

ANNUAL
REPORT
2005

**Wyoming Game and Fish
Department**

WYOMING
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Dave Freudenthal, Governor



Terry Cleveland, Director

"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 pleasure to present to you the Game and Fish Department's 2005 Annual Report. The report was prepared at the direction of the Game and Fish Commission and covers the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

We appreciate your support on the many issues facing wildlife and wildlife habitat in Wyoming. While there are many challenges facing us, I would encourage you to note the many successes our agency has experienced in the past year. These successes are the products of a dedicated agency workforce and an enlightened public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Fleming".

Linda L. Fleming, President
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

2005
ANNUAL REPORT

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



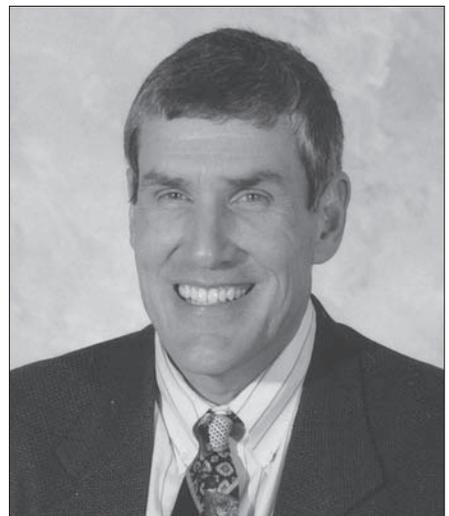
Governor Dave Freudenthal



Terry Cleveland
Director



Gregg Arthur
Deputy Director

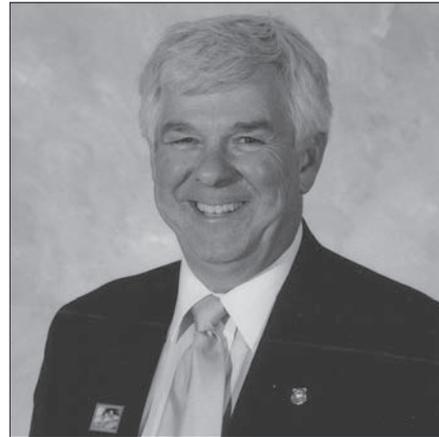


Bill Wichers
Deputy Director

Commission



Linda Fleming, Teacher from Baggs; Commission President; represents Sweetwater, Carbon and Albany counties (3/1/2007)



Ron Lovercheck, Real Estate/Rancher from LaGrange; Commission Vice-President; represents Platte, Goshen and Laramie counties (3/1/2009)



Clark Allan, Deputy County Attorney in Teton County from Jackson; represents Teton, Sublette, Lincoln and Uinta counties (3/1/2011)



Ronald "Jerry" Galles, Business Owner from Casper; represents Converse, Natrona and Fremont counties (3/1/2011)



Clifford Kirk, Banker from Gillette; represents Sheridan, Johnson and Campbell counties (3/1/2011)



Kerry Powers, Real Estate/Rancher from Lusk; represents Crook, Weston and Niobrara counties (3/1/2007)

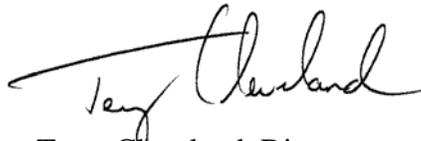


Bill Williams, DVM, Veterinarian from Thermopolis; represents Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs and Washakie counties (3/1/2009)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the following pages of this 2005 *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 that reads "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

Commission Members

Clifford Kirk of Gillette, Clark Allan of Jackson and Ronald "Jerry" Galles of Casper have taken office as Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) members. Allan works as a deputy Teton County attorney. Kirk serves as the vice chairman of the First National Bank of Gillette. Galles is the owner and operator of Bar D Signs, Inc. The rotation system determined by state law mandated this year's appointments come from Teton, Campbell and Natrona Counties.

Results from the 2005 Legislature

The 2005 Wyoming Legislature considered a number of bills affecting the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), wildlife and sportsmen across the state, including:

- The legislature reduced the price of grizzly bear licenses from \$1,750 to \$500 for residents and from \$17,500 to \$5,000 for nonresidents. Although the Legislation will go into effect July 1, 2005, grizzly bear hunting could be years away, pending their removal from the federal threatened species list.
- The WGFD will now be required to notify local sheriffs' offices and citizens when a grizzly bear has been relocated. WGFD must also publish an annual report on all grizzly relocation activities.
- The 2005 Legislature expanded a law creating special elk, deer, antelope, and turkey licenses for youth with life-threatening illnesses. Those youngsters will be able to hunt those animals over bait beginning fall 2005.
- The Commission will now have control over Commission-owned mineral rights. The Commission has full or partial mineral rights on approximately 30,000 acres in the state.
- Beginning in 2006, persons participating in competitive hunts on licensed game bird farms in Wyoming will not be required to have a hunting license.
- Interim committee studies are planned for several topics, including WGFD alternative funding and capital construction; fishing outfitters; intentional feeding of big game animals; and electronic hunting and fishing licensing.

Wildlife Trust

The biggest news from the 2005 Wyoming legislative session was the creation of a trust fund dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. More than 20 years in the making, the Wildlife and Natural Resources Funding Act established a trust fund to preserve and restore wildlife habitat and open spaces. The fund was enacted with \$15 million, but is expected to reach \$200 million in the next few years. The act places interest from the trust fund into an income account to be used to supply grants to non-profit organizations and government agencies, including the WGFD, for specific projects.

A nine-member-appointed board will administer the account and decide which grant proposals are funded.

Specific legislative approval is required for large projects costing more than \$200,000. The trust account board will give final approval to projects under \$200,000. Money was to be placed into the income account on July 1, 2005. Projects will be considered after the trust account board adopts its governing rules this fall. The corpus of the trust is expected to increase in future years with additional legislative appropriations.

Wolf Litigation Update

In January 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rejected Wyoming's proposed wolf management plan, informing WGFD that the state's dual classification of wolves as trophy game and predatory animals was not an option. The FWS alleged that the wolf management plan and state law are inadequate and will need to be changed before the wolf can be de-listed.

In answer to the rejection of the plan, the State of Wyoming filed a lawsuit against the FWS, alleging that the agency had no legal grounds to reject the plan. In March 2005, a Wyoming federal district court judge dismissed the state's lawsuit. Several conservation, sportsmen and agricultural groups have appealed the court's decision. The state has also filed an appeal and is in the process of formally petitioning the FWS to delist the gray wolf.

Grizzly Bear Habitat Occupancy Plan

The Commission formally adopted the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan in February 2002. In 2004, following public requests, an internal department working group drafted a Grizzly Bear Habitat Occupancy Proposal to further refine guidelines on how bears would be managed within the potential occupancy outer boundary delineated in the plan.

A comprehensive public input process, including stakeholder and public meetings, yielded 17,542 written comments from individuals and organizations. The comments represent the largest response the WGFD has ever received in a public involvement process. Wyoming residents contributed 29.5 percent of the comments. All other states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 38 foreign countries were represented in the other 70.5 percent of comments.

Based on the public comments, the WGFD prepared six recommendations for the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission to consider. The recommendations included:

- Minimize human/grizzly bear conflicts through outreach and education, regulated hunting seasons and management of conflict bears in areas of high conflict potential.
- Eliminate the concept of a Secondary Conservation Area from the occupancy management program.
- Develop a population objective for grizzly bears in Wyoming through cooperation by the WGFD and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, and finalize protocols used to establish allowable mortality thresholds.
- Expand ongoing information and education efforts to help people better understand grizzly bear recovery and management in Wyoming.

- Encourage more citizen participation to identify potential causes of human/grizzly bear conflicts and work proactively to address those issues.

The Commission considered and took action on the final document at its July 2005 meeting.

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The WGFD has developed a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) to meet its obligations under the State Wildlife Grants Program. The CWCS is the one most ambitious and comprehensive wildlife planning effort ever undertaken in Wyoming. The WGFD established a multi-stage process to create a CWCS that will work for Wyoming.

WGFD biologists began identifying and prioritizing species in need of conservation attention in January 2004. The strategy identified 278 of Wyoming's more than 800 species as species of greatest conservation need. For each of the species identified as species of concern, a draft species summary was compiled. The first draft summary was distributed to potential partners in September 2004. More than 30 different partners and major stakeholders have been involved in the development and implementation of this plan.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission adopted the CWCS at their July 2005 meeting prior to the Department submitting it to the National Acceptance and Advisory Team for approval.

Sage Grouse

The Wyoming Legislature approved Governor Dave Freudenthal's budget request for \$500,000 to support local working groups and fund conservation projects benefiting sage grouse and sage grouse habitat.

Wyoming has eight local sage grouse working groups covering various geographic areas of the state. Each working group consists of 10-15 people and includes representatives from agriculture, industry, conservation and government. Their purpose is to facilitate conservation plans for the benefit of sage grouse.

A bright spot in the sage grouse picture is the improvement of the spring 2005 lek counts of males. On many leks the counts were the highest in the 20-35 year history of the surveys. Biologists attribute the increase to perfectly timed moisture in 2004, resulting in excellent nesting and brood-rearing habitat.

Preference Point System

Following years of requests from nonresidents for a preference point system, the Wyoming Legislature passed enabling legislation allowing the WGFD to implement preference points for elk, deer and antelope. Preference points can be accumulated beginning in 2006, but hunters would not realize the preference point advantage until 2007.

The system is similar to that of the current system for resident and nonresident moose and bighorn sheep, where a hunter will start building points with each unsuccessful attempt in the drawing. First time applicants will always have a chance at drawing since 25 percent of the quota will be reserved for all applicants regardless of their preference point status. The remaining 75 percent of the quota will go to those with the highest point totals. The legislature is currently considering the need to implement preference points for resident deer, elk and antelope.

Drought/Winter Loss

Moisture conditions improved over much of Wyoming this past winter, indicating the state may be pulling out of the drought that has persisted for much of the last 10 years. Several major reservoirs are at their highest levels since the early 1990s, but other important waters are still low, including those in western Wyoming and the major reservoirs along the North Platte River Drainage.

The five-year average for adequate or surplus topsoil moisture for the state is 30 percent. As of June 5, 2005, 81 percent of the state had adequate or surplus moisture, the best to date since 1999. In contrast, last year at that time, the state was only 20 percent.

Big game winter mortality was normal throughout much of the state, however fawn loss for deer in the Kemmerer/Cokeville area could approach 75 percent. This is due to previous drought conditions impacting forage on winter range coupled with a fairly substantial snowpack. On a positive note, it appears fawn production for deer and antelope throughout much of the rest of the state is improving.

Chronic Wasting Disease

A regulation designed to reduce the chance of spreading chronic wasting disease to other parts of the state will be implemented this fall. The regulation prohibits transporting deer or elk from affected areas to any other hunt area in Wyoming unless the head and spinal column are removed. The regulation does allow animals to be transported to private residences, meat processors and taxidermists provided the head and all portions of the spinal column are left at the kill site or disposed in an approved landfill.

Information and education efforts on CWD are ongoing. WGFD will update its CWD brochure with the new regulations and information based on results received from the "Hunters' Response to Chronic Wasting Disease" survey conducted for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Human Dimensions Committee.

Brucellosis

The Governor's Brucellosis Coordination team was appointed by Governor Dave Freudenthal in 2004 to provide effective short-term and long-term solutions to the state's brucellosis problem. Following the recommendations of this coordination team, the WGFD is developing brucellosis management action plans in each of seven herd units that have elk feedgrounds. The coordination team also recommended the development of a brucellosis action plan for elk on the National Elk refuge near Jackson.

A five-year pilot project of testing and removal of elk at the Muddy Creek feedground has begun. Under the project, all elk on the feedground will be captured and tested. Young cows, considered high-risk animals for disease transmission, would be lethally removed up to a level that would reduce the herd to no more than ten percent below its objective. A five-year study would monitor the level of brucellosis in the herd.

Whirling Disease Found At Story Hatchery

Testing of fish at the Story Hatchery south of Sheridan confirmed the presence of whirling disease at the facility. The department has been testing fish at the hatchery since 1999, but this is the first time the disease has been found. Whirling disease was previously detected in three other hatcheries, all of which have since undergone major renovations and changes in water sources to ensure disease free fish. Story Hatchery has three different water sources. Subsequent testing confirmed that water from Big Spring was the source of the infection. The long term plans for the hatchery call for a water recirculation system that would ensure pathogen free fish by 2007. To help prevent further spread of the disease, the WGFD destroyed the 80,000 fish at the hatchery that were destined for stocking in nearby Lake DeSmet.

Devil's Canyon Bighorn Sheep Transplant

The first Wyoming bighorn sheep transplant in nearly a decade resulted in 20 sheep from Oregon being relocated to a new home in Devil's Canyon, located 20 miles northeast of Lovell in the Bighorn Mountains. The sheep come from a non-migratory herd in Oregon which lives in habitat similar to the Devil's Canyon area. To date, the transplant has been successful with only a few mortalities. For the most part, the sheep are staying in the area where they were relocated.



This five-year, \$212,000 project obtained a majority of its funds from the governor's hunting licenses. The Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and Bow Hunters of Wyoming also contributed to the transplant.

WGFD hopes to transplant another 20 sheep in the winter of 2005-2006 in the same area or a similar area across the canyon. The goal is to restore the herd to a population of around 100 animals. Previous attempts to restore sheep to the Bighorn Mountains were largely unsuccessful, possibly because the transplants came from the Whiskey Mountain area near Dubois where the herd was migratory and accustomed to higher elevation alpine habitats.

Alternative and Capital Facilities Funding

The Wyoming Joint Appropriations Committee is conducting an interim study on alternative funding and capital construction funding for the WGFD.

Alternative funds would be appropriated by the Wyoming legislature from the general fund and would supplement the current WGFD budget. About seventy percent of WGFD funding comes from sales of licenses, stamps, application fees and other costs borne by sportsmen. These funds would be used to help manage terrestrial and aquatic sensitive species, expanding terrestrial and aquatic habitat management, provide habitat extension services, manage wildlife human conflicts and improve public outreach.

Capital construction funds would be used to renovate the Cheyenne headquarters office and replace and/or renovate other offices and warden stations across the state.

The WGFD is compiling capital facilities and program funding priorities for consideration by the appropriations committee later this year.

Red Rim Elk Die-Off: One Year Later

Few elk utilized the Red Rim/Daly Wildlife Habitat Management Area in 2005, the site where at least 328 elk died a year ago from feeding on lichen in the area. Following the discovery in February 2004, the WGFD began taking precautions to prevent another die off. Elk were collared to track the herd's movements, and a plan was crafted to monitor the area and haze the elk into other areas if needed. Surveillance indicated only a small band of a dozen bulls showed up this year and no mortalities were reported. A mild winter is credited with helping the elk avoid the area this year.

Unusually heavy crusted snow in 2004 was probably a major reason why the elk moved to the area last year where the bare ground held little grass due to drought. The elk turned to eating toxic levels of Xanthoparmelia lichen, a light green low growing plant which was later confirmed as the culprit in the die off.

The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory is continuing work to identify the specific agent or chemical in the lichen that induced leg paralysis in the elk.

Tom Thorne and Elizabeth Williams Memorial planned

Renowned wildlife veterinarian and 36-year WGFD veteran Tom Thorne and his wife, Elizabeth Williams, pathologist at the Wyoming State Vet Lab and University of Wyoming professor, were killed in an auto accident in northern Colorado on December 29, 2004. The couple was returning to their Laramie home after a Caribbean vacation. Thorne was 64. Williams was 53.

Their deaths were a tragedy felt by the entire WGFD and wildlife community who knew them as friends and esteemed colleagues.

Thorne began his WGFD career as the department's veterinarian stationed in Laramie. He eventually went on to serve as the Services Division chief and acting WGFD director

after John Baughman's resignation in 2003. Thorne was a prominent expert on brucellosis, CWD, and other wildlife diseases. His work with Dubois area bighorn sheep was widely acclaimed and, in the late 1980s he led the veterinary team that successfully bred in captivity the last known black-footed ferrets.

As Wyoming's veterinary pathologist, Williams was the first to identify CWD and was one of the world's foremost experts on the disease. She worked closely with the WGFD on wildlife disease testing and facilitated a close relationship between the WGFD and state veterinary laboratory. She had been a professor at UW since July 1982.

The WGFD renamed their Sybille facility the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille and an adjacent management area the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area in honor of the couple. A dedication ceremony occurred in September 2005 and approximately 200 people attended.

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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 2005. The information documents progress toward objectives in our Strategic Plan for the Comprehensive Management of Wildlife in Wyoming, 1992-1998.

During FY 2005 a total of 3,358,523 hunting and fishing recreation days were provided to the public. Based on number of recreation days and average expenditure per day, hunters, anglers, and trappers expended approximately \$350 million in pursuit of their sport.

For FY 2005, the Department was comprised of 392 permanent full-time employees and 53 full-time equivalent workers in temporary or seasonal positions.

A summary of Department activities by respective division follows:

FISCAL DIVISION
Ron Arnold, Chief

The Fiscal Division, through the efforts of Fiscal Managers, spent much of the year developing software specifications for a new licensing system for license selling agents, developing grants for new federal grant programs, addressing legislation related to funding issues, and rewriting internal accounting systems.

In the fall of 2004, the Division developed and issued a request for proposal for a new licensing system based on consultant recommendations and those of an internal team, with representatives from all divisions, license selling agents, commissioners and wildlife conservation groups. A subgroup met in December to evaluate vendor responses and selected two vendors for oral presentations in January. In February, the Commission authorized the Department to begin contract negotiations with the successful vendor, Great Lodge. Over the next several months, a software specifications document for phase I, the license selling agent point of sale system, was developed and in September 2005 the contract was finalized. Implementation is expected to be phased in beginning late spring and summer of 2006.

The number of license selling agents administered by the Division declined slightly due to agent cancellations and agents not renewing their bonds, changing from 365 to 353 agents by year end. The Commission approved 29 new agents. All new agents are provided Department training. In FY05, the Department continued to process search and rescue donations and distribute those donations to the Wyoming Emergency Management Agency for their search and rescue programs; in addition, the License Accounting section also accounts for sales of the predator stamp. After deducting Department administrative costs, the proceeds from the stamps are distributed to the Animal Damage Management Board.

Progress was also made on the continued replacement of several internal financial systems. Work was finalized on the vehicle management and personnel/payroll management systems. The Daily Activity Report (DAR), a time reporting system that integrates with the payroll and cost accounting system, was modified and moved to the Department's intranet for direct input by all Department personnel. The system also calculates and interfaces all payroll time records into the State Auditor's payroll system, which has significantly reduced centralized input requirements for monthly payroll. The division was involved in developing and conducting training on the system and developing documentation. The final system to be rewritten, cost accounting, should be completed in FY06.

The amount of federal grant programs that the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (Department) is involved in continues to expand exponentially, with the Department being awarded a new competitive grant from the USFWS. The grant, Landowner Incentives, will likely involve significant Department time.

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. This year, the Department received general funds for two ongoing programs, veterinary services and local sage grouse working groups, which required significant efforts. In addition, Fiscal Administration is the point of contact for all internal and external state government financial audits.

In the General Accounting section, significant time was devoted to submitting new grants to USFWS for the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and completing the first financial and performance reports for completed projects under the SWG program. Allocation for FY05, under this program, was approximately \$620,000. Currently, the Department has over 25 projects either completed or still in process in the SWG program, which is funded at a 50 percent or 75 percent level with federal funds.

The Fiscal Division was assigned several new or significantly expanded functions in the last year. These included developing a biennium general fund budget for selected programs and capital construction, new grant programs, development of a new license system to accommodate automating license agents, and managing nonresident preference points for deer, antelope and elk. Workload in these areas has increased significantly and additional personnel assistance is anticipated due to these grant programs and increasing budget complexity.

REVENUE COLLECTION AND LICENSING

The Licensing sections administered the sale of almost 715,000 over-the-counter licenses and conservation stamps during fiscal year 2005. During that period, the number of license selling agents decreased slightly from 365 agents to 353. Additionally, during this period, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approved 29 applications for agents. All new agents receive in-house training upon appointment. Approximately 1,520,000 licenses were distributed to these agents located throughout the State for hunt year 2005, 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 225,000 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 USFWS 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 1380 invoices, a 6 percent increase in billings from FY04, to federal or nonprofit sources for reimbursement of Department expenditures. However, dollars received from grants were down slightly, about \$600,000 or 6 percent.

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 in the process of being rewritten at the same time that the number and variety

of grants is expanding, increasing both complexity and volume in the revenue collection process. 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 970 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 (92) developed by the Department. This number shows an increase of 8 percent, compared to the 900 requisitions processed in FY04. The section also added 274 assets to the State's financial systems in addition to processing modifications to 880 assets and deleting 409 assets. Additionally, over 2,000 items were taken to surplus for disposal. Information on approximately 2,800 assets was compiled and distributed to agency personnel for verification and certification.

The section has experienced significant personnel turnover in the last two years. Significant efforts were expended this year to update and in some cases develop procedure manuals to assist new personnel in understanding purchasing, insurance claim documentation and fixed asset reporting and to insure consistency. Part of this effort involved the new vehicle management system, which was completed at the end of FY04.

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 42,000 transaction payments to vendors, averaging 4 days to complete processing on over 98 percent of those claims. In addition, approximately 39,000 landowner coupons, up 3 percent from FY04, were processed from 2,300 affidavits submitted by landowners between December and February and paid between January and March. Of those payments, 26 landowners elected to have their landowner coupons utilized for predator management and \$5,018 was transferred to the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB). 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 WOLFs system by the State Auditor has been delayed several times, this modification will potentially be pursued in FY06, requiring modifications in Department systems to accommodate these changes.

SERVICES DIVISION
John Kennedy, Chief

During FY05, the Services Division Administration staff continued to focus on providing consistent leadership and improving communications within the Division. Priorities for administration and each work unit in the Division were established. The Division Administrators continued to attend other division and regional coordination team meetings to improve communications, discuss priorities and expectations, and communicate management strategies specific to future administration of the Division. 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 Director's goals/objectives and the agency's mission.

High priorities for Division Administration in FY05 were as follows:

- Recruit and promote the best-qualified candidates for positions within the Division.
- Improve agency credibility and public support through information, education, and outreach.
- Work with the regions, Property Rights Team and Commission on high-priority access projects and conservation easements.
- Establishing regional Information and Education Program priorities.
- Continue work with the Fiscal Division on the License Issuance Project.
- Define the Public Information Officer role and responsibilities.
- Implement goals, objectives, and strategies of the Habitat Strategic Plan.
- Continue work to establish a Department Television program.
- Improve processes and individual work unit performance in the Division.
- Coordinate major conservation education efforts and agency programs, including the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.
- Participate on International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Committees.

During FY05, Division Administration accomplished several major projects, including:

- Coordination with the other division administrators and the regions to discuss and establish priorities for Services Division Administration and all work units in the Division.
- Work with the regions and the Commission to clarify and implement the regulation and policy guidelines for acquiring fee title and less than fee title property rights.
- Reorganization of the Information Technology Branch to be more responsive to employees.
- Completed the Regional Information and Education work planning/prioritization process and established priorities; established regional and statewide priorities.
- Coordinated and implemented strategic information/media plans for a variety of high-priority issues, including: CWD, brucellosis, the Strategic Habitat Plan, wolves, and grizzly bears.

Services Division Administration identified several opportunities for improvement and new management strategies to address individual work unit and overall Division performance. Division Administration will continue to focus on these opportunities, which include: establishing consistent leadership, improving communications, and reaffirming work unit roles and responsibilities, accountability, and priorities.

CONSERVATION ENGINEERING

The Wyoming Legislature supplemented the capital facility funding for FY05 with \$3.3 million going to hatchery renovation work and \$775,000 toward habitat infrastructure on the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). The Wigwam Fish Rearing Station Rehabilitation Project was the first project completed with these funds. Projects at Dubois Fish Hatchery and Speas Fish Rearing Station are in progress. The Yellowtail "Big Fork Ditch" Tunnel By-Pass is under construction and work on Kane Pond 10 will be bid in FY06. Conservation Engineering also completed development of the Dave Johnston Plant-North Platte River access, the Sybille Wildlife Research flood damage repairs, carpet replacement in the Cheyenne headquarters IT room, and remodeling of the Buffalo field office. Boating accomplishments included widening the original ramp, new dock and comfort station at Grayrocks Reservoir; replacing the dock at "Wedding of the Waters" on the Big Horn River; full development of a boating access at Viva Naughton Reservoir; redevelopment of the boating access at the Flaming Gorge-Holmes Crossing; new docks at Glendo-Elkhorn and Whiskey access areas; and extending the low and high water boat ramps at the Pathfinder-Bishop Point access area. The development of three Public Fishing Access areas on the Green River near Big Piney was finally completed. Other Fish Division projects were completed at the Clark's Fork Hatchery and the Auburn Hatchery.

DRAFTING

The Drafting Section designed and ordered 1,705 signs for special regulations, parking information, regulatory, directional, boating access, new access and the Private Land Public Wildlife (PLPW) program. The Section learned more about CAD to Geographic Information System (GIS) conversions and wrote step-by-step instructions for the process. The supervisor researched GIS data needs and available data from various agencies; designed and built a GIS Data Model to use as a starting point for an agency-wide GIS Enterprise System; and designed and built a new statewide Geodatabase to use as the base for GIS mapping and information needs. Using VBA and ArcObjects programming languages, the Section began customizing ArcMap interface and maps for repetitive tasks and ease of use and installed a prototype of ArcIMS, Internet Map Server, to evaluate its potential and limitations for developing maps and information to the employees and the public via a web browser. Html, JavaScript, and ArcObjects were used to begin customizing the ArcIMS interface to provide the data/information. The drafting supervisor is actively working on the agency GIS Team that will design and implement a statewide GIS program. The Section designed and updated the Internet sites for the PLPW Program with maps, information and printable PDF files for 26 Hunter Management Areas, Walk-in Hunting and Walk-in Fishing. 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. Other drafting projects include: Hunt Area maps; boat dock assembly modification; float map for the Green River; Biologists, Wardens, Terrestrial Habitat Districts and new Regional Boundary maps; fence modifications for Habitat Extension Bulletin; graphics for various Internet sites including: E-Newsletter, Wildlife Permit Report System, Wildlife Observation System and the Game and Fish site headers. The Section created GIS maps for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and the Department of Agriculture showing: crucial

wildlife habitat, sage grouse leks, parturition areas, and roadless areas. 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 Conservation Engineering personnel helped install the signs, helped at the Expo, and volunteered at various activities.

SURVEYING

The Survey Section completed numerous boundary and topographic surveys. The implementation of our Leica GPS RTK system has improved productivity. The Survey Section completed boundary surveys at the following units: Spence Moriarity, Wiggins Fork, Yellowtail (in cooperation with the National Park Service), Rawhide, Red Canyon, Springer, and Bud Love. The Section also completed topographic surveys at the Yellowtail Unit for Pond 10 and an access road at the Speas Hatchery. The Section also completed a utility location survey at the Wigwam Rearing Station. The surveyors assisted the Wyoming Department of Transportation in a fence location survey at Nugget Canyon, US Hwy 30, in an effort to divert wildlife to crossings under the highway and decrease the high mortality rate of deer on the roadway. Water rights issues were addressed throughout the year. The Section developed five instream flow maps and applications for filing with the State Engineer's Office and consulted with field personnel at the Wick Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) on administrating water rights. Surveying assistance was provided to Fish Division personnel in an aquatic mapping project associated with the Powder River Drainage.

SUPPORT FACILITIES

The Department maintains seven regional offices, plus a satellite office in Pinedale and a small facility in Buffalo housing two biologists, in addition to the Cheyenne headquarters building. Two regional office managers are assigned to each 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. By FY05, the Department was approximately 90 percent complete with its upgrade of regional office facilities begun in 1991 in which the Casper, Lander, and Jackson offices were replaced and the Green River and Laramie offices were remodeled and expanded. Replacement of the Pinedale regional office and remodel/expansion of the Cheyenne headquarters building remain on the list with legislative capital facility funding being requested by the Department during the 2006 Legislative budget session for these two projects. Both of these facilities have little or no public access areas, meeting rooms and insufficient office space for permanent employees.

The Department had no major repairs or remodeling to office facilities during FY05. However, in addition to routine operational costs, the Department did expend \$20,971 on remodeling office space in Buffalo; \$11,455 converting space in the old Lander office to a shop and storage area; \$6,250 installing a separate air conditioning system to the basement computer area in the Cheyenne office building; and \$3,300 for sewer line work at the Pinedale office.

The Department's goal is to provide improved service areas for external customers, adequate working space for employees, and a conference room for regional meetings in each facility.

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.

Annual maintenance and monitoring was completed on all Public Access Areas (PAAs) and Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs) statewide. Maintenance and monitoring was completed on all facilities, structures, fences, roads, trail systems, and wetland complexes. Maintenance and development was completed on requested aquatic and terrestrial habitat projects. The Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch completed 87 percent of the planned maintenance and monitoring of WHMAs and PAAs within the limits of existing personnel and manpower.

