

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
**2006**

**Wyoming Game and Fish  
Department**



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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BILL WILLIAMS, DVM – Vice President  
LINDA FLEMING  
CLARK ALLAN  
JERRY GALLES  
CLIFFORD KIRK  
KERRY POWERS

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 2006 Annual Report. The report was prepared at the direction of the Game and Fish Commission and covers the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

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,

Ron Lovercheck, President  
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

2006  
ANNUAL REPORT

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

# 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This 2006 *Annual Report* is considerably more comprehensive than past reports. In it, readers will have the opportunity to review annual progress reports from each major program administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, summaries of division activities, individual species summaries, 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 is reflective of the complex and comprehensive nature of fish and wildlife conservation in Wyoming. As diverse as this report may be, it doesn't 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. 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.

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 work for a Governor and a Commission who provide strong leadership and support for Wyoming's wildlife. I am fortunate to have such a dedicated staff of employees to carry out our statutory duties and responsibilities on behalf of all Wyoming's wildlife.

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

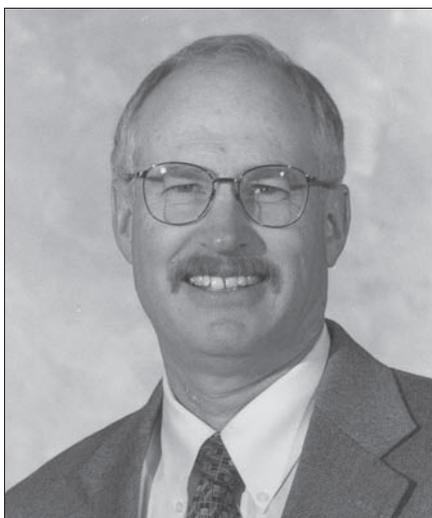
Terry Cleveland, Director



Governor Dave Freudenthal



Terry Cleveland  
Director

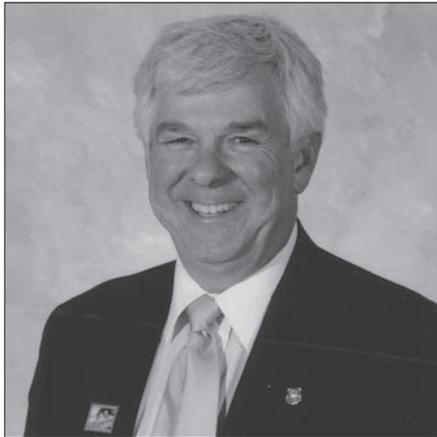


Gregg Arthur  
Deputy Director



Bill Wichers  
Deputy Director

## Commission



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



Bill Williams, DVM, Veterinarian from Thermopolis; Commission Vice-President; represents Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs and Washakie 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)

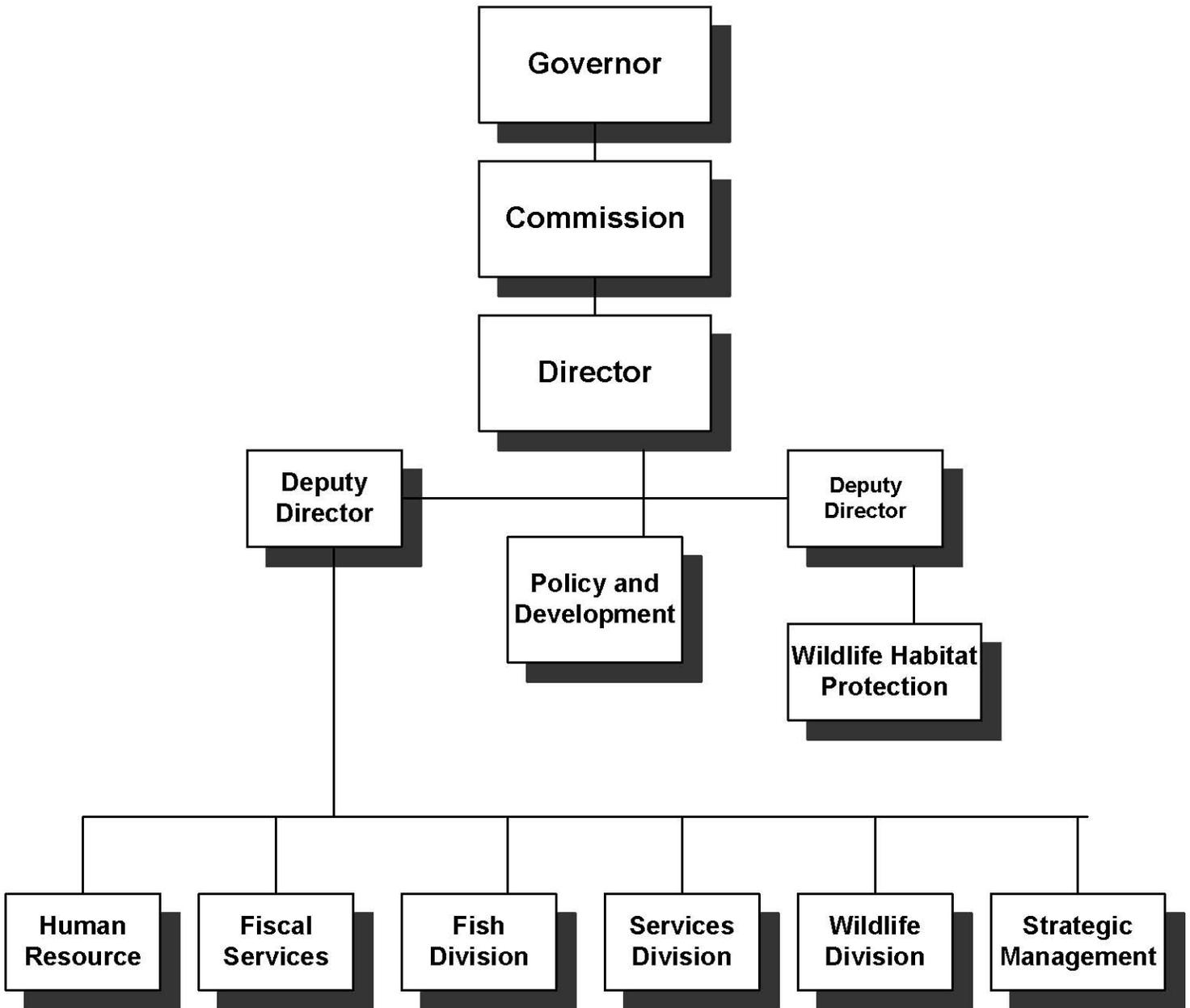


Kerry Powers, Real Estate/Rancher from Lusk; represents Crook, Weston and Niobrara counties (3/1/2007)



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

# Wyoming Game & Fish Organization Chart



## **Director's Summary**

### **Game and Fish Leadership**

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission elected Commissioner Ron Lovercheck to serve as president of the Commission and Dr. Bill Williams as vice president.

Game and Fish Deputy Director Bill Wichers was replaced by Assistant Wildlife Division Chief John Emmerich in July 2006. Wichers retired after 10 years in the position. Emmerich will continue to be stationed in Cheyenne and serve as the department's main liaison with the legislature and cooperating agencies. He will also oversee the Habitat Protection Program. Emmerich, in turn, is being replaced by Green River Wildlife Management Coordinator Supervisor Bill Rudd.

### **Leadership Development**

Most of the current leadership of the Game and Fish are, or will soon be, eligible for retirement. As the existing generation of Game and Fish leaders enters its final years with the organization, the department sought to develop a plan of how to prepare leaders for the future. To meet the need, the department has developed an ongoing leadership development program for employees. Basic training on personal leadership and effectiveness will be made available to all employees beginning in 2006. Also beginning this year, 20 select employees will participate in Level I, a 12-month interpersonal leadership development program, based on the core competencies of personal integrity, communication skills and supervision. A mentoring/coaching program will be established for each participant.

Beginning in 2007, 20 select employees will participate in a Level II program of organizational leadership development. Level II will address the core competencies of leadership principles and concepts, team leadership, conflict resolution and strategic decision-making. Students will participate in experiential learning by completing an analysis of a personal leadership problem and will be matched with a senior staff mentor or coach throughout the program.

The program will be administered in the Office of the Director, under the direction of Walt Gasson, Leadership Development Program Coordinator.

### **Wolf Litigation Update**

In July 2005, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) and Wyoming Governor's Office filed a petition with the U. S. Department of Interior to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list. In October, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that delisting of the population may be warranted. The Service's positive initial 90-day finding was followed by a more complete 12-month status review of all available data on the Rocky Mountain population. The final decision on the petition came in July 2006 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made the determination that Wyoming's Gray Wolf Management Plan did not provide adequate regulatory mechanisms to maintain Wyoming's portion of a fully recovered wolf population.

The State of Wyoming will file suit in 2006 in U.S. District Court for legal review of the Service's decision on Wyoming's petition to de-list.

### **Grizzly Bears**

The Commission approved the Grizzly Bear Habitat Occupancy Plan in July 2005, establishing the final component of grizzly bear management in Wyoming.

In November, Department of Interior proposed removing the Greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from the list of threatened and endangered species. As part of the proposal, a distinct population segment of grizzlies in the greater Yellowstone area will be established. More than 600 grizzlies now inhabit the Yellowstone ecosystem. The Wyoming, Idaho and Montana wildlife agencies and the National Park Service are committed to managing for a population of at least 500 bears. Comments on the draft delisting document were extended to March 20, 2006. It is anticipated that a final delisting rule will be issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by mid-2007.

### **Sage Grouse**

Wyoming's eight local sage grouse working groups are continuing their efforts to develop local conservation plans. Each working group has 10-15 members, including representatives from agriculture, industry, conservation and government. These eight working groups cover all of the sage grouse habitat in Wyoming. Priorities for each group are determined locally. Projects including on-the-ground habitat improvements, research, water development projects and information and education efforts were approved for 2006 thanks to funding provided by the Wyoming Legislature.

The Wyoming legislature appropriated \$1.1 million in general funds in 2007-2008 for sage grouse efforts.

### **Bighorn Sheep**

Wyoming partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in its second and final phase of the Devils Canyon supplemental bighorn sheep transplant project. Transplant team members released thirteen ewes, two yearling rams and five lambs in January 2006. The sheep were released on the north rim of Devil's Canyon, northeast of Lovell. The first phase of the project took place in December 2004 when 20 bighorn sheep from Oregon were transplanted to Wyoming. Those sheep have done well in the canyon, with twelve of the Oregon ewes lambing last spring. With the latest release of Montana bighorns, the Devil's Canyon herd is about 110; the population objective is 200. As the objective is neared, the department hopes to allow a limited amount of hunting and to begin to consider using the herd as a source herd for transplanting bighorns into other low-elevation sites.

In March, the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee was honored with a Conservation Project of the Year Award from the BLM and U. S. Forest Service for nearly 40 years of interagency cooperation and stewardship. The technical committee was formed in 1969 and consists of local BLM and Shoshone National Forest wildlife

biologists and the Game and Fish's wildlife biologist, habitat biologist and Dubois game warden. Over the years, approximately 2,000 bighorns from the herd have been trapped and transplanted to bolster other herds or repopulate native range in Wyoming and seven other western states. The herd has also provided recreation for hundreds of hunters and their associates and thousands of wildlife viewers.

### **Black Footed Ferret**

Wyoming is participating in the effort to celebrate 25 years of black-footed ferret recovery. The department is partnering with members of the Black Footed Ferret Recovery Effort Team, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, US Fish and Wildlife Service to plan educational events to celebrate the successful captive breeding and release program. A September fundraising event and awareness campaign is planned. In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 2008 Wyoming conservation stamp will feature the black-footed ferret.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

New regulations designed to ensure the proper disposal of carcasses from CWD hunt areas were implemented fall 2005.

Five additional hunt areas where CWD exists were determined in Wyoming in 2005, including deer hunt areas 37, 9 120 and 77, and elk hunt area 8. WGFD personnel tested more than 4,200 elk and deer.

Information and education efforts on CWD are ongoing. WGFD will mail educational brochures to all nonresident deer and elk hunters describing CWD zones and testing procedures. Radio and newspaper ads addressing the regulations will alert hunters

### **Brucellosis**

The WGFD has begun implementing several recommendations of the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team. Brucellosis Management Action Plans for all herd units in northwest Wyoming are being completed. All action plans will be completed and in place by July 1, 2007.

Following one of the coordination team's recommendations, Game and Fish personnel trapped elk in January as part of the Muddy Creek feedground test-and-removal pilot project. Fifty-eight cow elk testing positive for brucellosis were removed from the herd and processed at a USDA approved facility in Idaho. Preliminary results on the elk that were slaughtered indicate that approximately 30 percent of those elk were culture positive.

Meat from the elk was distributed to the public at Game and Fish regional offices. Future plans include evaluating its success in reducing brucellosis seroprevalence in elk and potentially expanding the study to nearby Scab and Fall Creek feedgrounds.

The Game and Fish also finalized a comprehensive assessment of a proposal to phase out three elk feedgrounds in the Gros Ventre Valley near Jackson. The proposal was presented to the coordination team last year. Based on the findings, the Game and fish

does not support a phase out of feedgrounds in the valley. The assessment identifies three criteria that would have to be met before a phase-out of feeding could begin – a reduction of the current population of elk wintering in the Gros Ventre by 1,000 to 1,500 animals, mitigation measures to prevent livestock and elk commingling, and accommodation by the National Elk Refuge for any additional elk that could move from the Gros Ventre winter range to the refuge.

### **Avian Influenza**

Game and Fish is working with the Wyoming Livestock Board, Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, USDA-APHIS and US Fish and Wildlife Service to create a comprehensive avian influenza surveillance and public notification system. Game and Fish will begin monitoring for avian influenza in summer 2006, targeting a total 500 birds, including shorebirds, ducks, geese, swans and cranes. The department will also conduct tests on dead birds submitted for necropsy.

Game and Fish, along with these partners, has created a frequently asked questions sheet on avian influenza. A joint press conference was held in June to inform the media of current surveillance efforts. Additional news, magazine, radio and television features are planned for later this summer and early fall.

### **Legislative Funding**

The Wyoming Legislature approved \$19.7 million in funding for the Game and Fish in 2006-2007. Funds will be used for capital construction and for new programs and duties brought on by wildlife diseases and for local sage grouse working groups.

The legislature approved \$2.87 million for brucellosis and chronic wasting disease efforts; \$1.1 million will be dedicated to help improve sage grouse habitat; \$10.5 million will be used to expand and improve the Speas Fish Hatchery near Casper; \$2.6 million will be used to prevent future whirling disease at the Story Hatchery and \$2.3 million would be used to buy and renovate office space in Pinedale for a new regional office.

The Wyoming Legislature is considering alternative funding sources for the Game and Fish as an interim discussion topic. Currently, about ninety percent of Game and Fish funding comes from sales of licenses, stamps, application fees, taxes and other costs borne by sportsmen. The legislature is considering alternative mechanisms to provide the department with appropriate funding.

### **Energy Development**

With Wyoming's energy boom likely to continue, wildlife and wildlife habitat in oil and gas development areas continues to be a focus of Game and Fish. The department will continue to work closely with the Wyoming Governor's Office, Oil and Gas Commission, BLM, U. S. Forest Service, environmental organizations, industry representatives and local communities to identify concerns for wildlife and strategies to identify ways to mitigate impacts to herd units and habitat across the state.

With the cooperation of many local companies, information on Wyoming wildlife and hunting and fishing laws is being distributed to energy workers moving to the state. A comprehensive information and education plan on energy development's effects on wildlife and habitat will be implemented beginning in July 2006.

### **Electronic Licensing**

The Wyoming Legislature passed a bill allowing the Game and Fish to implement an electronic licensing system. In addition to an electronic point-of-sale system at select license selling agents in 2006, the Game and Fish will implement Internet applications in 2007 for limited-quota big game licenses. Hunters will be able to apply for limited-quota licenses over the Internet, and license fees will only be collected when applicants are successful in the draw process. Eventually sportsmen will be able to manage their personal information, look up preference point totals and view their license history through an online application.

The first point-of-sale machines will be installed at the Cheyenne headquarters and regional offices. A select group of license-selling agents will pilot the system this fall. The Game and Fish plans to have the Internet application system online for hunters in January 2007.

### **Habitat Counts Efforts**

A major Habitat Information and Education effort was launched to inform the public about our statewide habitat efforts. The January 2006 e-newsletter, Wyoming Wildlife magazine and



January/February Wyoming Wildlife News were special habitat editions, featuring habitat focused news and articles. A media package, including those publications, a news release, habitat related story ideas and maps were distributed to Wyoming and regional news outlets. The department also launched the new "Habitat Counts" logo and updated the habitat homepage on the department's website.

# INTRODUCTION

## DIVISION REPORT NARRATIVES

## INTRODUCTION

This report covers the progress and financial status of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department during Fiscal Year 2006. The information documents progress toward objectives stated in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Four-Year Plan (FY04-FY07), November 2003.

During FY 2006 a total of 3,458,582 hunting and fishing recreation days were provided to the public. Based on hunting and fishing expenditure surveys conducted in Wyoming since 2001, hunters, anglers, and trappers expended approximately \$ 382,351,993 in pursuit of their sport.

At the end of the period covered by this report (June 30, 2006), the Department was comprised of 386 permanent full-time employees and 98 temporary or seasonal workers.

**A summary of Department activities by respective division follows:**

## **FISCAL DIVISION**

Ron Arnold, Chief

The Fiscal Division in FY06 again spent significant hours and resources with various automated projects, employee agency wide training, and legislative issues.

The Division oversees all financial operations of the Department, including budget development, financial reporting, accounts payable, purchasing, asset management, federal funds (grant) management, contract management, revenue collection and licensing. Additionally, the Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of various automated systems for licensing, revenue reporting, cost accounting, vehicle management, credit card payments and other accounts payables, landowner coupons and time reporting,

Major changes occurred during FY06 in licensing, with some development work still in process. The initiation of optional nonresident preference points for deer, elk and antelope and changes in the nonresident moose and sheep preference point fees, necessitated changes in application forms, and programming updates to entry screens, cash balancing and refund interfaces. Additionally, the Division experienced an increase of over 30,000 application fee types, or 13%, which necessitated the Division instituting a sixteen-hour workday, with two shifts, for a five-month period. There will also be changes, which are being programmed in FY07, to the actual draw process for nonresidents.

The Division continued to work on the Point of sale licensing system, which should be implemented at the Cheyenne headquarters office and regional offices by December 2006, with roll-out beginning at license selling agents in 2007. Great Lodge, a vendor with POS licensing experience, was selected in the spring of 2005 to work on this system and began system development during the fall of 2005. This new system will provide simplified and improved reporting of license information for license selling agents, harvest surveys, federal aid and financial information in addition to allowing customers to consolidate many of their licenses on one form. A new internet application for limited quota licenses is also being developed with the potential for use at some time during the 2007 application period.

Progress was also made on the continued replacement of several internal financial systems. The last system to be rewritten, the cost accounting system, should be complete by the end of FY07.

The Division also made several appearances before legislative committees regarding funding issues. Significant time was expended in the development and presentation to the Joint Appropriation Committee of a general fund budget for two Department programs, vet services and sage grouse local working groups, in addition to budgets for capital construction projects. This budget preparation was in addition to the Commission budget, which is developed on an annual basis and presented to the Commission for review and authorization each April.

The number of federal grants that the Division oversees has continued to grow, with a new grant awarded of approximately \$1 million in FY06 through the USFW competitive grant process, Landowner Incentive Program. For this program, which requires a 50% state match, the Department received the largest award of any state in FY06.

In summary, the Fiscal Division is the primary source of financial information for the Department and the point of contact for all internal and external state government financial audits.

**FISH DIVISION**  
Mike Stone, Chief

The Fish Division is responsible for management of all aquatic wildlife including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians and reptiles. We continue to strive to meet the dual purpose of conserving native species and maintaining high quality, sport fishing opportunities.

In FY06 the Fish Division accomplished some noteworthy achievements including:

- Completion of the second of three capital construction projects, the Dubois Hatchery renovation. It was completed in the winter and was at full production by summer. The third project, the Speas well was completed and testing of the flow rate continues. These projects were made possible by a \$3.1 million legislative appropriation and department funding.
- Assessments were completed for prairie fishes inhabiting eastern Wyoming prairie streams including the Powder River. State Wildlife Grants (SWG) as directed by the CWCS funded these efforts conducted by the Wyoming Cooperative Research Unit, the Aquatic Assessment and Regional Aquatic Wildlife management crews. Through surveys funded by SWG funds We continue to gain insights in the distribution and relative abundance of our native species through projects funded by the State Wildlife Grants.
- Systematic surveys of reptiles and amphibians were completed for the first time in the Upper Green River and Powder River basins. These were funded by SWG and a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- This year the 100<sup>th</sup> instream flow water right was filed, the program has averaged 5 filings per year over the first 20 years since the instream flow statutes were made law in 1986.
- New rules were developed and approved by the Commission that better regulate private fish hatcheries, fishing preserves and private fish stocking.

Hydrologic drought conditions persisted over much of the state. As a result several very popular sport fisheries have been lost or marginalized, primarily in the North Platte River basin. Consequently, fishing license sales continue to decline. Because the Sport Fishing Restoration funding model uses license numbers as a primary factor, the decline in sales results in loss of revenue from our two funding primary sources. While we continue to push concrete boat ramps further down the shore to provide access to motor boat users, we are quickly running out of places to build more low water boat ramps.

Energy development in the Powder River Basin has caused us to redirect efforts there as impacts continue to mount. We continue to be concerned that the quantity and quality of water that is projected to be discharged during gas field development could if handled poorly, negatively affect our native, Powder River fishes. The duties of one fisheries biologist were shifted to provide industry, state and federal agencies with a better understanding of potential impacts associated with discharged water and how to avoid or mitigate those impacts on the aquatic wildlife native to the Powder River basin. We see

further need, support and funding for positions similar to this in the Atlantic Rim, Moxa Arch gas field developments. Indirect impacts of energy development include the time needed to write comments to environmental documents for gas field leasing and development, Resource Management Plan and Forest Plan revisions.

Aquatic wildlife management work focused on providing diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities while working to conserve and enhance all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations. A primary management and communication tool is the Basin Management Plans. Basins were evaluated and redefined as necessary this year to provide a more consistent approach to the definition of basins. We started with 177 basins across the state and ended with 111. We anticipate that these new plans will better link our operations within the Division and more clearly communicate our management goals and objectives.

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. In FY06 regional fisheries managers conducted 237 fishery surveys of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 342 surveys of streams or stream sections to determine the condition of fisheries or need to change fish management approaches. In addition our Statewide fisheries people provided 112 surveys/analyses of fisheries, including design and analysis of creel surveys, ways to estimate numbers of fish in streams or lakes, expert advice on using electricity to capture fish or sonar to estimate fish abundance in lakes or reservoirs. Surveys were also completed for amphibians and reptiles in the Upper Green River and Powder River basins. State Wildlife Grants made possible much of the work conducted for native fishes and herptiles.

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. In the Sheridan Region, a fishery biologist was reassigned to work with the gas industry, state and federal agencies in an effort to reduce impacts and increase effectiveness of mitigation associated with coal bed natural gas development in the Powder River Basin.

Wyoming hatcheries and rearing stations personnel raised and stocked 293,530 pounds or 3,558,231 fish and eyed eggs during the year. Fish met specifications of strain, size and timing as requested by regional fish managers. Completion of the capital construction projects at Dubois and Wigwam provided great relief in meeting fish stocking requests this year. In FY06 funding proposals for capital construction projects were appropriated by the 58<sup>th</sup> legislature for major renovations and modernization of Speas Rearing Station and Story Hatchery. Over \$13.1 million was approved for the FY07-08 biennium. When completed, these projects will ensure an adequate supply of sport fish will be available for future anglers.

Aquatic Habitat was involved in many major projects this past year, results of these are published in the Department's annual "Strategic Habitat Plan" report. Additional major efforts by the section during FY06 included; 1) involvement in various funding sources including the Landowner Incentive Program and the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account, 2) development of a fish passage program including several related projects, 3) continued efforts to use the Grizzly WHMA as a demonstration project for the forage reserve concept, 4) renewed interest from outside the Department on fish contaminants efforts, 5) geographic information system assessment of native cutthroat populations, and 6) ongoing demands on personnel by energy development activities. Additionally instream flow water right applications were submitted for 3 segments including Rock Creek, which was the 100<sup>th</sup> instream flow filing since 1986. Another instream flow studies were initiated for 2 instream flow segments in the Wind River drainage. And, water rights for fish propagation at Como Bluff Hatchery were successfully changed to an instream flow use.

## **SERVICES DIVISION**

John Kennedy, Chief

The Services Division is committed to implementing programs and providing technical support to the other divisions to increase public awareness of Wyoming's wildlife issues, build support for the Department's mission, enhance wildlife habitat, provide increased access for recreational opportunities, maintain healthy wildlife populations, and administer other technical support programs critical to the success of the Department. The Division is administered by the Division Chief, Assistant Division Chief for Habitat/Technical Support, and Assistant Division for I&E, who are responsible for the supervision of nine work units through two distinct sections. The Division's Habitat/Technical Support Section includes: Lands Administration; Conservation Engineering; Game and Fish Laboratory; Habitat & Access Maintenance; and Information Technology/GIS. The Information & Education Section includes: Conservation Education; Regional Information & Education; Information/Publications; and the Customer Service (Telephone Information) Center.

During FY06, the Services Division Administration staff continued to focus on providing consistent leadership and improving communications within the Division. Priorities for 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.

FY06 Services Division Administration priorities:

- Continue to recruit and promote the best-qualified candidates for positions within the Division; direct involvement in all steps of the hiring process.
- Work with the regions, Property Rights Team, and Commission on high-priority access projects and conservation easements; improve the acquisition process.
- Continue work with the Fiscal Division on the Electronic License Issuance Project.
- Improve agency credibility and public support through information, education, and outreach.
- Define the Public Information Officer role and responsibilities.
- Implement goals, objectives, and strategies of the Strategic Habitat 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 committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

During FY06, Services Division Administration accomplished several major projects, including:

- Coordination with the Director's Office, 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, Property Rights Team, and Commission to clarify and implement the regulation and policy guidelines for acquiring fee title and less than fee title property rights. Coordinated and facilitated Property Rights Team meetings on a regular basis.
- Played a key role on the agency's Strategic Habitat Plan, Water Rights, Access, IT Oversight, and Budget committees.
- Completed reorganization of the Information Technology Branch to be more responsive to employees.
- Planned and facilitated meetings between Game and Fish Lab personnel and Fish and Wildlife Division personnel to discuss responsibilities and establish priorities for the Lab.
- Completed Information and Education work planning/prioritization processes and established priorities; established an Information and Education Leadership Team that involves coordination among all the I&E work units.
- Continued to coordinate and implement strategic information/media plans for a variety of high-priority issues, including: the agency's mission, funding constraints, CWD, brucellosis, the Strategic Habitat Plan, wolves, grizzly bears, and energy development.
- Developed alternative funding proposals for capital construction projects.
- Played a lead role in the development of policy guidelines for management of Commission-owned lands and waters in accordance with Chapter 23.
- Assisted in the resolution of several complicated USFWS-Federal Assistance audit findings involving Commission-owned lands and waters.
- Represented the Commission on the Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides.

During FY06, the Division's Habitat/Technical Support Section accomplished several major projects, including:

- Coordinated the development of Managed Land and Access Summaries that outline the Department's management goals and objectives for all Commission-owned lands, waters, and access areas and assisted in the development of new policy guidelines for Department management of Commission-owned lands and waters.
- Played a lead role in the agency's management of 36 Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and 97 Public Access Areas.
- Made several major process improvements and developed strategies to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's land acquisition program and property rights monitoring program.
- Completed efforts to reorganize the Information Technology Branch and develop GIS program strategies to address the agency's IT and GIS needs.
- Continued direct involvement on state IT committees that are responsible for the oversight, policy development, and overall IT business processes for all state government.
- Completed engineering work on the Big Fork Ditch Tunnel Bypass and Pond 10 Wetland Improvement on the Yellowtail WHMA, the Wigwam Fish Rearing Station, Dubois Fish Hatchery, Speas Rearing Station projects and boating access projects at Glendo Reservoir, Grayrocks Reservoir, Saratoga Lake, Keyhole Reservoir, Twin Buttes Reservoir, Meeboer Lake, and Fremont Lake.
- The Drafting Section (Conservation Engineering) designed 13,752 signs for special regulations, parking areas, regulations, boating access, and new access areas and provided substantial GIS mapping support to the PLPW Program.

- Provided substantial IT support to the Fiscal Division for development of the agency's electronic licensing system.
- The Game and Fish Laboratory conducted 37,618 tests on 14,823 samples through fish health inspections and disease diagnostics, forensic analyses, tooth aging, and other analytical services.
- Coordinated development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Wyoming, Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, and the Commission to outline overall responsibilities and provide a framework for cooperation related to the management of the State Veterinary Lab and Game and Fish Lab.

During FY06, the Division's I&E Section accomplished several major projects, including:

- Developed and implemented new processes for establishing I&E program priorities that are consistent with the Director's goals and objectives and the agency's mission. Established an I&E Leadership Team to improve communications and coordinate work plans among all the I&E work units.
- Played a lead role in planning, conducting and supporting the agency's efforts on the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo and coordinated Hunter Education, Project WILD, Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities, and aquatic education programs throughout the state.
- Worked with Orion Multimedia to produce a one-hour TV documentary on grizzly bear and wolf issues in Wyoming. This documentary will reach a national audience through multiple broadcasts on the Outdoor Life Network.
- Provided substantial Customer Service (Help Desk) support to the IT Branch and Fiscal Division for development of the agency's electronic licensing system.
- The Customer Service Center handled approximately 85,000 telephone calls and provided information through approximately 8,000 mailings to primarily resident and nonresident hunters and anglers.

## **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 statewide antelope harvest was 39,526 which represents an increase of approximately 3,000 antelope over the 2004 harvest. Hunter success was 93.4% and days per animal harvested were 3.4.

The statewide mule deer harvest was 35,266 with a success rate of 56.8% and days per animal harvested at 8.7. The statewide white-tailed deer harvest was 12,333 with a hunter success rate of 52.4% and days per animal harvested were 7.9. The total deer harvest for 2005 was approximately the same as 2004.

The statewide elk harvest was 19,708 with a hunter success rate of 39.4% and days per animal harvested were 18.5. This harvest represents a slight decrease from the previous 10-year average, but this is to be expected as many elk herds are now near objective levels.

Moose populations in northwestern Wyoming have shown a significant decline during the past decade. At the same time, the new moose population in southeastern Wyoming is showing an increase in both abundance and distribution. Research projects have been initiated in both areas to examine these trends.

