.00	14,492	16,138	14,726	14,763	15,227
TOTAL STAMPS AND TAGS		210,496	218,407	214,463	209,347	219,385
TROPHY GAME LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Black Bear	\$30.00	1,941	2,007	2,258	2,675	2,601
Nonres Black Bear	\$250.00	184	150	164	232	289
TOTAL BLACK BEAR LICENSES		2,125	2,157	2,422	2,907	2,890
Resident Mountain Lion	\$20.00			1,275	1,423	1,457
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	1,139	1,306			
Resident Additional Mountain Lion	\$15.00	20	13	12		1
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$250.00	100	116	109	121	150
Nonres Additional Mountain Lion	\$75.00	5	1	1		
TOTAL MOUNTAIN LION LICENSES		1,264	1,436	1,397	1,544	1,608
WILD BISON LICENSES:	PRICE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Resident Wild Bison	\$275.00	17	23	42	53	51
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$1,688.00	2	2	2	6	5
TOTAL BISON LICENSES:		19	25	44	59	56
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
GRAND TOTAL LICENSES:		946,676	979,254	869,145	832,730	843,226

HIP PERMITS ISSUED: 9,977

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS FY PROGRAM -- FY 04

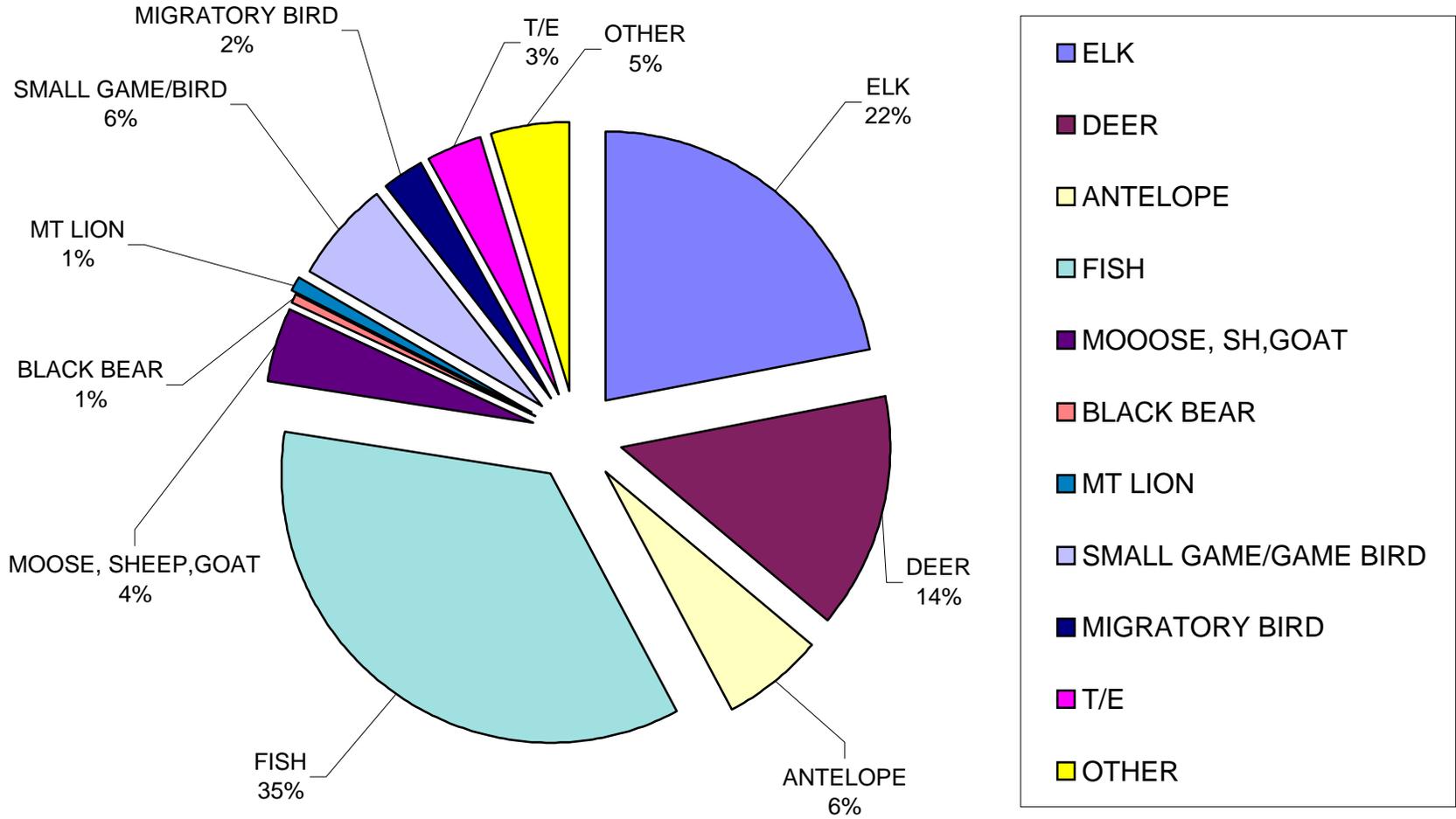