Improvement and level of maintenance and development is limited by budget and manpower restrictions. Actual maintenance and the development needs of these areas far exceed existing work plans. Limiting factors are manpower, budget constraints, and unanticipated assigned projects. Crew sizes have been reduced to only two employees and turn over of personnel in the branch has continued to be a major problem. Ten different positions were open during 2005. This put a strain on the branch with time spent on recruitment and training. This has caused a decrease in the amount of work, which can be completed on the annual work plans. Work plans are currently at 100 percent. On an annual basis we are unable to address 25,000 and 35,000 man-hours of work requested and other assigned responsibilities to this branch that keep increasing.

The Habitat and Access Maintenance Branch is supported by 23 permanent employees with seven crews that average two employees per crew in FY05. There was one permanent administrator in Lander, an assistant in Casper, seven regional supervisors, seven crew leaders, seven technicians and eight temporaries (irrigators) in the state to manage and maintain 36 WHMAs and 96 PAAs. 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 the 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 35 to 40 requests for aquatic and terrestrial projects statewide and assistance on 11 hatcheries and rearing stations. This amounts to 6,000 man-hours of work in addition to assigned responsibilities for all managed lands and access areas.

GAME AND FISH LABORATORY BRANCH

A total of 1,659 samples were submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Disease Laboratory and/or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) representing 352 diagnostic cases. As part of the Branch's charge to monitor disease in wild populations, the following surveys were conducted: (1) Over 2,500 hunter-killed elk kits were mailed or hand delivered to monitor Brucellosis prevalence. A total of 545 kits were returned to the laboratory, of which 371 were suitable for testing; (2) approximately 455 coyote, ferret, fox, mountain lion, lynx, and badger samples were analyzed for plague, tularemia and distemper; (3) 4,191 elk, mule and white-tailed deer samples were analyzed for chronic wasting disease as part of statewide surveillance; and (4) 19 positive rabies samples were received and analyzed by WSVL from raccoons, skunks and bats.

The responsibility of the Game and Fish Laboratory Branch is to provide analytical services for Department personnel, occasionally other agencies, and the general public. A total of 41,612 tests were conducted on 14,256 samples in response to 1,715 requests (cases). These services were conducted at the Game and Fish Laboratory and include: fish health inspections and disease diagnostics for state and private hatcheries and natural waters in Wyoming; forensic analyses for wildlife law enforcement personnel; tooth aging for biologists and hunters; and other analytical services for management and enforcement personnel.

During FY05, a total of 89 fish disease cases were investigated. These included 29,068 diagnostic tests on 11,630 tissue samples collected from various fish species for bacterial, viral, and parasitic organisms. A total of 24 fish health inspection reviews were completed for out-of-state fish importation/exportation requests. A total of 23 disease cases involving various fish species were investigated. Physical trauma, malnutrition, bacterial and fungal diseases, parasites and gas supersaturation were identified. A total of 691 fish in 14 separate cases were examined for whirling disease for the statewide survey. No life stages of the parasite were detected in rainbow, cutthroat, brown or brook trout collected from various waters around the state.

Eighty-eight forensic cases were investigated for law enforcement personnel where 10,449 tests were conducted on 613 different samples. In 20 cases, defendants pled guilty or were found guilty when lab results were used as evidence. A minimum of \$224,339 in fines and restitution were assessed on cases submitted for testing to the wildlife forensic lab. Tests included identification of species and gender, matching and minimum number of animals present using

serological and DNA techniques. Evidentiary items submitted included tissue, blood, hair, arrows, hide, antlers, horns, various clothing items, knives, etc. The forensic lab continues to be involved with the National Forensic Lab Proficiency Program. The lab received a 100 percent on two separate proficiency tests.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/GIS

Beginning in FY05, all Information Technology (IT) 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 allowed the Department to maintain and support consistent technologies throughout the agency, leverage volume discounts, and ensure conformance with statewide standards and compliance with State of Wyoming Statutes.

IT staff installed 100 new computers, workstations and laptops throughout the agency in 2005. This installation work covered all nine office locations, took nine weeks, and a total of 320 man-hours to complete.

With advances in technologies and increased demands for sharing large data files, the speed of the Pinedale Regional Office communications line had become a significant issue. The cost for a T-1 line similar to those in our other regional offices was high enough to eliminate this as an option. IT staff worked with Department of Administration and Information Telecommunications and individual vendors to install a high speed DSL connection into the Internet. The Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology was implemented to connect the Pinedale Office to the Cheyenne Office, resulting in considerable line speed improvement.

Getting over-the-counter license sales data into the Department SQL database server has been a significant challenge over the past several years. IT staff leveraged the same DSL/VPN technologies used at the Pinedale Office to connect our data entry contractor to the Department's network. Along with this implementation, the Microsoft Access "Over the Counter License" application was rewritten in Microsoft .NET. The Access version was outdated and required manual intervention to import data into the Department SQL database server. SQL Replication technologies were used to automatically transfer data from the contractor server to the Department SQL server.

Installation and licensing of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Decision Support System using Microsoft Terminal Services technology was completed and the system was made available to agency personnel for testing, using the Wildlife Environmental Review (WER) commenting process. This system can be accessed from anywhere inside the agency firewall and from remote locations using VPN technology and should improve the time necessary to complete WER commenting.

IT staff continued work on configuration of a Windows 2000 Active Directory Domain (WGFD.STATE.WY.US). With an upgrade to Windows 2003 on the Active Directory Server, all Microsoft servers in our network infrastructure are now on Windows 2003.

A significant improvement to our network infrastructure came with the implementation of server clustering technologies. Server clustering gives us built-in hardware and software redundancy for our Windows 2003 infrastructure. If a failure were to occur on a primary server, the other server would pick up the load and users should be able to continue their work without seeing a loss of service. Backup hardware has gradually been upgraded to accommodate additional storage needs of the agency and looking into an off-site backup solution for the Cheyenne office. 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. 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. IT staff continued enhancements to an anti-virus agent for GroupWise e-mail software to block specific e-mail attachments that have been common carriers of computer virus and worm programs and to block e-mail SPAM messages coming into the agency. Spyware elimination software was introduced on computers throughout the agency in an effort to address the newest malicious code attacks. Operations staff spent a significant amount of time cleaning up or rebuilding computers that were affected by spyware.

To address performance problems related to the reporting of the resident draw results, the IT Development staff reviewed the design of the Department Website. When stress tested, the Website could handle 300 hits per minute with a 50 percent error rate. After making several enhancements, staff was able to improve website performance to handle over 1300 hits per minute with a 0 percent error rate. In order to address the same performance problems, IT Operations staff began work on the upgrade of the communications line coming into the Cheyenne Office. A high speed DS-3 line will be installed soon to replace the existing T-1 line. Constituents should see a significant improvement in accessibility and functionality when interacting with the Department Website.

The IT branch worked on the on-line hunting and fishing license application process approved by the Commission in February of 2004. Two programmer positions for this project were filled to help develop and then support the system into the future. Several IT personnel worked with Fiscal Division and administrative staff to finalize the contract with a vendor to develop this system. The first phase of this project is targeted to go on-line in January 2006.

A new IT Support Center was written and deployed to allow Department employees the ability to submit Application Development, Operations and Geographic Information System (GIS) requests via the agency Intranet. This application allows users the ability to submit and monitor requests, while giving IT staff the ability to effectively maintain and monitor all requests and to track productivity at all levels.

The Wildlife Case Management System (CMS) has been written in .NET technologies and it utilizes SQL replication to keep data on individual computers synchronized with data on the central database server. This application will allow Game Wardens the ability to effectively manage their cases while on the agency's network and from remote locations.

An old application for data entry into the Wildlife Observation System (WOS) allowed inaccurate data to be entered into the system. Manual intervention was also required to calculate

Lat/Long/UTM coordinates and to move data from a temporary file to the Department's SQL database server. A new front-end data entry system was rewritten in Microsoft .NET to address these issues and to perform validation checks on all fields during data entry. The application automatically converts Lat/Long/UTM coordinates and inserts the data directly into the production database. The new application also reduces our dependency on the contractor who wrote the original Lat/Long/UTM converter.

A License Inquiry Application was rewritten in .NET and made available to all employees via the Intranet. All licensing data was combined to allow users the ability to search multiple years of data in the same query, which should save our employees considerable time when querying the database.

Additional website enhancements included: an On-line Photo Application to reduce the number of individual photo collections located throughout our offices and to make photos available to the entire Department; enhancements to the existing Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Application and a new First-Come/First-Serve Hunter Management Area report addition to allow hunters to see, in real-time, the number of available licenses in those areas; a rewrite of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Application and introduction of SQL Replication to reduce the complexity of transferring data between the Laramie Lab and the central SQL database; a Car and Public Use Counter application written to track car counter statistics as well as public use statistics; an on-line Annotated Oil & Gas Recommendations Bibliography built to store all of the work cited in the Oil & Gas recommendations; a Human Resources Job Submission Application that gives our HR Department the ability to post/take away job announcements on the Website; an on-line Employees Directory written in .NET and hosted on the Intranet to replace an outdated Access application on the agency file and print server; placed the Wildlife Heritage linked logo in the website template and it is displayed on every Web page; created a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) website displaying all CWCS related material and replacing documents as they were being updated; creation of Sage Grouse website to house documents for the Sage Grouse working groups; new Terrestrial and Aquatic website layout for both the Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat sections; created an on-line newsletter application, which gives Information and Education personnel the ability to create a newsletter and send it to a List Server; regional I&E web pages and access through the Content Management System; Grizzly Bear Occupancy website on-line submission form for the public to send in comments concerning the Grizzly Bear Occupancy Plan.

The GIS Section maintains approximately 50 layers of statewide GIS data. Work was initiated to update the statewide big game data sets. These data sets include seasonal ranges, parturition areas, migration routes, migration barriers, and herd unit boundaries. In response to requests from the field biologists using this data, a Microsoft Excel form was developed to record statistics by big game herd unit. Statistics will be calculated for each herd unit as they are updated. Preliminary big game hunt area boundaries for the 2006 season were created, and these layers will eventually serve as base maps for the Drafting Section to create the hunting maps for the application booklets. Additional updates were completed for turkey management area boundaries, wildlife biologist district boundaries and Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs). Maps for species in greatest conservation need, as documented in the

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, were completed and statistics calculated. A Department-wide planning effort focusing on the GIS program was also initiated.

The contract GIS position was renewed via an approved FY05 proposal for funding through the State Wildlife Grants Program. The responsibilities of this position continue to be focused on species in greatest need of conservation.

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. Acquisition or disposal nominations are evaluated utilizing the Habitat and Access Evaluation Process (HAEP), which incorporates the landscape-approach to habitat management and land acquisition priorities on a regional and statewide basis. Public access to landlocked public lands continues to be one of the Department's highest priorities.

The 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.

Branch personnel were involved in several high-priority projects, including: agreements executed to facilitate boating developments on various lakes and reservoirs around the state; acquired an easement for water well and pipeline to augment the water supply at the Speas Fish Hatchery near Casper; secured road easements through state lands from the Office of State Lands adjacent to the Rawhide WHMA near Torrington, the Red Canyon WHMA near Lander, to Luckey Pond also near Lander and to the North Platte River at Big Muddy Bridge near Glenrock. The Rock Springs warden station was identified for disposal and the sale was completed. Grazing leases with the Office of State Lands were renewed for the Teton and Red Rim/Grizzly WHMA. The annual lease was renewed with Kimbell, Inc., which allows public parking along the North Platte River near Pick Bridge north of Saratoga and a lease was renewed with the adjoining landowner associated with the McNeel feedground.

The branch issued Special Use Permits to: Fremont County Road and Bridge to get water from the Little Wind River on the Commission's Spence/Moriarity WHMA; private groups for dog trials at the Soda Lake WHMA near Pinedale and at Saratoga Lake; and a private landowner for road access at the Soda Lake WHMA. Farming and grazing permits were issued for the following WHMAs: Medicine Lodge; TenSleep; Whiskey Basin near Dubois; Spence/Moriarity near Dubois; and the Yellowtail WHMA near Lovell. A buried fiber optic line easement was granted across the Spence/Moriarity WHMA near Dubois.

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 Salt River, Big Horn River, Jelm and the conservation easement at the Mexican Creek Ranch.

The branch worked with Lincoln County to secure county road easements, which will provide for public access to public lands near Kemmerer. In addition, the branch partnered with The Nature Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement on the Twin Creek Ranch near Lander.

Property rights monitoring continues on all Commission-owned 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. Lands Administration continues to review all tax assessment schedules prior to payment of the Department's in-lieu of tax to each county. New acquisition nominations continue to be submitted to the Department. Rankings, Staff and Commission action continue to be an ongoing process. Lands Administration personnel continue to be state certified appraisers and keep up with the required continuing education requirements. The branch reviewed and commented on proposed changes to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) livestock grazing regulations.

INFORMATION

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

Information personnel are responsible for the production of news releases, radio programs, and video productions. Radio stories are available via the Internet as MP3 files, allowing immediate access of a broadcast quality news message on a Department subject; this message is updated weekly. Information personnel also produce radio and video public service announcements, and feature length video productions. Print news release packets are distributed weekly.

The Telephone Information Center (TIC) fielded over 70,000 phone calls in FY05 and in some instances was the only contact that individuals had with the agency. The TIC assumed responsibility to fulfill requests for information via mail. The requests accounted for close to 20,000 mailings.

Personnel also worked information booths at the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo and check stations. Other projects include large mailings for other sections within the agency as well as the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming. The TIC takes almost all phone orders for Alternative Enterprises (AE) products. A dozen new products were added to AE inventory. Product sales exceeded \$100,000 for FY05 and peaked during the holiday periods. Work began on an on-line store to be launched by the end of the calendar year.

The Customer Service Supervisor participated on the Electronic License team, attended numerous meetings and served as a Site Supervisor for Expo. The major effort was directed towards personnel issues within the section.

Telecommunications within the Information section is charged with communicating the agency's service needs of over 1000 billed numbers to the Department of Administration and Information (DAI). The ability to track all actions for existing, past and future billed numbers is in place. In addition, all internal customer needs have been met. The telecommunications liaison has responded to 362 internal telecommunication requests.

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 and priority and express mail. Use of the postal inserting machine continues to reduce the time required to process large license mailings. More than 95,000 licenses were mailed in a little over five working days. Three people are needed, amounting to 15 man-days, to process licenses.

REGIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

All elements of the annual work plan were achieved. This included the production of over 828 news releases, radio spots, conservation education programs, media interviews, and public service announcements. Approximately 10,183 youth and adults participated in conservation education programs, workshops, and seminars. Personnel either taught or helped to facilitate Hunter Education, Aquatic Education, Project WILD, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), WILD About O.R.E.O. (Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities), 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 Exposition. The Department's annual Whisky Mountain Youth Conservation Camp was cancelled due to a lack of applicants. Four programs and tours were given to over 200 individuals at the Department's Story, Sybille, and Lander education centers. Ten hunter information stations and one hunter festival provided approximately 855 nonresident and resident hunters with useful hunting-related information.

Materials and equipment (canoes, stream trailers, education trunks) were loaned to 37 schools, youth, scout, and church groups through the O.R.E.O. program. Twenty-five man-days were spent assisting the Wildlife Division during the 2004 fall Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance effort.

Personnel assisted other regional personnel and participated in intra- and inter-agency coordination efforts on nearly 110 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 Information and Education personnel, in all seven regions, facilitated 40 local sage grouse working group meetings.

Personnel serve as liaisons for the Department as appointees to various boards, committees, and working groups. These include the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center Board of Directors, Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee, Jackson Elk and Bison Environmental Impact Study Planning Committee, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Interagency Brucellosis Committee's I&E Subcommittee, Wyoming Wildlife Society I&E Subcommittee, International Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies Chronic Wasting Disease Education Subcommittee, Jackson Hole Weed Management Association Education Subcommittee, Wyoming Brucellosis Education Team, internal Grizzly Bear Working Group, internal Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group, Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition Advisory Board, Sheridan County Ambassador Program, Jackson Interagency Visitor Center Advisory Group, and the Governors Natural Resource Tour Steering Committee.

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 programs and classes on 30 occasions, which included workshops, Internet course field days, coordinating, advertising, teaching, and providing classroom materials.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

During FY05, Education Branch personnel in Cheyenne conducted conservation education programs, workshops and seminars for about 6,700 people. An additional 13,669 participants attended the 2004 Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.

Volunteer coordination and work for the Department is also a part of the Education Branch. A total of 382 volunteer instructors conducted 238 hunter education classes, resulting in the certification of 4,546 students. Volunteer hunter education instructors provided 6,488 hours of service to the Department. The volunteer program, WILD WORK, had 388 volunteers provide 5,605 service hours. Project WILD facilitators conducted 23 workshops for 587 teachers. Four Water Education for Teachers (WET)/WILD/Project Learning Tree workshops were conducted for 79 additional teachers.

The Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.) program was presented to 31 new instructors. A total of 229 instructors have since been 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 20,000 Wyoming citizens were exposed to the Department's education programs, camps, workshops, and the Expo. Approximately 382 volunteer instructors assisted in the hunter education program, and 388 volunteers assisted in wildlife and fish management efforts. Volunteers contributed over 12,000 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 have difficulty meeting the demand for education programs particularly during periods of high demand. When this occurs, quality, availability and accessibility of these programs could suffer.

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Section produced 12 issues of *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine*, which was mailed to more than 30,000 subscribers each month. Six issues (37,000 each) of *Wyoming Wildlife News* were produced and distributed free of charge to license selling agents within Wyoming and more than 6,000 paid subscribers. Collectively, *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine* and *Wyoming Wildlife News* earned \$307,781 in gross receipts.

The Publications Section relies on freelance articles and photographs for the *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine* and *Wyoming Wildlife News*, resulting in increased costs related to purchasing articles and photos, and an out-of-date photo file. The unit continues to develop a more efficient system for storing, searching and sharing traditional slides and digital images. Additionally, there is a need for additional funds for a survey tool to understand readers' desires and opinions, and marketing funds to increase circulation.

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.

The eight local sage grouse working groups, created with representation from industry, agriculture and sportsmen's organizations worked on local sage grouse conservation plans and submitted a first round of project requests. All eight local conservation plans will be completed by June 30, 2006.

Work continued on developing a prairie grassland management plan. Despite losing the State Wildlife Grant funded prairie ecologist in FY05, most work was completed with a final plan expected in FY06.

Black-footed ferret inventories indicated a second year of good reproduction in the wild at the initial Shirley Basin release site. Preplanning was initiated for additional releases in the Shirley Basin area to be completed in fall 2005.

The statewide grizzly bear occupancy management guidelines were completed and adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in July 2005. The occupancy guideline will be amended to the state grizzly bear management plan prior to release of the final delisting rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USWFS) in early 2006.

Division personnel worked cooperatively with the Attorney General's office to create a delisting petition for the gray wolf. The petition has been submitted to the USFWS.

Veterinary Services program was moved from Services Division to Wildlife Division to address expanded vet services and sage grouse management responsibilities. Budgets for these programs were converted to general fund appropriations.

Monitoring the distribution of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk continues to be a major effort for the division. These efforts will most likely continue into the foreseeable future.

In calendar year 2004, permanent law enforcement personnel worked 5,296 man-days and drove 581,794 miles on law enforcement activities. This effort resulted in the issuance of 1,989 citations, 1,848 warnings, and documentation of 865 law enforcement actions in which there were no suspects.

The Division is providing the highest quality interview and interrogation training for law enforcement personnel. Several complex cases were resolved due to the expertise personnel have developed in this area.

Wildlife damage compensated under W.S. §23-1-901 continues to absorb considerable personnel time in the Division. In FY05, Division personnel expended 756 man-days and drove 104,598 miles on activities to prevent wildlife from causing damage to private property. They expended 411 man-days and drove 19,598 miles investigating, processing and handling damage claims and landowner coupon redemption. A total of 82 damage claims worth \$209,921.31 were filed and the Department paid \$141,871.00. In addition, personnel spent 1,522 man-days and drove 151,125 miles responding to nuisance wildlife issues that were not consider wildlife damage under W.S. §23-1-901. Increased distribution and abundance of grizzly bears resulted in the creation of an additional permanent human/trophy game conflict position in the Jackson/Pinedale region.

Recommendations from the Recruiting/Screening/Hiring committee have now been fully implemented. Additional recruiting efforts included broader advertising and proctoring of exams at universities throughout the nation. Elements of the revised hiring process have been adopted by several other western states.

Division personnel worked cooperatively with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to create an exhibit featuring the construction of the Department's Thorofare Patrol Cabin. Thousands of visitors viewed the popular exhibit. In addition, Division personnel presented evening lectures at the museum and an open house was held at the patrol cabin.

Other accomplishments included the training of over 200 Department personnel in wilderness first aid, with eight classes held at various locations throughout the state. Employee feedback regarding this training was extremely positive. Individual classes will be scheduled in future years to ensure that all personnel receive this valuable training.

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, 2004*, 86 percent of resident antelope hunters, 71 percent of resident deer hunters, and 66 percent of resident elk hunters indicated they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with the overall quality of their hunt. Likewise, 92 percent of nonresident antelope hunters, 80 percent of nonresident deer hunters, and 76 percent 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, 2004* and the *Annual Report of Small and Upland Game Harvest 2004* indicates that hunters spent 1,109,136 recreation days during the 2004 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 too few personnel within the Division to adequately address all demands, which continue to increase in response to pressure from outside and inside the agency. Most employees work in excess of 200 hours per month. The numbers of deer and antelope have been slowly

increasing. Drought conditions moderated throughout Wyoming. Early spring and summer rains improved forage conditions for most wildlife in the state. Pronghorn numbers are close to objective statewide, while deer numbers are still 15-20 percent below objective. Hunting seasons remain fairly conservative, but improved productivity due to better forage conditions during the past two years has allowed some increase in pronghorn and mule deer hunting licenses. Doe deer and pronghorn harvest has been targeted for areas with degraded habitat conditions. Elk herds are much closer to objective than in previous years, and reduced cow/calf ratios in northwest Wyoming have many publics concerned about the impacts of wolf and grizzly bear predation. Depredations by grizzly bears on livestock continued to be a problem, as well as human/bear encounters.

The pace of energy development, particularly coal bed methane (CBM) and gas fields, continues to pose many new problems for wildlife managers. Potential impacts could be significant in crucial habitat areas. Minimizing and mitigating these impacts will require considerable personnel time.

The brucellosis outbreak in cattle generated much concern about the prevalence of brucellosis in wildlife, particularly elk. Efforts to maintain separation between livestock and elk, conduct a pilot test, and a removal project on Muddy Creek Feedground will increase time and dollar costs.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Fast paced energy development continues to impact wildlife habitat and place additional workloads on habitat biologists and other Department personnel. Preparation of grant applications for numerous funding sources has taken a tremendous amount of time. One habitat biologist was put into a temporary job status on another project in February, one habitat extension biologist took another job in May, one habitat biologist retired in June, and one habitat extension biologist was injured and unable to work for over 2 months. These positions have not been filled or covered by the end of the fiscal year. Two terrestrial habitat biologists were assigned and continue to provide the lead roles on the Pinedale and Casper Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 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.

Over 110 landowner habitat extension projects were developed and/or implemented during FY05. Due to budget constraints, the Department suspended the habitat grants program in FY04 and FY05, so no new grant projects were developed. In addition, 23 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, Pinedale/Jackson, Green River, and Lander regions and completed in the Laramie region. A total of 122 habitat projects were implemented and 37 additional habitat projects were planned during the fiscal year.

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues, problems, and opportunities statewide. The Department currently has 10 permanent and one contract terrestrial habitat biologist 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

Issuing possession and importation permits continue to be time-consuming tasks. Calendar year 2004 saw a 10 percent increase in the number of permits issued, with 465 Chapter 10 permits being either issued or renewed. There was a total of 181 Chapter 33 permits issued, an increase of 25 percent from 2003. A change in the actual issuing process has also taken place. Beginning in 2005, all permits are being generated and mailed from the Cheyenne office while the Wyoming Law Enforcement Coordinator (WLEC) continues to review each permit application. Numerous Chapter 45 and Chapter 56 permits are still being issued as well.

The Wildlife Violator Compact among states continued to expand and now includes 21 different states. The database has been enhanced and is now accessed through the Internet. There are currently more than 4000 individuals entered into this database.

The WLEC is now a member of Wyoming's Joint Terrorism Task Force and participates in training and information sharing with other law enforcement agencies. The Office of Homeland Security has coordinated these efforts and is proving to be a valuable information resource for the Department's law enforcement program.

During FY05, the Department registered more than 26,000 watercraft. Up to eight wildlife technicians each spend approximately five man-months of time on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Funding is received annually from the U.S. Coast Guard to assist with this effort. A new patrol boat was purchased through a Homeland Security grant that will facilitate our boating safety role in southwest Wyoming. The WLEC attended a U.S. Coast Guard training session for all District 7/8 state representatives and the annual Western States Boating Administrators Association conference.

A new Case Management System (CMS) is in the final stages of preparation. Delays in getting all wardens hooked up with high-speed Internet service should be completed this winter, with the CMS going on-line during the same time.

Increases in the number of wildlife violator compact states created additional responsibilities for the WLEC. Administrative time requirements for this program, permitting, boating safety coordination and Homeland Security responsibilities have been on a steady increase. Recent increases in U.S. Coast Guard funding allocation to the states guarantee additional matching funds available to Wyoming. However, a lack of adequate personnel to address all aspects of the boating safety program means the Department will not be able to realize all of the available matching money from the Coast Guard.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

The Law Enforcement 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. Unit members operate with unmarked vehicles and typically out of uniform. Personnel are 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 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

In FY05 the unit was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes. Several undercover cases have also been worked. Investigators spent 6,136 hours investigating cases. The unit closed 71 cases and convicted 76 defendants. These defendants paid \$65,940.00 in fines and an additional \$106,910.00 in state and federal restitution. The total of these is \$172,850.00.

The unit continues to work cooperatively with game wardens on many cases. Each investigator also works very closely with the Wyoming's three USFWS agents.

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

BIRD FARMS

Personnel at the bird farms raised and released 29,926 pheasants in FY05. These birds were released on Department lands, private lands leased through the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) program, and private lands where landowners allow public hunting access. Sheridan Bird Farm (SBF) accounted for 13,086 and Downar Bird Farm (DBF) for 16,840. SBF personnel continue to upgrade the facility as budget allows, help at check stations, collect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples, and are active with spawning operations at local hatcheries. Personnel at both bird farms helped with signing of PLPW lands. Downar personnel maintained guzzlers on PLPW lands and conducted prescribed burns at Springer and Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area's (WHMA). Burned areas were re-seeded using Killough funds for seed and construction crew equipment and labor. Downar personnel continued to monitor lake levels and used irrigation water to maintain shelterbelts and pond levels. Personnel at both bird farms conducted tours for school groups, 4-H and FFA classes, local classes, and clubs as requested.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES

FY05 was the third year under the current contract for the big game harvest surveys. This was the sixth year (second contract) that the same outside contractor conducted the big game harvest

surveys. Department personnel and the harvest survey contractor continued to improve upon the big game surveys each year. The small and upland game harvest surveys were conducted 'in house' for the third year in FY05, after approximately three decades of having the surveys conducted by an outside contractor. Personnel continually improve upon the survey instrument, data processing and results analysis each year. For FY06, the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center is contracted to review the survey instrument, survey sampling and data analyses to obtain an 'expert' opinion on these survey components.

A major Wildlife Observation System (WOS) software revision has been going on over the past several years. A major revision was essentially completed in FY03, and while working with the system in FY04, personnel noted a number of areas where corrections and additional improvements were needed. Personnel worked with the Department's IT section to make additional improvements in FY05, with efforts continuing in FY06. 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. The IT person currently working on the revision is also revising the data input screen, revising the conversion routine for location descriptors and preparing documentation for the system.

In FY05, the Cheyenne staff biologist continued to edit contributed chapters for the division's Handbook of Biological Techniques. The Cheyenne staff biologist was diverted frequently from completing the Handbook of Biological Techniques, so progress has been slow. The Cheyenne staff biologist will again carry revision of the Handbook of Biological Techniques over into the next fiscal year, and the handbook will be completed in FY06. 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 FY05. That position was also involved in Pacific Flyway activities, including waterfowl data collection, participation on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee, continuing to seek funding for a proposed Joint Ventures project for the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and development of migratory game bird hunting seasons. The harvest survey coordinator/WOS administrator continued to improve upon harvest sampling and data analysis. She took additional training on database and spreadsheets to improve data processing and reporting. She has also worked closely with the Department's IT section and field users in revising WOS and resolving a myriad of issues with the system. The section conducted the fifth annual in-depth review of JCRs in FY05.

The section supervisor and Cheyenne staff biologist were involved 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). That task continued into the early part of FY05. He was also assigned oversight of an intern to do an annotated bibliography associated with the programmatic oil and gas mitigation document. He followed up on this task by coordinating with IT personnel in developing a related searchable database for literature references on this

subject, which is now available on the Department's website. The Cheyenne staff biologist continued to receive requests from administration to do policy, regulation and document review. The Cheyenne staff biologist was tasked late in the fiscal year with writing a petition to remove the Rocky Mountain population of the gray wolf from protection under the Endangered Species Act.