The 8 local sage grouse working groups are finalizing their conservation plans. The Northeast Sage Grouse Working Group is scheduled to present the first conservation plan to the Commission during their September 2006 meeting. A new source of potential habitat project funding for sage grouse has been obtained in the form of the Governor's Natural Resource Trust Fund.

The prairie grassland management plan was completed. The new plan should help to guide us as we inventory sensitive species in this habitat type and develop plans for their future conservation.

A training session on interpersonal communication was provided to division employees. Understanding of human dimensions is now essential for an employee to be successful.

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.

Implementation of the recommendations from the Governor's Brucellosis Task Force are on schedule, including completion of the first test and removal project at the Muddy Creek Feedground. This effort required 2 separate trapping operations resulting in a total

capture of 413 elk with 58 cows testing positive. There were only 3 trap mortalities. A mobile lab conducted testing on 171 samples.

An evaluation of the six species working groups was completed and changes implemented. Currently, there are working groups for the following species: Bighorn sheep, grizzly bear, moose, mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse. These committees serve as ad hoc technical advisors to department wildlife managers.

Black-footed ferret surveys conducted during August and September detected 149 ferrets at the original Shirley Basin release site. A total of 85 ferrets were captured and marked during this operation. Once thought to have been a failed reintroduction, this original site now contains the largest ferret population in the wild.

Peregrine falcon monitoring has continued and new eyries are found each year. We currently have more than 90 nesting pairs in Wyoming. This is a tremendous success story, as this species had been extirpated from the state before we began our reintroduction efforts.

The distribution and abundance of large carnivores such as grizzly bears, black bears and mountain lions has resulted in an extreme increase in time/dollar costs for the division. In addition to the full-time Trophy Game Conflict Program, many game wardens and biologists spend considerable time handling conflicts. Planning is underway for a human/large predator conflict workshop which will be held in Cody during May 2007. This training session will provide instruction to field level personnel from all western states.

In calendar year 2005, permanent law enforcement personnel worked 6,371 man-days and drove 683,500 miles on law enforcement activities. This effort resulted in the issuance of 3,316 citations, 2,089 warnings, and documentation of 227 law enforcement actions in which there were no suspects.

Wildlife damage compensated under W.S. 23-1-901 continues to absorb considerable personnel time in the Division. In FY06, Division personnel expended 1,121 man-days and drove 114,454 miles on activities to prevent wildlife from causing damage to private property. They expended 498 man-days and drove 37,646 miles investigating, processing and handling damage claims and landowner coupon redemption. A total of 94 damage claims worth \$249,096 were filed and the Department paid \$235,902. In addition, personnel spent 931 man-days and drove 105,274 miles responding to nuisance wildlife issues that were not considered wildlife damage under W.S. 23-1-901.

# STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

# STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

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## **OBJECTIVE: DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

Under the leadership of Governor Dave Freudenthal, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) and Director Terry Cleveland, the focus of Department Administration remained: providing policy-level support and leadership, legal service, prioritization and coordination of activities, direction of Department programs and policies, allocation of Department resources, and effective coordination and interaction with other entities. Some changes in Department leadership took place. Assistant Wildlife Division Chief John Emmerich replaced Deputy Director Bill Wichers at the conclusion of FY06. Bill Rudd replaced Emmerich as Assistant Wildlife Division Chief.

In FY06, a number of significant accomplishments deserve mention:

- The Department completed a leadership development plan. Under this program, future leaders will prepare through training, mentoring and experiential learning.
- Wyoming's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was submitted to the National Acceptance Advisory Team and approved in August 2005 to meet its obligations under the State Wildlife Grants Program. A total of 279 Wyoming species were identified as species of greatest conservation need in the strategy.
- In July 2005, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) and Wyoming Governor's Office filed a petition with the U. S. Department of Interior to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list.
- The Commission approved the Grizzly Bear Habitat Occupancy Plan in July 2005, establishing the final component of grizzly bear management in Wyoming.
- The State of Wyoming and a coalition of conservation, sportsmen and agriculture organizations filed an appeal on a court ruling upholding the Service's rejection of Wyoming's Wolf Management Plan. In April 2006, the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the previous ruling.
- In November, Department of Interior proposed removing the greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from the list of threatened and endangered species. As part of the proposal, a distinct population segment of grizzlies in the greater Yellowstone area will be established. Comments on the draft delisting document were extended to March 20, 2006.
- Wyoming's eight local sage grouse working groups are continuing their efforts to develop local conservation plans. Projects including on-the-ground habitat improvements, research, water development projects and information and education efforts were approved for 2006.
- The first point-of-sale machines will be installed at the Cheyenne headquarters and regional offices. A select group of license-selling agents will pilot the system this fall. The Department plans to have the Internet application system online for hunters in January 2007.
- New regulations designed to reduce the chance of spreading chronic wasting disease to other parts of the state were implemented in fall 2005. 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. Five additional CWD

zones were identified in Wyoming in 2005. Department personnel tested more than 4,200 elk and deer.

- The Department began implementing several recommendations of the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team. Brucellosis Management Action Plans for all herd units in northwest Wyoming are being completed. All action plans will be completed and in place by July 1, 2007. Following one of the coordination team's recommendations, Game and Fish personnel trapped elk in January 2006 as part of the Muddy Creek feedground test-and-removal pilot project. Fifty-eight cow elk testing positive for brucellosis were removed from the herd and processed at a USDA approved facility in Idaho. Preliminary results on the elk that were slaughtered indicate that approximately 30% of those elk were culture positive. Meat from the elk was distributed to the public at Game and Fish regional offices.

Funding wildlife conservation continues to be a very important issue for Department Administration. Currently, about 90% of Department funding comes from sales of licenses, stamps, application fees and other costs borne by sportsmen. The Wyoming Legislature approved \$19.7 million in funding for 2006-2007, including:

- \$2.87 million for brucellosis and chronic wasting disease efforts;
- \$1.1 million will be dedicated to help improve sage grouse habitat;
- \$10.5 million will be used to expand and improve the Speas Fish Hatchery near Casper; \$2.6 million will be used to prevent future whirling disease at the Story Hatchery and
- \$2.3 million would be used to buy and renovate office space in Pinedale for a new regional office.

The Legislature is considering alternative funding sources for the Game and Fish as an interim discussion topic.

Another very important issue is that of energy development in Wyoming. With Wyoming's energy boom likely to continue, wildlife and wildlife habitat in oil and gas development areas continues to be a focus of Game and Fish. The Department will continue to work closely with the Wyoming Governor's Office, Oil and Gas Commission, BLM, U. S. Forest Service, environmental organizations, industry representatives and local communities to identify concerns for wildlife and strategies to identify ways to mitigate impacts to herd units and habitat across the state.

With the cooperation of many local companies, information on Wyoming wildlife and hunting and fishing laws is being distributed to energy workers moving to the state. A comprehensive information and education plan on energy development's effects on wildlife and habitat will be implemented beginning July 2006.

#### Outcome Measures

Of individuals that responded to the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, 143 (63.6%) indicated that they had interacted with at least one segment of the Department's Administration. Of these individuals, 50% interacted with the Director's Office, 52% interacted with the Fiscal Division Administration, 39% interacted with the Fish Division Administration, 48% interacted with the Services Division Administration, 50% interacted with the Wildlife Division Administration, and 24% interacted with the Policy and Development.

Based on your experience, how courteously and professionally were you treated by each of the following groups?			
	Very Well	Good	Total Positive
Director's Office	67.0%	27.7%	94.6%
Fiscal Division Admin.	51.7%	34.5%	86.2%
Fish Division Admin.	63.6%	20.5%	84.1%
Services Div. Admin.	55.8%	27.9%	83.7%
Wildlife Div. Admin	61.1%	30.1%	91.2%
Policy and Development	51.9%	37.0%	88.9%

How satisfied were you with the attention and timeliness given to your situation by each of the following groups?			
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Total Satisfaction
Director's Office	67.3%	23.6%	90.9%
Fiscal Division Admin.	55.3%	32.5%	87.7%
Fish Division Admin.	62.5%	21.6%	84.1%
Services Div. Admin.	55.0%	22.9%	78.0%
Wildlife Div. Admin	54.7%	33.0%	87.7%
Policy and Development	51.0%	27.5%	78.4%

All respondents were asked to identify how satisfied they were with the overall Department coordination and direction. Of the individuals that answered this question, 71.6% indicated they were either “Very Satisfied” or “Somewhat Satisfied” with the Department’s overall coordination and direction.

#### Problem Areas

A variety of environmental and social factors are constraining this Department’s ability to meet its mission. The three most important of these factors are habitat, sensitive species, and development. The persistent drought affecting Wyoming continues to negatively impact both wildlife and habitats statewide. Of key concern, the sagebrush steppe habitat and its obligate species have been most seriously impacted. Habitats such as sagebrush steppe, mountain shrub, grassland, and wetland communities are in particularly bad condition. A host of wildlife species are affected by these long-term, chronic, habitat issues.

Another area of concern, somewhat related to the decline in the quality and availability of wildlife habitats, is that of sensitive species. Private conservation organizations have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have a number of key species protected under authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A total of 279 are species of greatest conservation need, which, potentially, could be petitioned for listing under the ESA. Without additional funding to inventory and monitor these species, it will be extremely difficult for the Department to prevent additional ESA listings.

Finally, human activities are also impacting Wyoming’s wildlife and wildlife habitat. Recently, human impacts on wildlife habitat have increased. The cumulative effects of houses,

roads, gas wells, other developments, and drought impact wildlife habitat and create new challenges for wildlife managers. These factors, coupled with increasing legislative and public demands for a greater quantity and variety of services, as well as a chronic lack of diversified funding sources, threaten to greatly diminish this agency's ability to adequately provide the expected and necessary services to the people of Wyoming.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Employee satisfaction was measured within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*. Specifically, Objective 1, Questions 1- 4 were used for this purpose. Copies of this data can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

The hunter evaluation of wildlife management in Wyoming was provided within the, *Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Deer, Elk, and Antelope Hunter Expenditure Survey, 2004*. Specifically, question 66 was used for this purpose. Copies of this report can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

### **Strategy: Office of the Director**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

Personnel from the Office of the Director took part in hundreds of internal meetings such as Commission meetings, staff meetings and policy and strategy meetings in order to administer the Department. In addition, personnel attended hundreds more meetings with external constituents such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, state agencies, and a variety of interest groups in order to provide effective coordination and interaction with these entities.

An assortment of annual Department harvest surveys and information provided in the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* indicate that there were 1,202,382, hunting recreation days, 2,256,200 fishing recreation days, and 3,924,000 non-licensed use recreation days provided by the Department in 2005.

#### Problem Areas

Species of concern such as grizzly bear, wolves, sage grouse and several sub-species of cutthroat trout continue to consume a great deal of personnel time. Even with recently developed Department endangered species protocols, the Office of the Director staff cannot continue to work on more single-species issues without increased funding and personnel. The issue of wildlife diseases is a major concern due to the impacts upon the State's wildlife resources and the potential for some diseases to impact livestock.

## Strategic Plan Changes For Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Wildlife-associated recreation days were approximated, and were derived from the various Departmental annual harvest surveys. Documentation related to recreation days can be obtained from the Biological Services Office in Cheyenne. [see enclosed Hunter and Angler Expenditure Table for break-down by species, p. 187]

### **Strategy: Division Administration**

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department maintains four operational divisions. Each is covered separately by this strategy.

#### ***Fiscal Division***

##### Narrative and Output Measures

The Fiscal Division in FY06 again spent significant hours and resources with various automated projects, employee agency wide training, and legislative issues.

Major changes occurred during FY06 in licensing, with some development work still in process. The initiation of optional nonresident preference points for deer, elk and antelope and changes in the nonresident moose and sheep preference point fees, necessitated changes in application forms, and programming updates to entry screens, cash balancing and refund interfaces. Additionally, the Division experienced an increase of over 30,000 application fee types, or 13%, which necessitated the Division instituting a sixteen-hour workday, with two shifts, for a five-month period.

The Division continued to work on the Point of sale licensing system, which should be implemented at the Cheyenne headquarters office and regional offices by December 2006, with rollout beginning at license selling agents in 2007. This new system will provide simplified and improved reporting of license information for license selling agents, harvest surveys, federal aid and financial information in addition to allowing customers to consolidate many of their licenses on one form. A new Internet application for limited quota licenses is also being developed with the potential for use at some time during the 2007 application period.

Progress was also made on the continued replacement of several internal financial systems. The last system to be rewritten, the cost accounting system, should be complete by the end of FY07.

The Division also made several appearances before legislative committees regarding funding issues. Significant time was expended in the development and presentation to the Joint Appropriation Committee of a general fund budget for two Department programs, vet services and sage grouse local working groups, in addition to budgets for capital construction projects. This budget preparation was in addition to the Commission budget, which is developed on an annual basis and presented to the Commission for review and authorization each April.

The number of federal grants that the Division oversees has continued to grow, with a new grant awarded of approximately \$1 million in FY06 through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service competitive grant process, Landowner Incentive program. For this program, which requires a 50% state match, the Department, received the largest award of any state in FY06.

#### Problem Areas

The Department encountered serious problems, from a processing standpoint, with the adoption of nonresident preference points. As application deadline dates and tentative draw dates remained unchanged, but both volume and complexity increased dramatically, the Department instituted a 16 hour work day, with two shifts running from 6:30 am to midnight. Due to the limited space available within the facility for data entry operators and the need to insure internal control over the monetary funds, which made off-site entry undesirable, the ability to hire additional operators without using multiple shifts was not possible. In the development of the POS system for license selling agent, while the Department utilized a sophisticated project management system for tracking purposes, contractor delays in providing programming code for review and correction of errors early on in the project, were major factors in rolling back the implementation date. While the contractor has initiated internal changes to address this problem and the Department believes these changes will greatly assist the review and correction process, project implementation will still be delayed by up to six months.

Changes area also anticipated in the Department's in-house systems, primarily as a result of system changes by other State agencies. As the Department must interface with the State Auditor's separate accounting, fixed asset and payroll systems, any changes in any one of these systems may and often do require changes in the Department's systems. Currently, the State Auditor is working on a major upgrade to the state's accounting system, to be implemented in July 2007, which may require extensive changes to in-house financial systems to allow for integration with the upgrades in the new year.

Finally, the Department continues to spend increasing time addressing compliance and reporting requirements for its federal funds. In the summer of 2005, the Department completed the development of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. This funding source, while providing expanded dollars to the amount of approximately \$500,000 annually for species at risk, has been a time consuming program to administer from development, monitoring and reporting standpoint. Additionally, The new LIP Tier II funds, while providing on-the-ground funding for habitat work, will be equally time consuming to state wildlife grants, both from a financial and programmatic standpoint.

#### Strategic Plan Changes For Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Documentation related to the identified outputs can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration office in Cheyenne.

## *Fish Division*

### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy coordinates and plans the Fish Division of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The Division is responsible for management of all aquatic wildlife including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians and reptiles. Implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy was a priority for the Division as we continue our dual mission of conserving native species and maintaining good quality sport fishing opportunities. In FY06 the Fish Division accomplished some noteworthy achievements including:

- Completion of the second of three capital construction projects, the Dubois Hatchery renovation. It was completed in the winter and was at full production by summer. The third project, the Speas well was completed and testing of the flow rate continues. These projects were made possible by a \$3.1 million legislative appropriation and department funding.
- Assessments were completed for prairie fishes inhabiting eastern Wyoming prairie streams including the Powder River. Implementation of State Wildlife Grants as directed by the CWCS funded efforts conducted by the Wyoming Cooperative Research Unit, the Aquatic Assessment and Regional Aquatic Wildlife management crews. We continue to gain insights in the distribution and relative abundance of our native species through projects funded by the State Wildlife Grants.
- Systematic surveys of reptiles and amphibians were completed for the first time in the Upper Green River and Powder River basins.
- A major revision of our basin management plan boundaries was completed this year. They are now built on a Hydrologic Unit Code basis and have watershed priorities shared by habitat and fish management sections. Consolidation reduced the number of basins we manage from 177 to 111.
- This year the 100<sup>th</sup> instream water rights was filed, the program has averaged 5 filings per year over the first 20 years since the instream flow statutes were made law in 1986.
- New rules were developed and approved by the Commission that better regulate private fish hatcheries, fishing preserves and private fish stocking.
- The end of an era was observed with the closing of Como Bluff Fish Hatchery. The facility was closed and is now for sale (asking price is \$725,000).

Division administration worked successfully with the Director's Office, the State Building Commission and legislature to secure funding of capital construction projects at Speas Rearing Station and Story Hatchery. Over \$13.1 million was approved for the FY07-08 biennium. When completed, these projects will ensure an adequate supply of sport fish will be available for future anglers.

Administration directed and supported efforts to revise our basic management plans and make our watershed priorities consistent with the Strategic Habitat Plan, the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy and other division planning documents. The revision will allow us in the future to move towards spatially referenced, geodatabases because the basin plans are now based on standard Hydrologic Unit (HUC) boundaries.

Energy development in the Powder River Basin has caused us to redirect efforts there as impacts continue to mount. We continue to be concerned that the quantity and quality of water that is projected to be discharged during gas field development could if handled poorly, negatively affect our native, Powder River fishes. Administration continued to work with

industry, DEQ, BLM, USGS and others to better understand and avoid potential impacts of discharged water and other surface impacts. To this end, it was necessary to redirect the work of a fish biologist to work solely as a liaison with the coal bed natural gas industry and other agencies to better avoid or mitigate potential impacts. We see further need and support funding for positions similar to this in the Atlantic Rim, Moxa Arch gas field developments.

Division Administration continues to serve on many national and regional associations and initiatives. Work has been productive with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Whirling Disease Initiative, Western Native Trout Initiative, Tri-state coordination, and the American Fisheries Society and others. Perhaps most rewarding has been the culmination of the effort to move the National Fish Habitat Initiative to a funded and staffed program. National attention and endorsements have been overwhelming this fledgling effort. It has gathered significant national and congressional attention that has the potential to drive the development of partnerships that can significantly enhance and restore fish habitat in the future.

Administration continued to dedicate much time to status review and petitions for the listing of our native cutthroat trout. These continue to be thwarted successfully by sound science and the progress made implementing good sound conservation practices. We also continue to work with the prioritization of budgets, hiring employees, working for alternative sources of program funding, administration of federal aid for Sport Fish Restoration (and motor boat access) program, state and regional implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by funding of the State Wildlife Grant and Landowner Incentive Program.

#### Problem Areas

Funding for virtually all of native (non-game) species programs comes from federal sources. We continue to rely on what are unreliable funding sources that tend to be targeted towards single species management. The lack of reliable funding mechanisms plague the implementation of long-term, watershed scale, habitat restoration programs that are designed to benefits 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 FY06 with reservoirs in all but the Laramie and North Platte River basins filling this year. However the lingering effects of prolonged drought seem to be affecting fishing license sales and thus Department revenues. During the last five years, drought license sales have declined by nearly 20%.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05 and FY06. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. In FY07, Sport Fish Restoration funding is scheduled to increase, so some changes will be implemented as a result. Increases to the motor boat access, fish passage and energy development programs are anticipated.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information related to Fish Division Administration output measures can be obtained from the Fish Division Administration office in Cheyenne.

### *Services Division*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

During FY06, the Services Division Administration staff continued to focus on providing consistent leadership and improving communications within the Division. Priorities for 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 consistent with the Division's mission, responsive to the other work units, and consistent with the Director's goals/objectives and the agency's mission.

FY06 Services Division Administration priorities:

- Continue to recruit and promote the best-qualified candidates for positions within the Division; Division Administration will participate on all interview panels.
- Work with the regions, Property Rights Team, and Commission on high-priority access projects and conservation easements; improve the acquisition process.
- Continue work with the Fiscal Division on the Electronic License Issuance Project.
- Improve agency credibility and public support through information, education, and outreach.
- Define the Public Information Officer role and responsibilities.
- Implement goals, objectives, and strategies of the Strategic Habitat 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 committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

During FY06, Services Division Administration accomplished several major projects, including:

- Coordination with the Director's Office, 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, Property Rights Team, and Commission to clarify and implement the regulation and policy guidelines for acquiring fee title and less than fee title property rights. Held Property Rights Team meetings on a regular basis.
- Completed reorganization of the Information Technology Branch to be more responsive to the agency's IT needs and opportunities.

- Completed Information and Education work planning/prioritization processes and established priorities; established an Information and Education Leadership Team that involves coordination among all the I&E work units.
- Continued to coordinate and implement strategic information/media plans for a variety of high-priority issues, including: the agency's mission, funding constraints, chronic wasting disease (CWD), brucellosis, the Strategic Habitat Plan, wolves, grizzly bears, and energy development.
- Participated on capital construction project oversight and implementation teams, which included substantial coordination with A&I-Construction Management, the State Building Commission, and JAC, and developed alternative funding proposals for several capital construction projects on Commission-owned lands and access areas.
- Participated on the agency's Strategic Habitat Plan, Water Rights, Access, IT Oversight, and Budget committees.
- Continued to represent the Commission on the Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides.
- Played a major role in the development of policy guidelines for management of Commission-owned lands and waters.
- Assisted in the resolution of several complicated USFWS-Federal Assistance audit findings involving Commission-owned lands and waters.
- Worked with Orion Multimedia to produce a one-hour TV documentary on grizzly bear and wolf issues in Wyoming. This documentary will reach a national audience through multiple broadcasts on the Outdoor Life Network.

#### Problem Areas

Services Division Administration identified several opportunities for improvement and implementation of new management strategies to address individual work unit and overall division performance. Division Administration will continue to focus on these opportunities, which include: maintaining consistent leadership; improving communications; and reaffirming work unit roles and responsibilities, accountability, and priorities. Division Administration also initiated efforts to resolve problems related to the Division's GIS support, monitoring the Commission's property rights, and the decision-making process for proposed special uses of Commission-owned lands.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Documentation of the reported output measures can be obtained from the Services Division Administration Office at the Cheyenne Headquarters.

## ***Wildlife Division***

### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy coordinates and plans the activities of the Wildlife Division of the Game and Fish Department. The Division is responsible for management of both game and nongame wildlife. Despite too few personnel, the strategy accomplished 100% (14 of 14) of major tasks in our work plans and 92% (12 of 13) of minor tasks in work plans. The Division accomplished 92% (641 of 696) of major tasks and 95% (307 of 323) of minor tasks in the FY06 work schedule.

All major work plan elements were completed and included: Administration, permitting, game warden exam, information documents, season setting, fiscal, management planning, regulations, interagency coordination, public contacts, damage handling, law enforcement administration, management plans, and legislation.

Minor work plan elements that were completed include: working groups, interagency committee meetings, coordination meetings, intra-agency meetings, CWD sampling, National Wild Turkey Federation annual meeting. Minor work plan elements that were not completed include: CWD sampling. Other urgent, unscheduled commitments took precedent over this element.

### Problem Areas

There are too few personnel within the division to address increasing workloads. Most employees work in excess of 200 hours per month. Drought conditions are severe throughout most of Wyoming and wildlife populations will be impacted by poor habitat conditions. There were high temperatures and a lack of precipitation during critical periods of plant phenology. Elk populations are near objective, but many deer and pronghorn herds may be reduced by low fawn survival and a lack of recruitment into adult age classes. Sage grouse productivity had been improving, but current conditions may negate those gains.

Impacts from intense energy development include apparent declines in some sage grouse populations and displacement of mule deer from key segments of winter ranges. Incidental impacts include steep increases in cost-of-living combined with a lack of available housing. This has made it difficult to recruit new employees.

Disease concerns remain significant, CWD expanding in distribution, Brucellosis management time costs are high, particularly with the onset of the pilot test and removal project.

Conflicts between humans and large predators have increased in number and distribution, necessitating the hiring of an additional conflict specialist in Pinedale.

### Strategic Plan Changes For Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. In addition, the Wildlife Division Administration program will be evaluated to determine the need for change in either structure or position functions.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Documentation for this is provided by work schedule analyses done by regional wildlife administrators, the Habitat Supervisor, the Supervisor of Biological Services, the Law

Enforcement Coordinator, the Supervisor of the Investigative Unit, and the Bird Farm Supervisor. Copies are available at regional offices and in the Cheyenne Office of the Game and Fish Department.

**Strategy: Legal Services**

Narrative and Output Measures

During FY06, the Attorney General has provided attorney services to both the Commission and Department to review and edit the following legal documents: requests for proposal, general contracts for goods or services, at-will employment contracts, grant agreements, agreements for volunteer services, performance or taxidermy bonds, engineering bids, Private Lands Public Wildlife agreements, general bids, and agency rules.

The Attorney General has provided legal representation to the division for cases involving disputes in the federal courts and before state courts or administrative agencies. The subject matter in these cases included disputes over wildlife management on federal lands, easement disputes, trespassing actions, water rights disputes, and disputes arising from Department regulations, including the regulation of hunting and fishing license, watercraft and outfitters.

Problem Areas

No problem areas were identified.

Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

Documentation of Output Measures

Information on specific actions taken by the Department's attorney general representative can be obtained from the Wyoming Attorney General's office in Cheyenne or from the Department's Director's office in Cheyenne.

**Strategy: Policy and Development**

Narrative and Output Measures

Wyoming's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was approved by the national Acceptance Advisory Team in August 2005. Involving many Department personnel in all divisions and dozens of partners and major stakeholders, this document will guide the Department's efforts to conserve 279 species of greatest conservation need and the associated habitats for the next five years. The tools developed during the development of the strategy will be of value to wildlife conservationists for many years.

Policy and Development personnel continued an important role in the pursuit of legislative initiatives to increase traditional funding sources for the agency, and other changes to existing statutes. They also continued their involvement in developing alternative funding including material development, and communications and coordination relating to the state based proposals, and the federal-based State Wildlife Grant Program, Congressional appropriations for threatened and endangered species, etc. Coordination responsibilities with the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming continued.

Policy and Development personnel continued to review and update Commission policies, coordinate with the divisions and Office of the Director on federal legislation, coordinate with Congressional staff, represent the agency in numerous official capacities, coordinate program and funding issues with other state fish and wildlife agencies in the region and nationally, and provide direct policy level support to the director and deputy directors on tasks involving their personal attention, all of which involve the most high profile issues confronting the agency. Policy and Development personnel completed a leadership Development Plan for the agency, and will have the lead in implementing the plan.

#### Problem Areas

Adequate funding to carry out all of the state's wildlife conservation efforts continues to be a significant problem. This, coupled with prolonged drought, has had and continues to have a negative impact on the Department's fiscal condition and the morale of agency personnel. Ideally, the traditional method of funding the agency through sales of hunting and fishing licenses should be supplemented by other long-term funding sources. Habitat and access issues, sensitive species and energy development also remain of significant concern.

Sensitive, threatened and endangered species issues and opportunities will require greater attention in the future than they have in the past. Should enhanced funding directed at species of greatest conservation need in the states become a reality – especially that which is federally appropriated or apportioned – it likely will require a reevaluation and potential restructuring of a number of strategies within the Department.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Documentation of output measures for this strategy can be obtained from the Policy and Development Section in Cheyenne.

## **OBJECTIVE: TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

The statewide antelope harvest in 2005 was 39,526 - an increase of approximately 3,000 antelope over the previous year's harvest. Hunter success was 93.4% and days per animal harvested were 3.4.

The statewide mule deer harvest was 35,266 with a success rate of 56.8% and days per animal harvested at 8.7. The statewide white-tailed deer harvest was 12,333 with a hunter success rate of 52.4% and days per animal harvested were 7.9. The total deer harvest for 2005 was approximately the same as 2004.

The statewide elk harvest was 19,708 with a hunter success rate of 39.4% and days per animal harvested were 18.5. This harvest represents a slight decrease from the previous 10-year average, but this is to be expected as many elk herds are now near objective levels.

Moose populations in northwestern Wyoming have shown a significant decline during the past decade. At the same time, the new moose population in southeastern Wyoming is showing an increase in both abundance and distribution. Research projects have been initiated in both areas to examine these trends.

The eight local sage grouse working groups are finalizing their conservation plans. The Northeast Sage Grouse Working Group is scheduled to present the first conservation plan to the Commission during their September 2006 meeting. A new source of potential habitat project funding for sage grouse has been obtained in the form of the Governor's Natural Resource Trust Fund.

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

Implementation of the recommendations from the Governor's Brucellosis Task Force is on schedule, including completion of the first test and removal project at the Muddy Creek Feedground. This effort required two separate trapping operations resulting in a total capture of 413 elk with 58 cows testing positive. There were only three trap mortalities. A mobile lab conducted testing on 171 samples.

An evaluation of the six species working groups was completed and changes implemented. Currently, there are working groups for the following species: Bighorn sheep, grizzly bear, moose, mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse. These committees serve as ad hoc technical advisors to Department wildlife managers.

Black-footed ferret surveys conducted during August and September detected 149 ferrets at the original Shirley Basin release site. A total of 85 ferrets were captured and marked during this operation. Once thought to have been a failed reintroduction, this original site now contains the largest ferret population in the wild.

Peregrine falcon monitoring has continued and new eyries are found each year. We currently have more than 90 nesting pairs in Wyoming. This is a tremendous success story, as this species had been extirpated from the state before we began our reintroduction efforts.

The distribution and abundance of large carnivores such as grizzly bears, black bears and mountain lions has resulted in an extreme increase in time/dollar costs for the division. In addition to the full-time Trophy Game Conflict Program, many game wardens and biologists spend considerable time handling conflicts. Planning is underway for a human/large predator conflict workshop, which will be held in Cody during May 2007. This training session will provide instruction to field level personnel from all western states.

Wildlife damage compensated under W.S. 23-1-901 continues to absorb considerable personnel time in the Division. In FY06, personnel expended 1,121 man-days and drove 114,454 miles on activities to prevent wildlife from causing damage to private property. They expended 498 man-days and drove 37,646 miles investigating, processing and handling damage claims and landowner coupon redemption. A total of 94 damage claims worth \$249,096 were filed and the Department paid \$235,902. In addition, personnel spent 931 man-days and drove 105,274 miles responding to nuisance wildlife issues that were not considered wildlife damage under W.S. 23-1-901.

### Outcome Measures

The Department asks hunters to evaluate the quality of their overall hunt. As reported within the *Annual Report of Big and Trophy Game Harvest, 2005*, 86% of resident antelope hunters, 69% of resident deer hunters, and 63% of resident elk hunters indicated they were either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the overall quality of their hunt. Likewise, 94% of nonresident antelope hunters, 80% of nonresident deer hunters, and 75% of nonresident elk hunters indicated they 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, 2005* and the *Annual Report of Small and Upland Game Harvest 2005* indicates that hunters spent 1,202,382 recreation days during the 2005 season.