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	8,582,572		
BC	ANTELOPE	1,959,214	538,380	2,497,594
BD	ELK	6,932,800	1,905,090	8,837,890
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	773,641	212,592	986,233
BF	MOOSE	507,016	139,325	646,341
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	70,810	19,458	90,268
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	196,309	53,945	250,254
BK	BLACK BEAR	365,670	100,484	466,154
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	735,719	202,171	937,890
BM	MULE DEER	4,126,461	1,133,925	5,260,386
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	284,340	78,135	362,474
BP	BISON	54,722	15,037	69,759
BW	WOLF	93,324	25,645	118,968
CA	SMALL GAME	41,791	11,484	53,275
CB	GAME BIRDS	45,069	12,385	57,453
CC	PHEASANTS	686,034	188,518	874,552
CF	TURKEY	168,344	46,260	214,604
CG	PARTRIDGE	33,958	9,331	43,289
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	14,638	4,022	18,661
CT	SAGE GROUSE	908,559	249,666	1,158,226
CV	SHARPTAILED GROUSE	22,804	6,266	29,070
DB	GEESE	288,341	79,234	367,575
DC	DUCKS	116,893	32,122	149,015
DD	SWANS	276,849	76,076	352,925
DE	DOVES	58,757	16,146	74,903
DF	CRANES	22,291	6,125	28,417
FX	SPORT FISH	11,061,592	3,039,656	14,101,248