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 and FY05, 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, which lasted until mid-FY05. That position was involved in a number of planning meetings and made several presentations related to sage grouse conservation in FY05. The Alpine staff biologist assisted the new sage grouse program biologist, who was hired in FY04 to 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 unplanned information and assistance requests and considerable coordination with the Department's MIS staff.

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 Department or in response to requests for assistance from our constituents. Personnel for the wildlife biologist position changed in early FY05, the second personnel change in as many years. The new person in that position was required to learn the duties of the position while completing scheduled work and responding to unscheduled assignments. The administrative clerical specialist made several significant contributions to improving license data entry, assisted with the surveys conducted in-house, assisted other Department personnel with .pdf file revision and production, helped with computer software trouble shooting, developed a users manual for converting JCRs to .pdf, made more improvements to the CITES bobcat tagging process, and performed a variety of other tasks that improved section and division performance, as well as completing routine tasks. The administrative clerical specialist also continued to improve upon electronic production of several of the section's annual reports, including harvest surveys and JCR, which she began the previous year. The section wildlife biologist and damage technician helped scan UW Coop Unit theses, prepare pages for the Department's annual report, revised species information for WOS, and cleaned up the bighorn sheep harvest hard and electronic files. Intra-agency generated tasks included special reports, data compilations and analyses, and assisting with surveys.

Problems that arose during FY05 centered mainly around unanticipated assignments that diverted efforts from scheduled work, including development of the programmatic mitigation

recommendations for oil and gas development on lands administered by the BLM, development of a petition to delist the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains, frequent requests for information and assistance from the field and from the public, periodic administrative assignments, and numerous unplanned meetings all challenged Biological Services' personnel work schedules. The combination of unanticipated assignments and expanded division responsibilities requiring additional support from Biological Services personnel stretches the capabilities of the current strategy to accomplish required workload.

TROPHY GAME – MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

Management/Research Grizzly Bear Trapping – three grizzly bears and three 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 Creek, Horse Creek and the East Fork of the Wiggins Fork on the Shoshone 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 Department conducted 62 telemetry flights that assisted in monitoring 78 different individual bears from July through June.

Grizzly Bear Observation Flights – Trophy Game coordinated 28 observation flights for the Department, conducted in eight of the 14 survey units. All of the assigned Bear Management Units were covered during July and August 2004.

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 2004. One flight surveyed known feed sites and the other surveyed 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 Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements for the fiscal year.

Information and Education – The section assisted state and regional personnel in conducting appropriate educational programs. Assistance was also provided, 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 Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo held in Casper every September.

Mountain Lion and Black Bear Harvest – The section maintained statewide databases to manage all of the harvest information for these two species. In addition, the section coordinated 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 maintained a statewide database to quantify the number and type of encounters that occur throughout the state. Regions provided the section with updates on a monthly basis.

Black Bear Bait Site Database – The section developed and maintained a statewide database to monitor the use of baits in harvesting black bears.

Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) – 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. The section also participated in preparation of an annual report that summarized all 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. In addition, the section is 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; YES) – Section coordinator serves as the Department representative on technical committee for this population of grizzly bears and as a technical advisor on the YES and IGBS Subcommittees. All activities related to management of research activities were coordinated.

Section 6 Coordination – Prepared annual Section 6 Justification and Summary for 2004. In addition, a five-year summary for future budget justifications was completed. Coordinated updating of permits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Yellowstone National Park to conduct nuisance and research activities.

Occupancy Guidelines Public Review Process - The section prepared management recommendations related to management of the distribution and numbers of grizzly bears that would occur in Wyoming, outside national parks, following delisting. The process included taking these recommendations to the public and revising based on that input.

Wolf Petition to Delist – The section participated in the process to prepare a petition to the USFWS to delist wolves.

Black Bear Management Plan – The section began initial phase of rewriting the state’s management plan for black bears. This process was not completed due to other unplanned tasks that needed to be completed.

Black Bear Fecundity – Personnel from the section 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. This data will assist in the development of reproductive parameters that may be used in future management. Work is being conducted north of Jackson. Two females were sampled this year.

During FY05, the Management/Research Branch of the Trophy Game Section continued its participation in preparing several chapters for the 2004 Annual Report for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population. The section continues to cooperate with the USFWS and the IGBS 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.

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.

Problems include inadequate staffing to address work assignments. Two 12-month At-Will Employment Contract (AWEC) positions were converted to permanent positions to provide some program stability.

TROPHY GAME – CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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 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.

Section personnel spent approximately 8,662 hours managing bear damage and associated tasks in the Jackson, Cody, and Lander regions. In addition, the section investigated and/or managed 136 conflicts or encounters between humans and grizzly bears; captured and relocated, or removed 24 grizzly bears for management purposes; investigated 16 human caused grizzly bear mortalities; investigated and/or managed approximately 108 conflicts or encounters between humans and black bears; captured and relocated, or removed 27 black bears for management purposes; presented numerous information and education programs about bear biology and conflict prevention to the public, journalists, hunter safety students, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association, Department personnel, and other organizations; made numerous informal informational and educational contacts with the public to inform them about bear biology and conflict prevention; helped with bear-resistant product testing at the Grizzly Discovery Center; met with USFWS personnel to aid in development of a grizzly bear management plan for the Wind River Indian Reservation; provided a panel speaker at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium; participated in Grizzly Bear Occupancy public meetings and revisions; attended inter-agency wolf coordination meeting in Missoula, MT. Participated in first annual "Living With Wolves" symposium in cooperation with the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB); spoke at Legislative Committee hearings regarding HB 203; maintained grizzly bear

conflict and mortality databases; co-authored report of “Grizzly Bear-Human Conflicts, Confrontations, and Management Actions in the Yellowstone Ecosystem;” participated with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Forest Service in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of portable electric fence designs to deter bears; completed a black bear conflict analysis for the Jackson region; Assisted regions with black bear harvest registrations and baiting compliance; investigated several reports of mountain lion conflicts and/or damage; attended bear management workshop in West Yellowstone; 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 for a Dubois area subdivision; and 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 section is responsible for monitoring, management and dissemination of information on over 300 species of birds and 100 species of mammals.

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, several new projects were initiated with one-time appropriations from Congress under the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program funding. 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 personnel 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. A mapping effort of white-tailed prairie dogs in western Wyoming was also initiated, potentially warranting surveys to locate black-footed ferret complexes. In addition, projects to design and prioritize Trumpeter Swan habitat improvement projects, a bat conservation plan, and a grassland ecosystem plan were initiated.

Nongame personnel conducted intensive monitoring of nesting Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. Data accumulated on these species have been used to develop effective management strategies. Recently, 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 75 nesting pairs in 2005.

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 the Department continues to evaluate the potential impacts of new threats, such as West Nile virus (WNV).

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 nongame 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 eighth 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 2004, the continuing persistence of a significant population of black-footed ferrets (at least 89 ferrets) was documented. Additional reintroduction efforts are planned for 2005.

Adequate coordination of management programs and information transfer can increase effectiveness of wildlife programs. Nongame personnel continued 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 chaired and compiled 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 personnel completed an update of the Avian and Mammal Atlas and provided a significant portion of the species accounts for the CWCS effort. Nongame personnel also continued to assist in the planning, development, and fieldwork of various research projects.

The sage grouse coordinator was primarily occupied with establishing the five new local working groups (LWG) and providing administrative support for all eight LWGs during FY05. With the support of the Governor's Office and Department Administration, a supplemental budget appropriation of \$500,000 was secured from the 2005 Wyoming State Legislature. This funding is to be distributed to worthy projects across the state in FY06, as well as supporting LWG meetings and activities. Due to the sudden and unexpectedly lethal outbreak of WNV in sage grouse, especially in NE Wyoming, the Department is cooperating with many other agency, university and private interests in monitoring WNV 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 three, peer-reviewed scientific publications and numerous articles in the popular press. The state's intern program was utilized to hire an intern that monitored birds marked with radio-collars and collected mosquitoes in the Upper Green River Valley in July and August 2004. Additional interns were utilized during the summer of 2005 to assist with habitat mapping efforts in northeast Wyoming and in the Big Horn Basin.

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.

A sage grouse web page was established on the Department website. Each LWG has a page where meeting minutes and projects are posted. Other sage grouse information is also posted as it becomes available. The site is updated monthly.

Personnel continued 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 of management concerns. The section 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, such as SWG, 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. A recent condensed schedule for CWCS completion has been extremely difficult for Nongame to accommodate. The increasing need to address WNV impacts on sage grouse and the accelerated planning schedule has precluded completion of one major and one minor element. While progress was made in

FY05, the landowner guide to sage grouse habitat management and the reprint of Patterson's "Sage Grouse in Wyoming" have not been completed.

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.

Duties for the Pacific Flyway are divided between the Central waterfowl biologist, Jackson nongame biologist and the Alpine staff biologist. The Central waterfowl biologist and the nongame biologist conduct waterfowl surveys. 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.

Management of goose nesting structures was not achieved. The Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt and check station were not achieved because the hunt was cancelled due dry conditions at Bump-Sullivan Reservoir.

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

PRIVATE LANDS PUBLIC WILDLIFE ACCESS PROGRAM

The Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Access Program continued to provide valuable hunting and fishing access throughout the state. In FY05, there were 23 Hunter Management Areas (HMA) with 578,672 private acres enrolled. There were 384 Walk-in Hunting Areas (WIA) with 482,396 Private land acres, 32.58 stream miles and 80 lake acres. Together, the HMA and WIA hunting programs provided access to 1,061,068 land private acres along with a conservative estimated 1.4 million public acres, for total of approximately 2.4 million hunting acres. Walk-in Fishing provided access to 273.4 lake acres and 85.51 stream miles of privately held waters on 63 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 declined due to several factors, including an increase in license fees and the newness of the program wearing off. For FY05, Access Yes donations totaled \$645,468. PLPW staff took 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.

The PLPW Access Program has grown tremendously since its inception in 1997. However, it has proven to be so effective that current staffing is stretched to capacity. There are only three regional PLPW Access coordinators for the state. The regional coordinators are actually turning away landowners because they don't have the time to deal with any additional access areas. The PLPW Access Program could be providing a lot more access and maintaining the existing areas much more effectively. Additionally, law enforcement is stretched thin because regional coordinators cannot effectively cover their current areas. The addition of one regional PLPW Access coordinator could provide extensive assistance to the Department by increasing access through Walk-in or Hunter Management Areas, assisting landowners and fellow Department staff.

WILDLIFE VETERINARY RESEARCH SERVICES BRANCH

The Veterinary Services Branch completed a study to determine if Shiras moose could be infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Captive moose were given a single oral inoculum of mule deer CWD prions. One female developed pathologic lesions of the nervous system characteristic of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. The CWD prion was also located in several nervous and lymphoid tissues. This was the first evidence that moose were susceptible to CWD.

A major study was started this year to determine how elk shed the CWD prion. Thirty elk are placed in metabolic cages for three days where feces and urine are collected. Blood and saliva are collected also. Environmental samples, insects, and other small mammals are also collected. All these samples are used to develop and validate an assay to detect the CWD prion in collaboration with the University of Wyoming. This study should last 2-3 years and is funded by the Department of Defense.

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 fourth study, conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, is designed to harvest CWD-infected tissues to be used for further CWD research by scientists worldwide. Ten elk, 10 mule deer, and 10 white-tailed deer were orally infected with CWD. Every six months, 2 animals from each group will be euthanized, necropsied, and tissues preserved for future research projects.

Another study was started in collaboration with the University of Wyoming to evaluate how pronghorn thermoregulate. Temperature data loggers were surgically implanted in male and female pronghorn. These loggers recorded internal body, vascular, and brain temperatures. Ambient temperatures are simultaneously recorded. The purpose of this study was to compare the thermoregulatory physiology of the pronghorn to African antelope species.

The Department's integrated brucellosis management program (Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat; BFH) is aimed at reducing the prevalence of brucellosis in elk. A total of 573 elk were trapped and tagged at six feedgrounds during the 2004-2005 winter and 175 test-eligible female elk were bled for brucellosis evaluation. Adequate samples were collected at all state feedgrounds surveyed except South Park, where trapping operations ceased due to potential for increased elk/cattle commingling. A total of 15 trap days were recorded this winter between January 14 and March 11. 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.

Strain 19 calfhood vaccination was again very successful this winter with a majority of the state feedgrounds reporting complete calfhood coverage. A total of 3,674 calves were vaccinated on 19 state feedgrounds. The strain 19 elk vaccination program was again conducted on the National Elk Refuge (NER) during the winter of 2005. Due to the short feeding duration this winter, only calves were vaccinated in effort to achieve maximum coverage of this cohort. A total of 507 calves (nearly 90 percent of number classified) were successfully vaccinated this winter during a 26-day period. Since the inception of the strain 19 program in 1985, nearly 66,000 elk have been vaccinated on 21 of 22 state feedgrounds and the NER.

Implementation of habitat improvements projects was somewhat impeded last fiscal year due to Federal Land Management Agencies' lack of personnel to complete National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) documents and moist conditions that prevented several scheduled prescribed burns. The first phase of the New Fork-Boulder treatment was conducted in Sublette County with 1,260 out of 2,677 total project acres burned. The second phase of this project is scheduled for the upcoming fall. Coordination meetings with federal agencies continued throughout the year to implement future projects. Monitoring of ongoing projects continued throughout the year including vegetation sampling and analysis.

BFH personnel also committed a great deal of time to the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team. The BFH supervisor presented data and reported on progress of various assigned projects at nearly all of the Team's meetings. One of the most time consuming of these projects was the development of elk herd unit Brucellosis Management Action Plans (BMAPs). These plans collate all existing elk, feedground, and brucellosis management information, and present recommendations developed in consultation with local cattle producers, state and federal wildlife and livestock regulatory officials, and federal land managers that minimize risk of disease transmission from elk to cattle. The Pinedale elk BMAP was completed in April 2005. Six other elk herd unit and two bison herd unit BMAPs are to be developed by July, 2007 and will likely involve tremendous time commitments from the BFH work unit into the foreseeable future.

FEEDGROUNDS

The number of elk attending feedgrounds (14,402 elk) declined 1,709 elk from the previous winter. Much of this can be attributed to mild winter conditions throughout the winter. About 82 percent of all elk that are influenced by state feedgrounds were fed. The total number of elk fed did not exceed the sum of all individual feedground Commission ceilings (14,934 elk).

However, 10 of the 22 feedgrounds had elk numbers that varied in excess of 200 elk of the individual ceilings. The Patrol Cabin feedground had 1,015 elk over the Commission ceiling. Scab Creek was 438 elk over and Camp Creek, Fish Creek, and Black Butte were 346 elk, 306 elk, and 225 elk, respectively, over the Commission ceilings. Alkali was 800 elk under the Commission ceiling. The Alpine feedground was 398 elk under the ceiling. Green River Lakes, Soda Lake, and Fall Creek, were 303 elk, 300 elk, and 262 elk under the ceilings, respectively.

The length of feeding averaged 14 days less during 2004-05 when compared to the long-term average. The shortest feeding seasons were at Fish Creek and North Piney. These resulted from wolves moving the elk to other feedgrounds before feeding was completed for the winter. Other short feeding seasons were at Green River Lakes, Soda Lake, and Fall Creek, because of low snowfall.

The elk were fed 6,413 tons of hay, which is 2,035 tons less than the previous winter and 357 tons less than the 30-year average. The reduced amount of hay fed resulted from the combination of a lower number of elk in attendance at the feedgrounds and shorter feeding seasons. On average, each elk fed was offered 0.45 tons of hay during the winter.

Feeders reported that 96 elk died on the feedgrounds. This is slightly higher than the 30-year average. The number of feedgrounds where wolves have killed elk continued to increase. Wolf predation has occurred on 16 of the 22 feedgrounds. The only feedgrounds where wolves have not made a kill are those adjacent to human activity (South Park, Alpine, Dell Creek, McNeel, and Dog Creek). The number killed on feedgrounds during 2004-05 (33 elk) by wolves does not appear to have a measurable effect on overall elk numbers, although there appears to be a general overall upward trend in the number killed since wolves were introduced. Calves continue to be selected by wolves and comprised over 50 percent of the elk killed.

The most significant effects of wolves on feedground management occurred in the Piney Habitat Unit (HU). Nearly half (16 elk) of all the elk killed by wolves (33 elk) were from the Jewett feedground. The elk were chased from this feedground on different occasions. On one occasion they were chased 6 miles from the feedground and were not located until two days later on private property. Department personnel hazed these elk back to the feedground. Wolves also hastened the movement of the North Piney elk to Bench Corral. This resulted in an early initiation of elk feeding at Bench Corral because of the additional number of elk. Wolves also chased elk off the Finnegan feedground and onto private property. In the Pinedale HU, about 700 elk were chased from the Black Butte feedground on two occasions. On one occasion, these elk bedded down in the right-of-way along Highway 353, prompting several phone calls from motorists concerning highway safety issues.

Wolves continue to be a concern with feedground management. The number of elk killed on feedgrounds is not significant; however, elk are chased off feedgrounds, which increases possibility of damage and co-mingling. Also, problems associated with hay storage and waste occurs when elk are chased from one feedground to another.

The Department must educate the public regarding habitat enhancements and increased number of elk on native range; these are only partial solutions to the brucellosis issue. In addition, these

measures can only be considered when elk/livestock commingling issues have been totally addressed and where adequate forage is available for existing elk numbers.

JACKSON/PINEDALE REGION

There are a diverse array of constituencies, agencies, and interest groups in the Jackson/Pinedale region. The region continues to maintain constructive working relationships with conservation groups, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, and Sublette and Teton County Commissions. The Jackson/Pinedale region networks with these organizations to update and inform each other of myriad issues affecting wildlife management and conservation. The working relationship and trust developed with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife averted a potentially contentious deer hunting season regulation process.

Region wildlife personnel spent much time working on big game migration corridors. Local and national media routinely contacted the Department, and personnel provided monthly and even more frequent tours of big game migration corridor bottlenecks. Stories were published in the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Smithsonian Magazine, and numerous Wyoming newspapers. The Jackson/Pinedale region provided comments to Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton County governments on private land development issues affecting big game migration, worked with landowners in the Upper Green River to make fence modifications that would more easily pass pronghorn antelope through that bottleneck, and worked closely with the Green River Valley Land Trust to keep them informed of private land problems and opportunities relating to migration corridor protection.

The pace of industrial and housing development outstrips the Department's ability to plan, prioritize, or implement conservation. The region would like to be more strategic, but have become largely reactive. Recruiting an oil and gas biologist is a priority. Inflated prices motivate aggressive marketing and intensify development interests. Inflated real estate prices in the Jackson/Pinedale region hinder recruitment of new employees. Feedground issues continue to be contentious, and duties and workloads for game wardens, wildlife biologists, feedground personnel, and managers expanded with new commitments made to the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team. Conflict resolution responsibility without concomitant authority in grizzly bear management continues to draw on regional resources, and problem solutions are not timely or efficient.

Annual big game surveys were conducted for most regional herd units (eight elk herds, two mule deer herds, three moose herds, one antelope herd, one bighorn sheep herd, one Rocky Mountain goat herd) in FY05. These surveys resulted in the classification of 5,000 antelope, 15,000 mule deer, 24,300 elk, and 1,900 moose. The majority of these herds were surveyed utilizing Department M&O funding. Federal grant monies enabled personnel to survey the Targhee Moose herd for the first time since 2000.

Game harvest data was collected at 35 check stations throughout the region. Over 2,800 hunters were contacted resulting in approximately 825 big game species recorded. In addition, CWD samples were collected from harvested mule deer at most check stations throughout the fall hunt.

Seasonal range updates were completed for two mule deer herds and one moose herd in FY05 to more accurately depict seasonal habitat use and movement corridors.

Environmental reviews continue to comprise a large portion of the annual work schedule with over 100 projects reviewed and submitted to Habitat Protection-Cheyenne. In addition, numerous local projects were analyzed and comments provided to county and city officials throughout the region. Gas development continues to expand throughout crucial wildlife habitats requiring extensive coordination with Federal land managers, industry, and consulting firms.

Brucellosis surveillance and associated management activities continue to be a high priority during the winter months. For this coming winter season with the addition of test-and-removal activities at the Muddy Creek feedground, brucellosis activities will continue to be a major work schedule element for the biologists.

In FY05, 22 sage grouse lek complexes were surveyed in the spring, resulting in 113 individual leks being monitored. Many leks showed increased male attendance due to improved chick production/survival from the previous year. However, leks associated with developing gas fields continue to decline in attendance.

The pace of gas development on crucial wildlife habitats continues to accelerate in the region. An oil and gas biologist position was established to address the increased workload. At present however, that position is vacant and the terrestrial biologist staff has picked up the additional work assignments. It is imperative to keep this position filled to keep up with the large workload associated with gas development activities. Regional personnel continue to be concerned about short-term and long-term impacts associated with habitat fragmentation and increased human activities during critical time periods for wildlife in the ever-increasing gas developments. In addition, the influx of people working the gas fields has led to a "housing boom" in Sublette County with numerous subdivisions being developed around Pinedale. Numerous wildlife migration corridor issues associated with new subdivisions have arisen, increasing workloads.

The region's law enforcement program continues to be a priority. During FY05 region law enforcement personnel spent 6,925 hours and traveled 71,973 miles performing law enforcement duties. This effort documented 485 violations, 224 citations, 235 warnings, and 26 no actions. Total detected violations were up 3 percent compared to last fiscal year. 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 18, 2004 – January 3, 2005. During that period, 635 hours and 12,595 miles were coded to mule deer winter range patrol, resulting in 18 vehicles being contacted. Number of vehicles contacted was down considerably from last year's count of 100 vehicles. However, wardens documented 3 poached deer last winter. The first situation involved a doe and a small buck mule deer killed with a .22 caliber firearm. Both deer were found within a few feet of each other. The second incident involved a large bodied buck with antlers removed. This deer was shot at least three times with a .22 caliber firearm. The two crime scenes were examined carefully and evidence collected. However, no suspects have been identified in either case. All three deer were within the assigned patrol areas of the task force and were within the Big Piney warden district.

Pinedale/Jackson personnel worked the annual antler auction May 16-20, 2005. The annual event was moved from Jackson to Dubois this past year, which complicated coordination efforts for both the Jackson and Lander regional offices. Personnel from both regions were assigned to work in Dubois during that week. Interstate Game Tags were issued both at the Lander and Jackson regional offices, as well as Dubois. Twenty-four private vendors from 8 states stopped in Jackson to have antlers tagged. Region personnel issued 195 Wyoming Interstate Game Tags during the event. The total poundage of shed big game antlers brought through the Jackson office was 7,920 lbs. Office managers spent a total of 74 man-hours assisting with the event and region wardens tallied a total of 157 man-hours tagging antlers and patrolling for illegal activity. This effort resulted in 8 warning citations being issued for game tag violations.

Pinedale/Jackson region office managers registered 685 spring black bear bait sites to black bear hunters this past spring, up 11 percent from the previous year. Wardens worked a total of 412 hours checking bear baits and hunters this past spring in bear management areas 16-20 and 29-31. Warden's checked a total of 72 bait sites, with 25 percent of them being in violation. A total of 42 violations were detected, with 17 citations being issued for non-compliance. In many instances, bait sites had multiple violations and only one citation or warning may have been issued. Some investigations are continuing at this time and may result in additional warnings or citations being issued. The most common bear-baiting violation this year was failing to place bait in a proper container. This violation represented 33 percent of the total violations detected. The Jackson/Pinedale region has formulated a bear-baiting task force for the past several years. This task force will focus law enforcement efforts in a different area in the region each year for 2-4 days every spring. This coordinated effort allowed wardens to check a high number of bait sites in a short amount of time.

Jackson/Pinedale enforcement personnel and fisheries biologists set up a fishing task force on the Green River for one weekend in July. Four two-man check stations were strategically set up along private land to check floaters and anglers for compliance. It was felt that there needed to be a more intensive effort made to check anglers floating along isolated portions of the Green River. During this effort, 32 boats and 64 anglers were checked. Compliance was very good with only 1 citation and 3 warning citations issued. A total of 154 man-hours were spent on this effort and almost all fisherman complimented wardens for being in the field doing their job. Most anglers had caught fish between 18"-23" and no fish were kept. The majority of anglers checked were non-residents with a resident guide. Only 1 citation was issued for fishing without a license.

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. Assistance from conflict resolution personnel and a contract with Wildlife Services has helped decrease the damage workload for region wardens. During FY05, 16 damage claims were submitted. This included five claims for elk, two for deer, two for black bear, five for grizzly bear, one for mountain lion and one for Canada Geese. A total of \$35,647.29 was paid by the Department to settle these claims. Even though damage-related workloads remain high, this figure represents a 48 percent decrease from last year's total amount in damage claims paid by the Department.

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. Fewer access permits have been issued each year for both HMA's resulting in having more serious hunters in the field that better understand how to harvest problem elk. The Big Piney HMA was valid for antlerless elk and the season ran from November 16, 2004, to January 31, 2005. Very few elk were harvested during this hunt and damage 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. The season ran from November 17, 2004 to December 31, 2004. Very few elk were harvested during this hunt and elk damage to stored hay was minimal. 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

Winter 2004-05 conditions were favorable in many areas of the Bighorn Basin. Spring and early summer 2005 precipitation was at or above normal, initiating good herbaceous forage and woody browse production in the foothill and montane zones of the Absaroka and Bighorn Mountains; forage production in lower-elevation, interior basins was much improved over the past 2-3 years.

Four of five pronghorn herd units in the Bighorn Basin are below objective, while population trend in four of five herds has been relatively stable the past five years. Hunting seasons have been conservative in recent years to allow herds to increase, but drought conditions and impaired habitat quality has been factored into management and hunting seasons. Under drought conditions, it is better to manage big game animals below their carrying capacity, to avoid further damaging shrub-dependent habitats. Low fawn recruitment the past few years has played a significant role in keeping pronghorn numbers below objective. Conservative hunting seasons are again in place for all hunt areas in 2005. Proposed seasons should allow pronghorn populations to at least maintain, and hopefully increase slightly, if fawn recruitment approaches normal during 2005. Horn growth should be more favorable than in the past few years, given the good moisture and vegetative production in spring and early summer 2005.

Mule deer numbers are essentially at objective for the Paintrock, Greybull River, Shoshone River, and Upper Shoshone Herd Units, slightly (10-15 percent) below objective for the SW Bighorns and Clarks Fork Herd Units, and significantly (>20 percent) below objective for the Basin and Owl Creek/Meeteetse Herd Units. Effects of the persistent drought have been evident for several years throughout the Bighorn Basin. Compared to 2003, fawn recruitment in 2004

was essentially unchanged in four herds (Greybull River, Shoshone River, Owl Creek/Meeteetse, and Clarks Fork), down in two herds (Paintrock, Upper Shoshone), and up in the SW Bighorns and Basin herds. In 2005, however, increased fawn recruitment is expected, due to favorable moisture and vegetative response during spring and early summer 2005. White-tailed deer numbers have rebounded in some hunt areas. Seasons and hunter success in 2005 should be quite similar to 2004.

In 2003, two positive CWD cases (one mature mule deer buck, one mature white-tailed buck) were found along the Bighorn River, near Worland; no positives were found in the Bighorn Basin during fall 2004. Fall 2005 surveillance will again focus on obtaining quality samples for CWD testing along the leading edge of where this disease has been recently documented.

Elk numbers are essentially at objective in two herd units (Medicine Lodge, Cody), approximately 15 percent above objective for the Gooseberry Herd Unit, and about 25 percent above objective for the Clarks Fork Herd. Bighorn Basin hunt areas (i.e., 47-49) in the South Bighorns Herd Unit are well above sub-objective, but at the sub-objective for hunt areas (39-40) in the North Bighorns Herd Unit. Liberal seasons, high cow/calf elk harvest the last six years, lowered 2001-04 calf recruitment, and predation loss have moved elk numbers toward objective in most herd units. Now that elk numbers are at or near objective in most herd units, future seasons will be set to maintain those numbers.

Over the past 20 years, the Thorofare moose population has steadily declined, due to a combination of factors including the 1988 fires, expanding grizzly bear populations, reintroduced wolves, and multi-year drought which affected shrub annual leader growth. Hunt Area 8 will be closed for the 2006 season. Cody region personnel worked closely with Yellowstone National Park (YNP) personnel to conduct a cooperatively funded helicopter moose survey in the Thorofare and Yellowstone River drainages.

In the Greybull/Gooseberry drainages (HA 9), the moose population is also considered to be declining somewhat, based on hunter reports and WGFD observations. Moose numbers along the central/northern Absaroka Front (Hunt Areas 11,12,13,31) have also declined in recent years; public sentiment suggests wolf predation as a major factor. Research in YNP indicates grizzly bears are a more significant predator on moose and elk calves than wolves. Moose appear to be doing well along the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains in Hunt Areas 42 and 43.

Hunter success during the 2004 bighorn sheep hunting season remained very high (>80 percent) in all five hunt areas in the Cody region, with some outstanding rams being harvested. Bighorn sheep numbers are fairly stable in all five herd units. In the 10 years since any-ram limitations were initiated in the Cody region, 85-92 percent of the rams harvested have exceeded $\frac{3}{4}$ -curl size. Average age of harvested rams has remained stable or increased, while effort required to harvest a ram has decreased. Post-season age/sex classifications, while not completed in every hunt area, indicate good availability of mature rams.