Within the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, the most recent year for which data is available, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 3,924,000 days of wildlife-associated recreation that did not involve hunting or fishing.

### Problem Areas

There are too few personnel within the division to address increasing workloads. Most employees work in excess of 200 hours per month. Drought conditions are severe throughout most of Wyoming and wildlife populations will be impacted by poor habitat conditions. There were high temperatures and a lack of precipitation during critical periods of plant phenology. Elk populations are near objective, but many deer and pronghorn herds may be reduced by low fawn survival and a lack of recruitment into adult age classes. Sage grouse productivity had been improving, but current conditions may negate those gains.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *Annual Report of Big Game and Trophy game Harvest, 2005* and the *Annual Report of Small and Upland Game Harvest, 2005* can be obtained from the Biological Services office in Cheyenne.

Information regarding hunter satisfaction with their overall hunt was derived from question Q9 from the resident and nonresident surveys. Information on the number of hunter recreation

days for big and trophy game species was derived from the table on page 2 of the *Annual Report of Big Game and Trophy game Harvest, 2005*. Information on the number of hunter recreation days for small and upland game species was derived from the tablets for each species.

The *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Wyoming* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne. Information on the number of non-consumptive recreation days was derived from the table on page 14.

## **Strategy: Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Approximately 60% of biologist workloads are scheduled activities. Their remaining workloads are subject to the demands of nature and the public. As a result, there is much done each year that isn't scheduled, and there is too much work for the personnel available. Personnel habitually work over 200 hours per month during "slow" periods, and 250 hours per month during hunting season. Despite this, the strategy completed 98% (132 of 135) of major tasks and 98% (86 of 86) of minor tasks during FY06.

### Problem Areas

See individual regions below.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Work plan analyses are prepared by the regional administrators and submitted to the Division Administration. Copies are kept in both the Cheyenne office and the regional offices.

### *Jackson/Pinedale Region - Biologists*

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Pinedale/Jackson Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one coordinator) had 13 major work schedule elements for Fiscal Year 2006. All 13 major elements were accomplished. Concurrently, 7 minor elements were also accomplished.

Major work schedule elements include: Wildlife Environmental Reviews, Annual Job Completion Reports, Public Contacts and Information Sharing Meetings, Pre-Season Antelope Classifications, Post-Season Mule Deer Classifications, Post-Season Elk Classifications, Post-Season Moose Classifications, Post-Season Bighorn Sheep Classifications, Spring Mule Deer

Mortality Surveys, Sage grouse Surveys (Lek, Brood, Harvest), Bison Hunt Management, Elk Trapping/Tagging-Brucellosis Surveillance, and Big Game Hunter Field Checks.

Minor work schedule elements include: Breeding Bird and Curlew Surveys, Summer Elk/Bighorn Sheep/Mountain Goat Surveys, Mandatory Black Bear and Mountain Lion Registrations, Mandatory Bighorn Sheep Registrations, Elk Feedground Monitoring, Habitat/Transect Monitoring, and Interagency Coordination Meetings.

Annual big game surveys were conducted for most regional herd units (8 elk herds, 2 mule deer herds, 3 moose herds, 1 antelope herd, and 2 bighorn sheep herds) in FY06. These surveys resulted in the classification of; 5,275 antelope, 15,100 mule deer, 27,250 elk, 1,800 moose and 300 bighorn sheep. The majority of these herds were surveyed utilizing Department M&O funding. Federal grant monies were utilized to conduct sightability surveys in the Buffalo Valley winter range complex for the Jackson Moose herd.

Game harvest data was collected at 36 check stations throughout the region. Over 3,500 hunters were contacted resulting in approximately 780 big game species recorded. In addition, CWD samples were collected from harvested mule deer at most check stations throughout the fall hunt.

Environmental reviews continue to comprise a large portion of the annual work schedule with over 75 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 plans continue to be a high priority. The Terrestrial Biologist work unit participated in implementing the 5 year Pilot Test-and-Removal Project at Muddy Feedground in addition to contributing to the Pinedale, Fall Creek, Upper Green River and Afton brucellosis management plans. For this coming winter season, test-and-removal activities at the Muddy Creek feedground, and brucellosis management plans will continue to be a major work schedule element.

Sage grouse lek surveys are a major work assignment during the spring season. In FY06, 22 lek complexes were surveyed resulting in 105 individual leks (98%) being monitored. Many leks showed increased male attendance due to improved chick production/survival from the previous 2 years. Average number of males/lek has increased from 20.6 in 2003 to 34.7 in 2005. However, leks within and adjacent to developing gas fields continue to decline in attendance and in some cases, total abandonment has been recorded. In addition to sage grouse field work, the Pinedale District Biologist serves as the Department lead for the Upper Green River Basin-Local Sage Grouse Working Group. His duties on the Working Group include writing/editing the local conservation strategy which has required a significant time commitment.

### Problem Areas

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. The position was vacant for a portion of the fiscal year and the Terrestrial Biologist work unit picked up the additional work assignments. Presently, the position is filled and focusing on habitat mitigation planning for the Pinedale Anticline gas field. 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.

### *Cody Region – Biologists*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Cody Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) had 33 major work schedule elements with 32 completed (97%); pronghorn line transect surveys could not be flown due to delays in Rich Guenzel’s revamping of line transect sampling methodology and software/hardware issues. Nine of 9 (100%) minor work schedule elements were completed.

Major work schedule elements include: Antelope Classifications, Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Bighorn Sheep Classifications, Rocky Mtn. Goat Classifications, Hunter Field Checks, CWD Surveillance, Elk Trend Counts, Antelope Trend Counts and Line Transects, Grizzly Bear Surveys and Flights, Sandhill Crane Surveys, Big/Trophy/Upland Game Season Recommendations and R/NR Packet Info, Annual Work Schedule and Annual Summary Report, Prepare and Monitor Fiscal Year Budget, Appraisals/Administration/Subunit Review/Fiscal, Annual Job Completion Reports and Population Modeling, Public and Landowner Contacts, Mule Deer Night Census, Interagency Coordination, Bighorn Sheep Working Groups and FNAWS Network Coordination, Wildlife NGO Coordination (i.e. RMEF, NWTF), Devils Canyon Supp. Bighorn Transplant Preparation, Pronghorn Working Group, Mule Deer Working Group, Sage Grouse Working Group, Annual Sage grouse Report, Monitor Sage grouse Leks/Maintain Lek Database, Environmental Comments/Wildlife Habitat Protection, Shoshone National Forest Plan Revision, Documenting Habitat Conditions, Walk-In/Hunter Management/PLPW, In-Service Training/Professional Development.

Minor work elements include: Non-Game Surveys (Bald Eagle, Prairie Dog), Documenting Big/Upland/Trophy Game Distribution, Sage grouse Brood and Winter Use Surveys, Winter Turkey Survey, Hunting & Fishing Heritage EXPO, Hunter Information Sheets & Hunter Safety, Regional Coordination Team Participation, Defensive Driving & Sexual Harassment Training, and Bighorn Mountain Moose Distribution & Count Survey.

#### Problem Areas

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) was documented near Worland in 2003 and near Thermopolis in 2005; additional surveillance is anticipated along the Bighorn River corridor from the Wedding of the Waters to Lovell; this will impact permanent personnel workloads, especially if outside CWD grant monies decrease. Like everywhere else, Cody Region workloads continue to increase; periodic use of habitat interns has been helpful, and assignment of a permanent wildlife technician to the Cody Region would be very helpful

Drought continues to plague the Cody Region, and habitat quality/quantity and water sources are adversely affected, as are dependent wildlife species. Adequate habitat/shrub/herbaceous monitoring likely won’t occur; token but well-distributed monitoring (e.g., transects) is the best

that can be done, at present; a second terrestrial habitat biologist position would be very beneficial for habitat project design/implementation on public and private lands

Four of 5 pronghorn herd units and 6 of 8 mule deer herd units in the Cody Region are below objective, and are expected to remain there while chronic drought conditions persist. Line Transect surveys to monitor/estimate pronghorn populations need to be reinstated, but software/hardware problems and lack of qualified flight vendors are problematic. Flight costs continue to escalate while flight budgets are relatively static; additional flight monies are needed to cover costs associated with bringing in flight vendors from non-traditional, more distant areas

Expanding wolf and grizzly bear populations may be locally and significantly impacting elk and moose populations along the Absaroka Front; some elk populations remain above objective, and land ownership patterns may complicate herd unit objective revision. Increased data collection on elk and moose numbers is necessary, but outside funding that has been used to enhance monitoring efforts is time-limited and likely won't be available in the future. Moose numbers throughout the Cody Region have declined, and resultant hunting licenses have also sharply decreased over the past decade

Sage grouse lek surveys, Local Working Group conservation/project planning, maintenance of the statewide sage grouse lek database, annual Completion Report, project development and fundraising all increase workload responsibilities.

Bentonite mining/sagebrush reclamation is an important emerging issue in the Greybull area. Land Use planning, including the Shoshone National Forest plan revision and upcoming Resource Management Plan revisions for the Cody and Worland BLM field offices already, or will, require significant time commitments. Subdivisions continue to encroach into important wildlife habitats; the RMEF Absaroka Conservation Initiative is designed to help identify, and project, buildout scenarios and future housing development. Access to private lands continues to decrease, as land ownership patterns change. Retirement(s) of long-term Department employees in the Cody Region are anticipated in the next 1-3 years, resulting in loss of institutional memory/abilities.

### *Sheridan Region – Biologists*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Sheridan Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) had 20 major work schedule elements (listed below) and all were addressed/achieved. There were 5 minor work schedule elements (listed below) and all were addressed/achieved.

Major work schedule elements include: Appraisals and Administration, Budget Preparation, Work Schedules, Season Setting and Application Packet, Public and Landowner Contacts, Antelope Classifications, Antelope Trend and Line Transect Surveys, Mule Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Moose Classifications, Other Classifications (White-Tail Deer), Elk Trend Counts, Sage grouse Lek Surveys, Other Surveys (Turkeys, Sharptailed Grouse), Hunter Field Checks, CWD Monitoring, and Environmental Reviews and Comments, Annual Job Completion Reports, Big Game Population Modeling, and Working Groups (Mule Deer, Moose, Pronghorn, Sage grouse). Minor work schedule elements include: Habitat Surveys, Habitat Development and Maintenance, Non-Game Surveys, PLPW, Pheasant Release Program.

During FY06, Lynn Jahnke (Wildlife Management Coordinator), Dan Thiele (Buffalo District Wildlife Biologist), and Tim Thomas (Sheridan District Wildlife Biologist) served in their respective positions during the entire reporting period. Gillette District Wildlife Biologist, Heather O'Brien, resigned from the Department on May 31, 2006 after serving in that position for eleven months. The Gillette District remained vacant during the remainder of the reporting period with other Sheridan Region personnel attempting to address wildlife management duties in that district. It was not possible for other personnel to commit the time and effort to maintain the level of production that a full time biologist was able to. However, throughout the Sheridan Region all major and minor work schedule elements, as well as many unscheduled items, were addressed or completed. Sheridan Region Wildlife, Fisheries, Services Division personnel and the Sheridan Regional Office Managers all contributed to gathering wildlife management data and assisting with accomplishing a variety of projects throughout the year.

During FY06 turnover of personnel in the Sheridan Region including the region supervisor, game wardens in the South Gillette and Buffalo warden districts, the wildlife technician, an office manager, and the Gillette District wildlife biologist as well as the loss of the game warden trainee position all impacted wildlife management activities. Training of new personnel about wildlife management and survey methods required considerable time and effort.

Issues and projects from recent years continued to dominate activities of Sheridan Region biologists. Dan Thiele continued his participation on the Northeast Wyoming Local Sage Grouse Working Group as the Department representative. Thiele was the person primarily responsible for drafting the local management plan that involved incorporating other working group member input and multiple revisions. Thiele also continued as the Sheridan Region sage grouse database manager and was responsible for writing the annual Job Completion Report.

Intensified aerial sage grouse lek surveys were again funded by the BLM and flown by Department personnel. Biologists continued to work with federal agency personnel, consultants, and volunteers to monitor known leks and document previously unknown leks. Sheridan Region biologists interacted with researchers from the University of Montana conducting sage grouse research in the Powder River Basin because of CBM development. Biologists also provided input into the sage grouse habitat improvement project in northern Johnson County.

Sheridan Region non-law enforcement personnel were again tasked in the fall of 2005 to collect CWD samples from hunter killed deer, elk, and moose. Four temporary biologist technicians and a few volunteers assisted in the effort. Collection sites were located at meat processors in Gillette, Buffalo, and the Sheridan area. Samples were also collected at check stations in Dayton and Kaycee as well as from field checks and from hunters contacting personnel. The Sheridan Region contributed to the statewide CWD surveillance effort. Because of the discovery of CWD in Hunt Areas 30 and 33 in 2004, there was a concerted effort to collect samples from near Kaycee in 2005. Lynn Jahnke continued to serve as the Sheridan Region representative on the statewide CWD committee.

The revision of the Bighorn National Forest Management Plan continued to require input from the Wildlife Management Coordinator. Several Steering Committee meetings were attended and the plan was finally completed. Throughout the revision process, assuring wildlife was receiving appropriate consideration was a challenge. Implementation of the Management Plan began with projects developed using the direction provided in the plan.

Annual wildlife management surveys were conducted throughout the year. Personnel classified big game before and after hunting seasons. For herds where the Sheridan Region has Job Completion Report writing responsibility, 22,529 pronghorn antelope, 405 elk, and 97 moose

were classified during the 2005 preseason surveys. Postseason 2005 classifications were conducted on 2,995 elk, 1,747 white-tailed deer, 10,959 mule deer, and 35 moose. Personnel conducted line transect surveys on four pronghorn antelope herds during the spring of 2006. Pronghorn antelope herds surveyed were generally well above the population objective. Wintering elk trend counts were conducted as in past years for the Bighorn Mountain herds with a second winter survey undertaken in the Rochelle Hills. Results of the Rochelle Hills Elk Herd trend count indicated the population was still well over the management objective.

Sheridan Region personnel on patrol, at check stations and locker plants checked 268 elk, 246 white-tailed deer, 1,013 mule deer, 938 pronghorn antelope, and 14 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.

Wildlife biologists continued to serve on various working groups. Tim Thomas was assigned to the Moose Working Group and served as the acting vice-chairman. Lynn Jahnke was assigned to the Pronghorn Working Group. Dan Thiele served on both the Sage grouse and Mule Deer Working Groups. Tim Thomas served the Department representative and chairman of the moose committee for the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Tim Thomas also served as the Sheridan Region representative for the Mountain Lion Plan and Black Bear Management Plan committees. Wildlife biologists also served as Department liaisons to various NGOs and legislators.

### Problem Areas

Some of the same problem areas as reported in past years continued in the Sheridan Region. Coalbed methane (CBM) development and population growth continued to change the landscape of the Sheridan Region. 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. As 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 and longer lasting negative impacts through the introduction of undesirable plant species, loss of desirable plants, erosion of unstable soils, and loss of natural seeps and springs. 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 to fund research and cooperative mitigation type projects. During FY06 the Fish Division created a new position that focuses on CBM impacts. Bud Stewart filled that position and has advised wildlife biologists of CBM issues of interest. Other consequences of the booming economy due to CBM development are that pay for Department personnel does not seem to be keeping pace with

private industry and the cost of living has increased dramatically making it difficult to attract and retain qualified employees.

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

Placing an inexperienced biologist in Gillette was an impediment to efficiently accomplishing wildlife management activities as training and oversight was difficult. After eleven months, experience was being gained but then the wildlife biologist position was vacated again placing burdens on other personnel. Some Gillette area projects or activities 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 Region Office. Other activities such as loading damage fence and helping at the Bird Farm also impacted the Sheridan District Biologist and Wildlife Management Coordinator. The addition of a biologist aide position would allow some projects currently on hold to be addressed.

### *Green River Region – Biologists*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Green River Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) continued to transition with the terrestrial habitat position being filled by Cory Kallstrom over the past year. All but 1 of the 19 major elements were achieved. Major work schedule elements achieved include: Pronghorn Classifications, Big Game Job Completion Reports (JCRs), Big Game Season Setting, CWD Monitoring, Deer Classifications, Develop Season Recommendations, Elk Classifications, Participation in Two Regional Sage Grouse Working Groups, Participation in Statewide Pronghorn Working Group, Performance Appraisals, Public Use Inventory Pronghorn/Deer/ Elk/Moose, Small/Upland/Trophy Game Season Setting, Trend Counts Elk, Wildlife Environmental Reviews (WER), and Worked with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Provide Input to Resource Management Plans (RMPs). Major work schedule element not achieved includes: Pronghorn Line Transect Surveys.

There were 27 minor elements in the FY06 work schedule, all but one of the 27 minor elements were addressed. Line transects were not completed due to the lack of an aerial survey vendor and incomplete equipment and software. The interstate coordination was not conducted as no meetings were planned. The road-kill database was completed.

Minor work schedule elements achieved include: 2007 Packet Including NR Quotas, Assist with Regional COOP Research Projects, Bald Eagle Surveys, Breeding Bird Surveys, Big Game Winter Range Documentation, Developed Statewide GIS Layer for Big Game Migrations, Developed Mule Deer Study With Industry in Baggs Area, Developed a Statewide Database for

Road-killed Animals, Explore Putting Together a Study to Develop Overpasses for Pronghorn, Help Train and Assist with Orientation of New Habitat Biologist, Interagency Coordination Meeting, Moose Surveys, Deer Mortality Transects, Planning for Future Fencing and Underpasses in Nugget Canyon, Public Use Inventory Sheep, Public Use Inventory Trophy Game, Regional Budget, Sage grouse Lek Survey, Sage grouse Wing Barrels, Sharp-Tailed Grouse Lek Routes, Trapped Elk as Part of Cooperative Elk Study, Trapped for Swift Fox (None Captured), Update Seasonal Range Overlays, Wildlife Control, and Work Schedule Development. Minor work schedule element not achieved includes: Interstate Coordination Meeting.

Routine big game surveys were completed for several big game herds in the region last year. These include: Mule Deer surveys in the Baggs, Wyoming Range, South Rock Springs and Steamboat herds, Elk surveys in the Baggs, West Green River, South Rock Springs and Steamboat herds and Moose surveys in the Uinta and Lincoln herds. An Elk trend counts was completed in the South Rock Springs herd.

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 50 projects reviewed along with numerous requests from consultants and federal and state agencies, and hundreds of gas related projects. In addition, there are two major BLM Resource Management Revisions taking place in our region as well as three major oil and gas EIS reviews.

Biologists have been involved with the development of two major studies involving elk and deer. Guided the development of a statewide GIS layer for big game migrations and the development of a statewide roadkill database. Continue to work with WYDOT in the development of fencing and underpasses for mule deer in Nugget Canyon. Regional biologists participated in two ongoing local sage grouse working groups by putting together their planning documents.

### Problem Areas

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 including working on statewide mitigation recommendations, reviewing large numbers of applications for drilling, and meeting with industry representatives. 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 RMP review, oil and gas project review, research project development and involvement (often in relation to impacts), chronic wasting disease 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.

Another major concern for biologists in the announcement that a major air carrier went out of business that created a need for a qualified and trusted flight service. This resulted in the

reduction in flying in the region and will remain so until that gap is filled. This problem was the reason that no pronghorn line transect surveys were completed this year.

### *Laramie Region – Biologists*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Laramie Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (two biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) had 14 major work schedule elements (all completed) and 11 minor work schedule elements (91% completed) scheduled for FY06.

Extremely low water levels in Hawk Springs Reservoir have resulted in colonial water birds abandoning their nest sites. Surveys will be reestablished when water levels in the reservoir rise and birds recolonize the nest sites.

Major work schedule elements include: Appraisal and Administration, Budget Preparation and Monitoring, Annual Work Schedule, Season Setting and Packet, Intra-agency Communications, Public and Landowner Contacts, Pre- and Post-Season Big Game Classifications, Pronghorn Line-transect Flights, Big Game Job Completion Reports (JCRs), Big/Small/Trophy/Upland Game Seasons and Field Checks, Waterfowl Seasons, Wildlife Environmental Reviews (WERs) and Comments, Private Land Public Wildlife (PLPW) Landowner Contacts and Sign Maintenance, Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Monitoring.

Minor work schedule elements include: Annual Report/Work Schedule Summary, Interagency Coordination Meeting and Communications, National Wild Turkey Federation Technical Committee, Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society, Colonial Water Bird Survey – Hawk Springs, Other Non-game/Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys, Wild Turkey Winter Flock Counts, Pheasant/Crow/Mourning Dove Coo Counts, Winter Canada Goose Surveys, Winter Range Documentation, and Snowy Range Moose Study.

Other region-specific elements/assignments completed include: Objective Review, Habitat Surveys, Sage grouse Database, CWD Monitoring and Committee, and Pronghorn Working Group.

Environmental review comments designed to lessen project impacts to wildlife and to mitigate unavoidable impacts consistent with the Commission's Mitigation Policy were submitted. 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 Resource Management Plan was limited to comments regarding management of BLM lands associated with Commission owned lands. The Rawlins Resource Area Management Plan was undergoing a major rewrite this year. Consequently, we were not asked for additional comments.

Data collection and analysis continued to be a major function. Pronghorn and mule deer fawn ratios were flat to down somewhat in 2005. 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. We remain concerned about lamb production and survival in all three sheep herds. Observed ewe:lamb ratios were low once again in the Laramie Peak bighorn sheep herd (16/100 in 2003, 17/100 in 2004). We 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 were stable to slightly higher than the high numbers seen in 2005. Sharp-tailed grouse populations were still depressed due to drought and low production.

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. Initial planning is almost completed for Bates Hole-Shirley Basin.

Big game seasons were designed to address population objectives, the needs of habitat and the realities of access. Because of concerns for habitat condition, seasons for mule deer and pronghorn have become somewhat more liberal in most of the region during the past several years in order to hold steady or decrease populations. Elk seasons have become somewhat more conservative (i.e. less licenses) because populations for the most part have been reduced to objectives. Any ram hunting was authorized for the first time in the Laramie Peak herd in 2003. Legal rams dominate the harvest. Sheep harvest in this herd moved south and onto private lands in 2004. That trend continued in 2005 with 3 of 4 harvested rams being taken south of Wyoming Highway 34. Both Areas 18 and 21 will again be closed in 2006.

Laramie Region biologists were part of two studies during FY 06. 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. Habitat use and habitat carrying capacity will be the primary topics of a moose study currently underway in the Snowy Range. This study was initiated in 2003 and should be completed in 2007.

Nearly 150 pronghorn fawns were captured in southeast Wyoming and sent to Mexico as part of our continued cooperation in Peninsular Pronghorn recovery efforts.

### Problem Areas

Having two, instead of three, biologists continues to limit our ability to become involved, or the degree of our involvement, 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. With less people the emphasis formerly placed on some duties was significantly decreased. Continued cooperation among all within this and the game warden work unit to prioritize job duties and improve time management skills will continue to remain critical to our ability to "get the job done" as best we can. To this point, budget allocations have been adequate. A third biologist will be in place sometime during the fall of 2006.

The other chronic problem in the Laramie Region continues to be access for hunters. Our 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.

## Narrative and Output Measures

The Lander Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one wildlife management coordinator) had 22 major work schedule elements (all completed) and 19 minor work schedule elements (all completed).

Major work schedule elements include: Big Game Season Recommendations/Regulations, Big Game Completion Reports, Upland Game Bird Completion Reports, Environmental Review, Subunit Review, Antelope Hunting Seasons/Check Stations, Elk Hunting Seasons/Check Stations, Deer Hunting Seasons/Check Stations, Sage grouse Wing Barrels, Bighorn Sheep Head Registration, Antelope Aerial Surveys, Antelope/Deer/Elk Classification Surveys, Elk Trend Count Surveys, Non-game Breeding Bird Surveys, Sage grouse Lek Surveys, Pheasant Release Program, Sage grouse Local Working Groups, Biologist Budget Preparation, Performance Evaluations, and Public Contacts.

Minor work schedule elements include: Hunt Area Boundary Changes, Herd Unit Updates, In-service Training, Big Game Season Recommendations/Package, Bear/Lion Season Recommendations, Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season, Moose Hunting Season, Bear/Lion Harvest Registration, One Shot Antelope Hunt Administration, Bighorn Sheep Classification Surveys, Grizzly Bear Observation Surveys, Moose Classification Surveys, Mourning Dove Coo Count Surveys, Red Canyon Elk Count Surveys, Sage grouse Brood Distribution Surveys, Winter Range Habitat Surveys, Clerical Duties, Big Game Update Report, and Work Plan Report.

Weather conditions during FY06 were generally favorable for wildlife across Lander Region. High amounts of well-timed moisture during spring and early summer 2005 resulted in tremendous herbaceous production. The summer of 2005 was very hot and dry, but survival of young wildlife appeared good based on herd composition data collected during the fiscal year. A mild winter of 2005-06 and improved habitat conditions generally benefited big game and game birds by reducing winter stress and improving over-winter survival as well.

With good climatic and habitat conditions during FY06, pronghorn antelope populations improved across Lander Region. Of the region's 8 pronghorn herd units, 2 were estimated to be over objective, 4 were at objective, and 2 were below objective. A total of 18,804 pronghorn were classified to determine herd composition ratios. Fawn to doe ratios averaged 65 fawns/100 does, ranging from a low of 55 fawns/100 does in the South Ferris Herd Unit to a high of 70 fawns/100 does in the Badwater and North Ferris Herd Units. Buck to doe ratios averaged 57 males/100 females and varied from 14 (Wind River Herd) to 66 (Badwater Herd) per 100 does. Male and fawn composition ratios were among the highest observed in recent years. Hunter success remained high during 2005 hunting seasons, suggesting current license levels are providing favorable hunting conditions in spite of below-objective population status across the Lander Region.

Mule deer populations also improved during the past year. Of the 7 herds within the region, 1 was at, and 6 remained below, objective. Field personnel classified 6,231 deer in 2005, with fawn production ranging from a low of 45 fawns/100 does in the Ferris Herd Unit to a high of 63 fawns/100 does in the Sweetwater Herd Unit (mean = 54 fawns/100 does). Overall fawn production dropped from levels observed in FY05, but remained higher than most of the previous other 3-5 years. Regional buck/doe ratios ranged from 29 (Dubois and South Wind River Herds) to 45 (Ferris Herd) per 100. Most hunt areas had very short, antlered-only or 4

point or more antler-restricted hunting seasons in 2005. 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 FY06. Field personnel classified 5,436 elk from December 2005 through March 2006. Observed calf production ranged from 29/100(Wiggins Fork Herd Unit) to 58/100 (Green Mountain Herd Unit), while bull/cow ratios varied from 8/100 (Wiggins Fork Herd) to 30/100 (Green Mountain Herd). Favorable conditions during fall 2005 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 remained constant between FY05 and FY06. A total of 577 sheep were classified, with ratios of 37 rams and 27 lambs/100 ewes. No transplanting operations were conducted on the Whiskey Mountain herd during FY06.

Moose populations in Lander Region continued to be a major concern. A total of 192 animals were classified in January 2006 in the Lander and Dubois Herd Units. Composition ratios included an average of 53 bulls/100 cows and 42 calves/100 cows. Regional sample size was among the lowest recorded during the previous 15 years and calf production dropped from levels observed in FY05, particularly in the Dubois Herd. Work continues to determine the cause of this decline, but regional biologists believe it is primarily habitat and drought related.

Sage grouse populations remained very high across the region. In spring 2006, regional personnel, with assistance from the public and Bureau of Land Management, inventoried 139 of 149 known lek sites in the Lander and Riverton areas. Of leks inventoried, 105 were active with 7,182 males in attendance (mean of 68.4 males/lek). Both total males and average males/active lek were almost twice as high as levels observed the previous year and are the highest ever recorded for Lander Region

Lander Region Wildlife Biologists reviewed and submitted comments on 58 Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and other NEPA documents in FY06. Region Biologists further participated in three 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 region. Region biologists helped to set up, and participated in each of these groups during FY06. Biologists were also involved in numerous contacts with members of the public, landowners, and State, Federal, and local agency personnel to minimize environmental impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitats.

### Problem Areas

Accelerating oil and natural gas developments in northern and southern portions of the Lander Region are resulting in increased demands on the region's biologist staff. In addition, biologist participation in the Lander, Casper, and Rawlins Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan 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 greatly reduced operating budgets, 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.

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Casper Region Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist Strategy (three biologists and one coordinator) had 14 major work schedule elements. Thirteen were accomplished. Pronghorn line transects (LTs) were not accomplished as equipment and techniques were being developed and there were no contractors available to fly LTs. All nine minor elements were accomplished.

Major work plan elements achieved include: Pronghorn Classifications, Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Hunter Field Checks, Turkey Winter Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Season Recommendations, Formulate Packet, Appraisals and Administration (Coord.), Work Scheduling (Coord.), Annual Job Completion Reports, Wildlife Environmental Reviews, and Shrub Productivity/Utilization Data.

Minor work schedule elements include: Merlin Surveys, Sage grouse Lek Searches, Sharp-tail Grouse Lek Searches, Game Bird Brood Surveys, Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) Information Station, Goose Nest Structure Repairs, Bald Eagle Nesting Surveys, Late Winter Classifications, and Bobcat Tagging Records.

Big game hunting seasons were relatively liberal in 2005 with increased doe/fawn, antlerless, and cow/calf licenses issued to address continued habitat decline and increasing or stable elk numbers. Most deer and pronghorn herds were at or below their population objectives. Considering the condition of key deer and pronghorn habitats, holding populations below objective is, and will continue to be, necessary to properly manage these herds for future generations. Elk populations continue to do quite well throughout the region and are either over or at management objectives. Obtaining adequate elk harvest to manage towards objective continues to be a challenge due to private lands restricting access. Concurrently, and once again, dry and mild conditions prevailed throughout much of the region - keeping elk spread out and made finding and stalking them difficult. Fawn and calf survival was likely average to above average throughout the region.

Shrub productivity was poor throughout the region, but showed some improvement compared to previous years. Overall, the winter of 2005-06 was mild. The summer of 2005 brought much needed moisture at key times, as shrubs were able to put on leader growth for the first time in many years. However, the spring and early summer of 2006 has been extremely dry. Habitat conditions on both summer and winter ranges throughout the region remain poor to very poor and reflect old and decadent shrub stands and poor moisture conditions. Some browse transects on winter range in Bates Hole and the South Bighorns again showed only a few millimeters of current annual growth. To enhance and augment wildlife management in the Casper region, we continue to collect shrub production and use data in Bates Hole, the Rattlesnakes, the South Bighorns, the Laramie Range, the Grasslands, and in the Black Hills. This data better enables managers to calibrate population size and to evaluate population objectives with reference to habitat condition. These projects and monitoring efforts target mountain mahogany, sagebrush/grass, oak, and aspen communities in pronghorn, mule deer, and white-tailed deer (Black Hills) summer, transition, and winter range. We are purposefully holding many pronghorn and mule deer populations below objective to relieve browse pressure on key ranges. Browse use measurements in spring 2006 indicate reduced ungulate pressure in Bates Hole and the Rattlesnakes has affected decreased use on key shrub species. Nonetheless, recovery of key habitats to maintain robust wildlife populations will require more than proper

wildlife management. It will be necessary to relieve other herbivory pressures, receive adequate moisture, and to renew shrub stands with young vigorous plants.