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS FY PROGRAM -- FY 04

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	173,411	47,652	221,064
HC	BEAVER	26,670	7,329	33,998
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	16,230	4,460	20,690
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	165,455	45,466	210,921
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	308,875	84,877	393,752
NC	RAPTORS	106,150	29,169	135,319
ND	NONGAME FISH	118,871	32,665	151,536
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	73,039	20,071	93,110
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	1,419	390	1,809
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	36,327	9,982	46,309
NJ	BALD EAGLE	18,062	4,963	23,026
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	63,435	17,432	80,867
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	1,157	318	1,475
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	77	21	99
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	71,215	19,570	90,785
NR	BLACK TAILED PRAR DOG	93,823	25,782	119,605
NS	WHITE TAILED PRAR DOG	1,896	521	2,416
NW	WYOMING TOAD	28,889	7,939	36,828
NX	EXOTIC GAME	81,835	22,488	104,323
ZZ	NONWILDLIFE	394,642		394,642
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		40,209,998	8,582,572	40,209,998

*Most costs for the Office of Director, Fiscal Services, Services (including remodeling and maintenance of regional office buildings, and Information/Education programs such as Wyoming Wildlife Magazine, information services, visitor centers, educational programs, etc. are included in General Wildlife and allocated on a percentage basis to specific department programs.

WYOMING GAME & FISH EXPENDITURES BY SPECIES - FY 04



EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- Five-Year History (Includes General Wildlife Allocation)