A seasonal movements/habitat use telemetry study was initiated in the Clarks Fork Herd Unit (HA 1), to examine and document movement along, and across, the Wyoming/Montana state line. An historic transplant using low-elevation, canyon-adapted sheep from Oregon was

completed in December 2004, with promising results to date. An additional transplant in winter 2005-06 is being planned at this time. Close coordination with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services and the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) occurred with the Devil's Canyon bighorn sheep project.

Cody region personnel removed three young bighorn ewes that wandered down the lower Wood River and contacted domestic sheep. Kevin Hurley and Doug McWhirter continued their active involvement in statewide bighorn sheep management and issues, including work on the Bridger-Teton and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests.

Coordination efforts between the Department and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) network, especially the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, were led by Kevin Hurley and Doug McWhirter, resulting in thousands of dollars for Wyoming bighorn sheep projects. The second annual coordination meeting between the Department and WY-FNAWS was successfully held. Also, Hurley was instrumental in the workings of the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Both Hurley and McWhirter co-chaired the Bighorn Sheep committee. A special issue (July 2005) of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine was written with and closely edited by Hurley and McWhirter, focusing on bighorn sheep management in Wyoming.

Mountain goats in the Beartooth herd appear to be doing well. Hunter success was excellent again in 2004, with 12 hunters harvesting 12 goats (eight billies, four nannies). Kid production and recruitment were good, and overall herd size remained near 200 wintering animals. Mountain goats continued 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 YNP and MTFWP. Hunter-harvested goats were sampled (to the extent possible) for exposure to West Nile Virus; no positive cases were documented.

Bison movements from YNP were very limited in FY05, so no hunt was held in the Cody region during winter 2004-05. A maximum count of eight bull bison wintered along the North Fork of the Shoshone River; all eight bulls returned to the park for the summer by early June 2005.

Hungarian and chukar partridge hunter success was slightly improved in 2004, due to slightly improved nesting success and chick survival. Blue grouse and pheasant hunting were fairly good. Fair numbers of pheasants, chukars, and gray partridge entered winter but had to again deal with reduced cover and food. Over-winter survival was considered fair, since winter conditions were not severe. 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 was altered during FY05, to facilitate planting pheasants from the Sheridan Bird Farm. A majority of hunter comments indicated support for the implemented changes.

Increased data collection for sage grouse continued in FY05. Fall 2004 harvest and spring 2005 lek count data were summarized in the annual Cody region sage grouse Job Completion Report, but were unavailable for this Annual Report. Efforts of the Bighorn Basin sage grouse local working group continued during FY05, with the intent to develop specific habitat treatment recommendations and "Best Management Practices" for sage grouse. A sage grouse intern (Noe

Marymor) was hired during May-August 2005 to assist in sagebrush/sage grouse habitat mapping.

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 nine 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 four years. Hunters were very successful in both areas 6 and 10 during the spring 2005 turkey season.

Cody region personnel assisted with a National Wild Turkey Federation statewide turkey habitat mapping exercise. 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.

Cody region personnel worked closely with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center/Draper Museum of Natural History (BBHC/DMNH) to put together a 50th anniversary celebration to commemorate construction of the Department's Thorofare patrol cabin. Facets of this celebration included a photographic display seen by thousands of people at the DMNH, a 6-part lecture series by Department specialists attended by over 1,000 people, social events to acknowledge the original Department "builders", a scrapbook for permanent display at the cabin, companion artwork, etc.; the entire event was judged a huge success by Department and BBHC/DMNH personnel and administrators.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance continued in the Bighorn Basin in FY05. Fortunately, no new cases of CWD were documented in the wake of two positive cases from areas near Worland in fall 2003.

Personnel led the efforts to enact a Memorandum of Understanding between YNP and the Department, to better coordinate surveys and data exchange on wildlife along the Absaroka divide.

Region personnel continued their active involvement in ongoing species-specific working groups, including sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn. No Cody region representative has been included, to date, on the moose working group. The Cody Regional Coordination Team (RCT) actively met throughout this fiscal year, focusing on information exchange, coordination on work scheduling/activities, regional office and personnel needs, etc. Also, Cody region personnel assisted at the annual Hunting & Fishing Heritage EXPO.

Cody personnel established 20+ vegetative transects to assess herbaceous and/or browse current annual growth, in an effort to strengthen the connection between habitat condition and big game management through hunting seasons. Active involvement by Cody personnel with ongoing CRMs (e.g., Kirby Creek, Wapiti Ridge, Yellowtail weed) and coordinated habitat efforts (e.g., Heart Mountain Ranch/grass bank) continued during FY05.

In addition, Cody region personnel assisted the Trophy Game section by conducting multiple grizzly bear/moth aggregation aerial surveys. Cody region personnel were also heavily involved with the grizzly bear occupancy proposal. Regional personnel also assisted the Trophy Game Conflict Resolution program with numerous grizzly bear, black bear, and mountain lion calls.

Cody region personnel assisted the Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) effort by initiating landowner contacts/discussions, assisting with permission issuance, and signing/posting Hunter Management Areas (HMAs) and Walk-In Areas (WIAs).

Regional personnel classified 4,423 antelope in five herd units, 10,862 mule deer in eight herd units, 343 white-tailed deer in one herd unit, 10,524 elk in four herd units, 2,686 bighorn sheep in five herd units and 154 mountain goats in one herd unit.

Regional personnel made 1,633 landowner contacts during FY05, and spent 6343 hours contacting hunters and fishermen and collecting harvest and management information (activity codes 510-512 and 520). Big game harvest field checks totaled 1,262 (i.e., 554 elk, 596 deer, 29 antelope, 79 bighorn sheep, and 4 mountain goats). Due to budget cuts, the Cody check station was not open during fall 2004, except for specific days to collect CWD samples from harvested deer and elk.

Regional wildlife biologists and the wildlife management coordinator spent 513 hours reviewing 58 project proposals, up 154 hours (43%) from FY04, providing comments on potential impacts to wildlife and recommending mitigations measures to minimize or eliminate negative impacts. Included here was time spent on the Bighorn National Forest Plan revision, and the upcoming Shoshone National Forest Plan revision. Time was also spent on the anticipated revision of the Resource Management Plans for the Cody and Worland BLM field offices. Work also continued with WYDOT, analyzing proposed right-of-way fences, appropriate use of high-tensile electric fence, highway reconstruction, and chronic/acute stretches of highway with high levels of vehicle-animal collisions.

Personnel were actively involved in inter-agency/NGO discussions and meeting concerning large animal migrations and connectivity between seasonal ranges. Cody region personnel were heavily involved in analyzing the controversial, proposed Copperleaf subdivision in Wapiti Valley, and in launching an Absaroka Front Initiative with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Oil and gas activity is relatively limited in the Bighorn Basin, compared with many parts of Wyoming. However, proposed 3-D seismic activity and increased oil/gas activity in the Clark area received significant focus from Cody personnel.

Law enforcement efforts throughout the year were routine. The number of violations detected, the number of citations issued, and the number warnings issued decreased in FY05. Cody region personnel spent 5539 hours in enforcement activities (activity codes 300-310-320), resulting in 313 incident reports, 219 citations, and 185 warnings. Regional personnel participated in task forces at Glendo, Keyhole, and at Pinedale.

The number of damage complaints decreased in FY05 to 162 and the number of claims received decreased from 31 to 27. The 27 claims resulted in the payment of \$60,440 for damage to crops

and livestock, a decrease of \$24,696 from FY04. Twenty-four claims were paid in full, three claims were partially paid, and no claims were denied. Game wardens and a seasonal damage aid spent 2,006 hours 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 56 percent (\$33,750) of the total damage, followed by damage to hay 13 percent (\$7,695), damage to corn five percent (\$3,063) and other damage 26 percent (\$15,932).

SHERIDAN REGION

During FY05, Gary Shorma served his twenty-seventh 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. Gary Shorma retired on June 30, 2005. Torrington game warden Joe Gilbert was selected to fill the Sheridan region wildlife supervisor position on July 1, 2005.

Aaron Kerr was promoted from the Wheatland wildlife technician position to the Sheridan game warden trainee position, vacated by Irah Leonetti, who was promoted to the east Rawlins game warden district. Brian Baker filled the Gillette wildlife technician position after Jason Sherwood was promoted to the south Casper game warden district. 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 South Gillette game warden John Schneidmiller prepared for retirement, Supervisor Shorma participated in the interview and selection process for the promotion of Aaron Kerr from the Sheridan game warden trainee position to the South Gillette game warden district.

The Sheridan region experienced the continued influx of people because of coalbed methane (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 Department personnel to meet the ever-increasing workload in the Sheridan region.

Emerging issues that required considerable time and effort on the part of the Sheridan region wildlife biologists included planning for and implementing a special depredation hunt in Elk Hunt Area 123 of the Rochelle Hills Elk Herd Unit to gather blood samples to be tested for brucellosis. The hunt was deemed necessary after a sample from a domestic cow from the area tested positive for brucellosis. All elk samples tested negative for brucellosis and it was later believed that the domestic cow sample had been mishandled resulting in false positive result. A second emerging issue in the Sheridan region was the discovery that two hunter-harvested deer near Kaycee tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The CWD positive deer necessitated the collection of deer by Department personnel for intensified sampling purposes

from Deer Hunt Areas 30 and 33. Lynn Jahnke was also assigned to the CWD committee as the representative for the Sheridan region, adding to the wildlife management coordinator's workload. Third, the Sheridan region assisted with the planning and implementation of an elk distribution and movement study funded by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Fortification Elk Herd. This study was funded because coalbed methane (CBM) development was occurring around the Fortification Hills and proposed to move into the area used by elk. A fourth item, shrub-monitoring surveys were added to wildlife biologist workloads. Surveys were conducted in both the fall and spring with the wildlife biologists working with Bert Jellison, the Sheridan region terrestrial habitat biologist, and local game wardens.

Issues and projects from recent years that continued to require time and effort from Sheridan region biologists included many associated with sage grouse. Participation on the Northeast Wyoming local sage grouse working group involved many days work. Dan Thiele assumed the Sheridan region working group committee representative position and also took over the duties associated with data entry into the sage grouse database and writing the Job Completion Report. Intensified aerial sage grouse lek surveys were again funded by the BLM and flown by Department personnel. Sheridan region biologists interacted with researchers from the University of Montana that are in the Powder River Basin conducting research on sage grouse and CBM development. Biologists also provided input into the sage grouse habitat improvement project in northern Johnson County.

Intensified efforts to discover unknown and monitor known sage grouse leks were conducted by Department personnel, federal agency personnel, consultants, and volunteers. During the spring of 2005, aerial and ground surveys were used to check 285 of 338 leks. Forty-six (46) unknown leks were documented in 2005. In the past seven years, 156 previously unrecorded lek sites have been documented. Attendance at leks by male sage grouse increased dramatically compared to 2004. It should be noted that in 2003, researchers in the Powder River Basin had a majority of marked birds die due to West Nile Virus (WNV), while in 2004 mortality due to WNV was much lower. This and that may have been an important factor in the observed increases in 2005. After four years of decreasing, the average number of males observed per lek increased, indicating population size had increased compared to 2004.

Sheridan region non-law enforcement personnel were again tasked in the fall of 2004 to collect CWD samples from hunter killed deer and elk. Two temporary biologist technicians and a few volunteers assisted in the effort. Collection sites were located at meat processors in Gillette, Buffalo, and Sheridan. Samples were also collected at check stations in Dayton and Kaycee as well as from taxidermists, field checks, and from hunters contacting Department personnel. The Sheridan region contributed to the statewide CWD surveillance effort. It was through this surveillance sampling that positive CWD deer were discovered from Hunt Areas 30 and 33.

The revision of the Bighorn National Forest Management Plan continued to require input from the wildlife management coordinator. Several Steering Committee meetings were attended as well as meetings with other state agencies. Throughout the revision process, assuring wildlife was receiving appropriate consideration was a challenge.

Annual wildlife management surveys were conducted throughout the year. Personnel classified big game before and after hunting seasons. A total of 20,352 pronghorn antelope, 269 elk, and 149 moose were classified during the 2004 pre-season surveys in herds where the Sheridan region has responsibility. Postseason 2004 classifications were conducted on 3,003 elk, 1,596 white-tailed deer, 10,628 mule deer, and 46 moose. Personnel conducted line transect surveys on pronghorn antelope herds in each of the three biologist districts during the spring of 2005. Pronghorn antelope herds surveyed were generally well above the population objective. Wintering elk trend counts were conducted as in past years but a special effort was undertaken in the Rochelle Hills because of the special depredation elk hunt held in Area 123 removing about 90 elk and reports that elk numbers still exceeded previous estimates. Results of the Rochelle Hills Elk Herd trend count indicated the population was about twice the management objective.

Sheridan region personnel on patrol, at check stations, and locker plants checked 265 elk, 158 white-tailed deer, 1,219 mule deer, 923 pronghorn antelope, and 27 moose. These figures include animals checked by Sheridan region personnel for both Sheridan region herds and animals that were harvested in other regions but came into the Sheridan region. Sheridan regional personnel provided field check information to surrounding regions for big game animals from their areas. Biologists and other regional personnel inspected mountain lions, black bear, bighorn sheep, and checked small game and game birds.

Some of the same problem areas as reported in past years continued and even intensified in the Sheridan region. CBM development continued to change the landscape. The development was the impetus behind outside-funded sage grouse and elk research projects, as well as intensified sage grouse lek searches and monitoring efforts that have provided valuable information about these species. But as the new information has come in about sage grouse and elk, habitats have continued to be fragmented and altered in ways that will be evident for many years to come. It appears the development has immediate negative impacts to wildlife through disturbance. The introduction of undesirable plant species and loss of desirable plants, erosion of unstable soils, and loss of natural seeps and springs has longer lasting negative impacts to wildlife. CBM development has been the reason for curtailing hunting opportunities in some areas as CBM facilities spread across the landscape. Decreased access has negatively impacted the ability to manage some herds. 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 maintained at population objectives. 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 Private Lands/Public Wildlife (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 the managing of big game herds toward objective in private land areas.

The biologist position vacancy in Gillette was a serious impediment to efficiently accomplishing wildlife management activities. Other personnel handled some Gillette area projects or activities while other tasks were simply not done and opportunities missed. Injured, sick, and nuisance wildlife calls as well as trophy game calls concerning human safety caused interruptions to wildlife biologists' scheduled activities, particularly for the Sheridan district biologist and wildlife management coordinator at the Sheridan regional 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 helped alleviate some of this load, but both positions were vacated during the reporting period when the individuals received promotions and were transferred. Filling both the game warden trainee and wildlife technician positions in the Sheridan region would improve data collection efforts. The addition of a biologist aide position would allow some projects currently on hold to be addressed.

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. Five claims totaling \$22,921.68 were received, resulting in payments of \$18,640.58. 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. Damage to stored or growing crops by deer and antelope decreased in FY05. Two claims totaling \$5,328.00 were received, both of which were paid in full. Total damage claims received during FY05 decreased significantly to \$28,249.68 compared with FY04, in which claims for \$56,193.96 were received. Liberal harvest strategies for female and juvenile deer and antelope in the Sheridan region appear to be having the desired effect of reducing population levels and depredation complaints. During the season setting process in 2005, a new strategy was implemented that allowed hunters to purchase up to four reduced price doe/fawn deer and antelope licenses in selected hunt areas within the region. In certain antelope hunt areas, hunters were allowed to purchase a second Type 1 license after the leftover license drawing in July. This would allow hunters the opportunity to harvest a second buck antelope.

The Sheridan region continued to feel the impacts of energy development in the Powder River Basin in FY05. Regional officers documented 567 violations in FY05, compared to 873 violations in FY04 (35 percent decrease in the number of detected violations from FY04 to FY05) and 743 violations documented in FY03 (24 percent decrease from FY03). Regional personnel most likely attributed the decrease in detected violations to reduced enforcement patrols. The Buffalo and South Gillette Wardens each spent several months on sick leave as a result of work related injuries. The Sheridan warden trainee and Gillette wildlife technician covered these warden positions as best they could. The overall effect was being two enforcement positions short for a significant portion of the fiscal year. Personnel changes in the Sheridan and North Gillette districts possibly contributed to the decrease as well, as officers spent time becoming familiar with new patrol areas. Two retirements and two transfers occurred at the end of the fiscal year, disrupting normal work efforts.

Watercraft violations decreased 47 percent during the reporting period (103 in FY05 versus 242 in FY04). Reasons for the decrease are similar to those stated previously. Officers encountered a relatively heavy enforcement load at Keyhole State Park, even early in the boating season. The decrease in detected violations due to lack of effort at Keyhole should reinforce the need for a wildlife technician dedicated to patrolling Keyhole reservoir. Trained personnel are necessary to address the workload.

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. Brian Baker, who filled this position, was promoted to the Evanston game warden position at the end of the fiscal year. The Game warden trainee position was moved to Sheridan from Gillette. Irah Leonetti, who filled the Sheridan game warden trainee position, was promoted to the east Rawlins warden district. Aaron Kerr replaced Leonetti in the Sheridan position.

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. Urban wildlife complaints continue to erode the availability of enforcement officers for law enforcement duties and are a huge drain on Department resources. 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. The Department needs to determine if current number of officers is capable of effectively addressing ever-increasing numbers of violations while performing their other management duties.

GREEN RIVER REGION

External challenges remain to be continued drought and habitat concerns and budget problems. Budget development was very challenging but personnel have adapted and have been able to perform our function. There have been several important issues, priorities, and addition of special duties that have affected the regional wildlife supervisor's work schedule and availability. Staffing and increased workload continued to pose challenges throughout FY05. The region continued to transition with the terrestrial habitat position being filled by Cory Kallstrom during the past year.

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. 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 the Green River region.

Biologists were involved with the development of two major studies involving elk and deer, as well as the review of final papers involving pronghorn migrations, movement corridors, and distributions. Green River biologists guided the development of a statewide GIS layer for big game migrations and the development of a statewide road-kill database. In addition, biologists continued to work with Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) in the development of fencing and underpasses for mule deer in Nugget Canyon.

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. Regional personnel continue to be concerned about the long-term impacts from habitat loss and increased disturbance to wildlife from human activity.

The overall workload for biologists continues to increase as does the number of issues that requires their input. This has added a level of complexity not seen before and the need to routinely multitask in order to be effective. New issues added to the biologist workload include Resource Management Plan (RMP) reviews, oil and gas project reviews, research project development and involvement (often in relation to impacts), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring, sage grouse planning, statewide committees and assignments, review of transplant potential, land acquisitions and easements, habitat monitoring, and habitat project development, mitigation development for oil and gas, and others. This has taken away from the traditional role of biologists and has reduced the amount of time spent on routine data collection tasks and time in the field.

Law enforcement duties continued to be a top priority and regional personnel spent 6,096 hours enforcing fish, wildlife, and watercraft laws resulting in 374 cases yielding 524 documented violations (245 citations, 279 warnings). 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 2004-2005, with special emphasis on bobcat trapping.

The region's damage program was also an important priority in FY05. Game wardens and the one technician spent 1,220 hours preventing and investigating wildlife damage and handling damage claims. There were five big game damage claims (payments totaling \$4,099) and one trophy game damage claims (payments totaling \$1,180).

Wardens and wildlife technicians devoted considerable time to data collection, management review, habitat monitoring, and hunting season recommendations. The Access program in two warden districts grew with the addition of two Hunter Management Areas.

During this fiscal year the Green River region had two wildlife technicians that helped considerably with workload challenges as a result of losing one warden position the previous year. There continued to be an increase of increased energy-related activities, public calls for service, and added priorities.

LARAMIE REGION

Personnel changes resulted in one new game warden trainee and a wildlife technician filling the game warden trainee position in the wildlife division office at Cheyenne headquarters during the year, and three wildlife technicians working in the Laramie and Wheatland technician positions throughout the year with a total of seven months vacancy in those positions.

The effects of the ongoing drought, the limited access to large areas of private land in the region, and the resulting inability to manage big game populations toward objective presented challenges during the year.

Laramie region biologists spent the majority of their time involved in the various aspects of wildlife management. During FY 05, 110 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 still ongoing revision of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins area Resource Management Plan (RMP). Because of reduced personnel, increasing workloads and the relatively few acres of Casper Resource Area BLM lands within the Laramie Region, our involvement in this RMP was limited to comments regarding management of BLM lands associated with Commission-owned lands.

Data collection and analysis continued to be a major function. Laramie Region biologists and wardens classified nearly 19,000 pronghorn, 8,500 mule and white-tailed deer, 3,400 elk, 50 moose and 65 bighorn sheep in 2004. Pronghorn and mule deer fawn ratios were better in 2004. Generally ratios were higher in the western half of the region and lower in the eastern half. Pronghorn ratios were still depressed east of the Laramie Range. Sagebrush habitats continued to be characterized by over mature stands with recent signs of heavy browsing. Elk production was high (56/100 in the Snowy Range). Observed ewe:lamb ratios remained very low in the Laramie Peak bighorn sheep herd (16/100 in 2003, 17/100 in 2004). Personnel found some evidence of pneumonia in 2003 but have not documented an all-age die-off in this herd. Monitoring lamb ratios in this herd will continue to be a priority.

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 increased significantly and sharp-tailed grouse populations were still depressed due to drought, low production, and haying/grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

Sage grouse local working groups were established during the past two years. The Bates Hole-Shirley Basin group was started in March 2004 and covers Upland Game Management Areas 22, 27, 28, 32 and 33. The South Central working group was formed in September 2004 and covers Upland Game Management Areas 9, 10, 24, 25, and 45. 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. fewer licenses) because populations for the most part have been reduced to objectives. Hunting of any ram was authorized for the first time in the Laramie Peak Herd in 2003. Sheep harvest in this herd moved south and onto private lands in 2004. Areas 18 and 21 were jointly opened in 2004, with all sheep taken from Area 21. Both areas will be closed in 2005. Table 3 shows harvest statistics for some of the popular game in the Laramie region.

Table 3.

SPECIES	HUNTERS	HARVEST	REC DAYS	% SUCCESS	DAYS/ ANIM
Pronghorn ¹	12,513	11,633	35,816	92.9	3.1
Mule Deer ²	10,488	5,447	45,268	51.9	8.3
Elk ³	6,676	1,999	48,244	29.9	24.1
Moose ⁴	10	10	53	100	5.3
Sheep ⁵	9	8	112	88.9	14.0
Black Bear ⁶	407	43	3,451		80.3
Waterfowl ⁷	3,104	26,358	18,097	--	0.9
M. Doves ⁸	1,131	15,674	4,060		0.3
Pheasants ⁹	3,039	12,612	9,873	--	0.8
Grouse ¹⁰	3,367	7,860	11,008	--	1.4
Spr. Turkey ¹¹	1,040	481	3,337	46.3	6.9
TOTALS	41,784	82,125	179,319		

- 1 – DAUs A520,521,522,523,524,525,526,527,528,529. 2 – DAUs MD534,537,539,540,541.
 3 – DAUs E531,533,534. 4 – DAU M545. 5 – DAUs BHS 516,517,519.
 6 – Hunt Areas 7,8,9. 7 – Waterfowl Mgmt Areas 2A, 2B, 3A (Includes ducks and geese).
 8 – Small Upland Game Management Areas (SUGMA) – 22,24,25,27,28,30.
 9 – SUGMA – 27,28,30. 10 – 22,24,25,27,28 (Includes blue, sage and sharp-tailed grouse).
 11 – Hunt Areas 2,4,8,12

Laramie region biologists were part of two studies during FY04. Personnel continue to cooperate with the University of Wyoming and the Pronghorn Working Group to determine pronghorn adult female survival rates in the Shirley Basin. This study was initiated in 2003 and will be completed in 2006. The second study, examining habitat use and habitat carrying capacity of moose in the Snowy Range, was initiated in 2003 and should be completed in 2007.

The pronghorn fawn survival study begun in 1999 was completed in 2002 and the thesis finished in 2004 (Zimmer, J.E. 2004. Pronghorn productivity and fawn survival in central and southeastern Wyoming. MS Thesis, University of Wyoming, Laramie). Summer fawn survival rates (from birth, about June 1, through the end of August) ranged from 25–50 percent, with most fawns being lost to predation.

Having two biologists, rather than three, limits the ability and degree of involvement of the Laramie region in various projects. The third position was converted into the Department's sagebrush ecologist position. As expected, workloads and expectations did not decrease with less people. The emphasis formerly placed on some duties was significantly decreased. Continued cooperation among all work units to prioritize job duties and improve time management skills will continue to remain critical to the region's ability to get the job done as well as possible. To this point, budget allocations have been adequate. The other chronic problem in the Laramie region continues to be access for hunters. The ability to manage populations continues to be compromised by the inability of large numbers of hunters to find a place to harvest animals, particularly female animals.

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 and season setting, sage grouse lek monitoring and habitat transect monitoring.

Wildlife law enforcement continued to be a priority in the Laramie region in FY05. Officers spent 8,389 hours and drove 126,930 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. A total of 731 enforcement actions were taken in the region and a total of 391 citations and 325 warnings were issued for game, fish, and watercraft 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 1473 hours patrolling the waters in southeast Wyoming.

Elk Mountain game warden Brian Nesvik returned from active duty in Iraq in the spring of 2005 and then moved to Pinedale, resulting in his warden district being vacant for ten months during the year. The Elk Mountain warden district responsibilities were divided among the neighboring wardens until Jordan Kraft filled the position in May 2005.

The Laramie region received 13 damage claims in FY05 with approved payments of \$25,974. One FY04 elk damage claim appealed to district court was finally settled in April 2005 for \$1500. Regional personnel spent 542 hours and drove 12,449 miles on damage prevention activities, and spent 193 hours and drove 1957 miles on damage claim evaluations and investigations. Most claims involved elk damage to standing crops.

Laramie region game wardens continued to be involved in the Department's Access program, assisting the regional access coordinator in signing-up, evaluating, signing, and patrolling lands enrolled in the program. The Laramie region continued to lead the state in FY05 with several hunter management areas and numerous walk-in areas, providing hunting opportunities on hundreds of thousands of acres of private and public land. Problem areas for wardens in FY05 included: urban wildlife calls in the Cheyenne area, the difficult situation of high pronghorn numbers on F. E. Warren Air Force Base, the effects of the ongoing drought on wildlife habitat,

continuing summer elk damage in the region, and the limited access to private land in the region and the resulting inability to manage big game populations toward objective.

LANDER REGION

Weather conditions during FY05 were generally favorable for wildlife across the Lander region. High amounts of well-timed moisture during spring and early summer 2004 resulted in tremendous herbaceous production. Temperatures remained relatively cool during summer and a number of fall precipitation events resulted in the best overall habitat conditions experienced across the region in the last three to five years. Leader growth of sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush plants was much improved. A mild winter of 2004-05 and improved habitat conditions, generally benefiting big game and game birds due to reduced winter stress and improving over-winter survival.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring took place throughout the Lander region. After training in collection techniques, check stations and field check schedules were established as the main sample collection points. No positive samples were collected from deer harvested in the region during FY05.

Over 60 persons attended meetings to discuss proposals for 2005 hunting seasons. Five “open house” meetings were held in communities around the region, with a formal public information-gathering meeting in Lander. 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.

A permanent wildlife technician position was maintained in the region during FY05. This position was responsible for watercraft safety and enforcement, Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) activities, and helped with many other region tasks. This position is funded primarily by watercraft and access dollars.

The legislatively authorized “One-Shot Antelope Hunt” required 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 were issued for this antelope hunt and the proceeds from the event were dedicated to water for wildlife projects.

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

With improved climatic and habitat conditions during FY05, pronghorn antelope populations improved across the Lander region. Of the region’s eight pronghorn herd units, two were estimated to be over objective, one was at objective, and five were below objective. A total of 18,181 pronghorn were classified to determine herd composition ratios. Fawn to doe ratios averaged 64 fawns/100 does, ranging from a low of 32 fawns/100 does in the Wind River Herd Unit to a high of 79 fawns/100 does in the Project Herd Unit. Buck to doe ratios averaged 52

males/100 females and varied from 32 (Wind River Herd) to 67 (Badwater Herd)/100 does. Male and fawn composition ratios were the highest observed in many years. Hunter success remained high during 2004 hunting seasons, suggesting current license levels are providing favorable hunting conditions in spite of below-objective population status across the region.

Mule deer populations remained depressed. Of the seven herds within the Lander region, all were below objective. Field personnel classified 6,887 deer in 2004, with fawn production ranging from a low of 55 fawns/100 does in the Dubois Herd Unit to a high of 75 fawns/100 does in the Sweetwater Herd Unit (mean = 66 fawns/100 does). Although herds remained below, overall fawn production was greatly improved when compared with the previous 3-5 years. Regional buck/doe ratios ranged from 16 (Ferris Herd) to 26 (Sweetwater Herd)/100. Most hunt areas had very short, antlered-only or 4-point or more antler-restricted hunting seasons in 2004. 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 FY05. Field personnel classified 6,174 elk in from December 2004 through March 2005. Observed calf production ranged from 28/100(Wiggins Fork Herd Unit) to 41/100 (Green Mountain Herd Unit), while bull/cow ratios varied from 7/100 (Wiggins Fork Herd) to 22/100 (Green Mountain Herd). Favorable conditions during fall 2004 resulted in good harvest rates and hunter success values. Although above objective, all Lander region herds are currently being hunted to reduce populations toward management targets.