Despite dry conditions and poor habitat for big game throughout the Casper Region the past several years, turkey populations have and continue to do quite well. After 4 years of increase, sage grouse population levels, based on spring lek counts, remained similar to that observed in 2005. Blue grouse, based on a few brood counts and hunter harvest, have remained constant at a relatively good level. Other bird species such as chukars and Hungarian partridge are down compared to the high levels observed in the mid 90s.

Monitoring for chronic wasting disease (CWD) was a Casper Region and Department priority and thus continued in FY06. CWD was documented for the first time in deer hunt area 9 in one white-tailed deer. Hunt area 65 continued to exhibit a high prevalence rate.

Casper Region biologists have been involved with the Department's Mule Deer Working Group, the Bates Hole Shirley Basin local sage grouse working group, and the committee to develop the Black Bear and Mountain Lion plans. Personnel expended, and continue to do so, numerous hours representing the Department in the Black Hills Forest Plan and Casper Resource Area BLM RMP revision process.

In FY06, Casper region personnel classified 18,589 pronghorn, 12,606 mule deer, 4,902 white-tailed deer, and 2,966 elk. Compared to 2005, the observed proportion of pronghorn fawns was down by 9 per 100 does. Whereas, the number of mule deer and white-tailed deer fawns and elk calves was up by 2, 3, and 5 per 100 females, respectively. On average, we observed 71 pronghorn fawns:100 does, 73 mule deer fawns:100 does, 60 white-tailed deer fawns:100 does, and 47 elk calves:100 cows. The average observed pronghorn, mule deer, and white-tailed deer buck:doe ratios were 34, 33, and 29, respectively. The average observed bull:cow was 30:100.

### Problem Areas

The wildlife management challenges in the Casper Region are:

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

2) Increased Energy Exploration and Development – The Rattlesnake, North Natrona, and potentially the Bates Hole/Hat Six and Thunder Basin mule deer DAUs (and coinciding Pronghorn DAUs) are or will be increasingly impacted by oil, CBM, coal, and uranium exploration and/or development.

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

4) CWD – We know very little about the impact CWD has on deer populations. While it may only be coincidence, deer area 65 had the highest prevalence of CWD ever recorded in a mule deer population and is declining at a rate unpredicted and unexpected based on observed data and estimated population changes.

5) 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 snow and spring rain has had a measurable impact on key forage species.

### **Strategy: Regional Game Wardens**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

Game wardens collect data and make recommendations for management of game as well as handling wildlife depredation problems and performing wildlife enforcement duties. Personnel habitually work 200-250 hours per month. The new wildlife technician positions have been well-received and are providing much needed assistance to both game wardens and biologists. The creation of these permanent positions with law enforcement authority has helped us address the public's request for additional wildlife law enforcement.

This strategy accomplished 99% (148 of 149) of major tasks in their work plans and 96% (75 of 78) minor tasks during FY05. Major and minor work schedule elements for each region are listed below.

#### Problem Areas

The public complains we should have a greater presence in the field at all times of the year, but especially during the hunting season. This issue was partially addressed with creation of eight wildlife technician positions. Despite a small work force, we still achieve an extremely high rate of contacts with hunters and anglers. Grizzly bear damage was chronic in several areas, so wardens had to spend more time on bears and less time on other priorities.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Work plan analyses are prepared by the regional administrators and submitted to the Division Administration. Copies are kept in both the Cheyenne office and the regional offices.

### *Jackson/Pinedale Region – Wardens*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Jackson/Pinedale Region Game Warden Strategy (eight wardens) had 25 major work schedule elements (all completed) and 17 (all completed) minor work schedule elements.

Major work schedule elements include: Fish Law Enforcement and Back Country Fish Law Enforcement, Sage grouse Brood Surveys, Watercraft Enforcement, Patrol Cabin and Game

Warden Station Inspection, Antelope Survey, Firearms and Custody Control Training, Fish Patrol and Ice Fisherman, Sheep Patrol and Law Enforcement, Big Game Harvest Checks, Big Game Patrol, Game Bird Law Enforcement, Outfitter Law Enforcement, Elk Feedground Monitoring, Mule Deer Winter Range Patrol, Elk Classifications, Moose Survey, Performance Appraisals, Big Game Winter Range Patrol, Sage grouse Lek Survey, Big Game Season Setting, Bear Bait Law Enforcement, Game Tags and Antler Auction, In-Service Training, Big Game Damage Prevention and Damage Handling, and Deer Surveys.

Minor work schedule elements include: Case Management System (CMS) Administration, Packet Review, Big Horn Sheep Registration, Bear Harvest Registration, Elk Migration Survey, Commercial Application Review, Landowner Coupons, National Elk Refuge Quotas, Black Bear Season Proposals, Non-Resident Landowner License Review, Elk Disease Monitoring, Small Game Enforcement, False Oath Law Enforcement, Commercial Operators Law Enforcement, Resident Landowner License Review, Black Bear Harvest, and Creel Census.

The Jackson-Pinedale Region (JPR) law enforcement program continues to be a priority. During fiscal year 06' JPR law enforcement personnel spent 5,952 hours and traveled 73,680 miles performing law enforcement duties. This figure represents a 16% decline in total hours spent performing law enforcement duties compared to last fiscal year. Much of this decline can be attributed to the amount of time wardens spent dealing with damage prevention and preventing cattle/elk commingling. Wardens also assisted with the Muddy Creek elk feedground pilot test and slaughter program performed during January and February of 2006. This effort allowed less time for wardens to patrol crucial mule deer winter ranges. This law enforcement effort resulted in 532 violations, 229 citations, 280 warnings and 23 no actions. Total violations detected increased by 9.6% compared to last year's efforts.

The JPR 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. JPR law enforcement personnel and game wardens from other regions patrolled the mule deer winter ranges daily from November 18th, 2005-December 19th. After several discussions with JPR wardens it was decided to reduce the overall length of the task force and to concentrate patrols on weekends only. The area to be patrolled was minimized to make detection of wildlife violations more efficient. All JPR law enforcement personnel as well as four wardens from outside the region participated. A total of 10 deer were found poached on the winter range. Regional game wardens were instrumental in making several of the cases involving illegal take of mule deer. Three of the suspects were convicted felons living in the Jackson/Pinedale area. One individual was arrested for killing 4 deer, two people were arrested for killing 2 deer, and one person was cited for taking a deer out of season. Three other deer were found poached south of Big Piney and no cases were made due to lack of evidence. The total number of non-resident vehicles contacted on the winter range has decreased significantly. It appears we have more people being opportunistic poachers and shooting average buck deer in general rather than poaching large trophy caliber bucks. Oil and gas development has increased dramatically south of Pinedale, which has increased human presence on crucial winter ranges. Opportunistic poaching will likely increase in future years. This task force will be implemented again next winter with outside assistance from other regions. The focus will again be weekend patrolling with increased night patrols.

Pinedale/Jackson personnel worked the annual Jackson antler auction May 15-20, 2006. The annual event was moved from Jackson to Dubois two years ago and has caused increased coordination efforts for Jackson and Lander regional offices. This antler- trading event is very

popular and continues to attract antler buyers, traders and antler hunters from all over the United States. Jackson/Pinedale region personnel have spent considerable less time assisting with this event since it has moved to the Lander region. The annual National Elk Refuge Boy Scout antler auction continues to be held in Jackson the 3rd Saturday in May each year.

Jackson/Pinedale region office managers registered 675 spring black bear bait sites to black bear hunters this past spring. This is slightly down from the previous year. For many years, the Jackson/Pinedale region has more registered black bear baits than anywhere else in the state. Because of the high workload associated with registering black bear sites each year, the region established a bear baiting committee to design a system to allow office managers to renew bear bait sites effectively and efficiently with no errors or duplications of sites registered. A bear bait database was created with a labeling system that allows for baits to be renewed and assigned using a unique number to correspond with the legal description of the bait site. Once the site is registered a label with the bear bait site number is affixed to the registration form. Only one set of labels was created for all legal descriptions so the same bait site couldn't be issued more than once. The new system was implemented this year and proved to be very effective.

Warden's worked a total of 376 hours performing bear bait inspections and checked a total of 71 bait sites with only 10% of them being in violation. A total of 7 violations were detected with 2 citations being issued for non-compliance. In many instances, bait sites had multiple violations and only one citation or warning may have been issued. The violation rate has decreased substantially from last year's rate of 25%. The JPR 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. Wardens are able to check a high number of bait sites in a short amount of time with this coordinated effort. This year's task force was held in the Grey's River drainage. Four wardens checked 25 bait sites in two days and detected no violations. Very few bait sites were actually located, meaning they either were not baited this year or had already been removed from the field. Results of the task force indicated that several outfitters are registering a high number of bait sites and only actually baiting very few of the sites. Finding bait sites can be very difficult during dry conditions due to lack of people/ATV tracks. Wardens spent an average of 5.2 hours per bear bait site checked.

### Problem Areas

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 FY06, 34 damage claims were submitted. This included 11 claims for elk, 4 for deer, 2 for black bear, 15 for grizzly bear, 1 for moose and 1 for Canada Geese. A total of \$96,895.22 was paid by the Department to settle these claims. Deep snow conditions in the Jackson and Star Valley areas contributed to an increase in elk damage claims, as Department personnel were unable to move elk to feedgrounds. The total amount paid out in damage claims represents an increase of \$61,247.93 compared to FY 05'. The majority of this increase can be attributed to increased grizzly bear depredations to cattle in the Upper Green.

Workloads continue to increase in the JPR 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, 2005, to January 31, 2006. 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 BLM and USFS land. The season ran from November 16, 2005, to December 31, 2005. 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 – Wardens*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Cody Region Game Warden Strategy (nine wardens) had 31 major work schedule elements and 30 were completed (97%); pronghorn line transect surveys could not be flown due to delays in Rich Guenzel's revamping of Line Transect methodology and software/hardware issues. Nine of 9 (100%) minor work schedule elements were completed.

Major work schedule elements achieved include: Antelope Classifications, Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Bighorn Sheep Classifications, Rocky Mountain Goat Classifications, Hunter Field Checks, CWD Surveillance, Elk Trend Counts, Monitor Sage grouse Leks, Grizzly Bear Surveys/Enforcement/Damage, Sandhill Crane Surveys, Big/Trophy/Upland Game Season Recommendations and R/NR Packet Info, Annual Work Schedule, Fall Enforcement Work Schedule, Big Game Registration Enforcement, Fisherman Enforcement, Creel Census and Fisheries Data Collection, Winter Range Enforcement, Firearms Qualifications, Wildlife Non-Governmental Organization Coordination (i.e., RMEF, NWTF), Process Landowner Coupons and Licenses, License Agencies and Commercial Operators, Damage Handling, Band Eight Activities, Walk-In/Hunter Management/PLPW, Public and Landowner Contacts and Information and Education Presentations, Documenting Habitat Conditions, Warden Station and Cabin Maintenance, Mule Deer Night Census, and In-Service Training/Post/Professional Development.

Minor work schedule elements include: Non-Game Surveys (i.e, Bald Eagle, Prairie Dog), Documenting Big/Trophy/Upland Game Distribution, Sage grouse Brood and Winter Use Surveys, Other Enforcement (General, Small Game, etc.), Defensive Driving and Sexual Harassment Training, Hunter Mentor and Safety Training, Performance Appraisals/RCT Involvement/Budget, and Watercraft Enforcement.

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Sheridan Region Game Warden Strategy (eight wardens) had 19 major work schedule elements and all were completed. No minor elements were scheduled.

Major work schedule elements include: Landowner Licenses & Coupons, Season Setting & Packet, Public Contacts, Firearms and Custody & Control Training, Damage, Case Management System (CMS) Administration, Wildlife Enforcement & Public Use, Fisheries Enforcement & Public Use, Antelope Classifications, Mule Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Other Classifications (White-Tailed Deer), Antelope Trend Counts & Line Transects, Elk Trend Counts, Other Surveys (Turkeys, Grouse), Hunter Field Checks, Environmental Comments, Wildlife handling – sick/injured/nuisance animals, and Department facility maintenance – stations/cabins.

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 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.

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

Sheridan Region Game Wardens handled several wildlife damage situations. In many cases advice to landowners, providing 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. Five claims totaling \$27,762.11 were received, resulting in payments of \$25,078.11. The number of claims received for damage to growing crops by deer and antelope increased by two in FY06. Four claims totaling \$3,955.15 were paid. Total damage claims received during FY06 increased significantly to \$31,643.04 compared with FY05 in which claims for \$28,249.68 were received. Liberal harvest strategies for female and juvenile deer and antelope in the Sheridan region continue to be employed in an effort to reduce population levels and depredation complaints. During the season setting process in 2005 a 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 also allowed to purchase a second Type 1 license after the leftover license drawing in August. This scheme proved to be successful as many hunters purchased the maximum number of permits allowable. The result was increased harvest, especially of the reproductive segment of the population and increased income to the Department.

The Sheridan region continued to feel the impacts of energy development in the Powder River Basin in FY06. Regional officers documented 430 violations in FY06 compared to 567 violations in FY05 and 873 violations documented in FY04. This represented a 24% decrease in the number of detected violations from FY05 to FY06 and a 51% decrease from FY04. This decrease in detected violations is most likely attributed to decreased enforcement patrols due to personnel reductions, warden district vacancies, and personnel turnover as a result of promotions and retirements. Buffalo Game Warden Rick Pallister retired in January 2006 and the Buffalo position remained vacant until late May. This resulted in 5 man months of lost work effort. The Sheridan Warden Trainee position was eliminated in July 2005 and remains vacant at the time of this writing. The overall effect of this was being two enforcement positions short for a significant portion of the fiscal year.

Personnel changes in the South Gillette district possibly contributed to the decrease as well, as the officer spent time becoming familiar with new patrol areas. The South Gillette warden voluntarily transferred to the East Casper District at the end of the fiscal year. Time spent preparing to move and a foot injury contributed to a decrease in enforcement effort.

The Gillette Wildlife Technician was vacated in July 2005 when Brian Baker was promoted to the Evanston Game Warden position. This position was transferred to Sheridan and filled with Troy Achterhof in late August of 2005. Although Troy was a former South Dakota Game Warden, with approximately five years of experience, he was required to attend a portion of the Peace Officer basic training at WLEA in Douglas. Troy did not effectively join the regional enforcement effort until October 2005. Inexperience with Wyoming statutes and regulations and lack of local knowledge most likely resulted in reduced detection of violations. Troy served as the primary regional watercraft enforcement officer, responded to urban wildlife calls and assisted other wardens with damage prevention, enforcement patrols and data collection. From January to May of 2005, Troy filled the role of Buffalo Game Warden after Rick Pallister's retirement.

The number of detected watercraft violations decreased 68% during the reporting period (33 in FY06 versus 103 in FY05). Reasons for the decrease are similar to those stated previously. The Moorcroft Game Warden did not spend an appropriate amount of time patrolling Keyhole reservoir during periods of peak use. A performance goal of a minimum number of hours spent on watercraft patrol each month from May through August has been established and should help with this situation. 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. The workload is present, but trained personnel are necessary to address it.

#### Problem Areas

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. A single male two-year-old wolf was present in the south Bighorn Mountains during June 2006. Wildlife

Services personnel confirmed sheep depredations by this wolf in the Kaycee and Buffalo warden districts. Because of this additional predator, investigation of depredations became more complex and time consuming.

Law enforcement demands continue at a high level. Wanton destruction cases in the Gillette area reached an epidemic proportion. Three cases in particular were particularly disturbing due to the number of animals involved, the absolute brutality toward the animals involved and the age of the offenders. The new trend seems to be male teenagers consumed by a fascination with death and violence. Alcohol, peer pressure and a competitive atmosphere fueled several of the incidents. These three cases involved students from high schools in Gillette and Wright. Individual deer and antelope are constantly being discovered shot and left in the Powder River basin during the spring and summer of 2006. Little evidence is left at the scene and suspects are rarely developed.

Several cases of deer being shot and left or shot and the head or antlers taken were discovered or reported in the Sheridan area during the fall of 2005.

The influx of new residents, availability of trophy quality big game, and difficult access to private lands all added to enforcement problems. Trespass and shooting from the road complaints were common during the fall of 2005. As access to private land continues to decline with commercialized hunting and CBM development, trespass complaints and thrill killing are likely to continue. Urban and rural subdivision nuisance wildlife complaints and responding to calls of sick, injured, orphaned and diseased animals continue to erode the availability of enforcement officers for law enforcement duties and is 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 the current number of officers is capable of effectively addressing ever-increasing numbers of complaints while performing their other management duties. Sheridan region wardens are being asked to assume an ever-increasing number of job tasks with a smaller pool of employees and job satisfaction is beginning to suffer.

### *Green River Region – Wardens*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Green River Region Game Warden Strategy (10 wardens) had 19 major work schedule elements and all were completed. Twenty of 22 (91%) minor work schedule elements were completed.

Major work schedule elements include: Antelope Classifications, Antelope Line Transect Surveys, Big Game Enforcement, Big Game Season Setting, Custody and Control Training, Damage Investigations/Materials Distribution, Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Elk Trend Surveys, Firearms Training Qualifications, Fishing Creel Census, Fishing Enforcement, Moose Trend Surveys, Public Relations, Public Use Inventory Antelope, Public Use Inventory Deer, Public Use Inventory Elk, Watercraft Enforcement, and Winter Range Patrol.

Minor work schedule elements include: Commercial Licenses and Chapter 10 Permits, Doe and Fawn License Distribution List, Fishing Creel Census, Furbearer Enforcement, Interstate Game Tag Submission, Landowner Coupon Handling, Landowner Licenses, License Agency Administration, Performance Appraisals, Public Use Inventory Moose, Public Use Inventory

Small/Upland Game, Public Use Inventory Trophy Game, Public Use Inventory Upland Game Birds, Sage grouse Lek Survey, Sheep Registrations, Small Game Seasons, Small/Upland Game Enforcement, Trophy Game Season Setting, Waterfowl Seasons, and Wildlife Control. Minor work schedule elements not completed include: Herd Unit Objective Review and Upland Game Bird Brood Surveys.

Law enforcement duties continued to be a top priority. Regional enforcement personnel conducted investigations and performed routine patrol activities enforcing fish, wildlife, and watercraft laws resulting in 449 cases yielding 592 documented violations (216 citations, 354 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 2005-2006 and specifically related to bobcat trapping. Regional enforcement personnel developed and completed a task force to check compliance and detect violations related to black bear bait sites.

The region's damage program was also an important priority in FY06. Game Wardens and Technicians handled damage complaints, prevented and investigated wildlife damage, and handling damage claims. There was only one big game (antelope) damage claim for \$4,300.00 with an allowed payment of \$111.35, one trophy game (mountain lion) damage claim with payments totaling \$630.00, and one game bird (waterfowl) damage claim with a payment of \$600.00.

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

### Problem Areas

During this fiscal year, the 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 – Wardens*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Laramie Region Game Warden Strategy (11 wardens) had 13 major work schedule elements (all completed) and 3 (all completed) minor work schedule elements. In addition, two region-specific assignments were completed.

Major work schedule elements include: Landowner Licenses, Season Setting and Packet, Public Contacts, Firearms Training, Custody and Control Training, Case Management System (CMS) Administration, Wildlife Enforcement & Public Use, Fisheries Enforcement & Public Use, Watercraft Enforcement & Safety, Pre- and Post-Season Big Game Classifications, Antelope Trend Counts & Line Transects, Landowner Damage & Coupons, and PLPW Meetings/Coordination/Landowner Contacts.

Minor work schedule elements include Intra-agency Communication, Upland Game Bird Surveys, and Wildlife Distribution.

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 FY06. Officers spent 7,207 hours and drove 105,589 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. 672 enforcement actions were taken in the region and a total of 367 citations and 285 warnings were issued for game and fish and watercraft violations.

Watercraft use on Platte County reservoirs remained high despite sometimes low water levels due to drought conditions. Laramie regional personnel continued to emphasize boating safety and spent 1763 hours patrolling the waters in southeast Wyoming.

In FY06 a new game warden transferred into the Torrington district replacing the previous warden who was promoted to a regional supervisor position. The Medicine Bow warden district became vacant at the end of the year when the warden was promoted and transferred. A new wildlife technician, stationed in Saratoga, was hired to replace the Laramie wildlife technician who had transferred to the Wildlife Division office at the Cheyenne headquarters.

The Laramie region received seven damage claims in FY06 with approved payments of \$9,716. This was a reduction in both the number of claims and payment amounts from the previous fiscal year, although the amount of time spent addressing damage situations increased. Regional personnel spent 778 hours and drove 13,203 miles on damage prevention activities, and spent 153 hours and drove 2327 miles on damage claim evaluations and investigations. Most of the claims involved elk damage to standing crops again this year.

Laramie region game wardens continued to be involved in the Department 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 FY06 with several hunter management areas and numerous walk-in areas providing various hunting opportunities on hundreds of thousands of acres of private and public land for the 2006 hunting seasons.

### Problem Areas

Urban wildlife calls in the Cheyenne area, effects of the ongoing drought on wildlife habitat and populations, limited access to private land in the region and the resulting inability to manage big game populations toward objective, and continuing summer elk damage in the region were problem areas for the wardens in FY06.

### *Lander Region – Wardens*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Lander Region Game Warden Strategy (eight wardens) had 25 major work schedule elements (all completed) and 18 (17 completed) minor work schedule elements.

Major work schedule elements include: Public Contacts, Fishing Enforcement, General Enforcement, Creel Census, Watercraft Enforcement, Custody and Control Training, Firearms

Training, Antelope Classification Surveys, Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons, Sage grouse Hunting Seasons, Deer Hunting Seasons, Elk Hunting Seasons, Winter Range Enforcement, Deer Classification Surveys, Elk Classification Surveys, Landowner Coupon Administration, Elk Trend Count Surveys, Big Game Damage Handling, Big Game Season Recommendations and Regulations, Sage grouse Lek Surveys, In-service Training, Aerial Antelope Surveys, Antelope Hunting Seasons, Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program, Dubois Antler Auction.

Minor work schedule elements include: Clerical Duties, Grizzly Bear Damage Management, One-Shot Hunt Administration, Moose Hunting Seasons, Pheasant Hunting Seasons, Moose Classification Surveys, Bighorn Sheep Classification Surveys, Bear/Lion Harvest Registration, License Agency Administration, Performance Evaluations, Mourning Dove Coo Count, Antelope Archery Seasons, Furbearer Seasons, Sage grouse Brood Distribution Surveys, Upland Game Hunting Seasons, Black Bear Season Enforcement, and Bobcat Harvest Registration. The minor element not accomplished was: Bald Eagle Nest Survey.

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 286 hours and drove over 3350 miles in damage activities. There were three damage claims submitted by livestock operators for loss of seven calves and one foal (horse) to grizzly bear depredation. The three investigations recommended full payment and resulted in a payment of \$13,468.78 for the confirmed livestock losses. Prevention activities were successful in addressing damage concerns in all other situations and no claims were received. Assistance provided by trophy game conflict personnel greatly reduced game warden involvement with grizzly bear and black bear depredation prevention and handling activities.

Commissioned officers were kept busy with the enforcement of Department statutes and regulations. In FY06, officers initiated 404 cases involving 484 violations. These violations resulted in 219 citations and 241 warnings being issued. Coordinated enforcement efforts were put forth to enforce watercraft laws and regulations, patrol big game winter ranges, work decoy operations, patrol of Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) boundary as increased, work a joint wildlife check station with Department and WRIR officers, work scheduled hunting seasons, work fishing derbies, and other peak fishing periods on Boysen and Seminoe Reservoirs. During this period, 4192 man/hours and 52,349 vehicle miles, snow machine hours and watercraft hours were dedicated to law enforcement, investigations, and administration of the law enforcement program.

### Problem Areas

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

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

## *Casper Region – Wardens*

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Casper Region Game Warden Strategy (nine wardens) had 17 major work schedule elements (all completed) and ten (all completed) minor work schedule elements.

Major work schedule elements: Antelope Classifications, Deer Classifications, Elk Classifications, Hunter Harvest Field Checks, Antelope Line Transect Surveys, Turkey Winter Counts, Season Recommendations and NR Elk Quotas, Formulate Packet, Hunting and PLPW Enforcement, Fishing and PLPW Enforcement, Firearms Qualification and Custody Control Training, Landowner Coupons and Licenses, Damage, Watercraft Enforcement, Public/Landowner Contacts, Position Administration/ Performance Appraisal, and Habitat Monitoring.

Minor work schedule elements include: Sage grouse Lek Searches, Sharp-tail Grouse Lek Searches, Game Bird Brood Surveys, Performance Appraisals, Commercial Operators Licensing/Compliance/Administration, Trapping Enforcement, Bobcat Registration, Interstate Game Tag Administration, Creel Survey, and Information/Education Hunter Information Station.

The region's law enforcement program continues to be a priority for the seven game wardens and two wildlife technicians. During FY06, 7,527 hours and 118,306 miles were coded to enforcing wildlife, fish and watercraft laws resulting in 1009 enforcement actions (408 citations and 526 warnings being issued and 75 violations with no suspects being documented). As in past years, the Casper Region utilized law enforcement task forces to deal with large numbers of recreational boaters and walleye fishermen at Glendo Reservoir during the Memorial Day and July 4th holidays. The task forces utilize law enforcement personnel from within the Casper region as well as personnel from other regions. These task forces were a great success, and in FY06 111 violations were addressed and 1 wanted felon with nationwide extradition from Colorado was arrested. 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. This has resulted in an increased enforcement effort to enforce fishing and watercraft laws. Recreational floating/use on the North Platte River in and around Casper during the summer months continues to increase, resulting in many watercraft violations. Fall and winter hunting seasons continue to keep regional law enforcement personnel busy. As in past years, wardens and wildlife technicians handled lots of routine violations as well several excellent cases being discovered and successfully prosecuted resulting in equipment forfeiture, license privilege suspension and restitution payments.

Commercial Operator and wildlife related permitting applications continue to increase in the region, especially Chapter 10 bird dog training permits. In FY06, the region administered 119 Chapter 10 permits, 27 Chapter 33 permits, 4 fur dealers, 20 game bird farms, 11 falconers and 28 taxidermists and 7,500 interstate game tags.

Investigating and preventing big and trophy game animal damage on private lands and responding to injured or nuisance wildlife calls remains a major work requirement for Casper game wardens and wildlife technicians. Regional wardens and wildlife technicians spent 1,481 hours and drove 25,958 miles on damage and injured/nuisance wildlife related work. This is an increase of 149 hours and 5,131 miles from FY06. Twelve damage claims were filed for a total of \$10,657.75 being claimed with the Department paying \$8,952.80. For FY06, 4 more damage claims were submitted than in FY05, but the Department paid \$2000 less in FY06. The two

Casper game wardens, two wildlife technicians, and one wildlife biologist responded to 416 injured/nuisance wildlife calls in the area of the City of Casper. This is an increase of 69 calls from FY05.

In FY06, the Casper region was able to maintain its enforcement ranks at full strength even though there were several transfers from Casper to other regions. Glenrock game warden Jim Seeman transferred to the Buffalo Warden District, East Casper game warden Jason Sherwood transferred to the PLPW position in Laramie and wildlife technician Andrew Countryman was promoted to game warden trainee and was moved to the Jackson-Pinedale region. Each of the game warden transfers were filled by other game wardens transferring into the warden districts and a new wildlife technician was hired to replace the vacant wildlife technician position. The new technician had to attend and successfully complete the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy peace officer basic class in the fall of 2005 prior to being able to conduct any law enforcement duties. This resulted in one less person in the field during the fall hunting season.

Casper region wardens and biologist continue to work with landowners to gain access to private lands for hunting and fishing through the PLPW Hunter Management and Walk In Area programs. For FY05, the region had 5 Hunter Management Areas and 13 Walk-In Areas for fishing and 44 Walk-In Areas for hunting.

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 region.

#### Problem Areas

An increase in human population, development and urban sprawl within the region, especially in Natrona County, has increased the workload and demands from the public for Department services and associated expectations. Increased recreational use on regional waters and lands are at an all time high, with use expected to continue to increase. As this workload increases, other routine but important job duties are set aside.

Persistent and long-term drought and its negative effects on wildlife populations continue to be a problem for the Casper region. Lack of public access to private lands and landlocked public lands within some hunt areas remains to be big issue and concern for regional personnel. This lack of access results in many deer and antelope licenses going unsold resulting in loss of revenue for the Department and unable to meet management goals and objectives.

Injured and nuisance wildlife calls continues to be a high profile and high demand job duty for regional personnel, especially around Casper. Casper is expanding in size and population, resulting in higher wants and expectations from residents pertaining to injured and nuisance wildlife.

#### **Strategy: Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration**

##### Narrative and Output Measures

Regional wildlife administrators supervise the regional wildlife biologists, regional game wardens, regional office managers, and in Pinedale, the feedground strategy. These people meet periodically with the Division Administration to plan the direction of the Wildlife Division.

Regional administrators accomplished 100% (48 of 48) of their major tasks and 96% (46 of 48) of minor tasks in FY06.

#### Problem Areas

There are too few personnel in the regions to accomplish all of the work demanded by our various publics. This results in reaction to problems rather than planning and anticipation.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved by subunits supervised. Work plan analyses are prepared by the regional administrators and submitted to the Division Administration for review. Copies are kept in both the Cheyenne office and the regional offices.

#### *Jackson/Pinedale Region – Supervisor*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Jackson/Pinedale Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had nine major work schedule elements (all completed) and eight (7 completed) minor work schedule elements.

Major work schedule elements include: Administration, Feedground Administration, Budget Development, Planning, Regulation Development, Regulation Public Meetings, Agency Contacts, Public Contacts, and Environmental Protection.

Minor work schedule elements include: Fish Patrol, Law Enforcement Administration, Big Game Patrol, Mule Deer Winter Range Patrol, Big Game Population Survey, Damage Administration, Sage grouse Lek Survey, and In-service Training.

There are a diverse array of constituencies, agencies, and interest groups in the Jackson-Pinedale region. We continue to maintain frequent contact with Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, and Sublette and Teton County Commissions. We are able to network with these organizations to update and inform each other of myriad issues affecting wildlife conservation.