PROGRAM	2,000	%	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%
Antelope	2,508,466	7.03%	2,804,623	7.45%	2,904,751	6.65%	2,827,952	6.98%	2,497,594	6.21%
Elk	7,275,732	20.39%	7,845,909	20.83%	9,523,439	21.81%	8,550,907	21.12%	8,837,890	21.98%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	1,090,871	3.06%	920,962	2.44%	1,000,238	2.29%	736,527	1.82%	986,233	2.45%
Moose	337,270	0.95%	496,519	1.32%	594,652	1.36%	617,427	1.52%	646,341	1.61%
Rocky Mountain Goat	102,929	0.29%	38,221	0.10%	62,592	0.14%	85,146	0.21%	90,268	0.22%
Mountain Lion	755,152	2.12%	540,901	1.44%	718,591	1.65%	499,805	1.23%	250,254	0.62%
Black Bear	462,146	1.30%	561,421	1.49%	718,130	1.64%	809,961	2.00%	466,154	1.16%
Grizzly Bear	1,033,815	2.90%	1,600,388	4.25%	1,434,981	3.29%	1,378,442	3.40%	937,890	2.33%
Mule Deer	3,695,162	10.36%	3,754,746	9.97%	4,854,044	11.12%	4,170,980	10.30%	5,260,386	13.08%
White-tailed Deer	300,691	0.84%	416,952	1.11%	573,571	1.31%	436,408	1.08%	362,474	0.90%
Bison	125,183	0.35%	61,853	0.16%	79,895	0.18%	26,313	0.06%	69,759	0.17%
Wolf	10,719	0.03%	6,749	0.02%	37,171	0.09%	506,029	1.25%	118,968	0.30%
Small Game	54,562	0.15%	60,578	0.16%	56,423	0.13%	33,767	0.08%	53,275	0.13%
Game Birds	175,495	0.49%	246,713	0.65%	299,903	0.69%	113,900	0.28%	57,453	0.14%
Pheasants	698,704	1.96%	695,497	1.85%	870,916	1.99%	895,270	2.21%	874,552	2.17%
Turkey	285,125	0.80%	235,259	0.62%	299,900	0.69%	272,393	0.67%	214,604	0.53%
Partridge	8,421	0.02%	70,835	0.19%	92,476	0.21%	44,886	0.11%	43,289	0.11%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	17,029	0.05%	11,188	0.03%	25,459	0.06%	17,324	0.04%	18,661	0.05%
Sage Grouse	815,621	2.29%	949,900	2.52%	921,657	2.11%	979,917	2.42%	1,158,226	2.88%

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- Five-Year History (Includes General Wildlife Allocation)

PROGRAM	2,000	%	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	43,512	0.12%	42,802	0.11%	42,812	0.10%	39,304	0.10%	29,070	0.07%
Greese	422,332	1.18%	434,626	1.15%	568,739	1.30%	431,698	1.07%	367,575	0.91%
Ducks	120,064	0.34%	143,184	0.38%	183,435	0.42%	185,602	0.46%	149,015	0.37%
Swans	185,419	0.52%	203,267	0.54%	448,125	1.03%	311,047	0.77%	352,925	0.88%
Doves	82,080	0.23%	105,984	0.28%	113,928	0.26%	111,845	0.28%	74,903	0.19%
Cranes	87,897	0.25%	42,957	0.11%	42,312	0.10%	44,203	0.11%	28,417	0.07%
Sport Fish	13,494,171	37.82%	13,757,732	36.52%	15,129,474	34.65%	14,029,271	34.65%	14,101,248	35.07%
Bobcat/Lynx	73,522	0.21%	99,031	0.26%	130,074	0.30%	174,655	0.43%	221,064	0.55%
Beaver	17,545	0.05%	37,268	0.10%	39,702	0.09%	48,900	0.12%	33,998	0.08%
Commercial Fisheries	10,789	0.03%	21,093	0.06%	28,262	0.06%	17,674	0.04%	20,690	0.05%
Nongame Mammals	461,203	1.29%	104,764	0.28%	129,713	0.30%	183,609	0.45%	210,921	0.52%
Nongame Birds	161,604	0.45%	177,748	0.47%	286,589	0.66%	360,314	0.89%	393,752	0.98%
Raptors	103,493	0.29%	116,140	0.31%	100,238	0.23%	58,004	0.14%	135,319	0.34%
Nongame Fish	5,345	0.01%	7,025	0.02%	54,205	0.12%	60,732	0.15%	151,536	0.38%
Amphibians/Reptiles	74,254	0.21%	52,946	0.14%	133,301	0.31%	173,350	0.43%	93,110	0.23%
Predatory Birds	***		***		***		498	0.00%	1,809	0.00%
Peregrine Falcon	35,389	0.10%	30,966	0.08%	30,873	0.07%	54,621	0.13%	46,309	0.12%
Bald Eagle	22,148	0.06%	25,840	0.07%	17,705	0.04%	27,291	0.07%	23,026	0.06%
Black-Footed Ferret	13,770	0.04%	62,210	0.17%	45,000	0.10%	30,330	0.07%	80,867	0.20%