Lamb production in the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep population improved slightly in 2004. A total of 415 sheep were classified, with ratios of 28 rams and 28 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 FY05.

Declining moose populations in the Lander region continued to be a major concern. A total of 172 animals were classified in January 2005 in the Lander and Dubois Herd Units. Composition ratios included an average of 44 bulls/100 cows and 51 calves/100 cows. Although these ratios were improvements over FY04, the total sample was the lowest recorded in over 15 years. Work continues to determine the cause of this decline, but regional biologists believe it is primarily habitat and drought related.

Sage grouse continued to rebound across the region during FY05. In spring 2004, regional personnel, with assistance from the public and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel, inventoried 143 of 146 known lek sites in the Lander and Riverton areas. Of leks inventoried, 92 were active with 3,379 males in attendance (mean of 36.7 males/lek). Both total males and average males/active lek were greater than levels observed the previous year. The University of Wyoming concluded a sage grouse study designed to determine components of late brood-rearing habitats in the Lander area. The student will finish coursework and write and defend his masters thesis during fall 2005.

Lander region Wildlife Biologists reviewed and submitted comments on 43 Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and other National Environmental Policy Act documents in FY05. Region biologists further participated in six Coordinated Resource Management teams, two professional technical committees, and the Department's sage grouse, moose, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn working groups. Two local sage grouse planning groups began operations during FY05 within the Lander region. Region biologists helped to set-up, and are currently participating in each of these groups. Biologists 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.

Accelerating oil and natural gas developments in northern and southern portions of the region are resulting in increased demands on the region's biologist staff. In addition, biologist participation in the Lander, Casper, and Rawlins BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions, the Shoshone Forest Plan revision, Department working groups, and local public sage grouse working groups has resulted in much greater demands on personnel time. Increasing impacts to wildlife habitats and increasing requests to participate in federal and state planning efforts are coming at a time of reduced operating budgets, greatly challenging the region's ability to stay abreast of these issues at a level necessary to provide meaningful input and/or help mitigate habitat impacts.

Wildlife damage assessment, prevention, 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 over 575 hours and drove over 7,000 miles in damage activities. There was one damage claim submitted by a livestock operator for loss of one calf to grizzly bear depredation. Prevention activities were successful in addressing damage concerns in all other situations. The single investigation recommended full payment and resulted in the total payment of \$660. 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 FY05, officers initiated 348 cases involving 424 violations - resulting in 177 citations and 237 warnings being issued. Coordinated enforcement efforts were put forth to enforce watercraft laws and regulations, patrol big game winter ranges, work decoy operations, work scheduled hunting seasons, work fishing derbies, and other peak fishing periods on Boysen and Seminoe Reservoirs. During this period, over 5,000 man-hours and 40,000 vehicle miles and watercraft hours were dedicated to law enforcement, investigations, and administration of the law enforcement program. Additionally, chronic wasting disease samples were collected during field checks of deer hunters. The monitoring effort did not detect the disease in the region during FY05.

CASPER REGION

The Casper region had a few personnel changes. FY05 was the first full year that Scott Edberg was the Casper region wildlife supervisor, after having three different supervisors in FY04. East Casper Game Warden Mike Choma was promoted to Law Enforcement Coordinator and replaced by the Cheyenne game warden trainee, Jason Sherwood. Jon Stephens was hired as the second region wildlife tech to replace Ty Huffman who took a position with the Wyoming Highway Patrol. Casper wildlife biologist Stan Harter transferred to Lander and was replaced by Rebecca Schilowsky. Finally, Katy Thrall was hired to replace Nancy Leaf in the Administrative Specialist 4 position for the office.

The Casper region wildlife budgets continue to be conservative with expenditures well within Department guidelines. The Department's FY04 game warden station inspections identified several major repairs and improvements that still need to be done to the Newcastle and East Casper warden stations. The other warden stations are in good shape and only need minor repairs.

Big game hunting seasons were relatively liberal in 2004 and comparable to that in 2003 with increased doe/fawn and cow/calf tags to address continued habitat decline and increasing or stable elk numbers. 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 above or at management objectives. The number of elk licenses issued was similar to 2003. Dry and mild conditions prevailed throughout much of the region, keeping elk spread out, making locating and stalking difficult.

Weather was dry and mild in the Casper region in FY05. Shrub productivity transects revealed relatively poor to very poor leader growth, but increased compared to previous years. Overall, the winter of 2004-05 was considered mild. The summer of 2004 and spring 2005 brought much needed moisture at likely key times, as shrubs were able to put on leader growth for the first time in many years. Monsoon rains in July and August 2004 were essentially absent. 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, personnel continued to collect shrub production and use data in Bates Hole, the Rattlesnake Mountains, the South Big Horns, the Laramie Range, the Thunder Basin National Grasslands, and in the Black Hills. These data better enable managers to calibrate population size and 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 summer, transition, and winter range. The Casper Region was 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 in the past several years, turkey populations have and continue to do quite well. Similarly, sage grouse population levels, based on spring lek counts, increased for the fourth year. In some areas, numbers of grouse observed increased markedly. Such dramatic increases were not observed 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 1990s.

Monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continued in the Casper region in FY05. CWD was not documented in any new areas. But, Hunt Area 65 continues to have a high prevalence rate.

Casper region biologists have also been involved with the Department's mule deer working group and the Bates Hole Shirley Basin local sage grouse working group. Personnel expended, and continue to do so, numerous hours representing the Department in the Black Hills Forest Plan and Casper Resource Area Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process.

In FY05, personnel in the Casper region classified 12,236 antelope, 10,619 mule deer, 3,882 white-tailed deer, and 3,289 elk. Compared to FY04, proportions of pronghorn, mule deer, and white-tailed deer fawns were up by 4:100, 8/100, and 1:100, respectively. Whereas, the number of elk calves:100 cows was down by 8:100. On average, personnel observed 80 antelope fawns:100 does, 71 mule deer fawns:100 does, 57 white-tailed deer fawns:100 does, and 42 elk calves:100 cows. Antelope line-transects were flown in the North Converse and Rattlesnake 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 that personnel continue to work to address habitat condition issues. Currently, the Department is attempting to address poor conditions by holding, or attempting to hold, wild ungulate populations at levels below current objectives and identifying habitat improvement projects (i.e., Muddy Mountain Aspen Project).

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

(3) CWD – While little is known about the impact CWD has on deer populations, management appears to be impacted. Hunters are deterred from hunting in areas identified as having CWD. Interestingly, Deer Hunt Area 65 had the highest prevalence of CWD ever recorded in a mule

deer population. While it may be coincidental, this population is also declining at a rate unpredicted and unexpected based on 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.

Investigating and preventing big and trophy game animal damage on private lands and responding to injured or nuisance wildlife calls remains a work priority for the Casper region game wardens and wildlife technicians. Casper region wardens and technicians spent 1,332 hours and drove 20,827 miles on damage and injured/nuisance wildlife related work. A total of eight damage claims were filed for a total of \$12,024.55 being claimed and the Department paying \$10,990.33. Injured and nuisance wildlife calls for the region, especially around Casper, continues to be a high profile issue resulting in a heavy workload for Casper area wildlife personnel. In FY05 the two Casper game wardens, two wildlife technicians, and one wildlife biologist responded to 347 injured wildlife calls in or around Casper alone.

The region's law enforcement program continues to be a priority. For FY05 a total of 5,212 hours and 84,935 miles were coded to enforcing wildlife, fish, and watercraft laws - resulting in 709 enforcement actions (376 citations and 279 warnings being issued and 54 violations with no suspects being documented). In October 2004, the Casper region had a major wildlife check station on US Highway 20-26, just west of Casper. This check station utilized Department personnel from around the state. A total of 710 hunters and 358 harvested animals were checked, resulting in 54 documented violations. As in past years, the Casper 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. These task forces have been a great success. The North Platte River from Grey Reef Dam to Casper continues to be a very popular and outstanding trout fishery, resulting in heavy fishing pressure from early spring until the river freezes. In response, there has been an increased enforcement effort by enforcement personnel. Recreational floating on the North Platte River in and around Casper has greatly increased and in turn, resulted in many watercraft violations. Fall hunting seasons continue to be busy with lots of routine violations, as well several excellent cases being discovered and successfully prosecuted.

The Casper region continues to maintain its enforcement ranks at full strength. The region lost one wildlife technician to the Wyoming Highway Patrol but was able to replace that position in a short time frame. This new technician had to attend and successfully complete the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy peace officer basic class in the fall of 2004 prior to being able to conduct any law enforcement duties. This resulted in one less person in the field during the busy fall hunting season.

The region continues to have a strong training program for firearms and custody control as well as providing assistance on statewide wildlife technician training. New and innovative training in firearms and custody control continues to be the standard for the Casper region.

Drought and the effects on wildlife populations continue to be a problem for the region. Lack of access to private lands and landlocked public lands for hunting and fishing remains a big issue for regional personnel. The lack of access has resulted in reduced deer and antelope license sales and subsequent loss of revenue for the Department, leading to an inability to meet management goals and objectives.

Increased recreational use of the North Platte River and region reservoirs by residents and non-residents has greatly increasing the workload and demands of regional law enforcement personnel. As this workload increases, other routine but important job duties are set aside.

FISH DIVISION
Mike Stone, Chief

Despite a year of adverse drought, diminished fishing license sales and constrained budgets, the Fish Division accomplished some noteworthy achievements, including:

- The Department's Strategic Habitat Plan and Habitat Priorities continue to be integrated into Division functions. This year a new work scheduling format and process were successfully implemented. Priority watersheds were adopted by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as criteria for choosing projects under the Conservation Security Program and EQUIP for fish passage.
- One of three capital facility improvements (Wigwam Fish Rearing Station) was completed. Of the remaining, Dubois was well underway at the end of the year; the project at Speas awaits completion of the well. These projects were made possible by a \$3.3 million legislative appropriation and department funding.
- Over 40 department employees attended risk assessment courses. Importation and translocation of fish are subject to risk assessment and HACCP analysis to prevent inadvertent importation of exotic fishes, invertebrates and disease.
- A select committee of department employees developed scenarios for keeping or selling the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery. The Commission approved a process for the disposal of the land, buildings and water rights at Como Bluff.
- The Habitat Section sponsored a fish passage workshop attended by over 200 biologists and engineers from the department, private consultants, state and federal agencies. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has since dedicated \$2 million towards retrofitting irrigation diversions to improve function and better provide for native fish passage.

Work on the Colorado River cutthroat trout brood facility at Wigwam was completed in 2005; cutthroat trout from Como Bluff were transferred to Wigwam and show remarkable improvement in their condition and health. Capital facilities work to improve water quality and to provide recirculation of the limited water supply at Dubois was initiated and is well ahead of scheduled completion date. The protozoan that causes whirling disease was discovered in the Big Spring water source that partially supplies Story hatchery, as a consequence the production fish were not stocked but destroyed in accordance with Chapter 10 regulations.

A major effort by the Habitat Section during FY05 included the continued participation by personnel in Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service planning efforts. This took considerable time away from on-the-ground efforts and collaborative project planning and implementation. An enormous amount of time was invested into funding sources such as the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account, energy mitigation proposals and the Landowner Incentive Program. In addition, an effort was initiated to initiate a forage reserve on the Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA).

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 major emphasis during the last year was completion of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). This required significant work with

partners, a careful review of available information, and updating aquatic wildlife data systems. 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 continued work 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 natural gas development. This was particularly acute in the Powder River Basin and the Upper Green 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. Fisheries personnel worked with other state and federal agencies to complete status assessments for Colorado River and Bonneville cutthroat trout. Regional fisheries crews completed informational newsletters for the public that included information on fishing and aquatic resources in their region. The boating access program completed most major developments planned for the year.

Division administration continues to find productive our interstate coordination activities that continued on several fronts through organizations such as the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Council, Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and Tri-State Conservation planning groups. Work on the Native Fish Habitat Initiative was initiated in FY05; progress has been substantial with draft plan work nearly completed. Attendance of fish managers and culture personnel at the Risk Assessment/HACCP workshop has been helped to clarify standards and protocols for critically examining translocation and interstate fish movements. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision on the 90-day finding was successfully appealed for Bonneville cutthroat trout. Wyoming and Utah have been granted intervener status to again fight the petition to list the Bonneville cutthroat trout. In the mean-time, the multi-state conservation agreement actions have been extended from the three cutthroat species to now include three native Colorado River fish, including the flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub. Administration also dedicated much time to the prioritization of budgets, hiring employees, working for alternative sources of program funding, the CWCS, administration of federal aid for Sport Fish Restoration (and motor boat access) program, and the federal grants for the State Wildlife Grants program.

Every indication from creel surveys, angler groups, and reports received indicates that the angler satisfaction level (84 percent) reported for FY99 continues. Fishing in the Rocky Mountain region remains of high interest compared to the rest of the nation. Nearly 31 percent 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 pleased with agency efforts to provide fishing opportunities and protect aquatic resources.

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. Personnel suspect angling recreation days in FY05 were down somewhat from those reported in the *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for 2001* (about 2.25 million recreation days, down from 2.5 million in 2001).

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. Personnel continue to work to inventory nongame fish populations and have increased efforts to inventory amphibians and mollusks. Illegal introductions of sport fish continues to create problems for managers. Walleye were illegally introduced into Sulphur Creek Reservoir and Lake DeSmet. Both introductions may threaten important sport fisheries.

Funding for virtually all of native (nongame) species programs comes from federal sources. These are unreliable and tend to be targeted towards single species management, preventing a more systems based, or species assemblage approach to survey and management. Whirling disease continues to be a serious threat to our trout production facilities and our ability to meet angler desires. The lack of reliable funding mechanisms plague the implementation of long-term, watershed scale, habitat restoration programs that are designed to benefit many species in our high priority watersheds. Habitat and management biologists are spending time leading Resource Management Plan and Forest Service Plan revisions. Along with the crush of oil and gas activity that precludes federal counterparts from participating with us in habitat efforts, Department efforts to implement large-scale restoration efforts have been hindered. Drought conditions eased a bit the end of FY05 with reservoirs in all but the Laramie and North Platte River basins filling this year. However the lingering effects of prolonged drought still significantly impacted Department revenues. During the last five years of drought, license sales have declined by nearly 20 percent.

FISH CULTURE

With the exception of a whirling disease infection at the Story Hatchery, all Wyoming state fish hatcheries maintained disease-free status while producing the requested numbers, pounds, sizes and species of salmonid fishes requested by Fisheries Management. In addition to meeting fisheries management requirements, fish eggs and excess salmonid production were traded to other state and federal agencies; in return Wyoming waters were stocked with cold, cool and warm water species.

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, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. These operations are essential in developing and maintaining captive brood stocks to produce eggs for native trout conservation and sport fish needs. In addition to cutthroat brood stock development, golden trout from the Wind River Reservation were successfully taken in efforts coordinated with the Northern Arapahoe and Shoshone Tribal Councils and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Legislative appropriations totaling \$3.3 million were received to address deferred maintenance at Dubois Hatchery, Speas Rearing Station, and Wigwam Rearing Station. With the addition of department funding, a major renovation at the Wigwam Rearing Station was completed this year. Modernization of Dubois started April 2005. Both projects will greatly enhance the fish production fish rearing capacity of the fish culture system.

A portion of samples collected in 2004 for *Myxobolus cerebralis*, the causative parasite of Salmonid Whirling Disease, at Story Hatchery were presumptively positive although presence of the parasite was never confirmed through additional sampling. However, an annual inspection in February 2005 did confirm production fish infected with the parasite. Per Commission policy, all production fish were destroyed. The three brood stocks held at Story were spared but held in isolation.

Reduced flows to our springs as a result of prolonged drought cycle were anticipated but not yet realized. Significantly more coordination was needed to take care of surplus fish resulting from cancelled stocking due to drought conditions. Development of Kokanee salmon, Colorado River cutthroat and Yellowstone cutthroat brood stocks was thwarted too by the impacts of long-term drought.

Fish production was adjusted and prioritized during the 2005 fish stocking calendar year to meet stocking requests during major construction at Wigwam Rearing Station and Dubois Hatchery, and the loss of Story Hatchery. Although all requests were covered, hatchery capacities were stretched to levels not sustainable over a prolonged period.

Maintenance of capital facilities continues to be a challenge although recent legislative funding addressed issues at three facilities that would take up to ten years if only department funding was used. Instead the renovations should be completed in less than three years. Buying power is being eroded due to high material and transportation prices that elevated construction costs well beyond estimates. In addition, the recent whirling disease infection at Story Hatchery will delay construction at other facilities to remove exposure to the parasite and protect its brood stocks.

REGIONAL AQUATIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Regional fisheries managers reviewed 507 fisheries related project proposals. There were 209 fishery surveys of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 356 surveys of streams or stream sections to determine the condition of fisheries or need to change fish management approaches. Many informal surveys on streams and lakes throughout the state were completed to gain understanding of angler attitudes regarding fisheries management.

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 regional offices and at the Cheyenne headquarters.

Illegal introductions of sport fish continue to create problems for managers. Walleye were illegally introduced into Sulphur Creek Reservoir and Lake DeSmet. Both of those introductions may threaten important sport fisheries. Personnel continue to work on ways to determine highest priority jobs from the many resource related job opportunities. Basin management plans have helped greatly in working out the priority details. Personnel also looked for ways to get reliable information at less cost, in shorter time. In addition, retirements and resignations continued, which resulted in 3 new fisheries biologists on regional crews.

REGIONAL AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

A summary of all habitat efforts during 2004 is contained in the Department's annual "Strategic Habitat Plan" report. Additional major efforts by the section during FY05 included the continued participation of personnel in Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service planning efforts, involvement in various funding sources including the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account, energy mitigation proposals and the Landowner Incentive Program. In addition, an effort was initiated to utilize the Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) under a forage reserve concept.

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed varied greatly between regions, but was 76 percent on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the department, or were low priority.

During FY05 six trust fund projects/grants were developed and/or implemented, 11 watershed inventories initiated and/or completed, and 27 habitat projects initiated and/or completed. In addition, numerous extension/public education efforts were participated in through the course of the year.

One significant new effort undertaken has been fish passage. A statewide coordination and planning effort on fish passage was initiated, including a Department sponsored training workshop attended by over 200 people. In addition, one passage project was completed and several others were initiated. Other training received included stream restoration, geographic information systems (GIS) and vegetation ecology.

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues and increasing administrative duties being assigned to field personnel. There are currently eight regional aquatic habitat biologists to cover the entire state, resulting in an inadequate number of personnel to address the long-term needs of Wyoming's aquatic wildlife and habitat. Continued application of our watershed priorities should help better prioritize efforts.

BOATING ACCESS

Boating Access funds in FY05 were largely devoted to several large projects. The long awaited redevelopment of Viva Naughton Reservoir access was completed. The boat ramp and parking

area replaced old, inadequate, formerly private facilities. A comfort station and access road work were also completed for this project. The facilities are now public under a use agreement with PacifiCorp. The Squaw Hollow boating access area on Flaming Gorge Reservoir was redeveloped, replacing or augmenting facilities built in 1963. The boat ramp was widened and extended, the parking area was enlarged and a modern comfort station replaced the original outhouse facility. The area was rededicated under a new name - Holmes Crossing. New floating boat docks were installed at the Elkhorn and Whiskey boating access areas on Glendo Reservoir. A similar structure was added to Wedding of the Waters facility to make it handicapped accessible. A major extension to the Bishop Point boat ramp was completed at Pathfinder Reservoir. Repairs to the Lake Hattie boat ramp were also made during low water elevations. One disconcerting note: bids are beginning to come in much higher than expected. All told, about \$626,000 was devoted to renovation and new construction. Another \$100,000 was used for upkeep and repair of existing facilities.

Negotiation and coordination needs with private and public entities have in the past delayed projects. While those sorts of delays were not experienced this year we should continue to anticipate these problems in the future. The new National Environmental Protection Agency worksheet and process has produced delays that may be over come with a higher level of planning and coordination between Fish, Fiscal and Services Divisions, and our private engineering consultant.

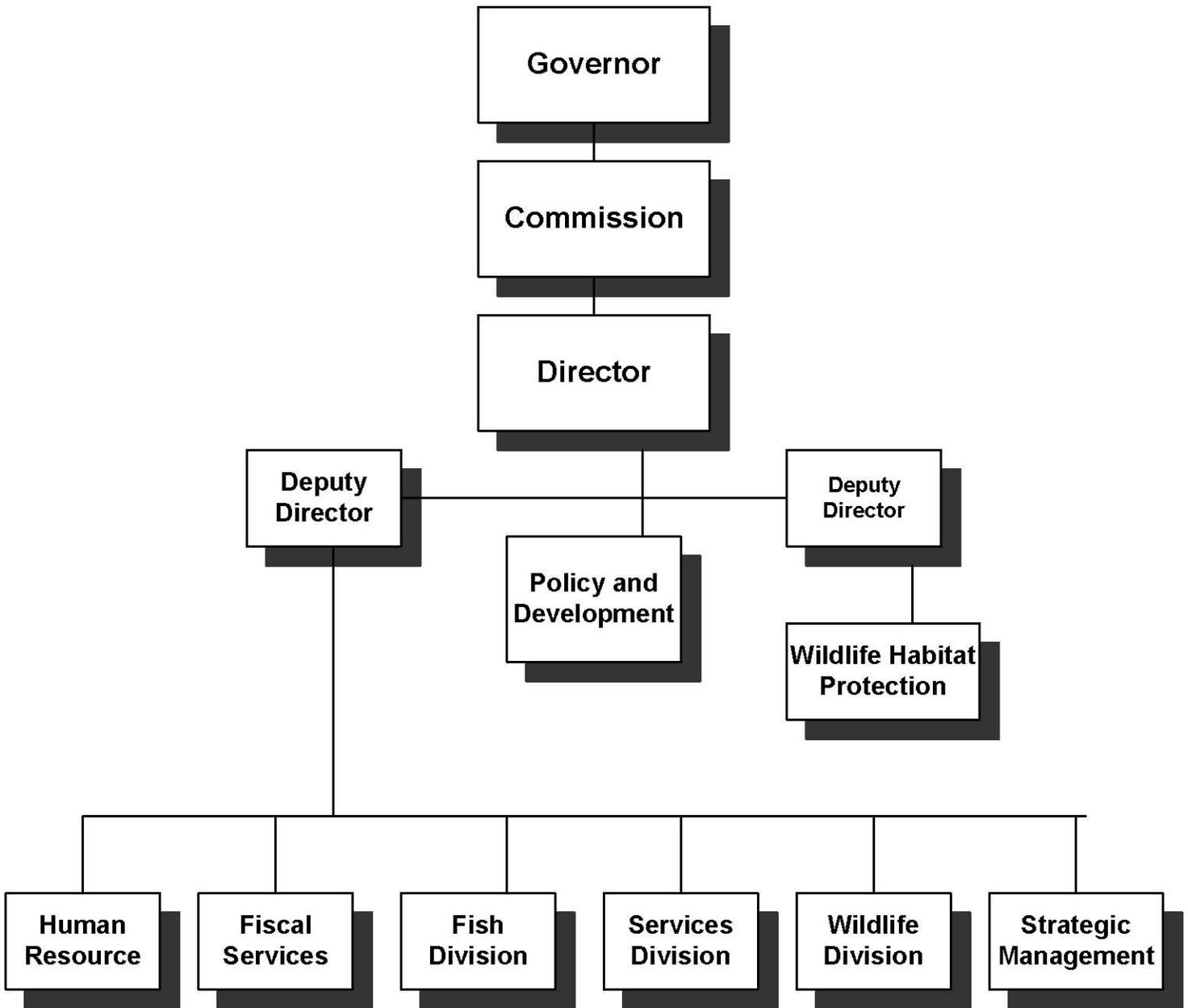
WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management team activities involved several meetings to coordinate decisions on Commission water rights. Six articles on instream flow and water management were written and published in the *Wyoming Wildlife News* publication. The instream flow web page was expanded by adding published articles. 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 Shoshone National Forest. Instream flow studies were initiated for 3 stream segments in the upper Wind River basin. A research study was initiated to describe habitat characteristics of instream flow segments using the Rosgen classification system and assess the relationship between those characteristics and the predictive tendencies of instream flow needs assessment methods.

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

ANTELOPE

2004:

Population:	519,151^{ac}	Licenses Sold:	44,850
Population Objective:	461,950^{bc}	License Revenue:	\$ 4,756,674
Harvest:	36,383	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 1,497,403
Hunters:	37,764	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 6,254,077
Success Rate:	96%	Program Costs:	\$ 3,025,576
Recreation Days:	113,577	Hunter Expenditures:	\$12,214,009
Days/Animal:	3.1	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 83
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 336

^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.

^cIncludes preliminary numbers

Wyoming's pronghorn numbers have been relatively stable for the past four years, but increased in 2004 by 9.6%. In 2004, the state population was estimated to be 500,621 animals compared to the objective of 461,500. The recent stabilization of pronghorn numbers is due primarily to drought conditions resulting in a loss of available forage, depressed fawn production and survival rates, and increased harvest of female animals. 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, 2003, and 2004 to limit the number of animals the state's drought-depleted habitats must support. Harvest increased 14% in 2003 from 2002. The 2004 harvest of 36,383 animals was a 6% increase over the 2003 harvest. Hunter effort has decreased since 2001 and is slightly below average.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pronghorn antelope program.

Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.

Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	36,383	113,577	96%	3.1	44,850	4,756,674	3,025,576	12,214,009

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures Survey*, 1998. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2004 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004. Data for this survey were collected during the 2003 season. Hunter Expenditure in 2004 was calculated from the 2003 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

ELK

2004:			
Population:	88,614^{ab}	Licenses Sold:	58,182
Population Objective:	83,185^b	License Revenue:	\$ 7,733,361
Harvest:	21,252	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 2,147,659
Hunters:	52,246	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 9,881,020
Success Rate:	41%	Program Costs:	\$ 8,833,834
Recreation Days:	380,219	Hunter Expenditures:	\$32,802,943
Days/Animal:	17.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 416
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 1,544

^aStatewide population was calculated from 29 of 35 elk herds. Population estimates for the other 6 herds were not available.

^bIncludes preliminary numbers

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 16% above the statewide objective of 76,645 animals. The population decreased again in 2004, this year by 4%.

The 2004 harvest was similar to that of 2003 (only 0.5% lower) and is slightly below the 5-year average (22,231). Hunter success remained stable over the past 4 years at approximately 40%. Hunter effort (days/animal) decreased again in 2004 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.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's elk program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	21,252	380,219	41%	17.9	58,182	7,733,361	8,833,834	32,802,943

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures Survey*, 1998. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2004 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004. Data for this survey were collected during the 2003 season. Hunter Expenditure in 2004 was calculated from the 2003 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

MULE DEER

2004:

Population:	483,171^{ac}	Licenses Sold:	82,049¹
Population Objective:	564,650^{bc}	License Revenue:	\$ 9,520,324
Harvest:	36,733	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 2,507,036
Hunters:	63,100	Total Program Revenue:	\$12,027,360
Success Rate:	58%	Program Costs:	\$ 4,735,670
Recreation Days:	299,922	Hunter Expenditures:	\$28,343,737
Days/Animal:	8.2	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 129
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 772

^aStatewide population was calculated from 36 of 39 mule deer herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

^bStatewide population objective calculated from 38 of 39 mule deer herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

^cIncludes preliminary numbers

Wyoming's mule deer population decreased by 3% in 2004 and is now 85.7% 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 increased in 2004. A harvest of 36,733 is below the 5-year average of 38,893 and the success of 58% is above the 5-year average of 57%. Hunter effort decreased in 2004 from 9.3 days per animal to 8.2, the first decrease since 2000.

Hunter access and habitat conditions continue to be a concern in 2004. 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.

Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.

Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold ¹	Lic. Rev. (\$) ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
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
2004	36,733	299,922	58%	8.2	82,049	9,520,324	4,735,670	28,343,737

¹ Includes both mule deer and white-tailed deer.

² Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures Survey*, 1998. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2004 calculations were derived from the report, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey*, 2004. Data for this survey were collected during the 2003 season. Hunter expenditure in 2004 was calculated from the 2003 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

2004:

Population:	54,414^{ac}	Licenses Sold:	82,049¹
Population Objective:	52,000^{bc}	License Revenue:	\$ ¹
Harvest:	10,733	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ ¹
Hunters:	21,781	Total Program Revenue:	\$ ¹
Success Rate:	49%	Program Costs:	\$ 412,043
Recreation Days:	82,083	Hunter Expenditures:	\$7,790,860
Days/Animal:	7.6	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 38
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 726

^aStatewide population was calculated from 2 of 5 white-tailed deer herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

^bStatewide population objective calculated from 3 of 5 white-tailed deer herds. There is no objective for 2 herds.