Region wildlife personnel have spent much time working on big game migration corridors, and were successful in organizing a collaborative group to modify fencing near Rock Creek in the upper Green River. Local and national media routinely contacts us, and we provide frequent tours of big game migration corridor bottlenecks and gas developments. We have provided comments to Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton County governments on private land development issues affecting big game migration, and work closely with the Green River Valley Land Trust to keep them informed of private land problems and opportunities to improve migration corridor protection. They were successful in negotiating an option to purchase a conservation easement protecting land important to the west Pinedale pronghorn antelope migration. Regional Wildlife

personnel successfully implemented recommendations from the Governor's Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team, including test and removal at the Muddy Creek Elk Feedground as part of the five-year pilot study, completed Brucellosis Management Action Plans for Pinedale and Fall Creek elk herds, and will soon complete BMAP for Afton and Upper Green River elk herds.

There are several new personnel filling positions created to deal with growing work demands. We have filled a new position with a biologist responsible for coordinating the Department's ideas for mitigating impacts from gas developments. A trophy game conflict resolution position was assigned to the region to assume extra workloads created by grizzly bear expansion. A mitigation biologist position was added with responsibilities in mitigating the effects of the Jonah gas field and works as part of a collaborative group called the Joint Interagency Office (JIO).

#### Problem Areas

The pace of industrial, commercial, and housing development outstrips our ability to plan, prioritize, or implement conservation. We would like to be more strategic, but have become largely reactive. Higher prices motivate aggressive gas marketing and intensify development interests. Low availability of housing and real estate inflates prices in the Jackson-Pinedale region, and hinders 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. We have been ineffective in dealing with constituencies promoting anti-elk feeding agendas, and our message to the public continues to be inconsistent concerning the program's necessity and lack of viable alternatives to feeding. Conflict resolution responsibility without concomitant authority in grizzly bear management continues to draw on regional resources, and problem solutions are not timely or efficient. We have outgrown the Pinedale Regional Office, lacking office space for assigned personnel and with crowded and cluttered workspaces that afford no privacy or confidentiality for workers.

#### *Cody Region – Supervisor*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Cody Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had nine major work schedule elements (all completed) and six (all completed) minor work schedule elements.

Major work schedule elements include: Appraisals/Administration/Subunit Review, Percentage of Subunit Major Work Elements Completed (97%, 1226 of 1269), Prepare and Monitor Budget, Annual Work Schedule, Game Warden Station and Cabin Inspection, General Enforcement and Hunter Field Checks, Big/Trophy/Upland Game Season Regulations and Packet, Public and Landowner Contacts, and Damage Administration.

Minor work schedule elements include: Percentage of Subunit Minor Work Elements Completed (94%, 215 of 229), Creel Census and Fisherman Checks, Interagency Coordination, CWD Surveillance and Program Leadership, Defensive Driving and Sexual Harassment Training, and Regional Coordination Team Participation.

Additional comments:

- 133 damage complaints responded to (down 35 [20.8%] from FY05 figure of 168)
- 48 WERs commented on (down 19 [28.4%] from FY05 figure of 67)
- 1,831 landowner contacts (up 198 [12.1%] from FY05 figure of 1,633)
- Big game field checks (including all check stations) by species: 706 elk, 1110 deer, 46 antelope, 90 bighorn sheep, 7 mountain goats

*Sheridan – Supervisor*

Narrative and Output Measures

The Sheridan region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had four major work schedule elements and all were completed. No minor work elements were scheduled.

Major work schedule elements include: Percentage of Subunit Major Work Elements Completed, Appraisals and Administration, Region Budget, and Annual Work Schedule.

During FY06, Joe Gilbert served his first year as the Sheridan Region Wildlife Supervisor, replacing long time employee Gary Shorma, who retired on 6/30/05. Lack of knowledge of job duties and regional issues and problems reduced the efficient handling of both on-going and emerging issues. Significant progress was made in learning the duties and role of a Regional Wildlife Supervisor however as well as becoming familiar with regional issues. Responsibilities included the oversight of the Wildlife Management Coordinator and three District Wildlife Biologists, seven District Game Wardens, one Wildlife Technician, and two Office Managers and a Clerical Specialist. Major work schedule elements for subordinates were all addressed in spite of changes in personnel, illnesses, injuries or other factors that impacted employees.

Aaron Kerr served his first year as the South Gillette Game Warden, replacing long time employee John Schneidmiller, who retired on 6/30/05. Aaron spent a good deal of his time becoming familiar with the geography, road systems, habitat and landowners in his new district. Aaron assisted with boating and fishing enforcement at Keyhole reservoir. Aaron moved from Gillette in late June 2006 to accept a lateral transfer to the East Casper warden district.

Former South Dakota Game Warden Troy Achterhof was hired as a Wildlife Technician to replace Brian Baker, who was promoted to the Evanston Game Warden position in July 2005. Troy has four and a half years experience was assigned to the Sheridan area. Troy ended up living in Story and could easily respond to wildlife calls in the Sheridan or Buffalo areas. This proved very beneficial after Buffalo Game Warden Rick Pallister retired in January 2006 and the Buffalo district remained vacant for 5 months.

Heather O'Brien was hired as a wildlife biologist in Gillette in July 2005. Heather spent most of her time learning her new district and responsibilities and attending training. Heather made good progress in becoming an effective employee and then tendered her resignation in May 2006 to take a new position in Utah. This position vacancy has resulted in additional duties for several employees in order to address major work elements.

## Problem Areas

Department, other agency, and public expectations for WGFD services continued at a high or increasing level in the Sheridan region. The cities of Gillette, Buffalo and Sheridan continue to grow at an alarming rate due to the energy boom. New residents place new demands on Department personnel for services and information. Losing a Game Warden Trainee position, having the Buffalo warden district vacant for 5 months and employee transfers and terminations contributed to a stressful work environment. Many times calls or complaints were received and no one was available to respond to them, especially when current employees were on leave, ill or taking days off. The Sheridan Wildlife Supervisor and Wildlife Management Coordinator were required to respond to some of these calls in the Sheridan area.

It is possible that the Department will begin to lose some of the “grassroots” support that has been enjoyed over the years as our level of service continues to erode due to personnel reductions. The relatively small force of dedicated employees handled wildlife damage, trophy game nuisance or safety concerns, injured or sick wildlife, hunter assistance, law enforcement, and information and education requests. Many employees plan an efficient work schedule and then are forced to abandon their plans and respond to low priority incidents that have enormous public relations liabilities attached to them.

With new employees in several locations throughout the region, a challenge will be providing training and experience to employees to properly prepare them to handle the variety of problems that continually occur in a predominantly private land region. Increased workloads reduce the amount of “down time” employees have with their families and friends are affecting job satisfaction in the region.

Keyhole reservoir and the surrounding state park continue to demand a lot of attention with high public use May through September. Holiday weekend crowds are on the verge of being out of control due to overcrowding and illegal drug and alcohol consumption. Keyhole state park only has four park rangers and Department personnel are constantly being asked to support their officers by providing back up in bad situations in the campgrounds around the reservoir. Admittedly, state park personnel assist our employees as well. The Moorcroft warden has the primary responsibility for this reservoir and receives much assistance from both Gillette wardens. The Sheridan Wildlife Technician will focus most of his attention to Keyhole reservoir June through August during 2006. A warden trainee is much needed in Gillette to assist at Keyhole and to help investigate the chronic wanton destruction cases in the Gillette area.

The Sheridan region experienced continued Coal Bed Methane development. Plans for several new power plants and a coal gasification plant are in the future for the Gillette and Buffalo areas. Wildlife habitats and hunting opportunities are being 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.

Changing and increased demands have limited the amount of time the Sheridan Region Supervisor can leave the office to work with and mentor outlying regional personnel. However, during FY06 efforts were successful in visiting each warden station and working in four of the seven warden districts during the fall hunting season.

## *Green River Region – Supervisor*

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Green River Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had six major work schedule elements (all completed) and 12 minor work schedule elements (11 completed).

Major work schedule elements include: Performance Appraisals, Big Game Season Setting, Small/Upland Game Season Setting, Trophy Game Season Setting, Public Relations, and Prepare Regional Budget.

Minor work schedule elements include: Fishing Enforcement, Damage, Regional Annual Report Summary, License Distribution Lists, Antelope Seasons, Deer Seasons, Elk Season, Waterfowl Seasons, Game Bird Seasons, Commercial Licenses & Chapter 10 Permits, and Interagency Coordination Meeting. The minor element not completed was the Interstate Coordination Meeting.

The Green River region Wildlife Supervisor spent the majority of his time on administrative and supervisory activities. During FY06, the two Wildlife Technician positions were fully functioning and the region also had a Warden Trainee.

The Green River Supervisor assisted with summer and fall field enforcement projects and responded to various public calls and regional assistance. Other completed normal responsibilities included budget development and oversight, regulation development, and coordination with other agencies and adjoining states.

A considerable amount of time was spent on a statewide assignment. Steve DeCecco continued as a commissioner on the Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC). He also was elected to serve as the PSCC Vice-Chair. Steve DeCecco also participated with Legislative Assistance during the 2006 session and on a Steering Committee for the Governor's Natural Resource Tour.

### Problem Areas

External challenges remain to be continued drought and habitat concerns and budget problems. Budget development was very challenging but our 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, workload and availability. Staffing and increased workload continued to pose challenges throughout FY06.

## *Laramie Region – Supervisor*

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Laramie Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had four major work schedule elements (all completed), 11 minor work schedule elements (all completed), and 2 region-specific assignments. In addition this person is responsible for the regional terrestrial wildlife biologist strategy which completed 14 of 14 major work schedule

elements/region specific elements or assignments, and all but one of 12 minor ones, and the regional game warden strategy which completed 13 of 13 major work schedule elements/region specific elements or assignments and all 3 minor ones.

Major work schedule elements include: Appraisals and Administration, Percentage of Subunit Major Work Elements Completed, Region Budget, and Annual Work Schedule.

Minor work schedule elements include: Annual Report and Work Schedule Summaries, Objective Review, Season Setting and Packet, Intra-agency Communication, Public Contacts, Big/Small/Trophy/Upland Game Seasons, Waterfowl Seasons, Fishing and Creel Enforcement, Commercial Licenses and Chapter 10 Permits, Damage and Landowner Coupons, and Watercraft Safety.

Laramie region-specific assignments include: Private Land Public Wildlife (PLPW) Coordination and Legislative Liaison and Assistance During Session.

The Laramie Regional Wildlife Supervisor spent the majority of his time on administrative and supervisory activities. Responsibilities included oversight of the wildlife management coordinator, two wildlife biologists, eight game wardens, one game warden trainee, two wildlife technicians and two office managers. Most major work schedule elements for subordinates were addressed. Other completed responsibilities included budget development and oversight, regulation development and legislative assistance.

Personnel changes resulted in one new game warden transferring into the region, a new wildlife technician hired in the region, and another warden transferring out of the region at the end of FY06.

#### Problem Areas

The Laramie regional wildlife supervisor continued to deal with issues of short staffing with only two wildlife biologists and short periods of vacant game warden and wildlife technician positions during the year due to transfers.

The supervisor administered conservative wildlife budgets in the region within Department guidelines to address Department-wide budget issues, and continued to address the challenges of increased staff and office space limitations in the Laramie office providing room for personnel from most divisions as well as some with statewide responsibilities.

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

#### *Lander Region – Supervisor*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Lander Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had ten major work schedule elements (all completed) and eight minor work schedule elements (all completed).

Major work schedule elements include: Subunit Review, Public Contacts, Wildlife Environmental Review, Firearms Training, Custody and Control Training, In-Service Training, Big Game Season

Recommendations and Regulations, Performance Appraisals, Region Budget Administration, and Dubois Antler Auction.

Minor work schedule elements include: Fishing Enforcement, Watercraft Enforcement, One-Shot Hunt Administration, Antelope Hunting Seasons, Deer Hunting Seasons, Elk Hunting Seasons, Bear/Lion Season Recommendations, and Big Game Season Recommendations/Packet.

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

Chronic wasting disease monitoring took place throughout the region with coordination of all sections and Divisions. After training in collection techniques, check stations, and field check schedules were established as the main sample collection points. No positive samples were collected from deer harvested in the region during FY06.

Over 70 persons attended meetings to discuss proposals for 2006 hunting seasons. Five “open house” meetings were held in communities around the region, with a formal public information-gathering meeting in Riverton. In addition to these scheduled public meetings, input from land management agencies, individual public contacts, and landowner contacts were all considered in final hunting season recommendations.

A permanent Wildlife Technician position was maintained in the region during FY06. 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.

### Problem Areas

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.

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

### *Casper Region – Supervisor*

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Casper Region Terrestrial Wildlife Administration Strategy (one supervisor) had six major work schedule elements (all completed) and three minor work schedule elements (all completed).

Major work schedule elements include: Appraisals and Administration, Prepare and Monitor Budget, Annual Work Schedule, Hunting Season Recommendations/ Regulations, and Fall Hunting Season Law Enforcement and Harvest Data.

Minor work schedule elements include: Firearms and Custody Control Qualifications/Training, Watercraft Law Enforcement, and Fishing Law Enforcement.

The majority of Casper Region Wildlife Supervisor Scott Edberg's time was on supervisory, administrative and budgetary work activities. However, he did assist with biological data collection and enforcement projects including the two Glendo Task Forces in July 2005 and May 2006 and fall hunting seasons. Additionally, the Casper Supervisor was involved in many special projects, assignments and committees. This included CWD, Duncan Ranch CRM, emergency lighting policy, elk trapping in Pinedale, legislative assistance, working on holiday's recommendation report, State Land Board law enforcement MOU, and coordinating a tour of Niobrara County for the Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners.

There were personnel changes within the Casper region during FY06. East Casper Game Warden, Jason Sherwood, transferred to Laramie and was replaced by South Gillette Game Warden, Aaron Kerr. Daniel Beach was hired as the second region wildlife technician to replace Andrew Countryman, who was promoted to game warden trainee and transferred to Jackson. Glenrock game warden, Jim Seeman, transferred to the Buffalo game warden position and was replaced by Lusk game warden, Gary Boyd. Casper wildlife biologist, Rebecca Schilowsky, transferred to Cheyenne and was replaced by Douglas wildlife biologist, Justin Binfet. Finally, Kelley Lesser was hired to replace Jill Poldervaart in one of the Administrative Specialist 2 position for the office. All of these personnel changes occurred in a smooth and easy fashion without interrupting the day-to-day required work.

In late summer/early fall of 2005, the Department began to fill the vacant offices in the west wing of the Casper Region Office. These offices were vacant due to the Department of Environmental Quality moving out in June 2005. Approximately half of the vacant offices became occupied in FY06 with plans to fill the remaining offices over the next few years. Filling these vacant offices with Department personnel has allowed those employees to operate in a more effective and efficient manner. This has increased the workload for office support staff as well as the budget required to operate the office. The Casper Region Office continues to be an excellent meeting location for many inter and intra-agency meetings and training sessions. Video conferencing was added during FY06 and has been a great asset for Department communication. The Casper Region Coordination Team continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss and address regional and office issues in a constructive manner.

The Casper region wildlife and office budgets continue to be conservative with development and expenditures within Department guidelines. Large-scale regional office and warden station repairs continue to be a big expense for region budgets. The region is progressing with the major repairs for the Newcastle and East Casper warden stations as outlined in the housing report, with work beginning in FY06, and completion in early FY07.

### Problem Areas

Regional wildlife and office budgets have been decreasing annually in order to meet the overall Department budget needs. Annually, requested budget items are cut or forwarded onto future budget years, resulting in building and facility repairs and equipment replacement on a less than optimal schedule. Region personnel have accepted this problem and work as effective and efficient as possible within the budget constraints.

Personnel changes within the region have been the norm for the past several years and to address that Wildlife Division administration has filled vacant positions within the Casper

Region. However, in late FY06 it was decided to fill the Douglas wildlife biologist position. While this position is being used in another region to meet workloads and demands, the work accomplished by the Douglas biologist will have to be shifted to other employees or not accomplished. This could result in less public/landowner support and less collection of data to base management decisions on.

## **Strategy: Biological Services**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Biological Services completed 95% (21 of 22) major work elements and 100% (16 of 16) minor work elements. The major elements include: Big game, small and upland game, turkey and archery harvest surveys; Job Completion Report (JCR) reviews; administration of the Wildlife Observation System (WOS); hunting season proposal review; production and distribution of various publications for the division, including the annual harvest reports, and JCRs; represent the Department on the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Sage grouse Technical Committee and Framework Team; assist in development of the WAFWA Sage grouse conservation strategy; preparation of the Commission season setting information notebook; represent the Department on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee; wildlife conflict resolution and wildlife rescue; public assistance/information; coordination of annual CITES bobcat tagging and preparation of the annual CITES bobcat report; technical assistance to Wildlife Division and Department Administration; revision of the Handbook of Biological Techniques; data entry for harvest surveys and management databases; fiscal administration and planning; compile black bear and mountain lion harvest data and maintain hunt area quota hotlines; regulation review; supervision and administration.

FY06 was the first year of the renewed contract for the big game harvest surveys. This was the seventh year (third contract) that the same outside contractor conducted the big game harvest surveys for us. Biological Service and the harvest survey contractor continue to improve upon the big game surveys each year. The small and upland game harvest surveys were conducted 'in house' for the fourth year in FY06 after approximately 3 decades of having them conducted by an outside contractor. Biological Services continually improves upon the survey instrument, data processing and results analysis each year. In FY06, we contracted with the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center to review the survey instrument, survey sampling and data analysis to obtain an 'expert' opinion on these survey components. A major Wildlife Observation System (WOS) software revision was completed in FY06. We have been working with the agency's IT section to make the improvements. These improvements include developing a software routine that allows direct transfer of electronic observation data into the system and to add a 4-township area around the state boundary so observations in areas adjacent to Wyoming can be included in WOS. The revision also included revising the data input screen, revising the conversion routine for locational descriptors and preparing documentation for the system. In FY06, the Cheyenne Staff Biologist continued to edit contributed chapters for the division's Handbook of Biological Techniques. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist has had to do major editing on chapters and was diverted frequently to other tasks, so progress has been slow. Those unplanned tasks are discussed in the section entitled, "Significant Unplanned Work Elements." The Cheyenne Staff Biologist should complete revision of the Handbook of Biological Techniques by the end of

calendar year 2006. The Alpine Staff Biologist represented the Department on interstate sage grouse groups, participated in completing several state and interstate sage-grouse conservation planning documents, led the efforts of the Jackson sage grouse local working group, and assisted with information programs related to sage grouse conservation efforts. 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 agency's IT section and field users in revising WOS and resolving a myriad of issues with the system. The section conducted the sixth annual in-depth review of Job Completion Reports (JCRs) in FY06.

Minor elements include: Maintain herd unit files; scan University of Wyoming Ms and PhD theses so they are more accessible to Department personnel; assist regions with wildlife surveys, hunting check stations and chronic wasting disease surveillance; order and distribute supplies for tooth sampling in some big game herds; format and print documents; interagency coordination; fulfill WOS system report requests; policy and other analyses; document review and comment; Wyoming Bird Record Committee; Wyoming Natural Diversity Database Advisory Board; interagency coordination and outreach; intra-agency committees (Mule Deer Working Group, Pronghorn Working Group); development of databases and data transfers; maintain bird banding records and administration of agency's banding permit; and assist other work units.

Significant unplanned work elements include:

- The supervisor also responded to spur-of-the moment assignments and requests from the division and Department administrations for assistance. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist was assigned to lead a series of reviews and edits of the programmatic mitigation recommendations for oil and gas development on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that was developed in 2004. That task will continue into the early part of FY07. He was also requested to review and comment on several major environmental documents as well as to do other policy, regulation and document reviews. The Cheyenne Staff Biologist was tasked late in the last fiscal year with writing a petition to remove the Rocky Mountain population of the gray wolf from protection under the Endangered Species Act, and work related to that petition continued into FY06.
- The Alpine Staff Biologist increased the agency's involvement in Joint Venture projects in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming and continued developing project proposals for migratory game bird habitat improvement projects. The Alpine Staff Biologist has been the state's representative in the WAFWA interstate sage grouse conservation, and assisting with the development of interstate conservation documents, including the range-wide conservation strategy has required considerable unanticipated time. The Alpine Staff Biologist assisted the new sage grouse program biologist with inter- and intrastate coordination. The Alpine Staff Biologist assisted with JCR review and other assignments given to the section.
- The Harvest Survey Coordinator 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 devoted considerable time in satisfying the harvest survey related needs of field personnel. She also had numerous

information and assistance requests and considerable coordination with the agency's IT staff that were not planned.

- The section's Administrative Clerical Specialist, biologist and wildlife damage technician all had a variety of unplanned assignments during the year. Some of these came from within the Section while others were either generated from elsewhere within the agency or in response to requests for assistance from our constituents. Personnel changed in the section wildlife biologist position late in FY06. This was the third personnel change in as many years. 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, made more improvements to the CITES bobcat tagging process, fulfilled a number of information requests, and performed a variety of other tasks that improved section and division performance, as well as completing routine tasks. The section wildlife biologist and damage technician helped scan UW 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, assisting with pronghorn fawn capture for Mexico, and assisting with surveys.

#### Problem Areas

Problems that arose during FY06 centered mainly around unanticipated assignments that diverted efforts from scheduled work.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Complete the Handbook of Biological Techniques; participate in finalization of the state grassland species conservation plan; develop a state wetland strategic plan, continue participation in efforts to petition the gray wolf for delisting as requested; complete review and revision of the mitigation recommendations for oil and gas development on BLM lands.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Analyses of work plans are prepared and sent to the Wildlife Division Administration. Copies are available in the Cheyenne office.

#### **Strategy: Terrestrial Nongame**

##### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy is responsible for monitoring, management and dissemination of information on over 300 species of birds and 100 species of mammals. The strategy accomplished 100 % of the major and minor work plan elements (18 of 18 major and 5 of 5 minor elements). However, one of the minor elements, environmental commenting, could receive additional attention if we reduce or eliminate efforts toward other elements. Additional elements (3 major and 4 minor

elements) relative to sage grouse data collection, management, and planning were added in FY04.

Major work plan elements include: Strategy administration and planning; monitoring population trends of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, common loons, colonial nesting water birds; coordination of Partners in Flight and Wyoming Bird Records committee; black-footed ferret monitoring; inventory of bats and habitats associated with caves and mines; black-tailed prairie dog surveys; swift fox surveys; raptor surveys in eastern Wyoming; completion of State's Wildlife Grants Projects; reports and dissemination of information. Initiating grassland ecosystem monitoring, the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) were added as major elements.

Major elements related to sage grouse include: continuing to oversee and administer local sage grouse conservation planning efforts; secure additional funding for sage grouse planning efforts and project implementation; publish a landowner's guide to understanding and enhancing sage grouse habitat; continue development of GIS mapping products for sage grouse management; and plan and administrate a statewide sage grouse local working group forum cooperatively with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Minor elements include: surveys of other species of special concern, breeding bird surveys (BBS) and riparian bird transects, monitoring avian productivity and survivorship (MAPS) surveys, maintaining the Wyoming Bird and Mammal Atlas, and providing environmental comments. Sage grouse minor plan elements include: coordinate the state's sage grouse data collection and reporting responsibilities, initiate and keep current a sage grouse page on the Department website and continue to monitor West Nile Virus impacts to sage grouse.

Numerous projects were conducted to fulfill the nongame mission to manage and conserve Wyoming's nongame wildlife, especially rare and sensitive species. In recent years, we initiated several new projects with one-time appropriations from Congress under the State Wildlife Grants Program funding (SWG). This funding allowed us to complete surveys of high mountain streams in wilderness areas of northwestern Wyoming for Harlequin Ducks. SWG and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funding also allowed us to compare several different techniques for monitoring black-tailed prairie dogs and initiate the most cost effective technique. The inventory uses aerial infrared photography to locate and map over 230,000 acres of prairie dog colonies and aerial surveys to classify the colonies as healthy or impacted by sylvatic plague or control efforts. We also initiated a mapping effort of white-tailed prairie dogs in western Wyoming and attempted to locate complexes where black-footed ferret surveys might be warranted. We initiated projects to design and prioritize Trumpeter Swan habitat improvement projects, develop a bat conservation plan, and a grassland ecosystem plan.

Nongame personnel conduct intensive monitoring annually on nesting Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Data accumulated on these species have been used to develop effective management strategies. 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 80 nesting pairs in 2006.

The Nongame Section annually monitors nesting success of Common Loons and colonial nesting waterbirds, and it 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 valuable as we continue to evaluate the potential impacts of new threats, such as West Nile virus.

Nongame personnel continually provide landowners and land management agencies with information for evaluations of wetland development, forest and recreational planning, oil and gas development, or flood control projects through the Department's environmental commenting process. The 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 ninth 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 was suspended from 1994 - 2004, monitoring of the Shirley Basin reintroduction area has consumed a large portion of available resources for the Nongame Section. In August 2005, we documented the continuing persistence of a significant population of black-footed ferrets that consisted of at least 147 ferrets, which included 33 litters. Reintroduction efforts were reinitiated in 2005 with 140 ferrets released in new locations approximately 15 - 20 miles north and south of the core population.

Adequate coordination of management programs and information transfer can increase effectiveness of wildlife programs. Nongame personnel continue to participate in numerous committees or working groups, including chairing Wyoming Partners In Flight, the Wyoming Bat Working Group, 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. Personnel also chair and compile records for the Wyoming Bird Records Committee, which reviews bird records for inclusion in the statewide database. Numerous reports, technical publications, and popular articles were completed this year. Completion of the Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan and Best Management Practices for several habitat types was of primary importance for the nongame bird biologist. Nongame Section personnel 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 they operated multiple booths at the annual Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo in Casper. Recently we completed an

update of the Avian and Mammal Atlas and provided a significant portion of the Species Strategies for the CWCS effort. Nongame personnel also continue to assist in the planning, development, and fieldwork of various research projects.

The Sage Grouse Coordinator was primarily occupied with providing administrative support for the eight local working groups (LWG) during FY06. Local Conservation Plans should be completed for all eight LWG areas during FY07. Twenty projects totaling \$425,000 were approved by the local working groups and implemented by the project proponents. The funding for these projects came from the governor's supplemental budget request that was approved by the 2005 State Legislature. With the support of the Governor's Office and Departmental Administration, another budget appropriation of \$1.1 million was secured from the 2006 Wyoming State Legislature. This funding is again to be distributed to worthy projects across the state in FY07-08 as well as supporting LWG meetings and activities.

A Statewide Local Sage Grouse Working Group Forum was held in August 2005. This event provided LWG members with new information via guest speakers, panel discussions and networking. Governor Freudenthal provided a keynote address.

The GIS technician continues 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 is maintained on the Department website. Each local working group 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.

#### Problem Areas

We continue to plan and focus on a limited number of elements that can reasonably be completed with existing personnel. Funding will never be sufficient to address all species or management concerns, and the strategy consistently faces a large discrepancy between work that *needs* to be accomplished and work that *can* be accomplished. The increase in number of species proposed for listing and the need to work on many of these before listing has greatly increased workloads without adequate funding and personnel. New federal appropriations, such as State Wildlife Grants (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 completed the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy planning effort. The workload associated with local sage grouse conservation planning and delays in receiving required information has precluded completion of the landowner guide to sage grouse habitat management.

#### Strategic Plan changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Analyses of work plans are prepared and submitted to the Supervisor of Biological Services, then to the Division Administration. Copies are available in the Cheyenne office. Job completion reports are annually completed and also available in the Cheyenne office.

### **Strategy: Trophy Game**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

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

All of the major outputs assigned to the Section were achieved. Major annual work plan elements included the following projects:

- Management/Research Grizzly Bear Trapping – Thirteen grizzly bears and 5 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 on the Shoshone and Bridger Teton National Forests.
- Data Management (Grizzly Bear Telemetry Flights) – The section is responsible for monitoring all radio-collared grizzly bears in the southern half of the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The WGFD conducted 65 telemetry flights that assisted in monitoring 66 different individual bears from July 05 through June 06.
- Grizzly Bear Observation Flights – Trophy Game coordinated 30 observation flights for the WGFD. The Section actually conducts the surveys in 8 of the 14 Survey Units. All of the assigned BMUs were covered during July and August 2004.
- Environmental Comments – The section responded to all required EAs/EISs for the fiscal year.
- Information and Education – Objectives were met. We assisted state and regional personnel in conducting appropriate educational programs. We assisted, as needed, in developing and revising presentations related to living with mountain lion workshops that were initiated by the Department. The Section also assisted with the statewide EXPO held in Casper every September.
- Mountain Lion/Black Bear Harvest – The section maintains statewide databases to manage all of the harvest information for these two species. Also coordinate collection and analysis of all tooth, tissue and hair samples obtained from harvested animals. Prepared annual harvest summaries for both species and distributed to Wildlife Administration and regions for use in setting harvest quotas for both species.
- Aggressive Wildlife/Human Interactions – The Section maintains a statewide database to quantify the number and type of encounters that occur throughout the state. Regions provide

the Section with updates on a monthly basis. This database was updated this fiscal year so that regional personnel could download data directly into the database on the Department's web site.

- Black Bear Bait Site Database – The Section developed and maintains a statewide database to monitor the use of baits in harvesting black bears.
- Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team – The Section's Coordinator is the Department's representative on this management/research study team. This team develops data collection priorities for the entire ecosystem. It also assists in all research efforts, regardless of who is conducting the research. We also participate in preparation an annual report that summarizes all of the data collected for the Yellowstone Population. The Section is responsible for writing specific chapters for this annual report. Additionally, we participated in developing new mortality thresholds for this population of grizzly bears. The information was published in a peer reviewed document by the Wildlife Society.
- Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (Grizzly Bear) – Section coordinator serves as WGFD representative on technical committee for this population of grizzly bears. Also serves as technical advisor on the YES and IGBC Subcommittees. Coordinated all activities related to management of research activities.
- Section 6 Coordination – Prepared annual Section 6 Justification and Summary for 2004. In addition, a five-year summary for future budget justifications was completed. Coordinated updating of permits from USFWS and YNP to conduct nuisance and research activities. The Section also sought and received additional funding from the USFWS related to implementing the Conservation Strategy for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population.
- 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.
- Mountain Lion Management Plan – The Section prepared a draft management plan for cougars. The final plan will be completed in FY 07.
- Research: Black Bear Fecundity - We visited several female black bear dens last winter to assess reproductive status as part of an ongoing study to increase the amount of this data to assist in developing reproductive parameters that may be used to assist in future management. Work is being conducted north of Jackson. Two females were sampled this year.
- We are also responsible for maintaining specific databases that monitor moth feed sites, telemetry relocations, hunter numbers and distribution, and active frequencies for collaring grizzly bears.