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- Five-Year History (Includes General Wildlife Allocation)

PROGRAM	2,000	%	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%
Canadian Lynx	5,086	0.01%	4,769	0.01%	4,599	0.01%	187	0.00%	1,475	0.00%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	***		516	0.00%	358	0.00%	443	0.00%	99	0.00%
Predatory Mammals	50,417	0.14%	128,929	0.34%	75,899	0.17%	175,646	0.43%	90,785	0.23%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	10,889	0.03%	185,197	0.49%	345,575	0.79%	332,885	0.82%	119,605	0.30%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	***		***		***		936	0.00%	2,416	0.01%
Wyoming Toad	57,420	0.16%	96,772	0.26%	150,017	0.34%	137,343	0.34%	36,828	0.09%
Exotic Game	38,822	0.11%	63,113	0.17%	47,066	0.11%	76,644	0.19%	104,323	0.26%
Nonwildlife	346,711	0.97%	405,872	1.08%	443,104	1.01%	418,736	1.03%	394,642	0.98%
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	35,676,975	100.00%	37,669,965	100.00%	43,659,894	100.00%	40,489,122	100.00%	40,209,998	100.00%

* because program costs were negligible, they are included in Bobcat and Beaver program costs.

** because program costs were negligible, they are included with other waterfowl management costs.

*** because the program is new, there are no previous reporting figures.

ALL AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON AN ACTIVITY BASIS

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		AMT	%								
001	Legal research	26,509	0.07	6,854	0.02	3,940	0.01	864	0.00	11,218	0.03
002	Legal briefs	23,165	0.06	4,230	0.01	11,921	0.03	8,689	0.02	5,358	0.01
003	Legal pleadings	13,477	0.04	1,044	0.00	1,379	0.00			646	0.00
004	Legal - court appearances	6,860	0.02	1,465	0.00	2,428	0.01	2,198	0.01	2,526	0.01
005	Legal conferences										
051	Fee Title Acq-Aquatic Habitat	3,312	0.01	1,357	0.00	600	0.00			327,357	0.81
052	Fee Title Acq- Rip Habitat	61,150	0.16	775	0.00	3,127	0.01	1,868	0.00	9,124	0.02
053	Fee Title Acq- Ter Habitat	7,283	0.02	10,240	0.02	62,893	0.16	26,877	0.07	427,684	1.06
054	Fee Title Acq- Boat Access	4,856	0.01	523	0.00	309	0.00	764	0.00	271	0.00
055	Fee Title Acq- Public Access	19,595	0.05			934	0.00	114	0.00	50	0.00
056	Fee Title Acq- Dept Facilities	10,233	0.03	20,567	0.05	19,225	0.05	6,678	0.02	17,028	0.04
061	Non-Fee Title- Aquatic Habitat	15,741	0.04	11,882	0.03	17,013	0.04	2,912	0.01	6,894	0.02
062	Non-Fee Title- Rip Habitat	1,178	0.00	2,150	0.00	1,386	0.00	4,805	0.01	1,802	0.00
063	Non-Fee Title- Ter Habitat	135,789	0.36	248,146	0.57	81,327	0.20	30,676	0.08	57,769	0.14
064	Non-Fee Title- Boat Access	6,114	0.02	9,623	0.02	11,597	0.03	8,559	0.02	6,847	0.02
065	Non-Fee Title-Public Access	24,482	0.06	64,185	0.15	361,565	0.89	480,403	1.19	527,205	1.31
066	Non-Fee Title-Dept Facilities	1,856	0.00	6,826	0.02	6,434	0.02	4,747	0.01	4,931	0.01
100	Administration	4,463,422	11.85	4,963,872	11.37	5,339,859	13.19	5,239,673	13.03	5,319,143	13.23
105	Clerical	753,270	2.00	781,696	1.79	834,714	2.06	856,844	2.13	825,573	2.05
110	License Sales & Accounting	951,973	2.53	1,096,614	2.51	1,391,736	3.44	1,146,692	2.85	1,153,364	2.87
114	Product Sales & Alt Funding	122,645	0.33	138,717	0.32	139,249	0.34	126,873	0.32	113,255	0.28
115	Fiscal	444,934	1.18	469,652	1.08	559,755	1.38	650,223	1.62	643,042	1.60
121	Management Planning	688,447	1.83	662,256	1.52	601,165	1.48	728,383	1.81	671,215	1.67
122	Strategic Planning	149,874	0.40	211,028	0.48	272,117	0.67	204,729	0.51	213,517	0.53
125	Procurement & Inventory	498,757	1.32	352,321	0.81	516,147	1.27	384,922	0.96	144,086	0.36
130	Regulations	151,477	0.40	158,827	0.36	143,649	0.35	167,173	0.42	161,602	0.40
132	Season Setting	113,273	0.30	142,043	0.33	138,621	0.34	104,817	0.26	121,101	0.30
135	Grant-in-Aid Administration	56,493	0.15	57,391	0.13	59,411	0.15	41,345	0.10	40,463	0.10
140	Inter-Agency communications	540,492	1.43	581,152	1.33	584,761	1.44	647,428	1.61	670,011	1.67
141	Mngt Info Systems(LE & LIC)	723,803	1.92	772,315	1.77	822,328	2.03	621,551	1.55	495,885	1.23
142	Mngt Info Systems(other)					24,287		94,738	0.24	204,820	0.51
143	Mngt Info Systems-Hdw/Soft							243,003	0.60	198,652	0.49
145	Intra-Agency Communications	934,510	2.48	689,060	1.58	931,545	2.30	803,828	2.00	986,836	2.45
149	Commuting Mileage	4,560	0.01	3,265	0.01	1,875	0.00	1,307	0.00	4,328	0.01
150	Hunter Safety	186,923	0.50	166,783	0.38	213,296	0.53	181,503	0.45	171,068	0.43
155	Conservation Education	447,193	1.19	299,672	0.69	305,465	0.75	289,623	0.72	223,509	0.56
156	Aquatic Education	67,740	0.18	49,814	0.11	45,656	0.11	76,850	0.19	71,676	0.18
158	Mass Media Presentations	106,243	0.28	86,643	0.20	72,712	0.18	78,696	0.20	77,514	0.19
160	Public Contacts	1,075,403	2.85	1,152,254	2.64	1,334,742	3.30	1,258,604	3.13	1,320,920	3.29