^cIncludes preliminary numbers

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 and along major watercourses in other parts of the state 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 2004 white-tailed deer harvest was 4% higher than the 2003 harvest and hunter numbers increased by 4% from 2003. Hunter success and effort remained stable at 49% and 7.6 days/animal, respectively.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's white-tailed deer program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold ¹	Lic. Rev. (\$) ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ²
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
2004	10,733	82,083	49%	7.6	82,049	9,520,324	412,043	7,790,860
¹ Includes both mule deer and white-tailed deer.								
² Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, <i>Wyoming 1997 Hunting Expenditures Survey</i> , 1998. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2004 calculations were derived from the report, <i>Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey</i> , 2004. Data for this survey were collected during the 2003 season. Hunter expenditure in 2004 was calculated from the 2003 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

MOOSE

2004:

Population:	10,785^{ab}	Licenses Sold:	927
Population Objective:	14,680^b	License Revenue:	\$ 218,524
Harvest:	770	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 174,498
Hunters:	899	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 393,022
Success Rate:	84%	Program Costs:	\$1,004,466
Recreation Days:	5,026	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 638,793
Days/Animal:	6.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,305
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 830

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

^bIncludes preliminary numbers

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 from an introduced herd in northern Colorado, 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 2004 hunting season was the seventh 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, hunter success, and hunter effort declined for a third year in 2004. The 2004 hunter success rate is slightly below average (88%), and the 2004 effort rate is slightly below average (6.8 days/animal harvested). Permit quotas for western hunt areas will be reduced again in 2005 in response to low populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's moose program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	770	5,026	84%	6.5	927	218,524	1,004,466	638,793

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, 1990. 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. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

BIGHORN SHEEP

2004:

Population:	5,293^{ac}	Licenses Sold:	251
Population Objective:	7,535^{bc}	License Revenue:	\$ 136,538
Harvest:	205	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 156,665
Hunters:	231	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 293,203
Success Rate:	89%	Program Costs:	\$1,229,246
Recreation Days:	2,089	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 554,780
Days/Animal:	10.2	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 5,996
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 2,706

^aStatewide population was calculated from 9 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. Population estimates for the other 5 herds were not available.

^bStatewide population objective calculated from 11 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. There are no objective for 3 herds.

^cIncludes preliminary numbers

The estimated number of Wyoming's bighorn sheep declined slightly again in 2004 (2003 = 5,344). 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 2004 bighorn sheep harvest increased from 2003 (183) and was above average (186). Hunter success increased by 11%, while hunter effort decreased for the second year. The 2004 hunter success rate is well above average (74%); the 2004 hunter effort value is below 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	205	2,089	89%	10.2	251	136,538	1,229,246	554,780
¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , 1990. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, <i>Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season</i> , 2002 using average per day expenditures. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

2004:

Population:	326	Licenses Sold:	16
Population Objective:	250	License Revenue:	\$10,500
Harvest:	15	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$16,958
Hunters:	15	Total Program Revenue:	\$27,458
Success Rate:	100%	Program Costs:	\$68,613
Recreation Days:	61	Hunter Expenditures:	\$20,551
Days/Animal:	5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 4,574
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 1,370

Mountain goats inhabit some of the most rugged and remote areas in northwestern Wyoming. Throughout the years, successful transplant operations in Montana and Idaho have resulted in mountain goat populations overlapping into the state. 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/ Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	15	61	100%	5	16	10,500	68,613	20,551
¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , 1990. However, these calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were derived from the report, <i>Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season</i> , 2002 using average per day expenditures. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

BISON

2004:

Population:	882	Licenses Sold:	52
Population Objective:	400	License Revenue:	\$ 24,173
Harvest:	31	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 26,104
Hunters:	52	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 50,277
Success Rate:	66%	Program Costs:	\$ 33,162
Recreation Days:	100	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 15,466
Days/Animal:	3.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,070
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 499

The bison population in the Jackson Herd has increased at a steady pace over the years. There has been a 54% increase since 2000. 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 31 bison in 2004, following harvests of 40 bison in 2003, 47 in 2002 and 41 in 2001. License quotas should be increased as possible to attempt to reduce this population to its objective, however license sales have decreased for two years. Hunter success in 2004 was 66% compared to 71% in 2003 and, 83% in 2002. Hunter effort was 3.9 days per bison harvested, which is a substantial decrease from 6.1 days per bison harvested in 2003. Social and political concerns continue to influence management of the bison herd.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's bison program.					
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.					
Year	Harvest	Recreation Days	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2004	31	100	52	24,173	33,162

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, 1990. 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. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

TROPHY GAME

Black Bear
Grizzly Bear
Mountain Lion

BLACK BEAR

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	2,949
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 171,414
Harvest:	294	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 52,257
Hunters:	2,278	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 223,671
Success Rate:	13%	Program Costs:	\$ 480,138
Recreation Days:	22,471	Hunter Expenditures:	\$1,505,337
Days/Animal:	76.4	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,633
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 5,120

Black bears occupy all 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 2004 harvest is 13% higher than the 2003 harvest (261 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 2004 hunter success rate was slightly higher than that of the previous year (2003 = 12%). Hunter effort decreased and is above average. In 2001, it was at a recent low of 61.3 days per animal harvested, 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Lic. Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	294	22,471	13%	76.4	2,949	171,414	480,138	1,505,337

¹ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, 1990. 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. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department 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 2001	1,600,388
FY 2002	1,434,981
FY 2003	1,378,442
FY 2004	937,890
FY 2005	1,048,088

MOUNTAIN LION

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	1,530
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 67,161
Harvest:	181	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 27,434
Hunters:	Not available	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 94,595
Success Rate:	Not available	Program Costs:	\$335,197
Recreation Days:	634^a	Hunter Expenditures:	\$100,858
Days/Animal:	3.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ 1,852
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 557

^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 2004 mountain lion harvest is slightly less than that of 2003 (199 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 and decreased again in 2004. The 2004 effort rate is slightly below average (4.3 days/harvest).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's mountain lion program.						
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.						
Year	Harvest	Success ¹	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter Expend. (\$) ^{2, 3}
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
2004	181	12%	1,530	67,161	335,197	100,858

¹ Calculated based on the number of licenses sold.

² Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming, 1990*. These calculations could not be reproduced. The 2003 calculations were based on the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season, 2002* using average per day expenditures. Hunter expenditure for 2004 was calculated from the 2003 estimate, with inflation corrected for by using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).

³ Starting 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, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

SMALL GAME

Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
Squirrel

COTTONTAIL

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	47,531	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	6,076	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	7.8	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	20,872	Hunter Expenditures:	\$5,032,573
Days/Animal:	0.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 106

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 shrub communities, farmlands, and urban and suburban areas 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 2004 harvest statistics and general observations of cottontail abundance over the past year indicate that the population is increasing. Harvest increased from a low in 2002 to a high of 47,528 in 2004. Hunter numbers and recreation days increased from 2003, 24% and 12% respectively. The 2004 animals/hunter value increased for the second year, and the number of days/animal decreased for the second year and is below the 5-year average (0.7 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
2000	44,207	22,609	5.7	0.5	7,772	80,599	53,626	3,842,448
2001	39,874	29,118	4.8	0.7	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
2004	47,531	20,872	7.8	0.5	6,076	**	**	5,032,573
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

SNOWSHOE HARE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	343	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	347	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	1.0	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	1,004	Hunter Expenditures:	\$242,080
Days/Animal:	2.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 706

Snowshoe hares are distributed throughout the most of the mountain coniferous forests of the state. 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 for a second year and was below the 5-year average (1999-2003 = 502). More hunters harvested snowshoe hares at a lower rate than in 2003 and invested the same amount of effort. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2004 was slightly below the 5-year average (1.2 animals/hunter), and the 2004 effort rate was slightly below the 5-year average (3.2 days/animal).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	343	1,004	1.0	2.9	347	**	**	242,080
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

SQUIRREL

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,607	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	307	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	5.2	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	1,333	Hunter Expenditures:	\$321,408
Days/Animal:	0.9	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Animal:	\$ 200

Squirrel hunter participation and harvest increased in 2004 for Wyoming's two hunted species. Red squirrels occupy mountain coniferous forests throughout the state. Fox squirrels occupy deciduous forests, cottonwood-riparian areas, and agricultural and urban areas.

In 2004, a total of 306 hunters harvested 1,607 squirrels. Hunters invested slightly less effort per squirrel harvested in 2004 than 2003, and each hunter harvested about 1 squirrel more during the 2004 season than in 2003.

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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/ Hunter	Days/ Animal	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	1,607	1,333	5.2	0.9	307	**	**	321,408
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
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UPLAND GAME

Pheasant

Gray Partridge

Chukar

Sage Grouse

Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Blue Grouse

Ruffed Grouse

Mourning Dove

Turkey

PHEASANT

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	28,350 **
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 572,193 **
Harvest:	34,322	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 794,582 **
Hunters:	7,529	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 1,366,775 **
Bird/Hunter:	4.6	Program Costs:	\$ 3,408,775 **
Recreation Days:	28,691	Hunter Expenditures:	\$ 6,917,859
Days/Bird:	0.8	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ 99
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 202

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 2004 pheasant season was the first increase in harvest, recreation days, and number of hunters since 1998. Improved moisture conditions, resulting in better vegetation and increased survival, have allowed pheasant populations to increase. Hunter success and effort rates have remained fairly constant since 2002. The 2004 harvest rate and success rate are better than average (1999-2003 = 4.1 birds/hunter and 1.0 days/bird, respectively).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pheasant program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	34,322	28,691	4.6	0.8	7,529	**	**	6,917,859
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

GRAY PARTRIDGE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	2,607	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	993	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.6	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	3,355	Hunter Expenditures:	\$808,944
Days/Bird:	1.3	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 310

The 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 declined 90%, hunter numbers declined 82%, and recreation days declined 86%. But, harvest and effort rates actually improved in 2003 and again in 2004. Harvest increased by 52% and the number of hunters increased by 47% in 2004.

Because the gray partridge is very sensitive to drought and severe winters, weather conditions can dictate its abundance 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	2,607	3,355	2.6	1.3	993	**	**	808,944
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

CHUKAR

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	3,715	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	1,327	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.8	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	4,347	Hunter Expenditures:	\$1,048,131
Days/Bird:	1.2	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 282

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. After a harvest increase of 28% in 2003, harvest declined again in 2004 by 10%. Hunter numbers remained constant from 2003 to 2004. Recreation days increased for the second year from a low of 3,921 in 2002 to 4,326 in 2004. The result for 2004 was a harvest per hunter that was equal to the average (1999-2003 = 2.8) and an effort rate that was 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	3,715	4,347	2.8	1.2	1,327	**	**	1,048,131
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

SAGE GROUSE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	11,783	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,436	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.2	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	13,296	Hunter Expenditures:	\$3,205,878
Days/Bird:	1.1	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 272

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. Over the past 2 years, closures have been in effect in parts of the state. Sage grouse seasons were again conservative in 2004.

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 2004 harvest increased dramatically from 2003, up 130%. Hunter numbers increased by 120%, and recreation days increased by 133%. Harvest rate improved slightly from 2003 to 2004, and effort remained the same. Harvest rate and effort 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	11,783	13,296	2.2	1.1	5,436	**	**	3,205,878
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,429	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	959	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	1.5	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	3,686	Hunter Expenditures:	\$888,754
Days/Bird:	2.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 622

Sharp-tailed grouse populations and hunter interest increased in Wyoming as the benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) manifest themselves. Thousands of acres of marginal farmlands in the state were converted to wildlife habitat over the past 2 decades under this program. The Department's implementation of its 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 2004 harvest is 88% less than the 2000 harvest, which is the highest of the 5-year period. Harvest decreased 34% between 2003 and 2004. The most dramatic decrease in harvest was between 2000 and 2001. The numbers of hunters and recreation days have also declined since 1999. The success and effort rates also worsened in 2004, and they are 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 CRP. Various lands enrolled in the CRP 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	1,429	3,686	1.5	2.6	959	**	**	888,754
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

BLUE GROUSE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	12,550	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,290	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.4	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	20,176	Hunter Expenditures:	\$4,864,756
Days/Bird:	1.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 388

Blue grouse occupy most of Wyoming's mountain conifer habitats, 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 increased for the first time since 1999, and hunter numbers and recreation days increased for the first time since 2001. The 2004 harvest was 34% lower than the 1999 harvest (highest for the 5-year period) and the 2004 hunter number was 43% lower than the 1999 value (also highest for the 5-year period). The 2004 harvest rate decreased, and the effort rate increased from the previous year's values. The harvest rate is below the 5-year average (14,350), and the effort rate is above average (1.4 days/bird).

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

Five-year trends in Wyoming's blue grouse program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	12,550	20,176	2.4	1.6	5,290	**	**	4,864,756
<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>¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i>, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i>, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

RUFFED GROUSE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	6,968	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	2,836	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.5	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	13,903	Hunter Expenditures:	\$3,352,236
Days/Bird:	2.0	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 481

Ruffed grouse occupy 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 2004 ruffed grouse season provided good hunting opportunities throughout the state. The ruffed grouse harvest increased in 2004 and was above average (1999-2003 = 6,435). Hunter numbers increased in 2004, as did recreation days. Effort also increased and was above average (1999-2003 = 1.6 days/bird). Hunter success declined and was below average (1999-2003 = 3.0 birds/hunter).

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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	6,968	13,903	2.5	2.0	2,836	**	**	3,352,236
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

MOURNING DOVE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	32,142	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	2,471	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	13.0	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	7,645	Hunter Expenditures:	\$1,843,332
Days/Bird:	0.2	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 57

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 native habitats in Wyoming, as well as farmlands and urban areas.

The Wyoming mourning dove harvest increased 15% in 2004. Hunter numbers increased 19%, and recreation days increased 28%. The 2004 harvest and effort rates were slightly better than their 5-year averages (12.9 birds/hunter and 0.3 days/bird, respectively). Mourning dove harvest in Wyoming can be greatly reduced when cold weather in late August and early September causes early migration.

Mourning dove hunting seasons are set at the national level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with 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. ¹
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
2004	32,142	7,645	13.0	0.2	2,471	**	**	1,843,332

**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.

¹ Based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

TURKEY

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	8,404
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ 180,837
Harvest:	3,956	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 135,974
Hunters:	7,094	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 316,811
Bird Hunter:	0.6	Program Costs:	\$ 304,936
Recreation Days:	22,238	Hunter Expenditures:	\$5,358,017
Days/Bird:	5.62	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ 77
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 1,354

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. Turkeys are found primarily in the southeastern, northeastern, and north-central portions of the state. Wild turkey 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 primarily in riparian habitats on private land, in the Black Hills and around Laramie Peak.

The turkey harvest decreased 2% and hunter numbers decreased 1% from 2003 to 2004. Hunter success increased from 2003 to 59%, above the 5-year average (57%). 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
2000	3,398	15,683	0.6	4.6	5,733	132,550	235,259	2,438,824
2001	3,946	18,987	0.6	4.8	6,645	141,850	299,900	3,049,184
2002	2,815	16,845	0.5	5.6	5,688	141,915	272,393	2,847,492
2003	4,052	24,243	0.6	6.0	7,144	189,894	214,604	5,701,514
2004	3,959	22,238	0.6	5.6	7,094	180,837	304,936	5,358,017

¹ Based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Hunter expenditure for 2004 was calculated from the 2003 estimate, with inflation corrected for by using the Consumer Price Index (2003 per day expenditure x 1.033 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

WATERFOWL

Duck

Goose

Sandhill Crane

Rail, Snipe, Coot

DUCK

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	50,804	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,471	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	9.3	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	32,175	Hunter Expenditures:	\$7,757,907
Days/Bird:	0.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 153

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 2003, leading to comparatively poor breeding conditions and fall recruitment. However, water conditions were markedly improved in the spring of 2004 throughout the core breeding range in the Canadian prairie provinces and northern prairie states. Consequently, duck population surveys indicate numbers of most duck species were not substantially below long-term averages.

Although the number of hunters and recreation days decreased in 2004, harvest and harvest rate increased and effort remained stable. 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.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days /Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	50,804	32,175	9.3	0.6	5,471	**	**	7,757,907
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

GOOSE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	25,938	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,204	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	5.0	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	28,241	Hunter Expenditures:	\$6,809,357
Days/Bird:	1.1	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 263

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 2004 harvest of 25,939 is the second increase in a row. The 2004 number of recreation days was the lowest of the 5-year period; the 2004 hunter success 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 important nesting areas from overuse of sensitive forage plants.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's goose program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/ Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	25,938	28,241	5.0	1.1	5,204	**	**	6,809,357
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								

SANDHILL CRANE

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	124	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	174	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	0.7	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	343	Hunter Expenditures:	\$82,703
Days/Bird:	2.8	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 667

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.

The number of hunting permits allocated to each state for the Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes is based the proportion of the population which summers and/or winters in the state and a complex formula that includes an average of the past three years count of the fall flight, percent juveniles in the staging area in the San Luis Valley in Colorado, estimated recruitment rate of fledged chicks, retrieval rate, and a harvest adjustment factor. The use of 3-year averages removes some of the annual fluctuations in surveys due to counting biases and variable survey conditions. The annual harvest quota for 2002 through 2004 was based in part on a low count in the 2001 fall survey and influenced by low production in 2001 and 2002. The proportion of juveniles in the fall population increased in 2003 and 2004, and the fall count increased in 2003 but declined slightly in 2004. However, the 3-year average (2002-2004) used to calculate harvest quotas for the following year increased from 18,295 cranes (2001-2003) to 18,945 cranes. The Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes has been relatively stable since the early 1980s. Annual spring survey results from the Central Flyway have varied from 282,702 cranes to 550,930 cranes. Actual counts in the spring surveys increased for the past three years and federal crane permits also increased from 2002 to 2004.

During the 2004 season, 190 hunters harvested 128 cranes in Wyoming. The success rate increased dramatically from 2003 to 2004, and the 2004 success rate was the highest since 1999. The 2004 effort value was the lowest of the 5-year period.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sandhill crane program.								
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$) ¹	Hunter (\$) ² Expend.
2000	159	556	0.6	3.5	263	1,904	42,957	73,995
2001	142	563	0.6	4.0	248	1,553	42,312	74,671
2002	132	437	0.6	3.3	210	2,451	44,203	59,295
2003	72	348	0.5	4.8	152	**	**	81,432
2004	124	343	0.7	2.8	174	**	**	82,703

**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.

¹ Management costs are for both greater and lesser sandhill crane.

² Based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, *Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey*, 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.

RAIL, SNIPE, AND COOT

2004:

Population:	Not available	Licenses Sold:	**
Population Objective:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	505	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ **
Hunters:	250	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	2.0	Program Costs:	\$ **
Recreation Days:	1,036	Hunter Expenditures:	\$249,796
Days/Bird:	2.1	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not available
		Economic Return per Bird:	\$ 495

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. Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Fiscal Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Birds/ Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. ¹
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
2004	505	1,036	2.0	2.1	250	**	**	249,796
**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.								
¹ Based on the report, <i>1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming</i> , published in 1990 by University of Wyoming. Beginning in 2003, this figure was calculated using the report, <i>Wyoming Small/Upland Game Bird Expenditure Survey</i> , 2001 using average per day expenditures. Data for this survey were collected during the 1999 season. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 1999 cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (1999 per day expenditure x 1.096 = 2003, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.132 = 2004 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department cash balances.								
** Because program costs were negligible, they are included with other waterfowl management costs.								

FISHERIES

Sport Fisheries
Commercial Fisheries

SPORT FISHERIES

Recreation Day Objectives:	2,778,000	License Revenue:	\$ 4,604,994
Recreation Days:	2,250,000	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ 6,022,168
Fish/Day:	2.5	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 10,627,162
Licenses Sold:	356,252	Program Costs:	\$ 14,435,377
Economic Return Per Day:	\$91.32	Angler Expenditures:	\$205,472,974

In 2004, Wyoming was estimated to have provided 2.25 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 renovation of existing, older developments on Pathfinder, Viva Naughton and Flaming Gorge Reservoirs. Other efforts included extending boat ramps and purchasing and installing new courtesy docks. 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 ¹	Fish/Day	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Angler ^{1,2} Expend.
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	\$220,625,790
2004	2,250,000	2.5	356,252	4,604,994	14,435,377	\$205,472,974

¹ In 2003, figures related to angler participation and expenditures were derived from the report, *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation*, issued in 2003. Estimates of average per day expenditures were corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure). Program costs do not include a general fund appropriation received in 2005 for hatchery capital construction. Recreation days for 2004 were adjusted from values reported in the 2001 survey, based on number of licenses sold and the days fished per license.

² 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.

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.

2004:

License Sold: 705
License Revenue: \$ 20,959
All Other Agency revenue*: \$ 2,272
Total Program Revenue:** \$23,231
Program Costs*: \$ 43,615

During 2004, 62 fishing preserves, 12 commercial fish hatcheries, 566 seining, and 65 live bait dealers were sold.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.			
Year	Lic. Sold	Lic. Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2000	578	\$23,410	\$21,093
2001	617	\$23,965	\$28,262
2002	682	\$19,225	\$17,674
2003	673	\$19,682	\$20,690
2004	705	\$20,959	\$43,615
* 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

Other Furbearers

FURBEARERS

2004:		Licenses Sold⁴:	1454
Bobcat Harvest¹:	3,120	License Revenue:	\$ 59,031
Bobcat Trappers²:	425	Other Agency Revenue*:	\$ 27,180
Bobcats per Trapper³:	7.3	Total Program Revenue:	\$ 86,211
Recreation Days:	Not available	Program Costs:	\$ 267,776
Days/Animal:	Not available	Benefits to the State:	\$11,516,695
		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 the bobcat 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 ²	Licenses Sold ⁴	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Benefits to the State (\$) ⁵
2000	728	2.9	255	1,084	32,539	136,299	2,061,258
2001	1,467	5.9	249	1,128	35,056	169,776	2,197,301
2002	1,847	3.0	240	1,289	46,045	223,555	2,572,645
2003	2,165	5.4	401	1,388	52,741	255,062	11,142,776
2004	3,120	7.3	425	1,454	59,031	267,776	11,516,695

¹ The number of bobcats tagged in Wyoming.
² The number of trappers who had bobcats tagged.
³ The number of bobcats per successful trapper.
⁴ The total number of furbearer licenses sold.
⁵ Calculations prior to 2003 were based on the report, *1989 Hunting and Fishing Expenditure Estimates for Wyoming*, 1990. Includes estimated trapper expenditures and value of furs taken (based on total furs purchased). The 2003 calculations were based on the report, *Hunting and Trapping Expenditures in Wyoming During the 2001 Season*, 2002 using average per day expenditures. Hunter expenditure was calculated from the 2001 season cost per day expenditure, corrected for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (2001 per day expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 per day expenditure, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.078 = 2004 per day expenditure).
 *Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, & interest earned on Department 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.

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 2004, 16 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry. The 2004 success rate (48%) and the total harvest (16) decreased from 2003.

Seventeen resident licenses were issued and 5 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 29%. Sixteen nonresident licenses were issued and 11 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 69%.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s Raptor Program					
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.					
Fiscal Year	Capture	Success ¹	Licenses Sold ²	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2004	16	48%	33	5,674	133,707

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 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 2001 non-consumptive users spent approximately 3.9 million days enjoying such endeavors as observation, photography, nature study, etc. Non-consumptive wildlife users expended approximately \$265 million in expenditures throughout the state that year (*2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*).

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 (\$)
2001	3,924,000	264,931,000
2002	3,924,000	271,289,344
2003	3,924,000	276,323,033
2004	3,924,000	285,595,618
<small>* The number of recreation days and expenditures are reflective of those found in the report, <i>2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation</i>, issued in 2003. Non-consumptive users' expenditure was calculated from the 2001 survey, with inflation corrected for by using the Consumer Price Index (2001 expenditure x 1.024 = 2002 expenditure, 2001 expenditure x 1.043 = 2003 expenditure, 2001 expenditure x 1.0378 = 2004 expenditure).</small>		

HUNTER AND ANGLER EXPENDITURES

Estimates of 2004 Expenditures in Wyoming
by Hunters and Anglers

Restitution Values of Game Animals

**SUMMARY OF 2004 CALENDAR YEAR HARVEST, LICENSE SALES AND EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING
BY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED	LICENSE SALES ¹	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES ²
ANTELOPE								
RESIDENT	15,599	17,063	91.4%	52,870	3.4	20,623	\$486,534	\$4,751,480
NONRESIDENT	20,784	20,701	100.4%	60,707	2.9	24,227	\$4,232,660	\$7,462,529
MULE DEER								
RESIDENT	19,391	37,085	52.3%	186,304	9.6	50,509	\$1,382,187	\$17,898,039
NONRESIDENT	17,342	26,015	66.7%	113,618	6.6	31,540	\$8,104,500	\$10,445,698
WHITE-TAILED DEER								
RESIDENT	6,757	14,253	47.4%	59,147	8.8	-----	-----	\$5,682,193
NONRESIDENT	3,976	7,528	52.8%	22,936	5.8	-----	-----	\$2,108,667
ELK								
RESIDENT	16,395	42,140	38.9%	317,734	19.4	47,791	\$1,872,799	\$23,960,003
NONRESIDENT	4,857	10,106	48.1%	62,485	12.9	10,391	\$5,698,505	\$8,842,940
MOOSE								
RESIDENT	648	757	85.6%	4,343	6.7	777	\$70,200	\$398,885
NONRESIDENT	122	142	85.9%	683	5.6	150	\$180,000	\$239,908
BIGHORN SHEEP								
RESIDENT	152	171	88.9%	1,713	11.3	187	\$17,765	\$302,180
NONRESIDENT	53	60	88.3%	376	7.1	64	\$121,600	\$252,600
ROCKY MTN GOAT								
RESIDENT	11	11	100.0%	40	3.6	12	\$1,200	\$8,593
NONRESIDENT	4	4	100.0%	21	5.3	4	\$7,200	\$11,958
BISON								
RESIDENT	27	48	56.3%	93	3.4	48	\$15,840	\$15,114
NONRESIDENT	4	4	100.0%	7	1.8	4	\$8,400	\$352
BLACK BEAR								
RESIDENT	242	2,057	11.8%	21,045	87.0	2,702	\$97,272	\$1,151,114
NONRESIDENT	52	221	23.5%	1,426	27.4	247	\$73,800	\$354,223
MOUNTAIN LION ³								
	181	-----	-----	634	3.5	1,530	\$72,624	\$100,858
TURKEY								
RESIDENT	2,659	5,251	50.6%	17,169	6.5	6,418	\$77,004	\$4,043,712
NONRESIDENT	1,297	1,843	70.4%	5,069	3.9	1,986	\$119,100	\$1,314,306
<hr/>								
LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED	LICENSE SALES ¹	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES ²
COTTONTAIL	47,531	6,076	782.3%	20,872	0.5	-----	-----	\$5,032,573
SNOWSHOE HARE	343	347	101.2%	1,004	2.9	-----	-----	\$242,080
SQUIRREL	1,607	307	523.5%	1,333	0.9	-----	-----	\$321,408

**SUMMARY OF 2004 CALENDAR YEAR HARVEST, LICENSE SALES AND EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING
BY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED	LICENSE SALES ¹	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES ²
PHEASANT	34,322	7,529	455.9%	28,691	0.8	28,352	\$499,542	\$6,917,859
GRAY PARTRIDGE	2,607	993	262.5%	3,355	1.3	-----	-----	\$808,944
CHUKAR	3,715	1,327	280.0%	4,347	1.2	-----	-----	\$1,048,131
SAGE GROUSE	11,783	5,436	216.8%	13,296	1.1	-----	-----	\$3,205,878
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	1,429	959	149.0%	3,686	2.6	-----	-----	\$888,754
BLUE GROUSE	12,550	5,290	237.2%	20,176	1.6	-----	-----	\$4,864,756
RUFFED GROUSE	6,968	2,836	245.7%	13,903	2.0	-----	-----	\$3,352,236
MOURNING DOVE	32,142	2,471	1300.8%	7,645	0.2	-----	-----	\$1,843,332
DUCK	50,804	5,471	928.6%	32,175	0.6	-----	-----	\$7,757,907
GOOSE	25,938	5,204	498.4%	28,241	1.1	-----	-----	\$6,809,357
SANDHILL CRANE	124	174	71.3%	343	2.8	-----	-----	\$82,703
RAIL	5	31	16.1%	63	12.6	-----	-----	\$15,190
SNIPE	221	106	208.5%	255	1.2	-----	-----	\$61,485
COOT	279	113	246.9%	718	2.6	-----	-----	\$173,121
RAPTOR	16	33	48.5%	-----	-----	33	\$4,730	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED	LICENSE SALES ¹	TOTAL ANGLER EXPENDITURES ²
SPORT FISHING	-----	-----	250.0%	2,250,000	-----	356,252	\$4,755,535	\$205,472,974
COMMERCIAL	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	705	\$20,685	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST ⁴	HUNTERS ⁵	SUCCESS RATE ⁵	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED ⁶	LICENSE SALES ⁶	TOTAL TRAPPER EXPENDITURES ⁶
TRAPPING	3,120	425	734.1%	No Data	No Data	1,454	52,705	\$11,516,695

SUMMARY								
TOTALS	346,057	230,588		3,358,523		586,006	27,972,387	\$349,760,736

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

²Total Hunter and Angler Expenditure figures do not include license sales.

³Calculated only from successful legal mountain lion hunters who reported days hunted.