During FY06, the Management/Research Branch of the Trophy Game Section continued its participation in preparing several chapters for the 2005 Annual Report for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population. The Section continues to cooperate with the USFWS and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team in data collection and analysis. Several new manuscripts that were co-authored by section personnel will be printed in upcoming editions of The Journal of Wildlife Management.

The Section prepared annual harvest reports for black bears and mountain lions, as well as recommendations for female black bear and mountain lion harvest quotas. The Section also

maintains the statewide database that documents interaction for aggressive interactions between wildlife and humans.

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.

#### Problem Areas

The current two 6-month At-Will Employment Contract (AWEC) positions created to address data collection responsibilities are not adequate. It is recommended that two additional 6-month positions be added to the section to address the needs associated with an expanding grizzly bear population.

#### Strategic Plan changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Annual work plans are submitted to the Supervisor of Biological Services, then the Division Administration. Copies are available in the Cheyenne office.

### **Strategy: Trophy Game Conflict Resolution**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Section (3 biologists, 1 supervisor) investigates and manages conflicts between grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions, and humans. Other work plan elements are established through coordinated management activities with federal and state agencies (e.g. USDA-Wildlife Services, USFWS, USFS, BLM) related to the three species. However, many of the Section's assignments are very unpredictable which can affect final outcomes for any annual cycle. The Section continually has to adjust to handle requests from the various Divisions within the Department, federal agencies, other state wildlife agencies and the general public. During FY06, 93 % (14 Of 15) of annual work plan elements were achieved. One (7%) work plan element was not accomplished as no request for assistance with research trapping was received by personnel from Trophy Game Research Section.

The Section personnel spent approximately 10,034 hours managing trophy game damage, working on community scale bear conflict prevention, and associated tasks in the Jackson, Cody and Lander regions. The Section investigated and/or managed 110 conflicts or encounters between humans and grizzly bears. The Section captured and relocated, or removed 21 grizzly bears for management purposes. Personnel investigated 6 human caused grizzly bear mortalities. The Section investigated and/or managed approximately 17 conflicts or encounters between humans and black bears. The Section captured and relocated, or removed 13 black bears for

management purposes. Personnel captured and relocated one mountain lion from a residential area near Powell.

The Section's personnel presented numerous information and education programs about bear biology and conflict prevention to the public, journalists, hunter safety students, WY Outfitters and Guides Association, Department personnel, and other organizations. Personnel made numerous informal informational and educational contacts with the public to inform them about bear and lion biology, and conflict prevention.

Personnel helped with bear-resistant product testing at the Yellowstone Grizzly Discovery Center. Helped construct an electrified domestic sheep night pen in the Upper Green River area to help prevent losses to predators. Provided a Spanish/English predator-livestock depredation information card to Spanish-speaking herders in NW Wyoming. Assisted Department and USFWS law enforcement personnel with black and grizzly bear human caused mortalities and conducted bear caused human injury investigations. Obtained updated "Living in Bear Country" videos for Department regional offices and all public libraries in NW Wyoming. Worked with Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee members on developing protocols for testing and certifying bear-resistant food and garbage storage containers. Worked on providing bear-resistant food storage containers for the campgrounds on the Spence-Moriarity and Inberg-Roy Wildlife Habitat Management Areas. Provided educational materials for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Provided bear biological samples for DNA and disease testing at the Department Laboratory. Helped plan for Spring 2007 Large Predator Workshop in Cody. Participated in Department Grizzly Bear Working Group activities. Provided comments on the Draft Federal Grizzly Bear Delisting Rule. Provided report on grizzly bear relocations to the Wyoming State Legislature. Conducted several "Living in Bear, Lion and Wolf Country" workshops throughout the State. Provided comments to State Legislature regarding feeding of wildlife. Provided "Living With Predators" resource guides to libraries and Department offices. Helped with instruction to Bureau of Indian Affairs hunter-safety instructor training. Developed two Public Service Announcement narrated by Governor Freudenthal and Sen. Alan Simpson (ret.). Commented on various natural resource management plans and development proposals in Teton and Park Counties, especially Copperleaf subdivision, Snake River Associates and Grand Targhee Resort, and provided comments publicly to county commissions. Worked with Teton County Planning & Development to design guidelines for conflict priority zones in county. Worked with Teton County Pathways to indoctrinate seasonal signage program for specific areas where potential for human/bear conflicts exists. Trained Bridger-Teton National Forest seasonal employees on bear safety. Developed conflict prevention posters for distribution throughout Teton County. Worked with Jackson Hole Magazine to design a full-page ad devoted to "making your property bear resistant." Wrote opinion editorials for Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation Newsletter and Jackson Hole News & Guide on preventing conflicts. Gave numerous presentations to homeowners associations, clubs and organizations throughout Teton County on preventing conflicts. Coordinated with Grand Teton National Park to provide the Department with weekly movement data updates on all collared bears moving out of the park into residential areas of Teton County. Updated Wyoming Bear Wise Community Plan to be consistent with Final Conservation Strategy and Grizzly Bear Management Plan. Completed analysis on grizzly bear conflicts with hunters for Cody region wardens. Submitted seven Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) grant requests for damage management projects in FY07. Worked the Cody sportsman show information booth.

Held several meetings with livestock producers to discuss bear damage management.

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 and the Forest Service in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of portable electric fence designs to deter bears. Assisted regions with black bear harvest registrations and baiting compliance. Investigated several reports of mountain lion conflicts and/or damage. Retrieved dropped radio collars from the field. Received funding for two ADMB projects implemented in FY06. 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. Maintained all of the Section’s equipment in good working condition.

The Section began implementation of Wapiti Bear Wise Community pilot program to reduce the number of human/bear conflicts in the North Fork area. Gave numerous presentations to Park County residents, local interest groups, and local, state, and federal government agencies to raise awareness and gain support for the program. Formed Wapiti community working group, the North Fork Bear Wise Group, to assist in decision-making and implementation of Bear Wise Community Program. Distributed numerous informational materials to Wapiti and Cody businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and the Welcome Wagon. Sent out informational mailings about living in bear country to North and South Fork area residents. Worked with Center for Wildlife Information on human/bear conflict publications and creation of Bear Aware magnets. Participated in writing informational articles for local newspapers and in interviews for local television, radio, and newspaper. Conducted “Bear Safety Day” for Wapiti school children and parents at the request of the school. Put together bear information kiosk in Buffalo Bill State Park. Worked with local sanitation companies and Park County sanitation to address sanitation issues and test bear resistant garbage container prototypes. Presented Park County Planning and Zoning Commission with recommendations for human/bear conflict prevention for consideration during land-use planning and map with recommended areas of consideration, at their request. Secured funding for implementation of Wapiti program. Posted Bear Aware signing at Public Fishing Access Areas in the North and South Forks. Posted Bear Aware signing on private land areas in Wapiti with the consent of landowners.

No requests were made to assist with research trapping efforts. No minor work plan elements were in the work schedule.

#### Problem Areas

This Section still suffers from high work demands during the field months in the Jackson area (March-November) because of insufficient staffing. One additional FTE in Jackson is needed to handle the workload. Inability to manage bear numbers and distribution because of the species protected status under the ESA has contributed to the Section’s workload and at times reduces efficiency.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Annual work plans are submitted to the Wildlife Division Administration. Copies are available in the Cheyenne office.

### **Strategy: Waterfowl**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Central Waterfowl Biologist is responsible for coordinating the collection of waterfowl and sandhill crane data, analyzing that data, preparing recommendations for the waterfowl hunting season, and representing the Department at the Central Flyway Technical Committee meetings. Work is much more predictable than in some other sections. The section completed 75% (8 of 11) of major work plan elements and 100% (10 of 10) minor work plan elements.

Duties for the Pacific Flyway are divided between the Central Waterfowl Biologist, Jackson Nongame Biologist and the Alpine Staff biologist. 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.

Major annual work plan elements include: migratory bird surveys, early crane and goose harvest survey, light goose conservation order survey, migratory bird hunting regulations, Central Flyway *and Pacific Flyway Technical* Committee meetings, Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt, Bump-Sullivan check station, dissemination of information, annual completion reports, management of goose nesting structures, and development of habitat enhancement projects.

The 2005 annual completion report was not achieved; however, this will be submitted in 2006. Work must be prioritized, and some work simply does not get done. Clerical support continues to be an issue. The Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt and check station were not achieved because the hunt was cancelled due dry conditions at Bump-Sullivan Reservoir.

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

Banding of migratory game birds remains a priority. Five hundred and seventy-five Canada geese were banded this year. No ducks, cranes, or doves were banded during FY06. The Waterfowl Section/Department is providing financial support to the Central Flyway preseason duck banding effort. That crew banded ducks in North Dakota during FY06.

Maintenance and evaluation of over 1,000 goose nesting structures throughout Wyoming is also a priority. In response to reductions in personnel and funding, and considering the breeding population of Canada geese in Wyoming has increased 32% over the past 20 years, the Department is evaluating the need and ability to annually replace bedding and maintain the structures. Less effective structures are being eliminated where possible.

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Waterfowl Section participated in annual surveys to estimate waterfowl populations and provide information necessary for setting

waterfowl seasons. Included were September crane, mid-winter waterfowl, and Canada goose breeding surveys.

The Waterfowl Section remains strongly involved in Central and Pacific Flyway waterfowl management efforts, development and revision of management plans for the various migratory game bird populations, and in annual season setting. These processes require participation on the Flyway Technical Committees at the December/January, March and July Flyway meetings.

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

The Bump-Sullivan managed goose hunt, initiated in 1993 to alleviate competition among hunting parties, was not operational this year. The hunt includes daily drawings for 12 reservoir blinds at Bump-Sullivan Reservoir as well as 4 pass-shooting blinds available first-come-first-served on the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The public continues to be very supportive of the hunt. In FY06, Bump-Sullivan Reservoir was dry and the hunt was cancelled.

In FY06, Wyoming continued the light goose conservation order under the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act in the Central Flyway portion of the state.

The Section was involved in the Intermountain West and Northern Great Plains Joint Ventures.

The Section did make some good headway with the breeding duck density project. Database and spreadsheet capabilities were used to rank breeding duck densities from the Wyoming breeding duck survey. The preliminary results were presented in GIS format.

#### Problem Areas

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

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Analysis of the work plan is submitted to the Supervisor of Biological Services, then to the Division Administration. Copies are available in the Cheyenne office.

### **Strategy: Predator Management**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy simply allocates the money we are required to provide for predator management. The Department gives \$100,000 to the Animal Damage Management Board for allocation to predator management projects.

## Problem Areas

This is a very controversial strategy, mandated by the legislature in spirit but not in funding.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Monies (\$100,000) provided to the Animal Damage Management Board for specific projects. Records of grants given to researchers, predator control entities, and the Department of Agriculture document this.

## **OBJECTIVE: AQUATIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

During FY06, Aquatic Wildlife Management work focused on providing diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities while working to conserve and enhance all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations. A primary management and communication tool is the Basin Management Plans. Basins were evaluated and redefined as necessary this year to provide a more consistent approach to the definition of basins. We started with 177 basins across the state and ended with 111. A new basin plan format was developed and revised plans will be completed over the next 3 years. These plans provide the basis for resource management. We anticipate that these new plans will better link our operations within the Division and more clearly communicate our management goals and objectives. 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 a status assessment for Yellowstone 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.

### Outcome Measures

Percentage of anglers satisfied with the overall fishing experience: Every indication from creel surveys, angler groups, and reports received indicates that the angler satisfaction level (84%) reported for FY99 continues. Fishing in the Rocky Mountain region remains of high

interest compared to the rest of the nation. Nearly 31% of Wyoming residents fish, more than any other state. Because of cost (\$35,000 to \$40,000), another formal survey may not happen again for a few more years. It is very important to know that Wyoming anglers believe that fishing is important to the state and that they are pleased with agency efforts to provide fishing opportunities and protect aquatic resources.

Number of angler days per year. A formal fishing pressure survey has not been completed for several years, mostly because of cost of the surveys. Previous national surveys of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation shows that fishing in the Rocky Mountain region continues to increase more than any other region in the USA. Personnel suspect angling recreation days in FY06 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). The trend is likely stable.

### Problem Areas

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.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. A reduced reporting obligation, more focus on fewer reporting measures, and greater meaningfulness is anticipated.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Percentage of anglers satisfied with the overall fishing experience. Information quoted is from the most recent survey of angler attitudes completed by the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Information from planned sport creel surveys facilitates comparison of the FY99 benchmark information with current trends in angling. Both sources of information can be obtained from the Fish Division Administration in Cheyenne.

Regarding the number of angler days per year, this information was derived from the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, And Wildlife-Associated Recreation; Wyoming*. Specifically, the number of angler days was derived from the table, "Activities in Wyoming by U.S. Residents" on page 5. This report can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Regional Aquatic Wildlife Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Regional fisheries managers reviewed 579 fisheries related project proposals. There were 237 fishery surveys of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 342 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.

#### Problem Areas

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.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

The output measures for the strategy are: (1) management plans developed or revised and (2) number of waters or fish populations surveyed. Annual Work Schedules include information on the measures; monthly reports (compiled from Daily Activity Reports, DARs) show numbers of surveys done, and so on for each output measure. This information is reported by each employee and summarized by crew according to fisheries regions. Basin management plans for each fisheries region are on file in the Fish Division Office, Cheyenne. Information about number of waters surveyed was compiled from DARs and summarized for the reporting period. Summarized data are on file in Fish Division Office, Cheyenne. Each regional fisheries management crew provides monthly highlights, which are helpful in preparing the annual fiscal year report. These data are filed in Fish Division's Cheyenne Office.

### **Strategy: Water Management**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The crew completed 77 % of scheduled annual work plan items. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the Department. Water management team activities involved several meetings to coordinate decisions on Commission water rights. Water rights for fish propagation at Como Bluff Hatchery were successfully changed to an instream flow use. This year 6 articles were written on instream flow and water management for publication in the Wyoming Wildlife News. Instream flow water right applications were submitted for 3 segments including Rock Creek, which was the 100<sup>th</sup> instream

flow filing since 1986. Instream flow studies were initiated for 2 instream flow segments in the Wind River drainage.

#### Problem Areas

Continued effort to provide information to the public about instream flow needs 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.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

The output measures for the strategy are: (1) percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, (2) number of stream flow and habitat studies conducted, and (3) number of instream flow water rights filed. The annual progress report on the work schedule contains a summary of major crew activities. Daily activity reports provide a general accounting of activities and projects for each employee. Records of instream flow filings and related details are stored in a database that is maintained in the Fish Division office, Cheyenne. A comparable but separate database is maintained by the State Engineer's Office. Detailed information from major habitat studies and individual instream flow studies are provided in administrative reports.

### **Strategy: Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Management**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Management people (two crews) completed most of the annual work planned. These crews were reorganized this year and combined into a single Aquatic Assessment Crew. The Herpetological Coordinator also works on this crew. They surveyed amphibians and reptiles in the Upper Green River and Powder River basins. Most surveys will be or have been documented in annual or completion reports or submitted to professional fisheries journals for publication. Studies on the Powder River and Green River continued, focusing primarily on native fishes. Statewide fisheries people provided 112 surveys/analyses of fisheries, including design and analysis of creel surveys, ways to estimate numbers of fish in streams or lakes, expert advice on using electricity to capture fish or sonar to estimate fish abundance in lakes or reservoirs. State Wildlife Grant funded projects overseen by this crew accomplished a significant amount of work that will contribute to future aquatic resource management.

#### Problem Areas

Demand for the services of the statewide aquatic wildlife management crews exceeds ability to fill the requests in one work season. Projects are prioritized so that the most important ones to

the statewide fish resource are completed first. Promotions and reorganization created two vacancies on this crew of five. The reorganized crew has spent the last year learning their jobs and have become more efficient.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The output measures for the strategy are: (1) number of surveys, studies, or analyses by type achieved and (2) number of waters or fish populations surveyed. Annual Work Schedules include information on the measures. Monthly reports (compiled from Daily Activity Reports) include record of each output measure. This information is reported by employees and summarized by fisheries region.

## **Strategy: Boating Access**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Boating Access funds in FY06 Boating Access funds were largely devoted to an array of renovations to aging or inadequate developments. Boat ramps were widened and lengthened at two Keyhole Reservoir sites. Similarly the west ramp at Grayrocks was extended and riprap added to repair a problem with undercutting; in addition construction of a modern comfort station was completed. A complete renovation of the Twin Buttes Reservoir site included work to resurface the existing boat ramp, replace the stinky comfort station and gussy-up the parking area. Glendo Reservoir was fourth reservoir that saw boat ramp extensions completed. The Whiskey Gulch site was extended to make it serviceable at all operating elevations. Long awaited repairs to several facilities at Fremont Lake near Pinedale were completed in FY06. The "Lower Ramp" boat ramp, parking area and comfort station were modernized to bring them into ADA compliance. Also a breakwater at the Upper Campground on Fremont Lake was repaired. Inlet and outlet structures were repaired at Meeboer Lake, Twin Buttes Reservoir and Saratoga Lake respectively. At the Coulter Bay Marina on Jackson Lake, a floating dock extension was completed via a grant to the Park Service.

All told, a little over \$600,000 was devoted to engineering, renovation and new construction. Another \$100,000 was used for upkeep and repair of existing facilities.

### Problem Areas

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.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. In FY07, additional funding for boating access will be available through reformulation of the Sport Fish Restoration program.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Information on the number of facilities improved by type can be located in the *Grant Agreement Financial Status Report* with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver. A copy is located in the Fiscal Division, General Accounting Office in the Cheyenne Headquarters. Information on the number of new facilities constructed by type can be located in the *Grant Agreement Financial Status Report* with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver. A copy is located in the Fiscal Division, General Accounting Office in the Cheyenne Headquarters.

### **Strategy: Fish Wyoming**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

This popular program was not funded in FY06.

#### Problem Areas

Budget constraint precluded our ability to fund this program. We hope to reinstate Fish Wyoming funding in the future.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

While currently mothballed, hopefully the program will be resurrected in FY06.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Records on the number of grants awarded are kept in the Fish Division office in Cheyenne.

### **OBJECTIVE: FISH CULTURE**

#### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

With the exception of the whirling disease parasite presence in the main water supply at the Story Hatchery, all Wyoming state fish hatcheries maintained specific disease free status while producing the numbers, pounds, sizes and species of salmonid fishes requested by the Fisheries Management Objective. In addition to meeting the majority of fisheries management

requirements, fish eggs and excess salmonid production were traded to other state and federal agencies; in return Wyoming waters were stocked with cold, cool and warmwater species via these trades.

Endemic cutthroat trout brood stock development continued for both enclaves of Colorado River cutthroat in their native drainage with assistance from Wyoming fisheries management crews and US Forest Service. These operations are essential in developing and maintaining captive brood stocks to produce eggs needed for viable stocking programs of our cutthroat trout heritage. In addition to cutthroat brood stock development, a coordinated spawning operation continued successfully with the Fish and Wildlife Service and tribes for performance based and pure golden trout sources in the Wind River Reservation. Brook trout at Shoshone Lake, the historical source of the Soda Lake brood stock were evaluated as a source for brood replacement.

This was the second year the Department used capital construction funds from General Appropriations to address deferred maintenance at Dubois Hatchery, Speas Rearing Station, and Wigwam Rearing Station. Combined with Department funding, these capital construction dollars allowed major renovations to be completed at Wigwam Rearing Station and Dubois Hatchery. Both projects brought these fish production facilities back into production; greatly enhancing fish production fish rearing capacity of the fish culture system. In addition, a test well was drilled near the Speas Rearing Station for augmentation of fish production and management of effluents.

Fish production ceased at Como Bluff Hatchery in October 2005 with preparations to sell the facility completed by the end of the fiscal year. It is now on the market.

#### Outcome Measures

Fish Culture personnel maintained the disease free status at all ten (10) Wyoming state fish hatcheries and rearing stations. The percentage of trout and salmon production requests ( $\pm 10\%$ ) were met for this production year.

#### Problem Areas

The organism that causes Salmonid Whirling Disease persists in the main water supply at the Story Hatchery that has known connections to South Pine Creek. Fish stocking from the facility remains suspended until the water supply can be renovated and made safe from Whirling Disease.

The prolonged drought cycle continues concerns of reduced spring water supplies at several facilities although no significant influences have been detected to date. Stocking coordination and surplus fish from cancelled stocking due to drought conditions also impacted operations. Kokanee salmon brood stock development and stocking production continues to be a challenge to obtain this species from limited sources also impacted by the long-term drought.

A higher than historical level of systemic bacterial infections at several hatcheries delayed stocking schedules and reduced fish stocking capacities with above average mortalities. Although the majority of requests were covered, both stocking schedules and production numbers were impacted by these infections.

Maintenance of capital facilities continues to be a challenge although 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature approved a phenomenal allocation \$13,114,077 in the 2006 budget session to address major construction at the Speas Rearing Station and Story Hatchery. This funding level will greatly

enhance fish production capability and meet major construction needs that could not be met by Department funding within the biennium. Unfortunately, challenges in buying power are a major issue as material costs and transportation prices continue to rise as the surge of construction across the states has reduced contractors' availability and substantially increases construction costs.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Major construction at Speas Rearing Station and Story Hatchery will dominate changes during FY07. Fish production at Dubois and Wigwam will be evaluated and ramped-up as we better comprehend the rearing capacity of these modern facilities. We will be challenged to initiate major construction at Speas Rearing station but continue full trout production at the same time. Funding is also allocated to address further housing needs, meet minor construction at several facilities and develop engineering planning for several projects for FY08.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Maintenance of disease-free stations at all culture stations. A certified fish health pathologist located at the Wyoming Game and Fish Laboratory in Laramie completes the inspections. Copies of the fish health inspections are maintained in the Fish Division Office in Cheyenne, the Laramie laboratory and individual fish rearing facilities.

Percent of trout and salmon production requests satisfied ( $\pm 10\%$ ). This outcome can be accurately measured by using the annual fish stocking requests versus the annual fish stocking slips. This information is located in Fish Division databases under FISHSCH and FISHSTKD.

## **Strategy: Hatcheries and Rearing Stations**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Hatcheries and rearing stations personnel raised and stocked 293,530 pounds or 3,558,231 fish and eyed eggs during the year: majority of total numbers, sizes and pounds were within  $\pm 10\%$  of those requested. In addition, eggs produced by instate brood stocks were traded to other state agencies, federal agencies, and instate commercial hatcheries for 1,765,664 cold, cool and warmwater fish weighing a total of 6,263.85 pounds. These trades either provide fish not reared in state hatcheries primarily due to water temperature limitations, coldwater species not reared in the system or through commercial hatchery reciprocations. Fish stocking from both instate and out of state sources was accomplished by hatcheries and rearing station strategy personnel with assistance from the fish distribution strategy. All Wyoming state fish hatcheries, with the exception of Story Hatchery, were maintained specific pathogen free (SPF) during the entire period.

### Problem Areas

*Myxobolus cerebralis*, the causative parasite of Salmonid Whirling Disease, continues to be present in the main water supply at the Story Hatchery, resulting in suspension of fish production excluding the three brood stocks managed at the facility. An increase of systemic

bacterial infections impacted production with scheduled delays and increased stress and mortality at several fish culture stations. Although legislative funding of \$3.3 million during the FY05/06 biennium budget was much appreciated and addressed major renovations at the Dubois Hatchery and Wigwam Rearing Station, the reduced spending power of capital facility funding continues to challenge complete construction planning and development. Even though production came on line at Dubois Hatchery and Wigwam Rearing Station, rearing space continues to be 100% committed during the spring and early summer with increased focus to produce more fish in the late summer/early fall portion of the year. Continued drought conditions impacted water conditions across Wyoming, resulting in scheduled stocking requests being canceled due to poor water conditions and the need to find alternative stocking sites for excess fish. Projects to remodel existing housing have improved conditions; however, housing replacements need to be implemented soon to address aging housing that cannot be adequately remodeled.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature approved a phenomenal allocation of \$13,114,077 in the 2006 budget session to address major construction at the Speas Rearing Station and Story Hatchery. The main emphasis during FY07 will focus on water enhancement at Speas, construction planning and development for construction needs at Speas and Story as well as addressing small projects at several other facilities. In addition, fish production capacities will be evaluated as Dubois Hatchery and Wigwam Rearing Station come on line with new rearing units and support systems.

Structural problems in strategy housing will continue to be addressed next year under prioritized recommendations within a thirty-year plan for improvement/ replacement. The major challenges in the future will be continued protection of fish rearing facilities from fish disease encroachment and increased costs of capital construction.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The “Numbers of fish meeting the size and at the time requested” was derived by comparison of the FY05 fish schedule database (fish requested) with the FY05 fish stock (fish received or stocked into Wyoming waters) database. The FISHSCH database and the FISHSTKD database each contain a report in ACCESS software which will “run a report for the total number, estimated pounds, species, and size which compares fish requested to fish provided for the request for the calendar year.” Records for the FISHSCH and FISHSTKD databases are maintained on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s miniframe computer at the Cheyenne Headquarters. In addition, hard copies of all stocking slips are maintained at the producing hatchery.

The “Numbers and pounds of fish planted by station personnel” is maintained at the providing station in both FISHSTKD database and signed hard copy (driver and superintendent’s signature on each slip) form. Additionally, the database records for the entire state are updated monthly and maintained by the Fish Division office in Cheyenne with monthly updates forwarded to all regional offices and fish culture facilities. Any changes or additions of fish stocking requests are maintained by the Fish Division office in Cheyenne and are updated to the field offices immediately after authorization.

## Strategy: Fish Spawning

### Narrative and Output Measures

Fish Spawning is the first and most vital strategy in the Fish Culture Objective since it produces the eggs for fish production and for trades with sources outside of the Department to acquire eggs and fish the Fish Culture Objective cannot produce.

In FY06, salmonid eggs were collected from twelve captive brood stocks, nine natural brood stock populations and three wild genetic sites for brood stock recruitment. These represent seven species/strains of cutthroat trout, three sources of kokanee salmon, four strains of rainbow trout, plus brood stocks of lake trout, golden trout, brook trout, brown trout, and arctic grayling. A total of 13,372,893 eggs were collected and shipped to Department or out-of-state agency incubators. Eleven Department incubation facilities received 13,157,045 eggs, 462,430 green eggs were shipped to Idaho and Utah for state agency trades and 172,017 green eggs counted and discarded to reduce surplus.

During FY06, Department incubation facilities shipped 9,507,309-eyed eggs from the 13,157,045 green eggs received and eyed within the fiscal year, resulting in an overall survival of 71.1% eye. Of these, 4,978,190 eyed eggs were distributed to Department facilities to meet production goals; 2,722,928 eyed eggs were traded to federal, state and in-state commercial fish culture facilities; 251,503 utilized for eyed egg plants throughout the state and 1,722,928 were declared surplus after eye and discarded. One hundred seventy two thousand and seventeen (172,017) kokanee salmon eyed eggs were received from Utah to offset shortages.

Green eggs Spawned	13,372,893
Green eggs Discarded	387,865
Green eggs sent to instate facilities	13,157,045
Green eggs sent to out of state facilities	462,430
Total eyed eggs	9,507,309
Eyed eggs sent to instate facilities	4,978,190
Eyed eggs discarded	1,722,928
Eyed eggs sent to private and other states	2,752,065
Eyed eggs from out of state (Utah kokanee)	172,017

Recruitment efforts to develop captive brood stocks of endemic cutthroat strains were again successful this fiscal year. Colorado River cutthroat eggs were taken from North Piney Lake representing the western enclave stock. Green eggs totaled 33,908 from North Piney Lake in FY06. Colorado River cutthroat eggs were taken from Littlefield Creek representing the eastern enclave stock. Green eggs totaled 2,832 from Littlefield drainage in FY06. An attempt to collect eggs from the Bear River Cutthroat strain failed due to an abnormally quick runoff this spring leading to crews narrowly missing the spawning run due to coinciding spawning operations.

Efforts to collect golden trout eggs were successful during FY06. Eggs were collected from two separate sources in the Wind River Mountain range. Green eggs totaling 45,184 were taken from these two sources with the intention of stocking them next year via helicopter.

Brook trout eggs were collected from Shoshone Lake west of Lander during FY06 to evaluate the parental source of our present brood stock, Soda Lake, for possible stock

improvement. The Shoshone Lake stock was found to be lower in genetic variability than the Soda Lake, eliminating it as a future source of brood stock augmentation.

### Problem Areas

Kokanee salmon stocking requests were again above produced levels from Department sources. Out-of-state sources are limited due to disease concerns or low production. To address this continued shortfall, adjustments for the 2006 request will be aligned to meet production limits of Department source. Additional brood stock development for new sources will continue to be investigated in hope to increase the overall kokanee production in the near future. New Fork Lake continues to produce sediment due to a mudslide.

Declining numbers of brook and brown trout may result in a shortfall of eggs in the near future. To date we have been able to meet the request. Recruitment numbers have been lowered and will be evaluated in the upcoming years. Population decline appears to be directly related to the drought conditions over the last five years.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Increased emphasis is being placed on endemic and restoration species. Pending fish health approval, kokanee eggs for brood stock development from British Columbia will be integrated into the brood stock system to hopefully improve numbers. The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The “number of eggs taken (by species and strain)” is tabulated by the CULTURE databases that define the green eggs collected and the survival and shipment of the eggs after reaching the eyed stage. For green eggs collected from a brood stock, an electronic copy of the Spawning Station Report is completed and sent to the Assistant Fish Culture Supervisor by the individual in charge of the spawning operations for each lot of eggs. An electronic copy is retained by the facility where the brood stock is located or by the Fish Spawning Coordinator if the brood stock is a natural or wild population. The Assistant Fish Culture Supervisor of Statewide Operations in Casper maintains the master copy. Additionally, database records of the statewide spawning operations are updated to the Fish Division in Cheyenne and all fish culture facilities on a monthly basis.

Eyed egg development, percent survival and shipment locations are reported on the CULTURE egg shipment report completed by the incubation facility once all eggs of a take are shipped. Records are maintained by the Assistant Fish Culture Supervisor of Statewide Operations and updated to the Fish Division in Cheyenne and all fish culture facilities on a monthly basis.

## Strategy: Fish Distribution

### Narrative and Output Measures

Fish distribution is the final step in stocking the product from the Fish Culture Objective as requested by the Aquatic Wildlife Management Objective. The entire fleet of fish distribution units has been updated to new fiberglass units over the past eleven years, representing some of the most efficient and modern distribution units in the country.

All distribution needs were met in the time requested under the normal restraint of weather and fish available.