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		AMT	%								
165	Info Documents & Displays	618,732	1.64	635,556	1.46	776,257	1.92	772,528	1.92	725,474	1.80
170	Wyo Wildlife Magazine	499,329	1.33	495,081	1.13	540,868	1.34	465,362	1.16	471,306	1.17
175	Extension Service	100,892	0.27	89,201	0.20	85,019	0.21	62,182	0.15	50,599	0.13
180	In-Service Training	961,714	2.55	1,035,476	2.37	1,234,485	3.05	1,198,385	2.98	992,824	2.47
181	Instructional Training							55,202	0.14	35,734	0.09
201	Habitat Dvmt on Priv Land	30,955	0.08	8,756	0.02	8,752	0.02	33,120	0.08	6,247	0.02
210	Department Facility Dev	1,185,944	3.15	1,172,375	2.69	2,951,024	7.29	1,104,204	2.75	355,781	0.88
231	Wildlife Rearing Facility Dev	148,791	0.39	614,509	1.41	408,679	1.01	257,651	0.64	238,304	0.59
232	Watering Facility Dev	156,732	0.42	38,982	0.09	29,555	0.07	48,110	0.12	8,095	0.02
233	Motor Boat Access Dev	801,136	2.13	714,033	1.64	1,590,961	3.93	854,741	2.13	548,122	1.36
234	Stream Habitat Developmnt	134,782	0.36	271,725	0.62	192,107	0.47	411,326	1.02	583,328	1.45
235	Reservoir/Lake Habitat Dev	166,143	0.44	18,648	0.04	27,911	0.07	9,514	0.02	9,267	0.02
236	Impoundment Development	26,642	0.07	50,045	0.11	9,596	0.02	26,786	0.07	2,941	0.01
236	NEPA Development					2,516		14,973	0.04	4,031	0.01
240	Riparian Habitat Dev	277,097	0.74	150,690	0.35	235,192	0.58	207,667	0.52	92,298	0.23
250	Terrestrial Habitat Dev	52,154	0.14	30,513	0.07	26,171	0.06	15,132	0.04	18,169	0.05
260	Public Facility Development	35,000	0.09	47,751	0.11	131,953	0.33	77,825	0.19	245,513	0.61
270	Cropland Development	599	0.00	934	0.00	1,381	0.00			65	0.00
280	Transport Facility Dev	28,610	0.08	345	0.00	62,095	0.15	11,303	0.03	1,521	0.00
290	Fence Construction	13,809	0.04	29,068	0.07	24,215	0.06	21,551	0.05	3,966	0.01
299	Other Misc Public Dev					1,501	0.00	356	0.00	464	0.00
300	Routine Enforcement	1,482,275	3.93	1,440,308	3.30	1,517,018	3.75	1,445,324	3.59	1,521,509	3.78
310	Enforcement Investigations	434,374	1.15	448,029	1.03	484,168	1.20	511,221	1.27	555,736	1.38
320	Enforcement Administration	161,359	0.43	242,463	0.56	241,255	0.60	281,100	0.70	289,749	0.72
401	Habitat Mntn on Priv Land	2,010	0.01	554	0.00	1,059	0.00	1,106	0.00	966	0.00
410	Facility Maintenance	1,365,601	3.63	1,556,661	3.57	1,448,259	3.58	1,352,211	3.36	1,581,414	3.93
420	Equipment Maintenance	297,856	0.79	286,565	0.66	329,737	0.81	347,085	0.86	392,162	0.98
430	Aquatic Habitat Maintenance	115,015	0.31	38,905	0.09	224,985	0.56	98,255	0.24	70,444	0.18
433	Motor Boat Access Site Main	172,905	0.46	142,463	0.33	117,408	0.29	163,378	0.41	126,358	0.31
440	Riparian Habitat Maintenance	108,408	0.29	100,770	0.23	164,823	0.41	105,033	0.26	95,710	0.24
450	Terrestrial Habitat Main	139,978	0.37	130,128	0.30	125,626	0.31	128,613	0.32	140,256	0.35
451	Noxious Vegetation Control	52,365	0.14	42,678	0.10	29,046	0.07	33,814	0.08	52,453	0.13
452	Livestock Grazing	13,589	0.04	74,275	0.17	40,603	0.10	37,580	0.09	44,424	0.11
453	Permanent Cover/Food Patch	254,980	0.68	261,159	0.60	183,525	0.45	127,782	0.32	259,745	0.65
454	Veg Cover Mngt- Presc Burns	113,810	0.30	46,553	0.11	67,771	0.17	23,953	0.06	53,230	0.13
455	Veg Cov Mngt- Mech Tmnt	12,600	0.03	11,244	0.03	14,721	0.04	1,554	0.00	23,293	0.06
456	Veg Cov Mngt- Chem Tmnt	4,130	0.01	1,033	0.00	13,054	0.03	19,559	0.05	9,260	0.02
457	Watering Facility Maintenance	20,294	0.05	4,391	0.01	6,208	0.02	5,327	0.01	14,344	0.04
458	Cropland Maintenance	64,200	0.17	11,074	0.03	35,975	0.09	26,427	0.07	11,479	0.03
460	Public Access Maintenance	299,510	0.80	331,505	0.76	348,048	0.86	392,425	0.98	405,878	1.01
480	Transport Facility Maintenance	302,623	0.80	250,839	0.57	250,587	0.62	239,897	0.60	178,523	0.44
490	Fence Maintenance	267,343	0.71	302,412	0.69	367,675	0.91	408,994	1.02	307,753	0.77