⁴Only successful bobcat trappers surveyed.

⁵Bobcat trappers only.

⁶All 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 vary 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>2004 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 06 BUDGET SUMMARY

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Director	.....	\$2,059,320
Fiscal Services	.....	3,679,566
Services(1)	.....	9,670,798
Fish (2)	.....	9,294,901
Wildlife	.....	17,962,143
TOTAL M&O		42,666,728
COUPONS	.....	500,000
EARLY RETIREMENT	.....	105,274
DAMAGE	.....	500,000
COST ALLOCATION	.....	600,000
SALECS	.....	252,000
ACCESS EASEMENTS	.....	750,000
PROPERTY RIGHTS	.....	200,000
ELECTRONIC LIC PROJECT	.....	853,129
WILDLIFE TRUST	.....	924,210
STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS	.....	632,314
REIMBURSED CONTRACTS	.....	3,000,000
FY 06 BUDGET		50,983,655
AUTHORIZED CARRYOVER		3,921,674
AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR FY 06 SPENDING*		54,905,329

(1) does not include FY 05-06 general fund appropriation of \$4.075 million capital construction funds for use at three Department hatcheries and Yellowtail unit **does include one year general fund of appropriation** of \$2,518,570 for on-going operations for expanded vet services and sage grouse programs.

**FY 06 DETAIL BUDGET
STRATEGIC PLAN
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMB PROJECTS)**

	FY 06	FY 05	% CHNG
<u>OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR</u>			
ADMINISTRATION	731,748	687,932	6%
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH	392,500	397,145	-100%
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	341,641	381,788	-22%
PERSONNEL	305,948	288,705	6%
STATEWIDE HABITAT PROTECTION	295,997	277,574	7%
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	135,426	114,984	197%
COMMISSION	102,302	82,651	375%
LEGAL SERVICES		133,794	-100%
sub-total	2,305,562	2,364,573	-2%
<u>FISCAL AND ADMIN SERVICES</u>			
REVENUE COLLECTION	2,320,717	2,845,606	-18%
REGIONAL OFFICE MANAGEMENT	1,095,191	1,086,399	1%
LEGISLATED EXPENSES	1,957,274	1,822,276	7%
FINANCIAL SYSTEMS	142,198	144,093	-1%
ASSET MANAGEMENT	554,251	481,416	15%
ADMINISTRATION	216,656	224,956	-4%
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	203,682	187,418	9%
sub-total	6,489,969	6,792,164	-4%
<u>SERVICES</u>			
HABITAT ACCESS & MAINTENANCE	2,238,371	2,186,380	2%
MANAGMENT INFO SYSTEMS	1,709,440	1,606,715	6%
HEADQUARTERS & SUPP FACILITIES	1,034,168	791,272	31%
PROPERTY RIGHTS	689,903	560,863	23%
PUBLICATIONS	686,347	636,695	8%
MAIL SERVICES	650,896	611,020	7%
GAME & FISH LABORATORY	559,869	470,241	19%
REGIONAL I/E	533,719	483,838	10%
CONSERVATION ENGINEERING	450,746	390,144	16%
ADMINISTRATION	438,653	409,588	7%
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	427,886	381,226	12%
CUSTOMER OUTREACH	369,189	404,301	-9%
CUSTOMER SERVICES	203,202	187,022	9%
HUNTER EDUCATION	162,946	165,824	-2%
VETERINARY SERVICES		503,692	-100%
sub-total	10,155,335	9,788,821	4%

**FY 06 DETAIL BUDGET
STRATEGIC PLAN
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMB PROJECTS)**

	FY 06	FY 05	% CHNG
<u>FISH DIVISION</u>			
HATCHERIES & REARING STATIONS	4,109,106	3,993,685	3%
REG AQUATIC WILDLIFE MNGT	2,635,583	2,333,074	13%
AQUATIC HABITAT MNGT	1,036,033	847,268	22%
BOATING ACCESS	726,900	726,900	0%
STATEWIDE WIDLIFE MNGT	416,008	585,428	-29%
ADMINISTRATION	345,551	374,804	-8%
FISH SPAWNING	236,445	191,547	23%
WATER DEVELOPMENT	221,480	198,751	11%
FISH DISTRIBUTION	95,692	176,817	-46%
subtotal	9,822,798	9,428,274	4%
<u>WILDLIFE DIVISION</u>			
REGIONAL GAME WARDENS	5,176,895	4,711,658	10%
REGIONAL TERRESTERIAL BIOLOGISTS	2,463,947	2,333,437	6%
VETERINARY SERVICES	2,018,570		
WILDLIFE FEEDING	1,326,497	1,629,570	-19%
REGIONAL WILDLIFE SUPERVISORS	1,220,909	1,182,129	3%
PROPERTY RIGHTS (ACCESS YES AMDIN)	1,186,338	1,220,271	-3%
TERRESTERIAL HABITAT	1,155,578	1,227,881	-6%
BIOLOGICAL SERVICES	750,204	733,821	2%
TROPHY GAME & CONFLICT RESOLUTION	742,938	586,824	27%
STATEWIDE WLDLFE ENFORCEMENT	634,283	605,736	5%
SAGE GROUSE MNGT	615,986	132,449	365%
ADMINISTRATION	614,027	611,699	0%
TERRESTRIAL NONGAME	500,674	401,650	25%
BIRD FARMS	404,642	387,953	4%
BOATING SAFETY & INVEST ADMIN	174,803	172,079	2%
WATERFOWL	123,700	127,053	-3%
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT	100,000	100,000	0%
sub-total	19,209,991	16,164,210	19%
BUDGETS ON A STRATEGIC BASIS	\$ 47,983,655	\$ 44,538,042	8%

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FY 06 BUDGET

WILDLIFE TRUST FUND PROJECTS:

HABITAT PROJECTS & GRANTS

North Fork Conservation Easement	40,000
Bates Creek Watershed Restoration	35,000
Lake DeSmet Diversion (Clear Creek) Rehabilitation	35,000
Habitat Evaluation & Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe Inventory^	30,994
Lower Tongue River Fish Passage Feasibility	25,000
Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement	20,000
Weiner Creek Prescribed Burn	20,000
NE Habitat Extension Biologist	19,887
SE Wyo Cumulative Impact	12,500
WHMA Habitat Treatments	12,000
Whiskey Basin Range Pitting	11,950
Twin Creek Conservation Easement	10,000
Lake DeSmet WHIP Stream Rehab Project	10,000
PLPW Habitat Grants	10,000
Winward Technical Assistance Contract	7,750
Roath Habitat Management Technical Support	6,400
Stripper Header/Wheat Stubble Mngt	6,000
Rock Creek Prescribed Burn	5,000
Flat Creek Enhancement Project	5,000
Cheatgrass Control Project	5,000
SE Wyoming Gas Guzzlers	5,000
LaBarge Wetland Project	5,000
Bud Love WHMA Meadow Restoration	3,400
habitat projects	\$ 340,881

Property Rights Specialist Program*	69,231
Habitat Biologist Program*	403,156
habitat programs	\$ 472,387

CONSERVATION EDUCATION (WORTH THE WATCHING) PROJECTS

Wild Times publication*	22,000
Thorne/Williams memorial	8,000
Alternative Funding Program	\$ 80,942

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRUST PROGRAMS/PROJECTS **\$ 924,210**

^ 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:

Terrestrial Nongame Species Surveys	89,272
Cutthroat Conservation	59,801
Green River Catostomidae*	54,930
Wapiti Bear Management	53,856
Conflict Resolution with Grizzly Bears	51,296
Black Footed Ferret Surveys	51,283
Salt River Spawning of Snake River CT*	45,460
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Protection*	42,410
Green River Watershed Assessment	35,390
Making Gis Useful	35,306
Big Horn Native Fish Survey	34,066

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FY 06 BUDGET

WILDLIFE TRUST FUND PROJECTS:

Effects of Winter Recreation on Small Mammals	26,133
Upper Yellowstone River Basin Cutthroat Study	20,053
Sage Grouse Hat Six	12,500
Herpetological Program	10,558
Wolverine Study	\$ 10,000
TOTAL DEPARTMENT FY 06 State Wildlife Projects	\$ 632,314

*work being performed by the UW coop unit

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS BUDGETS (FY 86 - FY 06)
(Does not include Enhancements, Trust Projects, Property Rights, Capital Facilities or Reimbursed Projects)

FY 86	\$18,870,228	FY 91	\$22,518,236	FY95 (continued)		FY00 (continued)		FY 05	\$40,720,306
Game Division	6,983,611	Game Division	8,711,427	Salary Contingency	493,544	Fiscal Services Division	3,297,221	Wildlife Division	14,890,882
Fish Division	4,184,358	Fish Division	4,787,533			Office of Director	1,860,511	Fish Division	8,979,167
HATS Division	2,724,196	HATS Division	2,876,190	FY 96	\$31,402,001	Coupons	515,000	Services Division	9,426,638
Communications Division	1,460,214	I&E Services Division	1,941,699	Wildlife Division	10,288,181	Early Retirement	325,600	Fiscal Services	3,569,888
Fiscal Division	2,174,897	Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,383,147	Fish Division	6,803,683	Damage	500,000	Office of Director	2,031,455
Administration Division	1,362,952	Office of Director	746,640	HATS Division	4,587,011	Cost Allocation	400,000	Coupons	500,000
Coupons	750,000	Agency Common	876,600	I&E Services Division	3,504,112	SALECS	227,600	Early Retirement	138,276
Damage	500,000	Coupons	600,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,018,908			Damage	500,000
		Damage	500,000	Office of Director	1,249,286	FY 01	\$36,571,119	Cost Allocation	432,000
FY 87	\$19,913,441	Early Retirement	95,000	Coupons	600,000	Wildlife Division	12,900,839	SALECS	252,000
Game Division	7,483,347			Early Retirement	333,820	Fish Division	8,617,707		
Fish Division	4,451,347	FY 92	\$27,073,153	Damage	500,000	Services Division	7,884,777	FY 06	\$44,624,002
HATS Division	2,843,805	Game Division	9,893,600	Cost Allocation	300,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,355,319	Wildlife Division	44,624,002
Communications Division	1,538,464	Fish Division	5,708,203	SALECS	217,000	Office of Director	1,917,494	Fish Division	17,962,143
Fiscal Division	2,359,229	HATS Division	4,035,772			Coupons	515,000	Services Division	9,294,901
Administration Division	1,236,638	I&E Services Division	2,723,179	FY 97	\$30,484,636	Early Retirement	305,000	Fiscal Services	9,670,901
Coupons	750,000	Fiscal Services Division	2,469,238	Wildlife Division	11,479,769	Damage	500,000	Office of Director	2,059,320
Damage	500,000	Office of Director	942,412	Fish Division	6,255,709	Cost Allocation	350,000	Coupons	500,000
		Coupons	600,000	Services Division	7,033,623	SALECS	224,000	Early Retirement	105,274
FY 88	\$21,040,674	Damage	500,000	Fiscal Services Division	2,780,604			Damage	500,000
Game Division	7,381,078	Early Retirement	200,749	Office of Director	984,931	FY 02	\$39,727,021	Cost Allocation	600,000
Fish Division	4,602,523			Coupons	560,000	Wildlife Division	14,047,986	SALECS	252,000
HATS Division	2,920,979	FY 93	\$29,674,362	Early Retirement	378,000	Fish Division	9,107,324		
Communications Division	1,553,215	Game Division	10,561,574	Damage	500,000	Services Division	8,982,248		
Fiscal Division	1,436,749	Fish Division	6,124,559	Cost Allocation	300,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,648,879		
Administration Division	702,834	HATS Division	4,114,019	SALECS	212,000	Office of Director	2,081,384		
Agency Common	1,193,296	I&E Services Division	3,253,794			Coupons	475,000		
Coupons	750,000	Fiscal Services Division	2,377,512	FY 98	\$33,776,380	Early Retirement	262,200		
Damage	500,000	Office of Director	1,632,904	Wildlife Division	12,747,313	Damage	500,000		
		Coupons	860,000	Fish Division	6,755,891	Cost Allocation	370,000		
FY 89	\$20,465,981	Damage	500,000	Services Division	7,332,429	SALECS	252,000		
Game Division	7,576,046	Early Retirement	250,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,097,432				
Fish Division	4,146,592			Office of Director	1,822,313	FY 03	\$40,545,447		
HATS Division	2,540,610	FY 94	\$30,946,580	Coupons	602,000	Wildlife Division	14,843,001		
I&E Services Division	1,583,581	Game Division	10,423,261	Early Retirement	369,002	Fish Division	8,856,919		
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,337,388	Fish Division	6,185,826	Damage	500,000	Services Division	9,015,519		
Office of Director	689,602	HATS Division	4,539,758	Cost Allocation	330,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,904,386		
Agency Common	1,217,162	I&E Services Division	3,568,632	SALECS	220,000	Office of Director	2,165,017		
Coupons	750,000	Fiscal Services Division	2,996,836			Coupons	450,000		
Damage	500,000	Office of Director	1,687,267	FY 99	\$33,582,267	Early Retirement	208,605		
Early Retirement	125,000	Coupons	750,000	Wildlife Division	12,155,687	Damage	500,000		
Damage	500,000	Early Retirement	295,000	Fish Division	7,017,794	Cost Allocation	350,000		
				Services Division	7,615,445	SALECS	252,000		
FY 90	\$20,533,195	FY 95	\$30,672,321	Fiscal Services Division	3,025,520				
Game Division	8,084,170	Wildlife Division	10,126,225	Office of Director	1,824,772	FY 04	\$39,572,909		
Fish Division	4,406,561	Fish Division	6,187,409	Coupons	515,000	Wildlife Division	14,520,159		
HATS Division	2,693,910	HATS Division	4,195,529	Early Retirement	358,249	Fish Division	8,780,831		
I&E Services Division	1,661,592	I&E Services Division	3,204,102	Damage	500,000	Services Division	8,921,007		
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,329,610	Fiscal Services Division	2,692,088	Cost Allocation	342,200	Fiscal Services	3,622,015		
Office of Director	708,133	Office of Director	1,956,424	SALECS	227,600	Office of Director	2,002,835		
Agency Common	474,219	Coupons	650,000			Coupons	400,000		
Coupons	550,000	Early Retirement	150,000	FY 00	\$36,238,774	Early Retirement	164,062		
Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000	Wildlife Division	12,970,024	Damage	500,000		
Early Retirement	125,000	Cost Allocation	300,000	Fish Division	8,377,249	Cost Allocation	410,000		
		SALECS	217,000	Services Division	7,765,569	SALECS	252,000		

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES (G&F funds only)
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AS OF JUNE 30,**

% CHNG
FY 02 TO

	2005	2004	2003	2002	FY 05
ASSETS:					
PETTY CASH	\$ 14,750	\$ 14,450	\$ 14,675	\$ 14,675	
CASH - OPERATIONS	18,473,868	16,862,195	15,221,185	16,651,727	11%
CASH - WLDLFE TRUST INTEREST	1,568,387	1,620,801	1,718,782	2,320,767	-32%
CASH - ACCESS FUND	<u>894,141</u>	<u>827,509</u>	<u>716,722</u>	<u>570,477</u>	<u>57%</u>
	20,951,146	19,324,955	17,671,364	19,557,646	7%
CASH - WILDLIFE TRUST CORPUS	18,773,926	18,121,434	17,017,938	15,999,547	17%
CASH - LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,554,027	2,436,869	1,890,305	1,288,312	98%
CASH - ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	49,978	50,000	50,000	50,110	0%
CASH - APPS/LICENSES IN PROCESS	18,667,441	12,618,476	10,614,144	10,509,441	78%
RETURNED CHECKS	<u>51,349</u>	<u>3,996</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u>3,935</u>	<u>1205%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>61,047,867</u>	<u>52,555,730</u>	<u>47,249,430</u>	<u>47,408,991</u>	<u>29%</u>
 LIABILITIES:					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	88,807	248,900	152,632	163,678	-46%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	93,135	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	42,259	34,296	49,496	115,317	-63%
UNDISTRIBUTED DRAW/APPS PENDING	18,667,441	12,618,476	10,614,144	10,509,441	78%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	49,607	49,607	28,266	26,540	87%
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	<u>205,717</u>	<u>161,500</u>	<u>210,449</u>	<u>203,121</u>	<u>1%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,153,831	13,205,914	11,154,987	11,118,097	72%
 FUND BALANCE:					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBERANCES	3,921,674	2,985,165	2,961,197	3,344,086	17%
WILDLIFE TRUST FUND CORPUS	18,773,926	18,121,434	17,017,938	15,999,547	17%
WILDLIFE TRUST FUND INTEREST	1,566,769	1,516,725	1,506,505	2,055,084	-24%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS	877,326	812,709	706,722	554,477	58%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,571,939	2,436,869	1,890,305	1,288,312	100%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	49,978	50,000	50,000	50,110	0%
 UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND	14,539,058	13,426,914	11,961,776	12,999,278	12%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>42,300,670</u>	<u>39,349,816</u>	<u>36,094,443</u>	<u>36,290,894</u>	<u>17%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>61,454,501</u>	<u>52,555,730</u>	<u>47,249,430</u>	<u>47,408,991</u>	<u>30%</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
FROM EXPENDABLE G&F FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

EXPENDABLE FUNDS			%PR CH
<u>REVENUE RECEIVED</u>			FY 04
Hunting & Fish Lic@	\$ 28,287,261	\$ 25,621,216	10%
Conservation Stamps	613,726	644,664	-5%
Boating Registration	357,948	372,396	-4%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,114,797	930,431	20%
Pooled Interest Trt	723,509	645,558	12%
Income from Inv&Land	258,719	65,943	292%
Nonfederal Grants	419,809	1,113,411	-62%
Application Fees	1,611,100	1,530,079	5%
Publication Sales	192,071	187,306	3%
Access Yes c-stamp/donations	651,692	673,819	-3%
Federal Aid & Grants	9,782,938	9,705,727	1%
Other Items	<u>64,843</u>	<u>43,074</u>	51%
TOTAL REVENUE EARNED	44,078,413	41,533,624	6%
 <u>EXPENDITURES MADE</u>			
Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	1,600,322	1,601,732	0%
Fiscal Division	2,952,563	2,930,168	1%
Services Division	8,314,196	7,813,543	6%
Fish Division	7,909,943	7,437,920	6%
Wildlife Division	<u>13,976,166</u>	<u>13,067,036</u>	7%
TOTAL M&O EXPENSES	34,753,190	32,850,399	6%
Access Payments	572,876	544,835	5%
Trust Projects	589,740	663,687	-11%
Legislated Expenses	1,615,045	1,493,233	8%
Carryover M/O /Trust FD	<u>2,110,514</u>	<u>2,105,441</u>	0%
TOTAL OPERATING EXP	39,641,365	37,657,595	5%
Licensing Project	170,511		
Reimbursable Contracts	1,417,928	1,430,473	-1%
State Wildlife Grants	528,603	392,450	
Property Rights	0	333,197	-100%
Carryover	<u>343,202</u>	<u>277,353</u>	24%
TOTAL NONOP EXPENDTRS	2,460,244	2,433,473	1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>42,101,609</u>	<u>40,091,068</u>	<u>5%</u>
DEFICIT OF REV OVER EXP	<u>\$1,976,804</u>	<u>\$1,442,556</u>	<u>37%</u>

All Department revenue is recognized above excepting: 1)\$298,091 in lifetime license sales and 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) \$ one-half or 36,665 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp (\$613,625) 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 \$118,827 which are deposited into an access fund and are budgeted and spent in the year following receipt; they can only be used for purchasing nonfee title access easements;

4) and \$23,589 (net profit on a cash basis for revenue of \$151,022 and expenses of \$127,433) from sale of promotional products and publications.

All Department expenditures, excepting capital construction costs of \$1,739,911 paid in FY 05 and funded from a general fund 2004 Legislative appropriation.

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES G&F FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

		EXPENDITURES				
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>G&F FUND</u>	<u>WLD TRUST FUND</u>	<u>ACCESS FUND</u>	<u>STATE WLD GRANTS</u>
Aquatic Wildlife Management	9.32%	\$ 3,668,847	\$ 3,523,180			\$ 145,667
Bird Farms	0.95%	388,424	388,424			
Co-op Unit Research	1.40%	376,772	180,972			195,800
Conservation Engineering	0.92%	375,725	375,725			
Department Administration	5.62%	2,299,773	2,299,773			
Education	1.30%	531,236	506,232	25,004		
Feedgrounds	3.57%	1,459,405	1,459,405			
Financial Management	4.78%	1,958,198	1,958,198			
Fish Culture (1)	10.74%	4,395,338	4,395,338			
Habitat/Access Maintenance (1)	9.48%	3,852,110	3,304,116	520,539		27,455
Information	2.73%	1,116,005	1,116,005			
Legislated Expenses	3.99%	1,634,953	1,634,953			
Mailroom	1.49%	608,955	608,955			
Management Info Systems	3.87%	1,542,397	1,499,902			42,495
Personnel Management	0.63%	258,808	258,808			
Property Rights	3.85%	1,574,748	1,001,872		572,876	
Regional Information/Education	1.10%	448,552	448,552			
Specialized Law Enforcement	1.81%	739,047	739,047			
Strategic Management	1.19%	456,341	341,660	82,630		32,051
Support Facilities/Personnel	3.99%	1,634,737	1,634,737			
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	24.54%	9,941,476	9,816,575	21,266		103,635
Wildlife Habitat Protection	0.58%	236,656	236,656			
Wildlife Health & Lab Services	2.17%	888,431	888,431			
TOTAL DEPT OBJECTIVES	100.00%	40,386,934	38,617,516	649,439	572,876	547,103
Reimbursable Grants		1,544,164	1,544,164	-		
Electronic License Project		170,511	170,511	-		
Alternative Enterprises		127,433				
TOTAL AMT EXPND DURING FY 05		<u>42,229,042</u>	<u>40,332,191</u>	<u>649,439</u>	<u>572,876</u>	<u>547,103</u>

(1) does not include general fund capital construction expenditures of \$82,540 for the habitat program and \$1,657,371 for the fish culture program

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

BIG GAME LICENSES	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Antelope	\$22.00	13,700	11,583	12,260	12,970	
Resident Antelope	\$26.00					13,013
Depredation Resident Antelope	\$22.00					
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,376	1,942	2,094	2,110	2,218
Depredation Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$20.00	5,467	3,162	3,724	4,308	
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$24.00					4,357
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	684	385	434	527	548
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	649	440	379	324	300
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	91	50	54	51	59
Depredation Resident Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00					
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$16.00					108
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$15.00					20
TOTALS		22,967	17,562	18,945	20,290	20,623
Nonres Special Antelope	\$285.00	2,236	1,790	1,803	1,886	
Nonres Special Antelope	\$425.00					1,455
Nonres Antelope	\$185.00	11,710	11,168	11,709	12,861	
Nonres Antelope	\$225.00					13,399
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	576	557	587	674	830
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$50.00		5,483	6,261	7,604	
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$80.00	5,221				
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$60.00					7,955
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$50.00	385				
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$30.00		291	413	511	588
TOTALS		20,128	19,289	20,773	23,536	24,227
TOTAL ANTELOPE LICENSES		43,095	36,851	39,718	43,826	44,850
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$75.00	197	211	189	182	
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$95.00					187
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,500.00	71	71	69	66	
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,900.00					64
TOTAL BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSES		268	282	258	248	251
Resident Deer	\$22.00	42,857				
Resident Deer	\$25.00		41,682	41,556	40,698	
Resident Deer	\$30.00					39,596
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	6,500	6,122	5,933	5,718	5,414
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00	2,817	3,382	3,266	3,790	
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$24.00					4,233
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	262	359	305	337	435
Depredation Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00			167		
Depredation Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00			28		
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	1,298	993	861	718	628
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	43	59	48	46	46
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$19.00					138
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$15.00					19
TOTALS		53,777	52,597	52,164	51,307	50,509
Nonres Special Deer	\$285.00	4,885				
Nonres Special Deer	\$310.00		4,372	4,263	4,149	
Nonres Special Deer	\$460.00					3,278
Nonresident Deer	\$185.00	24,696				
Nonresident Deer	\$210.00		24,787	25,198	24,933	
Nonresident Deer	\$260.00					24,076
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	873	910	953	1,022	1,042
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$50.00		2,807	2,466	2,984	
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$80.00	1,636				
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$60.00					2,950

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$230.00					9
Game Bird Farm	\$90.00	109	104	103	108	
Game Bird Farm	\$110.00					117
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$25.00	428	451			
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$15.00			532	533	566
Resident Taxidermist	\$45.00	155	152	152	157	
Resident Taxidermist	\$55.00					168
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$500.00	5	4	5	2	
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$600.00					4
TOTAL COMMERCIAL LICENSES:		878	900	968	962	1,016
FUR BEARING/TRAP LICENSES	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$30.00	965	1,001	1,156	1,256	
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$35.00					1,310
Res Youth Fur Bear Trap	\$6.00	99	101	106	100	113
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$170.00	20	26	27	32	
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$200.00					31
TOTAL FUR BEARING/TRAPPING LICENSES:		1,084	1,128	1,289	1,388	1,454
GAME BIRD/SML GAME LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$15.00	17,385	14,129	12,326	11,091	
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$18.00					10,189
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$5.00	900	879	765	859	
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$6.00					1,155
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$50.00	2,034	2,191	1,925	2,004	
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$60.00					1,824
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$10.00	7,895				
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$15.00		5,089	4,465	4,417	5,107
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	56	68	68	81	80
TOTAL COMBINATION LICENSES		28,270	22,356	19,549	18,452	18,355
GAME BIRD LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Game Bird	\$10.00	6,203	7,776	7,652	7,821	
Resident Game Bird	\$12.00					8,024
3-Day Special Bird	\$15.00	185	128	115	74	0
TOTAL GAME BIRD LICENSES		6,388	7,904	7,767	7,895	8,024
SMALL GAME LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Small Game	\$10.00	1,735	1,479	1,510	1,658	
Resident Small Game	\$12.00					1,971
TOTAL SMALL GAME LICENSES		1,735	1,479	1,510	1,658	1,971
TURKEY LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Spring Turkey	\$10.00	3,427	3,888	3,728	3,814	
Resident Spring Turkey	\$12.00					4,188
Resident Fall Turkey	\$10.00	2,303	1,952	1,756	1,938	
Resident Fall Turkey	\$12.00					2,230
TOTALS		5,730	5,840	5,484	5,752	6,418
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$50.00	912	1,147	1,187	1,251	
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$60.00					1,414
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$50.00	593	522	511	671	
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$60.00					572
TOTALS		1,505	1,669	1,698	1,922	1,986
TOTAL TURKEY LICENSES		7,235	7,509	7,182	7,674	8,404

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

GAME FISH LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Fishing Annual	\$15.00	95,456	87,873	81,394	78,750	
Resident Fishing Annual	\$18.00					73,541
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	10,415	8,341	7,413	6,780	6,368
Resident Daily Fish	\$3.00	26,066	31,952	31,950	35,565	39,862
TOTALS		131,937	128,166	120,757	121,095	119,771
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$65.00	9,577	16,203	16,644	17,011	
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$75.00					14,033
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	1,615	3,941	3,858	3,733	3,554
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$6.00	350,496				
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$10.00		252,686	227,693	220,137	218,894
Tourist Youth 10-Day Fish	\$10.00	3,713				
TOTALS		365,401	272,830	248,195	240,881	236,481
TOTAL FISHING LICENSES		497,338	400,996	368,952	361,976	356,252

LIFETIME LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bird/Fish/Small Game Fishing	\$400.00	12	39	82	162	121
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$250.00	27	41	41	110	74
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$475.00	536	623	644	1,407	
Bird/Small Game	\$550.00					195
Bird/Small Game	\$250.00					23
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$400.00					3
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$325.00	263	423	429	1,279	
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$400.00					129
Conservation Stamp	\$75.00	849	1,845	1,739	6,032	
Conservation Stamp	\$150.00					79
TOTAL LIFETIME LICENSES		1,687	2,971	2,935	8,990	624

OTHER LICENSES:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Archery	\$10.00	8,962	9,265	9,716	10,111	
Resident Archery	\$12.00					10,836
Nonresident Archery	\$20.00	2,377	2,490	2,580	2,930	
Nonresident Archery	\$24.00					3,254
TOTAL ARCHERY LICENSES		11,339	11,755	12,296	13,041	14,090
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$25.00	25	23	25	20	
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$30.00					17
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$170.00	16	24	26	21	
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$200.00					16
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$10.00	87	96	95	91	
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$12.00					85
License to Capture Fur Bearing Animal	\$15.00	2	1	2	3	2
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00				22	74
Duplicate with Coupon	\$3.00	1,086	964	875	948	1,010
Duplicate without Coupon	\$3.00	96	116	133	113	109
Duplicate Multi-Purpose Lic.	\$3.00	528	488	426	425	753
Duplicate Commercial Lic.	\$3.00	12	1	2	1	1
TOTAL OTHER LICENSES		1,852	1,713	1,584	1,644	2,067

PERMITS:	PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Goose Special Management Permit	\$10.00	348	266	186	87	21
Pheasant Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00	4,747	4,855	5,839	6,013	6,010
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00		314	229	243	249