The following table summarizes fish stocking in FY06:

<b>Species Stocked</b>	<b>Number stocked</b>	<b>Pounds stocked</b>
Trout, Grayling, Kokanee total	3,243,980	286,633.6
Eyed egg stocking	251,503	39
Private trout reimbursement stocking	1,265	444
Shovelnose Sturgeon	976	119
Walleye	1,419,956	1,155.6
Gizzard shad	842	1145
Channel Catfish	54,088	2,692.9
Northern Pike	177,830	135.5
Tiger Musky	800	53.2
Largemouth Bass	38,520	16.05
Tiger Trout via trade Utah	15,900	223
Black Crappie	23,998	71
Bluegill	2,700	21.6
Green Sunfish X Bluegill Hybrids	28,789	187
Fish transferred in State	1,462,591	17,624.8
Fish Transferred to other States	46,878	6,526
Fish Transferred to Federal	15,476	248.8
Fish Transferred to Educational	394	82.6
	6,786,486	317,418.65

A total of 6,786,486 fish and eyed eggs were distributed throughout the state from Department, federal agency sources, state agency sources and commercial in-state hatcheries resulting in a total of 317,418.65 pounds. Department facilities stocked a total of 3,306,782 fish (293,491 pounds) and 251,503-eyed eggs (39 pounds) representing nineteen salmonid strains/sources. A total of 1,419,956 (1,155.6 pounds) were transferred within the fish culture system by the fish distribution strategy to meet requesting station requirements for final stocking schedules. Fish acquired from commercial in-state hatcheries, state agencies and the Fish and Wildlife Service through trades cover the remaining fish distribution consisting of thirteen (12) species totaling 1,765,664 fish and 6,263.85 pounds; represented by, walleye fingerlings (1,419,956), gizzard shad (842), shovelnose sturgeon (976), northern pike (177,830), tiger musky

(800), tiger trout (15,900), largemouth bass (38,520), green sunfish X bluegill hybrids (842), black crappie (28,789), bluegill (2,700), rainbow trout (1,265), and channel catfish (54,088).

### Problem Areas

Minimal problems in distribution were experienced. All goals and outcomes are meeting requirements of the Fish Culture Distribution Strategy. Truck scales were installed on GF074. Read outs on the scales are not defined enough for usage, measuring within 100 pounds.

The greatest challenge for the strategy continues to be determining capacity requirements of each unit for the species/strain to be transported. The life support systems and insulation factors of the new distribution units provide the ability to transport far more pounds of fish per gallon than the old units did. The challenge lies in the ability to balance the capacities of the units to optimize fish health for the conditions at the time of stocking. Water chemistry monitoring and documentation of load capacities for each size, strain and species of fish transported are being completed to develop statewide information.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Some distribution tanks are aging and will be gel coated and cracks repaired this coming year. GF055 will be replaced in FY07, improving the overall condition of the large fish distribution fleet. The installation of on-board scales remains a priority for the large distribution trucks to standardize loading. The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

“Numbers of pounds of fish stocked by station personnel” is maintained at the providing station in both FISHSTKD database and signed hard copy (driver and superintendent’s signature on each slip) form. Additionally, the database records for the entire state are updated monthly and maintained by the Fish Division office in Cheyenne with monthly updates forwarded to all regional offices and fish culture facilities. Any changes or additions of fish stocking requests are maintained by the Fish Division office in Cheyenne and are updated to the field offices immediately after authorization.

## **OBJECTIVE: HABITAT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

There are three distinct aspects to the Habitat Objective: Regional Aquatic Habitat Management, Regional Terrestrial Habitat Management, and Habitat and Access Maintenance.

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed by the regional aquatic habitat management personnel varied greatly between regions, but was 72% on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the Department, were low priority, or were replaced by additional demands from Department administration. During FY06, 6 trust fund projects/grants were developed and/or implemented, 17 watershed inventories were initiated and/or completed, and 25 habitat projects were initiated

and/or completed. Numerous extension/public education, monitoring and planning efforts were participated in through the course of the year. Training efforts continued with several section personnel attending courses in river mechanics and habitat restoration, geographical information system applications and aspen restoration. Of particular note were field tours and training sessions, led by Drs. Alma Winward and Dale Bartos. These individuals are experts in the field of sagebrush/tall forb and aspen communities respectively and their insight on resource management is always enlightening.

Regional Terrestrial Habitat Management personnel had 212 major elements scheduled with 176 accomplished or on-going for a statewide completion rate of 83% (varied by region). Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the Department, were lower priority, other directed administrative assigned tasks, or were due to employee time shortages. Over 80 landowner habitat extension projects were developed and/or implemented during FY06. Due to budget constraints, the Department suspended the habitat grants program beginning in FY04 resulting in no new grant projects being developed which required a great many grant applications being prepared and solicited from outside sources, including Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, NRCS Farm Bill Programs, Water for Wildlife, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International, and private donors among others. In addition, 11 trust fund projects were funded in which program personnel were directly involved. Habitat inventories were conducted on nine large landscapes. Satellite imagery land cover and shrub/steppe change detection was used on large landscape areas encompassing most of the Sheridan, Pinedale/Jackson, Green River, and Lander Regions, initiated in the Cody and completed in the Casper region. A total of 205 habitat projects (new and on-going) were planned and 25 additional habitat projects were worked on during this period.

The Habitat and Access Management Branch goal is to manage, maintain and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat and provide access for wildlife-related recreational opportunities on Department-managed lands. In FY06, a total of 36 Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and 97 Public Access Areas were managed and maintained by 23 permanent employees with seven crews that averaged three employees per crew. The Branch completed approximately 83% of the planned maintenance and 100% of the planned monitoring work on wildlife habitat management areas and public access areas within the limits of existing personnel and manpower. Maintenance and monitoring were completed on all facilities, structures, fences, roads, irrigation systems, and wetland complexes. In addition, through the project request system, the branch completed an additional 34 requests for aquatic and terrestrial projects statewide and assistance on 11 hatcheries and rearing stations. This amounts to 5,200 man-hours of work in addition to assigned responsibilities for all Department-managed lands and access areas.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, Department employees were asked to evaluate the performance of personnel working within the Habitat Objective. Of respondents that had interacted with these individuals, 64.0% were satisfied with the number of terrestrial habitat projects and 55.8% were satisfied with the number of aquatic habitat projects. Regarding the quality of projects, 63.2% of respondents were satisfied with the

quality of terrestrial habitat improvement projects and 65.2% were satisfied with the quality of aquatic habitat improvement projects. In addition, 65.2% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of terrestrial habitats on Department lands and 58.1% were satisfied with the quality of aquatic habitats on Department lands. Finally, 81.3% of Department personnel were satisfied with the maintenance of facilities on Department lands and access areas.

In *FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the maintenance of Department lands and access areas. Of those that were familiar with the Department's Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, 66.0% were satisfied with the management and maintenance of the facilities within these areas. Of respondents familiar with the Department's Public Fishing Access Areas, 70.1% were satisfied with the management and maintenance of facilities within these areas.

### Problem Areas

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues (particularly with the vast and intensive energy development activities), increasing "administrative" duties being assigned to field personnel, problems, and opportunities statewide. There are currently too few people available to address the long-term terrestrial, aquatic, and maintenance needs of Wyoming's wildlife habitats. For example, there are 12 permanent terrestrial habitat biologists covering an average of 5.2 million acres each with some individuals covering more than 8 and 10 million acres each – with terrestrial personnel averaging 180+ hours per month. This does not allow this strategy to adequately address the long-term needs of Wyoming's wildlife and habitat. Without a doubt, Wyoming will permanently lose significant areas of habitat and associated wildlife populations in the coming decades.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

See individual sections below.

## **Strategy: Regional Terrestrial Habitat Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

There were 212 major elements scheduled with 176 accomplished or on-going for an 83% completion rate. Some of these were lumped into common categories for analytical purposes.

Identified output measures for regional terrestrial habitat management include; 1) percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, 2) number of trust fund projects and grants developed, 3) number of watershed or landscape scale surveys, and 4) number of projects planned or implemented. Fast paced energy development continues to impact wildlife habitat and place

additional workloads on habitat biologists and federal Farm Bill program changes impact habitat extension biologists' workloads, opportunities and workloads as well as other Department personnel. Federal Landowner Incentive Program grant funds also placed additional burdens on Section personnel. Preparation of grant applications for out-side funding to achieve project from numerous sources has also taken a tremendous amount of time. Finally, one habitat biologist was assigned temporary job status and was covering both the Lander Habitat Biologist and the Oil and Gas Coordinator position in Pinedale. This position was finally assigned as Habitat Reclamation Biologist in Pinedale in April. The vacant habitat biologist position in Lander was not filled until May. The vacant Greybull habitat extension biologist position was filled in October and an additional habitat extension biologist position in Casper was filled in January. Lastly, the administrative assistance took a job out-of-state and, although the position was immediately filled, it took some time for the person to gain knowledge of our program and duties. Two terrestrial habitat biologists were assigned and continued to provide lead roles on the Pinedale and Casper Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Planning (RMP) efforts and habitat mitigation needs resulting from the impacts. Other habitat biologists provided reviews and comments on the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, Shoshone and Bridger-Teton Forest plans, the Rawlins and Kemmerer BLM RMPs, and the Coalbed Methane extraction impacts in the Powder River Basin and the Platte River/Green River Basins. All of these factors contribute to and impact the output measures discussed below.

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed varied between regions and duties, but averaged 83% on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the Department, were lower priority, other directed administrative assigned tasks, or were due to employee time shortages.

Over 80 landowner habitat extension projects were developed and/or implemented during FY06. Due to budget constraints, the Department suspended the habitat grants program beginning in FY04 resulting in no new grant projects being developed which required a great many grant applications being prepared and solicited from outside sources, including Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, NRCS Farm Bill Programs, Water for Wildlife, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International, and private donors among others. In addition, 11 trust fund projects were funded in which program personnel were directly involved.

Habitat inventories were conducted on nine large landscapes. Satellite imagery land cover and shrub/steppe change detection was used on large landscape areas encompassing most of the Sheridan, Pinedale/Jackson, Green River, and Lander Regions, initiated in the Cody and completed in the Casper region.

A total of 205 habitat projects (new and on-going) were planned and 25 additional habitat projects were worked on during this period.

There were 43 minor elements scheduled with 35 accomplished for an 81% completion rate. Many of these were lumped into common categories such as general habitat extension training, contact information, general wildlife habitat management efforts, general vegetation production/utilization assessments, general wildlife environmental reviews, past treatment monitoring evaluations, serving on various working groups, various committees and coordinated resource management activities.

## Problem Areas

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues, problems, and opportunities statewide. We currently have 12 permanent terrestrial habitat biologists covering an average of 5.2 million acres each with some individuals covering more than 8 and 10 million acres each. This does not allow this strategy to adequately address the long-term needs of Wyoming's wildlife and habitat. On average, Section personnel average 180 plus hours each month.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department Strategic Plan and output measurements are being revised and will go into effect next fiscal year. In the meantime we will attempt to add one permanent habitat extension biologist in NE Wyoming and other areas in NRCS offices. We will continue to add additional habitat mitigation biologists to cover energy exploration and development issues and opportunities and habitat biologist to assist with the Landowner Incentive Program on-the-ground implementation.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Output measures are based on annual fiscal year work schedules, annual performance goals and objectives, recurring annual duties, additional assigned tasks and opportunities. This information is compiled from reports from each individual, monthly highlight summaries, Daily Activity Reports (DAR), summaries, performance reviews, and the 2005 Calendar Year Strategic Habitat Plan Annual Report, Trust Fund and Grant project summaries, statewide grant summaries and special project completion reports.

- Lists of Trust Fund and Habitat Grant projects considered or approved for funding are in Fiscal Division and/or Terrestrial Habitat Section/Wildlife Division Office files in Cheyenne.
- Information on habitat surveys, project planning efforts, extension services provided to land owners or land management agencies, and number of terrestrial habitat projects reviewed, initiated or completed can be found in the Terrestrial Habitat Section Wildlife Division files and the 2005 Strategic Habitat Plan Annual Report.

## **Strategy: Regional Aquatic Habitat Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The percentage of annual work plan elements completed varied greatly between regions, but was 72% on a statewide basis. Items not addressed or completed generally depended on other parties within or outside the Department, were low priority, or were replaced by additional demands from Department administration.

During FY06, six trust fund projects/grants were developed and/or implemented during, 17 watershed inventories were initiated and/or completed, and 25 habitat projects were initiated and/or completed. In addition, numerous extension/public education, monitoring and planning efforts were participated in through the course of the year.

Training efforts continued with several section personnel attending courses in river mechanics and habitat restoration, geographical information system applications and aspen restoration. Of particular note were field tours and training sessions led by Drs. Alma Winward and Dale Bartos. These individuals are experts in the field of sagebrush/tall forb and aspen communities respectively and their insight on resource management is always enlightening.

Identified output measures for regional aquatic habitat management include; 1) percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, 2) number of trust fund projects and grants developed, 3) number of watersheds surveyed, and 4) number of projects planned or implemented. A summary of all habitat efforts during 2005 is contained in the Department's annual "Strategic Habitat Plan" report. Additional major efforts by the section during FY06 included; 1) involvement in various funding sources including the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account, 2) development of a fish passage program including several related projects, 3) ongoing efforts relative to management changes on the Grizzly WHMA toward a forage reserve concept, 4) renewed interest from outside the Department on fish contaminants efforts, 5) geographic information system assessment of native cutthroat populations, and 6) ongoing demands on personnel by energy development activities.

#### Problem Areas

The primary limiting factor in completing on-the-ground efforts is the lack of adequate personnel to address habitat issues (particularly with the vast and intensive energy development activities), as well increasing "administrative" duties being assigned to field personnel. We continue to have inadequate personnel to address the long-term needs of Wyoming's aquatic wildlife and watershed health. Without a doubt, Wyoming will permanently lose significant areas of habitat and associated wildlife populations in the coming decades.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Annual Work Schedules include information on performance measures, reports from individual regions were compiled from Daily Activity Reports (DAR), the Fish Division Annual Progress Report and Trust Fund and Grant project summaries from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

Lists of Trust Fund and Habitat Grant projects considered or approved for funding are found with Fiscal Division or with Aquatic Habitat Section/Fish Division Office, Cheyenne.

Information on watershed surveys, project-planning efforts, extension services provided to land owners or land management agencies, and number of aquatic habitat projects reviewed, initiated or completed can found in Division Progress Report and Daily Activity Report by region. Summarized data are on file in Fish Division Office, Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Habitat and Access Maintenance**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Annual maintenance and monitoring activities were completed on all public access areas and wildlife habitat management areas statewide was completed on all facilities, structures, fences, roads, irrigation systems, and wetland complexes. Maintenance and development were completed on aquatic and terrestrial habitat projects. The Habitat and Access Management Branch completed 83% of the planned maintenance and 100% of the planned monitoring of wildlife habitat management areas and public access areas within the limits of existing personnel and manpower.

### Problem Areas

Improvement and level of maintenance and development is limited by budget and manpower restrictions. Work plans are currently at 100%. On an annual basis we are unable to address 25,000 and 35,000 man-hours of work requested and other assigned responsibilities to the Branch that keep increasing.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The Habitat and Access Management Branch completed 83% of the planned maintenance and monitoring of Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and Public Access Areas. Actual maintenance and development needs of these areas far exceed existing work plans. Documentation for this major accomplishment can be found in Daily Activity Reports (DAR), Wyoming Game and Fish Commission summaries, monthly summaries, and the Habitat Annual Report.

## **OBJECTIVE: WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

In FY06, the program continued to be extensively involved in U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) strategic planning efforts, oil and gas planning and development issues, coalbed methane water issues and projects, and Endangered Species Act issues, as well as facilitation of the Department's environmental commenting program. Program personnel continue to serve as Department facilitators for the State Cooperating Agency involvement in these efforts. Program personnel are taking the Department lead on interstate and multi-agency coalbed methane workgroups, and in several natural gas activity plans on BLM land. Program staff continued to be involved in issues being addressed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and the Association of Fish and Wildlife

Agencies (AFWA) by providing comments and recommendations on these issues. Other accomplishments included facilitating the compilation of effects of coal mining on raptor nest success for the purpose of better describing necessary raptor protection measures, in facilitating the application of stipulations to oil and gas development on State lands, and serving as the Department lead in a DEQ re-write of coal rules and regulations. The program also evaluated the nominations for the annual Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo wildlife stewardship awards and selected winners.

Multiple Habitat Protection databases are maintained and made available for Department-wide access in order to facilitate accomplishment of program objectives. In FY06, the program maintained up-to-date narratives on the status of threatened, endangered, proposed and petitioned wildlife; coal and uranium mine activity; statewide transportation problem areas; and the databases that track past and present environmental commenting. These databases can be accessed by all Department personnel and provide a quick and efficient means to find information on Department operations and positions at any time.

Program personnel have been instrumental in developing and implementing use of the Department's Decision Support System (DSS), in order to promote quick and efficient use of existing information for environmental commenting and federal planning efforts.

#### Outcome Measures

The *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, indicated approximately 32.9% of respondents had interacted with the Wildlife Habitat Protection staff. Of these individuals that responded to the specific questions, 81.7% (58 of 71) were satisfied with efforts by the Wildlife Habitat Protection staff to coordinate with personnel on environmental commenting, 77.5% (55 of 71) were satisfied with the process used to make assignments 83.6% (61 of 73) were satisfied with the services provided by the Wildlife Habitat Protection staff.

#### Problem Areas

The numbers of major programmatic projects such as Resource Management Plan and Forest Plan revisions, all of which are State Cooperating Agency projects, continue to increase and the time spent on them has also increased for the Statewide Habitat Protection Program. Simultaneously, the number of major oil and gas development projects throughout the state have increased, which require a large amount of time to adequately facilitate, and to coordinate among Department biologists. The Wildlife Habitat Protection Program acts as the Department's primary contact on these State Cooperating Agency projects. As federal planning efforts continue to lag and additional efforts begin, and with major oil and gas development continuing at an increasing pace, adequately coordinating these efforts is becoming a serious and increasing challenge. In the absence of an increase in Program personnel, or re-organization or re-prioritization of other Department positions, other Program items of importance but less critical than federal agency or energy planning will necessarily have to be curtailed to allow adequate time for these larger scale and much more serious issues.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

With the significant increase in energy development in Wyoming, and its influence on fish and wildlife resources, the program necessarily will focus more on energy planning, mitigation, and reclamation. This will include actively participating in individual energy development projects, including negotiating with industry and facilitating with other State Cooperators. Because energy development on federal land is planned and implemented based on large-scale federal planning documents (RMPs and Forest Plans), increased attention and time will be spent on the revisions to these documents that are currently taking place (5 RMPs and 2 Forest Plans). Thus, program emphasis must react to this need so that meaningful wildlife management direction can be included in these planning documents. This will take the form a high level of interagency and intra-agency communication and coordination, and statewide oversight of Department efforts. It is not anticipated that the environmental commenting process will change in function or that Department personnel's interactions with the program will change. It is anticipated that many smaller and less serious individual issues, which used to be address by this program, may not be undertaken due to lack of time.

## Documentation of Outcome Measures

The *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* was used to measure employee satisfaction with services provided by this program. Specifically, questions 4 within Objective 4 were used for this purpose. Copies of this report can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Statewide Habitat Protection**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Approximately 492 reviews of projects, plans, policies, processes, or proposals were conducted by or coordinated through the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program in FY05 that resulted in formal written responses that were retained in our files. Many other written responses (many of them e-mails) were for very minor projects, process issues, or informal input for which no permanent record was necessary. Numerous Department personnel, in both the Headquarters and field offices, were involved to varying degrees in providing review input. Mitigation recommendations were made for all projects or activities significantly impacting fish or wildlife resources. The program also processed, circulated and recorded several hundred informational documents in the past fiscal year. Program staff attended approximately 420 project review or coordination meetings during the year. All environmental commenting-related cooperative agreements were maintained.

Outputs associated with this strategy are largely unscheduled due to the unpredictability of their completion. Therefore, annual work plans are kept flexible regarding scheduled outputs.

## Problem Areas

Much of the program work is, by necessity, reactive to proposed actions by other agencies and local government entities, industry, and private individuals. This is somewhat typical of the Department as a whole on environmental issues, but puts the Department at a disadvantage in dealing with foreseeable issues. Providing information on land use actions for the purpose of mitigating and minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife should obviously remain a core part of Program function. In addition, because this is a statewide program, Program personnel have a comprehensive perspective on current and upcoming natural resource issues, and are well-positioned to recognize when, where, and how to proactively deal with those issues.

Efficiencies and benefits in management and protection programs can often be achieved by proactive and aggressive involvement in upcoming and new issues. For example, although proactive efforts with energy development are progressing, there are opportunities with issues such as transportation systems (correcting problems created in the past), forest planning (providing updated species habitat needs, and guiding assessments that will affect forest planning), and Endangered Species Act (proactive measures to keep states as managers of wildlife, and encourage landowners to keep species off the endangered species list through proper use of Landowner Incentive Program funds) that should be considered for more proactive action. Without a more proactive effort, Department input will continue to serve only to document concerns, catalog losses, and make recommendations reactive to issues rather than preventing them from becoming issues. Whenever the need is apparent and impacts are significant, the Department, through the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, should consider a more aggressive, proactive role in developing/facilitating strategies to deal with important issues.

## Strategic Plan changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

The number of projects, plans, policies, processes, or proposals reviewed was derived from a survey conducted by the Habitat Protection Program, using the project database, hard copy files and notes of individual personnel. Documentation on this and outputs are available in the Habitat Protection Program. The number of comment letters prepared was derived from same survey as above, using the project database. The number of project review and coordination meetings attended was compiled from records of individual personnel. The percentage of annual work plan elements achieved: no specific elements identified.

## **OBJECTIVE: PROPERTY RIGHTS (LANDS) MANAGEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

This objective is composed of two distinct parts: the Lands Management Branch and the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) program.

*Lands Management Branch:*

The Property Rights (Lands) Management Branch provides support 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 regulation and Commission Policy. Acquisition or disposal nominations are evaluated utilizing the Habitat and Access Evaluation Process, 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. New acquisition nominations continue to be submitted to the Department. Lands Administration personnel continue to be state certified appraisers and keep up with the required continuing education requirements.

The branch continues to monitor 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. 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. The Department actively pursued encroachment along the Salt River, Big Horn River, Jelm Access Area and the conservation easement at the Mexican Creek Ranch.

Lands Management Branch completed several high-priority projects including: a grant of easement to Dubois Telephone Exchange across the Spence/Moriarity WHMA, an agreement with the City of Green River to allow the City to use a portion of the Commission's property at the Green River District Office for a greenway in exchange the Department will be allowed to use the City's property adjacent to the existing parking area for additional parking space, an agreement with the private landowner near the Commission's Muddy Feedground to allow the Commission to construct an elk fence on his property, agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation for corporative management of federal lands on the Ocean Lake, Sand Mesa, and Yellowtail WHMAs, an agreement with the landowner adjoining the Commission's Robertson Road Bridge parking area to allow the landowner to install a gate in the post and cable barrier to be used for emergency vehicle access, an easement to Entrega pipeline that will traverse Commission property on the Red Rim/Daley, Wick WHMAs, and the Ft. Steele Public Access Area, a road easement to Mantle Ranch over a small portion of the Half Moon WHMA, an agreement with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to allow fishing access to the Big Horn River at their new facility in Thermopolis and completed federal aid audit resolutions on seven projects as identified in the Corrective Action Plan. Lands Administration continues to review all tax assessment schedules prior to payment of the Department's In-lieu of tax to each county.

Special Use Permits were issued for livestock grazing on the Half Moon WHMA, Daley portion of the Red Rim/Grizzly WHMA and on the Soda Lake WHMA. Permits were also issued to Bauen Camp of day use of the Kerns WHMA, to a private landowner to allow for the construction a gate in the Greys River feedground elk fence to provide access to the Forest during times when the area is open for public use, to pipeline companies to permit survey work associated with new pipeline construction on the Red Rim WHMA, to a private landowner to utilize corrals on the Red Rim WHMA, to Fremont County Road and Bridge Department to use water from the East Fork of the Wind River on the Spence/Moriarity WHMA for dust abatement

purposes, for farming activities on the Yellowtail WHMA and for field dog trials at Saratoga Lake Access Area.

*Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program:*

The PLPW Access Program continues to provide valuable hunting and fishing access throughout the State. In FY06, there were 26 Hunter Management Areas with 674,280 private acres enrolled. There were 368 Walk-in Hunting Areas with 505,527 Private land acres, 45.67 stream miles and 27 lake acres. Together, the HMA and WIA Hunting Programs provided access to 1,179,807 private acres along with a conservative estimated 1.4 million public acres for total of around 2.6 million hunting acres. Walk-in Fishing provided access to 273.4 lake acres and 89 stream miles of privately held waters on 66 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.

### Outcome Measures

*Lands Management Branch:*

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate aspects of the Property Rights (Lands) Management objective. Of respondents that had dealt with these programs, 82.5% were satisfied with the services provided by the Lands Branch personnel and 91.2% were satisfied with the services provided by the PLPW staff. Of employees that had dealt with the PLPW program, 80.4% percent were satisfied with the easements obtained.

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the access and habitat acquired by the Department. Of all respondents, 47.5% indicated they were satisfied with the level and amount of access acquired by the Department. Of all respondents, 46.6% indicated they were satisfied with the kind and amount of habitat acquired by the Department.

*Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program:*

In FY06, there were 26 Hunter Management Areas with 674,280 private acres enrolled. There were 368 Walk-in Hunting Areas with 505,527 Private land acres, 45.67 stream miles and 27 lake acres. Together, the HMA and WIA Hunting Programs provided access to 1,179,807 private acres along with a conservative estimated 1.4 million public acres for total of around 2.6 million hunting acres. Walk-in Fishing provided access to 273.4 lake acres and 89 stream miles of privately held waters on 66 areas.

### Problem Areas

Heavy workload and lack of adequate funding for new acquisitions.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Outcome Measures

### *Lands Management Branch:*

Copies of the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey, 2005* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator at the Cheyenne Headquarters. Specifically, questions 3 and 5 within Objective 2 were used to evaluate this Objective.

Copies of the *Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey, 2005* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator. Specifically, questions 11A and 11B were used to evaluate this Objective.

### *Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program:*

The number of major and minor annual work plan elements and the percentage achieved were determined from the Program work schedules, individual performance appraisal goals, Department goals and objectives and conversion of PLPW Access Program from an initiative to permanent program.

## **Strategy: Property Rights (Lands) Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Lands Management Branch continues to monitor 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. 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.

### Problem Areas

Problems still exist due to downsizing and funding constraints.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

From records maintained in the Property Rights (Lands) Management Office, the Lands Administration Supervisor determined the percentage of annual work plan elements achieved and the number of property rights services addressed.

## Strategy: Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program

### Narrative and Output Measures

The PLPW Access Program continues to provide valuable hunting and fishing access throughout the State. In FY06, there were 26 Hunter Management Areas with 674,280 private acres enrolled. There were 368 Walk-in Hunting Areas with 505,527 Private land acres, 45.67 stream miles and 27 lake acres. Together, the HMA and WIA Hunting Programs provided access to 1,179,807 private acres along with a conservative estimated 1.4 million public acres for total of around 2.6 million hunting acres. Walk-in Fishing provided access to 273.4 lake acres and 89 stream miles of privately held waters on 66 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.

The PLPW Access Program had 12 major elements (all completed) and 9 minor work plan elements (all completed). The major work plan elements include: Complete Annual Report, Enhance & Maintain Public Access, Continue HMA Internet Permission Issue, Performance Appraisals, Public use on HMA and WIA, PLPW coordination meeting, Increase LSA visitation on Access Yes Donations, Produce WIA Atlas & HMA maps, Work Scheduling with Regions, Provide Law enforcement on PLPW lands, Attend Regional meetings, and Communication with Regional personnel. The minor work plan elements include: Work Schedule Development, PLPW Budget, Public Contacts, Look for new PLPW lands, Check field signs, Gather biological data, Training, Interagency meetings, and Assist Regional personnel.

### Problem Areas

Access Yes donations are declining due to several factors such as license fees increasing and the newness of the Program wearing off. For FY05, Access Yes donations totaled \$645,468 (Table 1). PLPW staff has taken direct measures by contacting License Selling Agents and putting out news releases reminding people where their donations go and how it helps in providing access. There is still a segment of the population that does not like or agree with the Program. This will be an ongoing problem.

Table 1. Access Yes Donations for FY05.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Donations</b>
Direct Donations	\$4,862
Limited Quota Donations	\$89,118
LSA donations	\$24,894
Annual Conservation Stamp	\$409,151
Interest	\$30,183
State Restitution Funds	\$50,295
Lifetime C-Stamp	\$36,965
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$645,468</b>

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 entire State. The Regional Coordinators are actually turning away landowners simply because they don't have the time to deal with any more access areas. This problem area is increasing as the PLPW Access Program could be providing a lot more access, and much more important, maintaining the existing areas much more effectively. Additionally, law enforcement is stretched thin as Regional Coordinators cannot effectively cover their current areas. The addition of one more 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.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The number of major and minor annual work plan elements and the percentage achieved were determined from the Program work schedules, individual performance appraisal goals, Department goals and objectives and conversion of PLPW Access Program from an initiative to permanent program.

## **OBJECTIVE: WILDLIFE HEALTH AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

This objective is composed of two distinct parts: the Veterinary Services Branch and the Laboratory Branch.

#### *The Veterinary Services Branch:*

Major accomplishments of the Veterinary Services Branch include the successful design, implementation, and execution of a pilot test and slaughter of brucellosis-infected elk on the Muddy Creek feedground; completion of Pinedale, Fall Creek, Afton, and Upper Green River elk herd unit Brucellosis Management Action Plans; completion of brucellosis surveillance and vaccination goals; completion of statewide CWD surveillance; completion of brucellosis hunter surveillance in southwest Wyoming; initiation of research projects to examine *Brucella*-induced abortion ecology, brucellosis transmission risk variables, and parturition site characteristics of feedground elk and to determine the long-term impact of CWD on a captive elk population; and presentation of wildlife capture and handling class to Department and other state/federal agency personnel.

#### Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille

As part of an ongoing study to determine if moose were susceptible to CWD, captive moose were given a single oral inoculum of mule deer CWD prions. A male was observed 3 years post-inoculation with an unsteady gait, emaciation, and excessive salivation. Upon necropsy, this

moose had aspiration pneumonia, serous atrophy of the bone marrow, and 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 case of clinical CWD observed in moose. A study was started this year to determine the long-term effects of CWD on a captive population of elk exposed to CWD prions from both the environment and from other infected elk. Another study was initiated to determine if hair coat shedding patterns are different between uninfected and CWD-infected elk.

Approximately 120 animals, representing seven big game species, were housed at Sybille during this period. Minor elements that were completed at Sybille included corral and gate construction, carnivore cage renovation, waterer installation, and renovation of the visitor center area for the dedication ceremony of the Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille.