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		AMT	%								
510	Habitat & Populations Evaluations	1,024,648	2.72	990,821	2.27	1,192,075	2.94	1,207,610	3.00	1,259,640	3.13
511	Habitat Inventory	413,802	1.10	467,712	1.07	584,559	1.44	608,513	1.51	662,645	1.65
512	Fish & Wildlife Population Studies	1,593,994	4.23	1,902,494	4.36	1,734,245	4.28	1,730,332	4.30	1,736,235	4.32
514	NonG&F Habitat/Pop Eval									34,883	0.09
520	Public Use Inventory	969,435	2.57	1,157,654	2.65	1,034,831	2.56	1,105,579	2.75	960,655	2.39
530	Resource Reconnaissance	99,195	0.26	98,798	0.23	130,235	0.32	137,411	0.34	139,615	0.35
540	Environmental Protection	303,518	0.81	361,771	0.83	518,362	1.28	561,939	1.40	656,589	1.63
551	Disease Investigation	478,098	1.27	637,759	1.46	602,930	1.49	482,892	1.20	895,924	2.23
553	Life History/Ecology Investigations	290,240	0.77	311,450	0.71	255,679	0.63	240,663	0.60	140,148	0.35
576	Investigation of Techniques	158,076	0.42	99,520	0.23	103,659	0.26	107,215	0.27	139,387	0.35
577	Artificial Propagation Investigations	36,091	0.10	58,440	0.13	82,243	0.20	62,370	0.16	20,877	0.05
610	Fish & Wildlife Control	259,063	0.69	339,797	0.78	367,809	0.91	342,135	0.85	324,499	0.81
620	Damage Prevention	332,717	0.88	347,612	0.80	437,729	1.08	452,420	1.13	468,195	1.16
630	Damage Claims	644,111	1.71	863,584	1.98	775,776	1.92	757,060	1.88	779,294	1.94
710	Fish & Wildlife Rearing	1,366,320	3.63	1,409,234	3.23	1,508,381	3.73	1,534,287	3.82	1,491,052	3.71
712	Fish Egg Collection	123,096	0.33	151,868	0.35	165,354	0.41	180,618	0.45	201,452	0.50
715	Wildlife Stocking-Restoration	14,359	0.04	12,157	0.03	5,591	0.01	7,798	0.02	9,977	0.02
716	Wildlife Stocking-Maintenance	190,642	0.51	210,351	0.48	200,727	0.50	139,126	0.35	173,536	0.43
717	Wildlife Stocking-Put&Take	76,224	0.20	76,646	0.18	97,800	0.24	115,181	0.29	104,123	0.26
718	Wildlife Stocking-New Species Est	1,944	0.01	4,225	0.01	3,795	0.01	11,546	0.03	2,431	0.01
720	Wildlife Feeding	865,475	2.30	843,190	1.93	1,274,800	3.15	1,264,707	3.15	904,103	2.25
730	Trapping & Transplanting	46,363	0.12	27,362	0.06	53,595	0.13	27,903	0.07	19,122	0.05
810	Paid Leave-Military, Admin	322,005	0.85	302,386	0.69	283,373	0.70	335,484	0.83	188,696	0.47
811	Paid Leave-Annual	1,179,452	3.13	1,329,185	3.04	1,505,154	3.72	1,630,032	4.05	1,561,230	3.88
812	Paid Leave-Sick	250,528	0.67	300,345	0.69	337,525	0.83	386,924	0.96	352,465	0.88
813	Paid Leave-Comp Time Off	106,575	0.28	117,751	0.27	128,671	0.32	156,855	0.39	165,408	0.41
814	Paid Leave-Holiday	470,039	1.25	535,023	1.23	595,472	1.47	596,647	1.48	689,214	1.71
830	Employee Moving	18,759	0.05	7,101	0.02	37,092	0.09	28,419	0.07	22,857	0.06
900	Boating Enforcement	177,482	0.47	254,594	0.58	240,531	0.59	227,092	0.56	197,708	0.49
905	Boating Accident Invest			5,537	0.01	3,144	0.01	6,703	0.02	2,859	0.01
910	Boating Certificate & Sales	28,875	0.08	31,823	0.07	34,450	0.09	35,387	0.09	40,271	0.10
915	Boating Administration	42,129	0.11	31,030	0.07	73,695	0.18	65,471	0.16	46,885	0.12
920	Boating Education	12,619	0.03	14,402	0.03	7,013	0.02	4,576	0.01	31,542	0.08
925	Search & Rescue	3,522	0.01	4,892	0.01	3,235	0.01	2,102	0.01	2,881	0.01
930	Local Law Enforcement Assistance	10,260	0.03	10,513	0.02	9,406	0.02	8,609	0.02	10,861	0.03
935	Boating Buoy Maintenance									3,266	0.01
940	Boating Equip/Supp Proc									2,448	0.01
	TOTAL	35,676,974	95	37,669,966	86	43,659,893	108	40,489,121	101	40,209,998	100

**FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON
OF LANDOWNER COUPONS AND DAMAGE CLAIMS
BY FISCAL YEAR**

FY	LANDOWNER COUPONS	% CHANGE	DAMAGE CLAIMS	% CHANGE
2000	380,919	4.68%	147,383	-11.01%
2001	423,863	11.27%	348,367	136.37%
2002	392,270	-7.45%	275,983	-20.78%
2003	392,337	0.02%	241,134	-12.63%
2004	418,000	6.54%	242,677	.64%

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