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

TOTAL PERMITS		5,095	5,435	6,254	6,343	6,280	
STAMPS AND TAGS:		PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Conservation Stamps	\$5.00	195,953					
Conservation Stamps	\$10.00		191,929	186,535	181,599		168,992
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$5.00				15,762		
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$10.00	5,954	7,563	7,809	6,577		15,308
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$5.00	362	245				
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00			240	220		320
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00						6,616
Interstate Game Tags	\$3.00	16,138	14,726	14,763	15,227		
Interstate Game Tags	\$5.00						15,829
TOTAL STAMPS AND TAGS			218,407	214,463	209,347	219,385	207,065
TROPHY GAME LICENSES:		PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Black Bear	\$30.00	2,007	2,258	2,675	2,601		
Resident Black Bear	\$36.00						2,702
Nonres Black Bear	\$250.00	150	164	232	289		
Nonres Black Bear	\$300.00						247
TOTAL BLACK BEAR LICENSES			2,157	2,422	2,907	2,890	2,949
Resident Mountain Lion	\$20.00		1,275	1,423	1,457		
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	1,306					
Resident Mountain Lion	\$24.00						1,396
Resident Additional Mountain Lion	\$15.00	13	12		1		3
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$250.00	116	109	121	150		
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$300.00						130
Nonres Additional Mountain Lion	\$75.00	1	1				1
TOTAL MOUNTAIN LION LICENSES			1,436	1,397	1,544	1,608	1,530
WILD BISON LICENSES:		PRICE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Resident Wild Bison	\$275.00	23	42	53	51		
Resident Wild Bison	\$330.00						48
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$1,688.00	2	2	6	5		
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$2,100.00						4
TOTAL BISON LICENSES:			25	44	59	56	52
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
GRAND TOTAL LICENSES:			979,254	869,145	832,730	843,226	816,408

HIP PERMITS ISSUED: 10,155

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 05

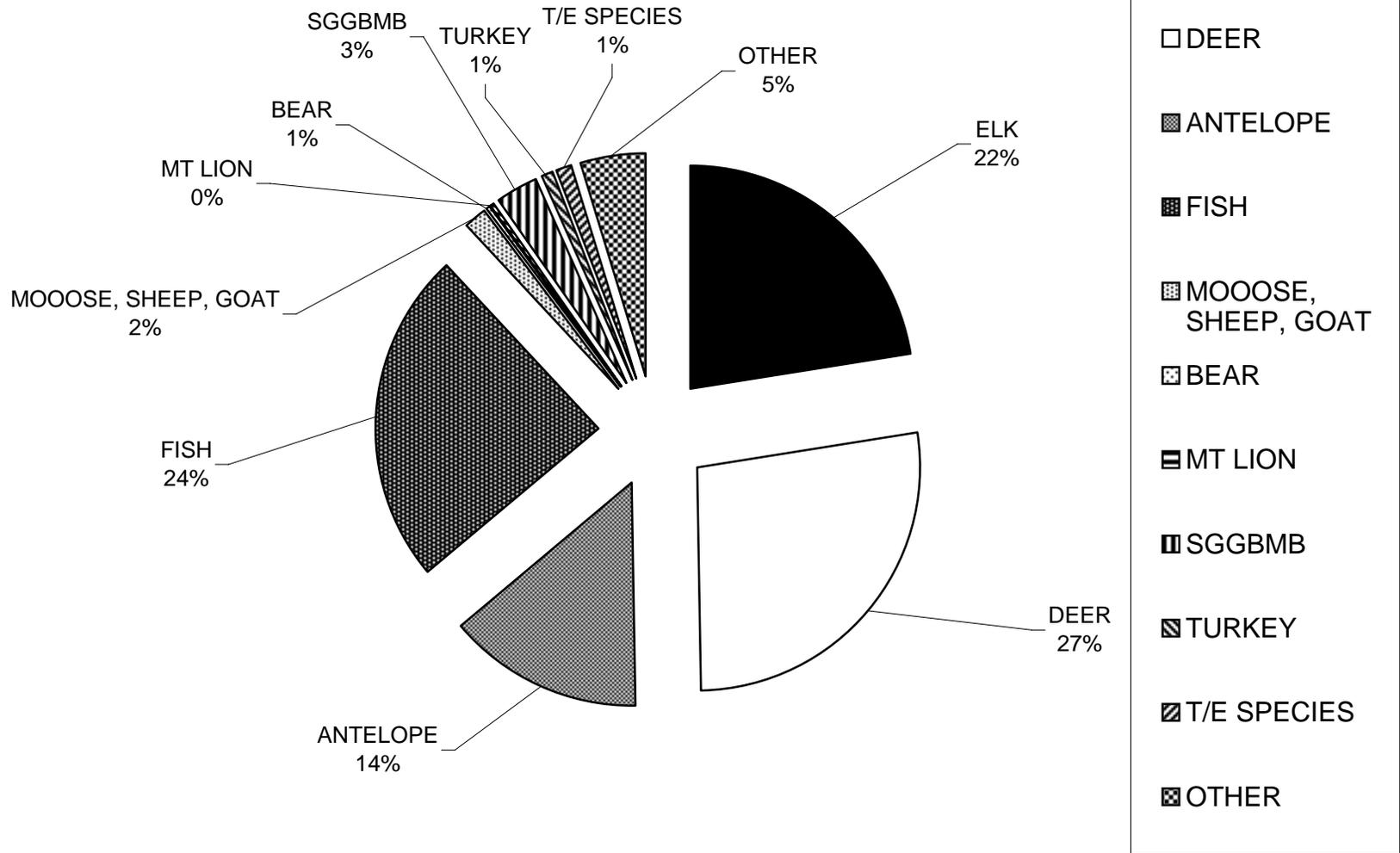
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	9,495,916		
BC	ANTELOPE	2,336,585	688,991	3,025,576
BD	ELK	6,822,173	2,011,661	8,833,834
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	949,319	279,927	1,229,246
BF	MOOSE	775,727	228,739	1,004,466
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	52,988	15,625	68,613
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	258,865	76,332	335,197
BK	BLACK BEAR	370,800	109,338	480,138
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	809,415	238,673	1,048,088
BM	MULE DEER	3,657,252	1,078,418	4,735,670
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	318,212	93,831	412,043
BP	BISON	25,610	7,552	33,162
BW	WOLF	384,835	113,477	498,312
CA	SMALL GAME	48,645	14,344	62,989
CB	GAME BIRDS	707	208	915
CC	PHEASANTS	723,265	213,270	936,535
CF	TURKEY	235,495	69,441	304,936
CG	PARTRIDGE	1,623	479	2,102
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	12,802	3,775	16,577
CT	SAGE GROUSE	1,077,433	317,704	1,395,137
CV	SHARPTAILED GROUSE	20,630	6,083	26,713
DB	GEESE	465,363	137,222	602,585
DC	DUCKS	48,213	14,217	62,430
DD	SWANS	100,030	29,496	129,526
DE	DOVES	74,310	21,912	96,222
DF	CRANES	59,499	17,545	77,044
FX	SPORT FISH	11,148,120	3,287,257	14,435,377

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 05

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	171,667	50,620	222,287
HC	BEAVER	35,130	10,359	45,489
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	33,683	9,932	43,615
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	181,593	53,547	235,140
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	176,293	51,984	228,277
NC	RAPTORS	103,259	30,448	133,707
ND	NONGAME FISH	230,201	67,880	298,081
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	125,684	37,061	162,745
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	2,176	642	2,818
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	67,609	19,936	87,545
NJ	BALD EAGLE	31,451	9,274	40,725
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	89,458	26,379	115,837
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	1,747	515	2,262
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE			
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	48,139	14,195	62,334
NR	BLACK TAILED PRAR DOG	46,616	13,746	60,362
NS	WHITE TAILED PRAR DOG	3,645	1,075	4,720
NW	WYOMING TOAD	542	160	702
NX	EXOTIC GAME	76,819	22,652	99,471
ZZ	NONWILDLIFE	529,286		529,286
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		42,228,830	9,495,916	42,228,830

*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 and Fish Revenue by Species FY05



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

PROGRAM	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%	2,005	%
Antelope	2,804,623	7.45%	2,904,751	6.65%	2,827,952	6.98%	2,497,594	6.21%	3,025,576	7.16%
Elk	7,845,909	20.83%	9,523,439	21.81%	8,550,907	21.12%	8,837,890	21.98%	8,833,834	20.92%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	920,962	2.44%	1,000,238	2.29%	736,527	1.82%	986,233	2.45%	1,229,246	2.91%
Moose	496,519	1.32%	594,652	1.36%	617,427	1.52%	646,341	1.61%	1,004,466	2.38%
Rocky Mountain Goat	38,221	0.10%	62,592	0.14%	85,146	0.21%	90,268	0.22%	68,613	0.16%
Mountain Lion	540,901	1.44%	718,591	1.65%	499,805	1.23%	250,254	0.62%	335,197	0.79%
Black Bear	561,421	1.49%	718,130	1.64%	809,961	2.00%	466,154	1.16%	480,138	1.14%
Grizzly Bear	1,600,388	4.25%	1,434,981	3.29%	1,378,442	3.40%	937,890	2.33%	1,048,088	2.48%
Mule Deer	3,754,746	9.97%	4,854,044	11.12%	4,170,980	10.30%	5,260,386	13.08%	4,735,670	11.21%
White-tailed Deer	416,952	1.11%	573,571	1.31%	436,408	1.08%	362,474	0.90%	412,043	0.98%
Bison	61,853	0.16%	79,895	0.18%	26,313	0.06%	69,759	0.17%	33,162	0.08%
Wolf	6,749	0.02%	37,171	0.09%	506,029	1.25%	118,968	0.30%	498,312	1.18%
Small Game	60,578	0.16%	56,423	0.13%	33,767	0.08%	53,275	0.13%	62,989	0.15%
Game Birds	246,713	0.65%	299,903	0.69%	113,900	0.28%	57,453	0.14%	915	0.00%
Pheasants	695,497	1.85%	870,916	1.99%	895,270	2.21%	874,552	2.17%	936,535	2.22%
Turkey	235,259	0.62%	299,900	0.69%	272,393	0.67%	214,604	0.53%	304,936	0.72%
Partridge	70,835	0.19%	92,476	0.21%	44,886	0.11%	43,289	0.11%	2,102	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	11,188	0.03%	25,459	0.06%	17,324	0.04%	18,661	0.05%	16,577	0.04%
Sage Grouse	949,900	2.52%	921,657	2.11%	979,917	2.42%	1,158,226	2.88%	1,395,137	3.30%

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

PROGRAM	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%	2,005	%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	42,802	0.11%	42,812	0.10%	39,304	0.10%	29,070	0.07%	26,713	0.06%
Greese	434,626	1.15%	568,739	1.30%	431,698	1.07%	367,575	0.91%	602,585	1.43%
Ducks	143,184	0.38%	183,435	0.42%	185,602	0.46%	149,015	0.37%	62,430	0.15%
Swans	203,267	0.54%	448,125	1.03%	311,047	0.77%	352,925	0.88%	129,526	0.31%
Doves	105,984	0.28%	113,928	0.26%	111,845	0.28%	74,903	0.19%	96,222	0.23%
Cranes	42,957	0.11%	42,312	0.10%	44,203	0.11%	28,417	0.07%	77,044	0.18%
Sport Fish	13,757,732	36.52%	15,129,474	34.65%	14,029,271	34.65%	14,101,248	35.07%	14,435,377	34.18%
Bobcat/Lynx	99,031	0.26%	130,074	0.30%	174,655	0.43%	221,064	0.55%	222,287	0.53%
Beaver	37,268	0.10%	39,702	0.09%	48,900	0.12%	33,998	0.08%	45,489	0.11%
Commercial Fisheries	21,093	0.06%	28,262	0.06%	17,674	0.04%	20,690	0.05%	43,615	0.10%
Nongame Mammals	104,764	0.28%	129,713	0.30%	183,609	0.45%	210,921	0.52%	235,140	0.56%
Nongame Birds	177,748	0.47%	286,589	0.66%	360,314	0.89%	393,752	0.98%	228,277	0.54%
Raptors	116,140	0.31%	100,238	0.23%	58,004	0.14%	135,319	0.34%	133,707	0.32%
Nongame Fish	7,025	0.02%	54,205	0.12%	60,732	0.15%	151,536	0.38%	298,081	0.71%
Amphibians/Reptiles	52,946	0.14%	133,301	0.31%	173,350	0.43%	93,110	0.23%	162,745	0.39%
Predatory Birds	***		***		498	0.00%	1,809	0.00%	2,818	0.01%
Peregrine Falcon	30,966	0.08%	30,873	0.07%	54,621	0.13%	46,309	0.12%	87,545	0.21%
Bald Eagle	25,840	0.07%	17,705	0.04%	27,291	0.07%	23,026	0.06%	40,725	0.10%
Black-Footed Ferret	62,210	0.17%	45,000	0.10%	30,330	0.07%	80,867	0.20%	115,837	0.27%

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

PROGRAM	2,001	%	2,002	%	2,003	%	2004	%	2,005	%
Canadian Lynx	4,769	0.01%	4,599	0.01%	187	0.00%	1,475	0.00%	2,262	0.01%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	516	0.00%	358	0.00%	443	0.00%	99	0.00%	***	
Predatory Mammals	128,929	0.34%	75,899	0.17%	175,646	0.43%	90,785	0.23%	62,334	0.15%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	185,197	0.49%	345,575	0.79%	332,885	0.82%	119,605	0.30%	60,362	0.14%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	***		***		936	0.00%	2,416	0.01%	4,720	0.01%
Wyoming Toad	96,772	0.26%	150,017	0.34%	137,343	0.34%	36,828	0.09%	702	0.00%
Exotic Game	63,113	0.17%	47,066	0.11%	76,644	0.19%	104,323	0.26%	99,471	0.24%
Nonwildlife	405,872	1.08%	443,104	1.01%	418,736	1.03%	394,642	0.98%	529,280	1.25%
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	37,669,965	100.00%	43,659,894	100.00%	40,489,122	100.00%	40,209,998	100.00%	42,228,830	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	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
		AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%
001	Legal research	6,854	0.02	3,940	0.01	864	0.00	11,218	0.03	174	0.00
002	Legal briefs	4,230	0.01	11,921	0.03	8,689	0.02	5,358	0.01	105	0.00
003	Legal pleadings	1,044	0.00	1,379	0.00			646	0.00	4,171	0.01
004	Legal - court appearances	1,465	0.00	2,428	0.01	2,198	0.01	2,526	0.01	78	0.00
005	Legal conferences										
051	Fee Title Acq-Aquatic Habitat	1,357	0.00	600	0.00			327,357	0.81		
052	Fee Title Acq- Rip Habitat	775	0.00	3,127	0.01	1,868	0.00	9,124	0.02	5,045	0.01
053	Fee Title Acq- Ter Habitat	10,240	0.03	62,893	0.14	26,877	0.06	427,684	1.06	15,650	0.04
054	Fee Title Acq- Boat Access	523	0.00	309	0.00	764	0.00	271	0.00	325	0.00
055	Fee Title Acq- Public Access			934	0.00	114	0.00	50	0.00		
056	Fee Title Acq- Dept Facilities	20,567	0.05	19,225	0.04	6,678	0.02	17,028	0.04	12,904	0.03
061	Non-Fee Title- Aquatic Habitat	11,882	0.03	17,013	0.04	2,912	0.01	6,894	0.02	3,283	0.01
062	Non-Fee Title- Rip Habitat	2,150	0.01	1,386	0.00	4,805	0.01	1,802	0.00	4,274	0.01
063	Non-Fee Title- Ter Habitat	248,146	0.66	81,327	0.19	30,676	0.07	57,769	0.14	50,683	0.12
064	Non-Fee Title- Boat Access	9,623	0.03	11,597	0.03	8,559	0.02	6,847	0.02	4,527	0.01
065	Non-Fee Title-Public Access	64,185	0.17	361,565	0.83	480,403	1.14	527,205	1.31	574,139	1.36
066	Non-Fee Title-Dept Facilities	6,826	0.02	6,434	0.01	4,747	0.01	4,931	0.01	3,871	0.01
100	Administration	4,963,872	13.18	5,339,859	12.23	5,239,673	12.41	5,319,143	13.23	5,674,710	13.44
105	Clerical	781,696	2.08	834,714	1.91	856,844	2.03	825,573	2.05	905,987	2.15
110	License Sales & Accounting	1,096,614	2.91	1,391,736	3.19	1,146,692	2.72	1,153,364	2.87	1,159,805	2.75
114	Product Sales & Alt Funding	138,717	0.37	139,249	0.32	126,873	0.30	113,255	0.28	125,090	0.30
115	Fiscal	469,652	1.25	559,755	1.28	650,223	1.54	643,042	1.60	752,326	1.78
121	Management Planning	662,256	1.76	601,165	1.38	728,383	1.72	671,215	1.67	787,240	1.86
122	Strategic Planning	211,028	0.56	272,117	0.62	204,729	0.48	213,517	0.53	243,581	0.58
125	Procurement & Inventory	352,321	0.94	516,147	1.18	384,922	0.91	144,086	0.36	301,150	0.71
130	Regulations	158,827	0.42	143,649	0.33	167,173	0.40	161,602	0.40	148,651	0.35
132	Season Setting	142,043	0.38	138,621	0.32	104,817	0.25	121,101	0.30	105,999	0.25
135	Grant-in-Aid Administration	57,391	0.15	59,411	0.14	41,345	0.10	40,463	0.10	85,585	0.20
140	Inter-Agency communications	581,152	1.54	584,761	1.34	647,428	1.53	670,011	1.67	649,293	1.54
141	Mngt Info Systems(LE & LIC)	772,315	2.05	822,328	1.88	621,551	1.47	495,885	1.23	604,632	1.43

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
		AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%
142	Mngt Info Systems(other)			24,287	0.06	94,738	0.22	204,820	0.51	107,888	0.26
143	Mngt Info Systems-Hdw/Soft					243,003	0.58	198,652	0.49	339,690	0.80
145	Intra-Agency Communications	689,060	1.83	931,545	2.13	803,828	1.90	986,836	2.45	989,670	2.34
149	Commuting Mileage	3,265	0.01	1,875	0.00	1,307	0.00	4,328	0.01	6,254	0.01
150	Hunter Safety	166,783	0.44	213,296	0.49	181,503	0.43	171,068	0.43	163,725	0.39
155	Conservation Education	299,672	0.80	305,465	0.70	289,623	0.69	223,509	0.56	220,450	0.52
156	Aquatic Education	49,814	0.13	45,656	0.10	76,850	0.18	71,676	0.18	84,323	0.20
158	Mass Media Presentations	86,643	0.23	72,712	0.17	78,696	0.19	77,514	0.19	100,740	0.24
160	Public Contacts	1,152,254	3.06	1,334,742	3.06	1,258,604	2.98	1,320,920	3.29	1,381,499	3.27
165	Info Documents & Displays	635,556	1.69	776,257	1.78	772,528	1.83	725,474	1.80	774,396	1.83
170	Wyo Wildlife Magazine	495,081	1.31	540,868	1.24	465,362	1.10	471,306	1.17	499,757	1.18
175	Extension Service	89,201	0.24	85,019	0.19	62,182	0.15	50,599	0.13	56,679	0.13
180	In-Service Training	1,035,476	2.75	1,234,485	2.83	1,198,385	2.84	992,824	2.47	1,175,375	2.78
181	Instructional Training					55,202	0.13	35,734	0.09	84,545	0.20
201	Habitat Dvmt on Priv Land	8,756	0.02	8,752	0.02	33,120	0.08	6,247	0.02	2,927	0.01
210	Department Facility Dev	1,172,375	3.11	2,951,024	6.76	1,104,204	2.61	355,781	0.88	570,197	1.35
231	Wldlife Rearing Facility Dev	614,509	1.63	408,679	0.94	257,651	0.61	238,304	0.59	329,293	0.78
232	Watering Facility Dev	38,982	0.10	29,555	0.07	48,110	0.11	8,095	0.02	398,592	0.94
233	Motor Boat Access Dev	714,033	1.90	1,590,961	3.64	854,741	2.02	548,122	1.36	1,006,647	2.38
234	Stream Habitat Develpmnt	271,725	0.72	192,107	0.44	411,326	0.97	583,328	1.45	124,115	0.29
235	Reservoir/Lake Habitat Dev	18,648	0.05	27,911	0.06	9,514	0.02	9,267	0.02	7,799	0.02
236	Impoundment Development	50,045	0.13	9,596	0.02	26,786	0.06	2,941	0.01	959	0.00
236	NEPA Development			2,516	0.01	14,973	0.04	4,031	0.01	8,413	0.02
240	Riparian Habitat Dev	150,690	0.40	235,192	0.54	207,667	0.49	92,298	0.23	42,955	0.10
250	Terrestrial Habitat Dev	30,513	0.08	26,171	0.06	15,132	0.04	18,169	0.05	11,364	0.03
260	Public Facility Development	47,751	0.13	131,953	0.30	77,825	0.19	245,513	0.61	227,243	0.54
270	Cropland Development	934	0.00	1,381	0.00			65	0.00	537	0.00
280	Transport Facility Dev	345	0.00	62,095	0.14	11,303	0.03	1,521	0.00	1,762	0.00
290	Fence Construction	29,068	0.08	24,215	0.06	21,551	0.05	3,966	0.01	5,113	0.01
299	Other Misc Public Dev			1,501	0.00	356	0.00	464	0.00	898	0.00
300	Routine Enforcement	1,440,308	3.82	1,517,018	3.47	1,445,324	3.57	1,521,509	3.78	1,423,828	3.37
310	Enforcement Investigations	448,029	1.19	484,168	1.11	511,221	1.26	555,736	1.38	592,248	1.40

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
		AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%
320	Enforcement Administration	242,463	0.64	241,255	0.55	281,100	0.69	289,749	0.72	374,954	0.89
401	Habitat Mntn on Priv Land	554	0.00	1,059	0.00	1,106	0.00	966	0.00	784	0.00
410	Facility Maintenance	1,556,661	4.13	1,448,259	3.32	1,352,211	3.34	1,581,414	3.93	1,652,729	3.91
420	Equipment Maintenance	286,565	0.76	329,737	0.76	347,085	0.86	392,162	0.98	357,077	0.85
430	Aquatic Habitat Maintenance	38,905	0.10	224,985	0.52	98,255	0.24	70,444	0.18	81,180	0.19
433	Motor Boat Access Site Main	142,463	0.38	117,408	0.27	163,378	0.40	126,358	0.31	146,413	0.35
440	Riparian Habitat Maintenance	100,770	0.27	164,823	0.38	105,033	0.26	95,710	0.24	122,602	0.29
450	Terrestrial Habitat Main	130,128	0.35	125,626	0.29	128,613	0.32	140,256	0.35	156,014	0.37
451	Noxious Vegetation Control	42,678	0.11	29,046	0.07	33,814	0.08	52,453	0.13	52,585	0.12
452	Livestock Grazing	74,275	0.20	40,603	0.09	37,580	0.09	44,424	0.11	30,416	0.07
453	Permanent Cover/Food Patch	261,159	0.69	183,525	0.42	127,782	0.32	259,745	0.65	229,061	0.54
454	Veg Cover Mngt- Presc Burns	46,553	0.12	67,771	0.16	23,953	0.06	53,230	0.13	68,746	0.16
455	Veg Cov Mngt- Mech Tmnt	11,244	0.03	14,721	0.03	1,554	0.00	23,293	0.06	41,264	0.10
456	Veg Cov Mngt- Chem Tmnt	1,033	0.00	13,054	0.03	19,559	0.05	9,260	0.02	19,068	0.05
457	Watering Facility Maintenance	4,391	0.01	6,208	0.01	5,327	0.01	14,344	0.04	5,786	0.01
458	Cropland Maintenance	11,074	0.03	35,975	0.08	26,427	0.07	11,479	0.03	35,103	0.08
460	Public Access Maintenance	331,505	0.88	348,048	0.80	392,425	0.97	405,878	1.01	379,748	0.90
480	Transport Facility Maintenance	250,839	0.67	250,587	0.57	239,897	0.59	178,523	0.44	125,044	0.30
490	Fence Maintenance	302,412	0.80	367,675	0.84	408,994	1.01	307,753	0.77	303,191	0.72
510	Habitat & Populations Evaluation	990,821	2.63	1,192,075	2.73	1,207,610	2.98	1,259,640	3.13	1,070,372	2.53
511	Habitat Inventory	467,712	1.24	584,559	1.34	608,513	1.50	662,645	1.65	640,914	1.52
512	Fish & Wldlfe Population Studies	1,902,494	5.05	1,734,245	3.97	1,730,332	4.27	1,736,235	4.32	1,864,803	4.42
514	NonG&F Habitat/Pop Eval							34,883	0.09	114,841	0.27
520	Public Use Inventory	1,157,654	3.07	1,034,831	2.37	1,105,579	2.73	960,655	2.39	1,014,561	2.40
530	Resource Reconnaissance	98,798	0.26	130,235	0.30	137,411	0.34	139,615	0.35	143,118	0.34
540	Environmental Protection	361,771	0.96	518,362	1.19	561,939	1.39	656,589	1.63	565,290	1.34
551	Disease Investigation	637,759	1.69	602,930	1.38	482,892	1.19	895,924	2.23	798,141	1.89
553	Life History/Ecology Investigatio	311,450	0.83	255,679	0.59	240,663	0.59	140,148	0.35	198,801	0.47
576	Investigation of Techniques	99,520	0.26	103,659	0.24	107,215	0.26	139,387	0.35	85,608	0.20
577	Artificial Propagation Investigatic	58,440	0.16	82,243	0.19	62,370	0.15	20,877	0.05	4,147	0.01
610	Fish & Wildlife Control	339,797	0.90	367,809	0.84	342,135	0.85	324,499	0.81	443,474	1.05

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
		AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%
620	Damage Prevention	347,612	0.92	437,729	1.00	452,420	1.12	468,195	1.16	445,704	1.06
630	Damage Claims	863,584	2.29	775,776	1.78	757,060	1.87	779,294	1.94	793,767	1.88
710	Fish & Wldlfe Rearing	1,409,234	3.74	1,508,381	3.45	1,534,287	3.79	1,491,052	3.71	1,488,404	3.52
712	Fish Egg Collection	151,868	0.40	165,354	0.38	180,618	0.45	201,452	0.50	196,880	0.47
715	Wildlife Stocking-Restoration	12,157	0.03	5,591	0.01	7,798	0.02	9,977	0.02	6,666	0.02
716	Wildlife Stocking-Maintenance	210,351	0.56	200,727	0.46	139,126	0.34	173,536	0.43	237,640	0.56
717	Wildlife Stocking-Put&Take	76,646	0.20	97,800	0.22	115,181	0.28	104,123	0.26	103,412	0.24
718	Wildlife Stocking-New Species E	4,225	0.01	3,795	0.01	11,546	0.03	2,431	0.01	294	0.00
720	Wildlife Feeding	843,190	2.24	1,274,800	2.92	1,264,707	3.12	904,103	2.25	1,325,159	3.14
730	Trapping & Transplanting	27,362	0.07	53,595	0.12	27,903	0.07	19,122	0.05	33,761	0.08
810	Paid Leave-Military, Admin	302,386	0.80	283,373	0.65	335,484	0.83	188,696	0.47	136,757	0.32
811	Paid Leave-Annual	1,329,185	3.53	1,505,154	3.45	1,630,032	4.03	1,561,230	3.88	1,642,387	3.89
812	Paid Leave-Sick	300,345	0.80	337,525	0.77	386,924	0.96	352,465	0.88	372,426	0.88
813	Paid Leave-Comp Time Off	117,751	0.31	128,671	0.29	156,855	0.39	165,408	0.41	232,398	0.55
814	Paid Leave-Holiday	535,023	1.42	595,472	1.36	596,647	1.47	689,214	1.71	704,033	1.67
830	Employee Moving	7,101	0.02	37,092	0.08	28,419	0.07	22,857	0.06	33,311	0.08
900	Boating Enforcement	254,594	0.68	240,531	0.55	227,092	0.56	197,708	0.49	251,676	0.60
905	Boating Accident Invest	5,537	0.01	3,144	0.01	6,703	0.02	2,859	0.01	1,976	0.00
910	Boating Certificate & Sales	31,823	0.08	34,450	0.08	35,387	0.09	40,271	0.10	43,070	0.10
915	Boating Administration	31,030	0.08	73,695	0.17	65,471	0.16	46,885	0.12	52,412	0.12
920	Boating Education	14,402	0.04	7,013	0.02	4,576	0.01	31,542	0.08	20,070	0.05
925	Search & Rescue	4,892	0.01	3,235	0.01	2,102	0.01	2,881	0.01	4,323	0.01
930	Local Law Enforcement Assistar	10,513	0.03	9,406	0.02	8,609	0.02	10,861	0.03	9,041	0.02
935	Boating Buoy Maintenance									3,578	0.01
940	Boating Equip/Supp Proc									691	0.00
TOTAL		37,669,966	100	43,659,893	100	40,489,121	98	40,204,284	100	42,228,830	100

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

FY	LANDOWNER COUPONS	% CHANGE	DAMAGE CLAIMS	% CHANGE
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%
2005	511,953	22.48%	182,426	-24.83%

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