### *Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat Program*

The Department's integrated brucellosis management program (Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat; BFH) is aimed at reducing the prevalence of brucellosis in elk. A total of 531 elk were trapped or darted and tagged on 7 feedgrounds over 20 trap days during the 2006 trapping season. A total of 318 test-eligible female elk were bled for brucellosis evaluation. An adequate (85% confidence) sero-sample was achieved on 4 of the 7 feedgrounds surveyed. 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 feedgrounds reporting 100% calfhood coverage. Many feedgrounds reported over 100% coverage, which suggests yearling females were boosted at several areas. A total of 2,859 calves were vaccinated on 19 state feedgrounds. The strain 19 vaccination program on the National Elk Refuge was again conducted in 2006, being initiated for the first time during 2003 since 1989-1991. Vaccination efforts were extremely successful this winter. A total of 909 calves were vaccinated during a 42-day period.

BFH personnel continued to facilitate implementation of habitat improvements projects this past year by coordinating with federal land management agencies. The Fremont Phase II treatment was conducted in Sublette County near the Soda Lake feedground with 1,330 acres burned in the spring of 2005. The Maki Creek project was initiated in spring 2005 with 120 acres of pre-treatment conifer cutting in preparation for aspen burns scheduled for fall of 2006. BFH personnel secured funding through a successful grant proposal to the Wyoming Habitat Grant Trust for \$60,000.

The top recommendation of the Wyoming Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team final report was the development of elk herd unit Brucellosis Management Action Plans (BMAP). All elk herd unit BMAPs will be completed by July 2007. BMAP development and their mandated annual updating will likely involve tremendous time commitments from the BFH work unit into the foreseeable future.

Muddy Creek was chosen as the first of the three feedgrounds in the Pinedale elk herd unit to initiate year 1 of a 5 year pilot test and slaughter project in attempt to reduce brucellosis exposure rates in elk. A large (~150' diameter) portable elk trap was erected at the site in fall, 2005, and the first of three trapping efforts commenced on 1/8/06. A total of 307 elk were newly captured in 2006, including 157 test eligible (yearling and adult) females, which were bled and tested to reveal 37% (58/157) had been exposed to *Brucella*. All seropositive animals were killed.

A final activity of the BFH program this year was the initiation of a novel feedground elk research project investigating *Brucella*-induced abortion ecology, brucellosis transmission risk variables, and parturition site characteristics of feedground elk using vaginal implant transmitters (VITs). A total of 83 elk were darted, 89% of cows were pregnant with 3 capture mortalities, and implantation of 70 VITs. Results have not yet been compiled or analyzed. The study will be conducted again next year.

#### Wildlife Disease Laboratory

A total of 1,214 samples were submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Disease Laboratory and/or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) representing 341 diagnostic cases. As part of the Branch's charge to monitor disease in wild populations, the following surveys were conducted: 1) over 5,000 hunter-killed elk kits were mailed or hand delivered to monitor brucellosis prevalence. A total of 898 kits were returned to the laboratory, of which 547 were suitable for testing; 2) three-hundred and seventy three serum samples collected from elk utilizing feedgrounds were analyzed for brucellosis titers; 3) approximately 486 coyote, ferret, fox, mountain lion, lynx, and badger samples were analyzed for plague, tularemia and distemper; 4) 4,804 elk, mule and white-tailed deer samples were analyzed for chronic wasting disease as part of statewide surveillance; and 5) 7 positive rabies samples were received and analyzed by WSVL from raccoons, skunks and bats.

#### *The Laboratory Branch:*

The responsibility of the Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory Branch is to enhance and protect Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources by providing the Department, wildlife organizations and public with timely and accurate information and essential laboratory and technological support in the areas of wildlife forensics, fish health and tooth aging. Major accomplishments of the Laboratory Branch during FY06 include conducting a total of 37,618 tests on 14,823 samples in response to 274 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.

A total of 88 fish disease cases were investigated. These included 28,062 diagnostic tests on 11,782 samples (including kidney and spleen tissue, ovarian fluid and fish heads) collected from various fish species for bacterial, viral, and parasitic organisms. Thirty-eight annual/semi-annual fish health inspections were completed on ten state fish-culture stations, four state isolation units, six private hatcheries, and six free-ranging (wild) broodstock populations. Clinical *Nucleospora salmonis* was detected in one hatchery. A total of 153 fish in three 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.

Ninety-four forensic cases were investigated for law enforcement personnel where 7,197 tests were conducted on 682 different samples including partial animal carcasses, tissue, blood, hair, antlers, saws, knives, gloves, jackets, fur, hide, teeth, hamburger, arrows, bones, clothing, horns, hatchets, blankets, skulls, and gut piles, etc. Results from forensic tests were used to obtain a minimum of \$53,890 in fines and restitution. In ten cases, defendants pled guilty or were found guilty in a court of law; thirty-four cases are still pending court appearances or are

ongoing investigations. A total of 211 tests were conducted on 129 different biological samples in response to fourteen requests from Department personnel and other management agencies.

The forensic lab continues to be involved with the National Forensic Lab Proficiency Program. All state wildlife forensic laboratories in the country are eligible to participate in the program. Three unknown samples are submitted every six months. Each analyst in the laboratory determines the species and gender of the submitted items and then determines if any of the three items match each other. The results are returned to the National Forensic lab and results are tabulated and returned. The lab received a 100% on both proficiency tests submitted during this fiscal year.

Cementum annuli tooth-aging procedures were conducted on 2,359 different teeth samples received in 92 separate shipments. This included requests from the field biologists, wardens, regional office personnel and 1,727 hunters who were mailed cards informing them of the age of their harvested animals. Analysis was performed on fifteen different species with moose and elk comprising the majority of all the teeth analyzed.

Laboratory personnel prepared and exhibited an interactive booth at the Hunting and fishing Heritage Exposition in Casper. Numerous formal presentations were given to different groups, including the commission, on the duties and responsibilities of the laboratory; additional presentations including evidence collection and submission to the forensic portion of the laboratory. Numerous new procedures and protocols were brought on-line in both fish health and forensics, which increases capabilities of the laboratory as well as decreasing turn-around time for analysis.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the services provided by this objective. Of respondents that interacted with the Fish Health staff and responded to the question, 98.4% were satisfied with the services provided. Of respondents that interacted with the Forensics staff, 98.0% were satisfied with the services provided. Of respondents that interacted with the Tooth Aging staff, 100% were satisfied with the services provided. Finally, of respondents that interacted with the Veterinary services staff, 85.8% were satisfied with the services provided.

Outcome measures include percentage of conviction on forensic cases submitted by law enforcement. Outcome measures for fish health include the ability of the hatchery manager to meet stocking schedules. Percentage of satisfaction with disease, forensic and research investigations, and other technical consultations also constitute outcome measures.

#### Problem Areas

##### *The Veterinary Services Branch:*

The most significant problem for the Sybille Research Unit and the Disease Laboratory is the inability to convert contract personnel to full-time benefited positions. Finding qualified personnel willing to work for low wages and without benefits is becoming much more difficult as the job market tightens.

##### *The Laboratory Branch:*

Key factors that created difficulty in accomplishing outcome measures include: (1) Lack of adequate and aseptic laboratory space in the Biological Sciences building to perform DNA and

tissue culture analyses requires the use of additional labs at the University of Wyoming, (2) Inefficiency in training short-term contract employees to accomplish workload, and (3) Aging equipment is going to have to be replaced over the next several fiscal years or basic services will be disrupted.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

The percentage of satisfaction of Department employees with wildlife health and laboratory services were derived from the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*. Specifically, questions 5, 9, and 11 within Objective 5a, and questions 4 within Objective 5b are used in the evaluation of this Objective. Results of the survey effort can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator at the Cheyenne Headquarters.

Outcome measures are also documented by percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, health certificates and case reports of examination in Fish Health and Forensics (on file at the laboratory in the Biological Sciences Building at the University of Wyoming) that are sent to submitting fish and law enforcement personnel, monthly summaries, e-mail communications, the annual report, and tooth age post cards sent to hunters. Pathology, other disease reports, brucellosis test records, toxicological reports and also feed analysis records are kept on file at the Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the State Veterinary Laboratory, Laramie, Wyoming. Veterinary reports, immobilization records, drug inventories and animal care and feed records are maintained at the Sybille Wildlife Conservation and Education Unit, Wheatland, Wyoming.

#### **Strategy: Veterinary Services**

##### Narrative and Output Measures

Successful design, implementation, and execution of a pilot test and slaughter of brucellosis-infected elk on the Muddy Creek feedground. Completion of Pinedale, Fall Creek, Afton, and Upper Green River elk herd unit Brucellosis Management Action Plans. Completion of brucellosis surveillance and vaccination goals. Completion of statewide CWD surveillance. Completion of brucellosis hunter surveillance in southwest Wyoming. Initiation of research projects to examine *Brucella*-induced abortion ecology, brucellosis transmission risk variables, and parturition site characteristics of feedground elk and to determine the long-term impact of CWD on a captive elk population. Presentation of wildlife capture and handling class to WGFD and other state/federal agency personnel.

Veterinary Services had 21 major work plan elements scheduled for FY06, 11 of which were completed (61.9%) and the remaining 10 were either not completed or on-going. The major elements completed include: Pronghorn thermoregulation study, CWD feedground plan, Commission CWD plan, Statewide CWD surveillance, Brucellosis surveillance, Brucellosis elk vaccination, Brucellosis hunter surveillance, Wildlife capture class, Pilot test and slaughter project, Design mobile serological diagnostics laboratory, and Lab processes modification for

rapid sero diagnostics. The not completed/on-going major elements include: Experimental infection of moose with CWD, Long-term CWD elk study, CWD Hair Coat Study, Cervid CWD tissue bank study, Elk contraception study, Elk CWD shedding and assay development study, Elk CWD hair coat study, CWD transmission to cattle, BMAP development, and the New Fork-Boulder habitat project.

#### *Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille*

As part of an ongoing study to determine if moose were susceptible to CWD, captive moose were given a single oral inoculum of mule deer CWD prions. A male was observed 3 years post-inoculation with an unsteady gait, emaciation, and excessive salivation. Upon necropsy, this moose had aspiration pneumonia, serous atrophy of the bone marrow, and 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 case of clinical CWD observed in moose. A study was started this year to determine the long-term effects of CWD on a captive population of elk exposed to CWD prions from both the environment and from other infected elk. This study was a conversion of a brucellosis study that could not be completed due to federal restrictions. Forty-four elk calves were captured in Jackson in 2002 and taken to Sybille. They were placed in pens previously occupied by CWD-infected elk, thus exposed to an environment contaminated with CWD prions. Four years later, 18 elk (41%) have died from CWD. From these data, we will be able to model the impact that CWD would have on a free-ranging population of elk under the worst conditions of CWD exposure. Another study was initiated to determine if hair coat shedding patterns are different between uninfected and CWD-infected elk. Collaborative research with the DoD, USGS, and WSVL is ongoing.

Approximately 120 animals, representing seven big game species, were housed at Sybille during this period. Minor elements that were completed at Sybille included corral and gate construction, carnivore cage renovation, waterer installation, and renovation of the visitor center area for the dedication ceremony of the Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille.

#### *Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat Program*

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's integrated brucellosis management program (Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat; BFH) is aimed at reducing the prevalence of brucellosis in elk. A total of 531 elk were trapped or darted and tagged on 7 feedgrounds over 20 trap days during the 2006 trapping season. A total of 318 test-eligible female elk were bled for brucellosis evaluation. An adequate (85% confidence) sero-sample was achieved on 4 of the 7 feedgrounds surveyed. 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 feedgrounds reporting 100% calfhood coverage. Many feedgrounds reported over 100% coverage, which suggests yearling females were boosted at several areas. A total of 2,859 calves were vaccinated on 19 state feedgrounds. The strain 19 vaccination program on the National Elk Refuge was again conducted in 2006, being initiated for the first time during 2003 since 1989-1991. Vaccination efforts were extremely successful this winter. A total of 909 calves were vaccinated during a 42-day period.

BFH personnel continued to facilitate implementation of habitat improvements projects this past year by coordinating with federal land management agencies. The Fremont Phase II

treatment was conducted in Sublette County near the Soda Lake feedground with 1,330 acres burned in the spring of 2005. Nearly 5,000 acres of habitat treatments have occurred around the Soda Lake feedground since 1991. Since then, Soda Lake feedground experienced a 43-day mean decrease in duration of the annual feeding season, which is significantly more than the mean decrease observed on other feedgrounds during the same period. Habitat treatments implemented near Soda Lake appear to have reduced dependency of elk on supplemental feed, and, potentially, intra-specific disease transmission events.

The Maki Creek project was initiated in spring 2005 with 120 acres of pre-treatment conifer cutting in preparation for aspen burns scheduled for fall of 2006. This project targets rejuvenating decadent, conifer-encroached aspen stands near the Jewett elk feedground. BFH personnel have assisted with area delineations, data collection, and secured funding for the project through a successful grant proposal to the Wyoming Habitat Grant Trust for \$60,000. 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.

The top recommendation of the Wyoming Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team final report was the development of elk herd unit Brucellosis Management Action Plans (BMAP). 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, Fall Creek, Afton, and Upper Green River elk herd unit BMAPs were completed in 2006. The Hoback and Piney BMA's are currently in progress, and the Jackson plan will commence in January 2007. All elk herd unit BMAPs will be completed by July 2007. BMAP development and their mandated annual updating will likely involve tremendous time commitments from the BFH work unit into the foreseeable future.

Muddy Creek was chosen as the first of the three feedgrounds in the Pinedale elk herd unit to initiate year 1 of a 5 year pilot test and slaughter project in attempt to reduce brucellosis exposure rates in elk. A large (~150' diameter) portable elk trap was erected at the site in fall, 2005, and the first of three trapping efforts commenced on 1/8/06. A total of 307 elk were newly captured in 2006, including 157 test eligible (yearling and adult) females, which were bled and tested to reveal 37% (58/157) had been exposed to *Brucella*. All seropositive animals were killed: 54 were hauled to a USDA-approved slaughter facility in Rigby, ID where they were processed and the meat (~8,900 lbs) was donated to the public April 12, 2006; 1 animal died in transit to the slaughterhouse; 1 animal was one of two trapping-related mortalities; and the final 2 seropositive animals were inadvertently released from the trap back into the population, and were subsequently shot and killed. Elk trapping for general surveillance has been conducted at Muddy Creek feedground 6 times prior to 2006 (1990, 91, 96, 97, 2004, 05), and has averaged 33% seroprevalence with cELISA.

A final activity of the BFH program this year was the initiation of a novel feedground elk research project investigating *Brucella*-induced abortion ecology, brucellosis transmission risk variables, and parturition site characteristics of feedground elk using vaginal implant transmitters (VITs). Elk were darted with 1.0 ml carfentanil and 0.5 ml xylazine from the feed sled on Bench Corral, Scab Creek, and Soda Lake feedgrounds. An 85% confident sero-sample size was achieved on Bench and Soda, where brucellosis seroprevalence was considerably lower (12% and 15%, respectively) than the feedground elk average of 26%. A total of 83 elk were darted, 89% of cows were pregnant with 3 capture mortalities, and implantation of 70 VITs.

VITs were monitored regularly after elk left the feedgrounds, with increased intensity during parturition. Expelled transmitters were collected and will be cultured at the WGFD Wildlife Disease Lab in Laramie to determine presence/absence of *Brucella*. Habitat evaluations were conducted at each site of expelled transmitters in attempt to quantify environmental characteristics selected for by calving elk. Results have not yet been compiled or analyzed. The study will be conducted again next year.

#### *Wildlife Disease Laboratory*

A total of 1,214 samples were submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Disease Laboratory and/or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) representing 341 diagnostic cases. As part of the Branch's charge to monitor disease in wild populations, the following surveys were conducted: 1) over 5,000 hunter-killed elk kits were mailed or hand delivered to monitor brucellosis prevalence. A total of 898 kits were returned to the laboratory, of which 547 were suitable for testing; 2) three-hundred and seventy three serum samples collected from elk utilizing feedgrounds were analyzed for brucellosis titers; 3) approximately 486 coyote, ferret, fox, mountain lion, lynx, and badger samples were analyzed for plague, tularemia and distemper; 4) 4,804 elk, mule and white-tailed deer samples were analyzed for chronic wasting disease as part of statewide surveillance; and 5) 7 positive rabies samples were received and analyzed by WSVL from raccoons, skunks and bats.

#### Problem Areas

The most significant problem for the Sybille Research Unit and the Disease Laboratory is the inability to convert contract personnel to full-time benefited positions. Finding qualified personnel willing to work for low wages and without benefits is becoming much more difficult as the job market tightens.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Pathology, other disease reports, brucellosis test records, toxicological reports and also feed analysis records are kept on file at the Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the State Veterinary Laboratory, Laramie, Wyoming. Veterinary reports, immobilization records, drug inventories and animal care and feed records are maintained at the Thorne/Williams Wildlife Conservation and Education Unit, Wheatland, Wyoming.

The percentage of satisfaction of Department employees with Veterinary Services was derived from the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*. Results of the survey effort can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator at the Cheyenne Headquarters.

## Strategy: Game And Fish Laboratory

### Narrative and Output Measures

The responsibility of the Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory Branch is to enhance and protect Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources by providing the Department, wildlife organizations and public with timely and accurate information and essential laboratory and technological support in the areas of wildlife forensics, fish health and tooth aging. During FY06, a total of 37,618 tests were conducted on 14,823 samples in response to 274 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. A total of 88 fish disease cases were investigated. These included 28,062 diagnostic tests on 11,782 samples (including kidney and spleen tissue, ovarian fluid and fish heads) collected from various fish species for bacterial, viral, and parasitic organisms. Thirty-eight annual/semi-annual fish health inspections were completed on ten state fish-culture stations, four state isolation units, six private hatcheries, and six free-ranging (wild) broodstock populations. Clinical *Nucleospora salmonis* was detected in one hatchery. A total of 153 fish in three 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.

Ninety-four forensic cases were investigated for law enforcement personnel where 7,197 tests were conducted on 682 different samples including partial animal carcasses, tissue, blood, hair, antlers, saws, knives, gloves, jackets, fur, hide, teeth, hamburger, arrows, bones, clothing, horns, hatchets, blankets, skulls, and gut piles, etc. Results from forensic tests were used to obtain a minimum of \$53,890 in fines and restitution. In ten cases, defendants pled guilty or were found guilty in a court of law; thirty-four cases are still pending court appearances or are ongoing investigations. A total of 211 tests were conducted on 129 different biological samples in response to fourteen requests from Department personnel and other management agencies.

The forensic lab continues to be involved with the National Forensic Lab Proficiency Program. All state wildlife forensic laboratories in the country are eligible to participate in the program. Three unknown samples are submitted every six months. Each analyst in the laboratory determines the species and gender of the submitted items and then determines if any of the three items match each other. The results are returned to the National Forensic lab and results are tabulated and returned. The lab received a 100% on both proficiency tests submitted during this fiscal year.

Cementum annuli tooth-aging procedures were conducted on 2,359 different teeth samples received in 92 separate shipments. This included requests from the field biologists, wardens, regional office personnel and 1,727 hunters who were mailed cards informing them of the age of their harvested animals. Analysis was performed on fifteen different species with moose and elk comprising the majority of all the teeth analyzed.

Laboratory personnel prepared and exhibited an interactive booth at the Hunting and fishing Heritage Exposition in Casper. Numerous formal presentations were given to different groups, including the commission, on the duties and responsibilities of the laboratory; additional presentations including evidence collection and submission to the forensic portion of the

laboratory. Numerous new procedures and protocols were brought on-line in both fish health and forensics, which increases capabilities of the laboratory as well as decreasing turn-around time for analysis.

#### Problem Areas

Key factors that created difficulty in accomplishing outcome measures include: (1) Lack of adequate and aseptic laboratory space in the Biological Sciences building to perform DNA and tissue culture analyses requires the use of additional labs at the University of Wyoming, (2) Inefficiency in training short-term contract employees to accomplish workload, and (3) Aging equipment is going to have to be replaced over the next several fiscal years or basic services will be disrupted.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

The percentage of satisfaction of Department employees with Laboratory Services were derived from the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*. Specifically, questions 2, 3 and 4 within Objective 5A were used in the evaluation of this Objective. Results of the survey effort can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne. Outcome measures are also documented by percentage of annual work plan elements achieved, health certificates and case reports of examination in Fish Health and Forensics (on file at the laboratory in the Biological Sciences Building at the University of Wyoming) that are sent to submitting fish and law enforcement personnel, monthly summaries, e-mail communications, the annual report, and tooth age post cards sent to hunters.

### **OBJECTIVE: COOP RESEARCH UNIT**

#### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

As indicated within the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit's FY05 annual report (Federal government's fiscal year: October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005) students completed three projects that were either partially or wholly funded by the Department. These projects included evaluation of: Demography and nest-site selection of burrowing owls in northeastern Wyoming; Development and dispersion of pronghorn in relation to fences on State Route 372; Pronghorn productivity and fawn survival in central and southeastern Wyoming. In addition, two projects were completed by research assistants: High tensile electric fence: Phase 2 - liability issues, maintenance costs, and containment of bison; Steamboat Elk Project.

In FY05, six students continue to work on projects that were either partially or wholly funded by the Department. These projects include: Assessment of spawning by wild Snake River cutthroat trout from the mainstem of the Salt River in the mainstem, mountain tributaries, and spring creeks of the Salt River drainage; Use of infrared aerial photographs to identify and assess

habitats needed by native fishes in rivers; Pygmy rabbit distribution and habitat requirements in Wyoming; Life history requirements of sauger in the Wind River drainage upstream from Boysen Reservoir, Wyoming – Phase II; Riparian bird communities of the Bighorn, North Platte, and Powder rivers; Migratory corridors of greater sage grouse. In addition, one project by research assistant was on-going in FY05: Adult pronghorn survival.

Three students began new projects in FY05 that were either partially or wholly funded by the Department. These projects include: Influence of human-made instream structures on the management and conservation of bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub in the Muddy Creek watershed, Wyoming; Habitat use and population dynamics of Shira's moose in northwest Wyoming; Movements and habitat associations of adult bluehead suckers, flannelmouth suckers, and white suckers in tributaries to the Green River.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the work of the COOP Unit. Of respondents that interacted with the COOP Unit, 86.4% were satisfied with the quality of research being conducted or completed and 83.1% were satisfied with the quantity of research being conducted or completed for the Department by the COOP Unit.

#### Problem Areas

In the past several years, the COOP Unit lost the services of two experienced and renowned researchers – the retirement of Dr. Fred Lindzey and the death of Dr. Stan Anderson. Consequently much of the applied research needs are not currently being met for wildlife managers. The COOP Unit has received authorization and funding to replace one of these positions. We actively support this replacement. The Department is also doing less applied research because funds available for research have declined \$72,500 since FY02.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator. Specifically, questions 4 and 5 within Objective 6 are used for evaluation purposes.

### **Strategy: COOP Research Unit**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

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#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

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## **OBJECTIVE: FEEDGROUNDS**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

There were 10 major work schedule elements and 6 minor elements, all of which were completed by Feedground personnel. The number of minor elements was decreased to 6 when there was a change in the Feedground Manager position. The law enforcement elements that were previously part of the Feedground program are no longer included.

The major work schedule elements include: Purchasing/hauling hay, Supervising Feeding Operations, Monitoring GF/elk Distribution, Recruit Elk Feeders, Move Horses to Feedgrounds, Moving Horses from Feedgrounds, Monitor Hay Hauling, Feedground Maintenance, Annual Feedground Report, and Big Game Job Completion Report Preparation. Feedgrounds Maintenance Contracts element was reassigned to Services.

The minor work schedule elements include: Hay Buying Planning, Elk Damage Prevention, Elk Disease Monitoring, Hay Inventory, Plan/develop FY07 Work Schedule and new FY07-FY11 Strategic Feedground Plan, and Sub-Unit Review.

The number of elk attending feedgrounds (17,140 elk) increased 2,738 elk from the previous winter. Much of this can be attributed to deep snow conditions throughout the winter and decreased hunter success. About 90% of all elk in the Region that are influenced by State feedgrounds were fed. The total number of elk fed exceeded the sum of all individual feedground Commission ceilings (14,934 elk) by 2,206 elk. However, 11 of the 22 feedgrounds had elk numbers that varied in excess of the individual ceilings and 11 of the 22 feedgrounds had elk numbers that were below the individual ceilings. Patrol Cabin, South Park, Horse Creek, Dog Creek, McNeel, Forest Park, Franz, Black Butte, Scab Creek, North Piney and Bench Corral were in excess of the commission ceiling 1,378, 294, 479, 307, 116, 169, 250, 382, 410, 170 and 760 head respectfully. Greys River, Green River Lakes, Soda, Fall Creek, Muddy creek, Finnegan, Jewett, Alkali, Fish Creek, Camp Creek and Dell Creek were below the commission ceiling 343, 117, 223, 194, 150, 118, 28, 125, 452, 47 and 142 head respectfully.

The length of feeding averaged 2 days less during 2005-06 when compared to the long-term average. The shortest feeding seasons were at Alkali, Fish Creek and North Piney. These resulted from wolves moving the elk to other feedgrounds before feeding was completed for the winter. Nine of the feedgrounds had shorter than average feeding seasons and 13 had longer than average feeding seasons.

The elk were fed 9,267 ton of hay, which is 2,854 ton more than the previous winter and 2,416 ton more than the 30-year average. The increased amount of hay fed was the result of the increased number of elk that attended the feedgrounds. On the average, each elk fed was offered 0.51 ton of hay during the winter.

Feeders reported that 172 elk died on the feedgrounds. This is 83% higher than the 30-year average of 94 elk, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest year of the past 30 years and is 1% of the elk that attended feedgrounds last winter. 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 2005-06 (40 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 51% of the elk killed.

The Gros Ventre feedgrounds continue to receive the most wolf activity. These feedgrounds have been frequented by wolves on an annual basis since wolves became present on state operated feedgrounds. Again, wolves hastened the movement of the North Piney elk to Bench Corral.

#### Problem Areas

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.

Special Use Permits. Six of the Department's 22 feedgrounds set on land under U. S. Forest Service administration and five set on land under BLM administration. They have not re-issued long-term special use permits on two feedgrounds and are only issuing one year temporary permits. Not knowing what action the FS or BLM may take in the future is reason for concern. NEPAs could be required before they take action.

Staffing continues to be a problem. Some changes have been made (maintenance done by the Services Division and temporary help made available) to help. However, additional responsibilities have kept the program reacting to, rather than preventing problems. However, progress is being made with feedground program restructure hopefully providing for two future feedground managers and one supervisor.

Hiring and retaining elk feeders is always a concern. It is increasingly difficult to find someone who is interested in working seven days/week in inclement weather conditions that has the knowledge of working with draft horse teams for ~\$30.00/day when the local economies are providing employment opportunities for \$14.00 - \$20.00/hr.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Work plan analyses are prepared by the regional administrators and submitted to the Division Administration. Copies are kept in both regional and the state offices.

### **Strategy: Feedgrounds**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

These people negotiate contracts to purchase hay, check its quality, and see that it is delivered to 22 feedgrounds. Personnel also supervise the contract feeders in the distribution of the hay to elk and in the vaccination of feedground elk for brucellosis.

## Problem Areas

The time spent with administrative tasks is steadily increasing. The lack of staff results in the existing permanent feedground personnel reacting to problems and situations.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. Work plan analyses are prepared by the regional administrators and submitted to the Division Administration. Copies are kept in both regional and the state offices

## **OBJECTIVE: SPECIALIZED STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

This Objective is divided into three distinct parts: Law Enforcement Administration and Boating Safety, the Law Enforcement Investigative Unit, and the STOP POACHING Program.

#### *The Law Enforcement Administration and Boating Safety Branch:*

Individuals involved in the Law Enforcement Administration activities focused their attention on permitting and the maintenance of enforcement data. Permitting efforts increased during calendar year 2005, with 462 permits issued or renewed in 2005. There were a total of 195 Chapter 33 permits issued, which is a 7% increase from 2004. There were ten Chapter 45 permits which is the same number as the previous year. There were twenty-eight Chapter 56 permits issued, which is an increase from only fifteen the previous year. The Wildlife Violator Compact, a database created in FY04, continued to expand and now includes 23 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 Department experienced another successful year for the Boating Safety Program. During FY06, the Department registered 26,270 watercrafts. 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 Case Management System (CMS) is in the final preparation stages. Delays in getting all wardens hooked up with high speed internet service should be completed this winter, with the new CMS system going on line during the same time.

#### *The Law Enforcement Investigative Unit:*

In FY06, the Unit was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes. Investigators spent 4,964 hours investigating cases. The unit closed 65 cases and convicted 62 defendants. These defendants paid \$60,475.00 in fines and an additional \$87,429.00 in state and federal restitution. The total of these is \$147,904.00.

### *The Stop Poaching Program:*

The Stop Poaching Program is based on a calendar year and during 2005 there were a total of 464 calls received through the stop poaching hotline. In addition there were 2 reports that came in for a reward payment without a stop poaching number and 9 reports that came from the TIP Wildlife Violation Submission website. Enforcement action on these calls resulted in fines totaling \$41,630.00. A total of \$1,800.00 in rewards was paid to informants during this same time period.

### Outcome Measures

Public Compliance with boating statutes and regulations. Boating violation rates varied depending upon the body of water but, statewide, 84% (range 63-100%) of boaters were estimated to have been in compliance with Wyoming's boating statutes and regulations.

In FY06, the unit was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes. Several undercover cases have also been worked. Investigators spent 4,964 hours investigating cases. The unit closed 65 cases and convicted 62 defendants.

### Problem Areas

Increases in the number of wildlife violator compact states also create 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 we will not be able to realize all of the available matching money from the Coast Guard.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Public compliance with boating statutes and regulations was derived by averaging violation rates per 100 contacts made by reservoir crews on various Wyoming waters. The Department's Law Enforcement Coordinator in the Casper Regional Office maintains these reports. *Number of cases closed by the investigative unit* – this information is derived from the Department's Case Management System (CMS) reports.

## **Strategy: Law Enforcement Administration and Boating Safety**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Law Enforcement Administration and Boating Safety section had 9 major work schedule elements for FY06 - all were achieved. These elements include: Permitting, Law Enforcement Administration, Work Schedule Planning, Public Contacts, Wildlife Investigations, Law Enforcement Training, Interagency Coordination, Watercraft Safety, and Regional Law Enforcement Assistance. No minor elements were scheduled.

Issuing possession / importation permits continues to be a time consuming task. With 462 permits issued or renewed in 2005, there was no increase in permit numbers compared with 2004. There were a total of 195 Chapter 33 permits issued, which is a 7% increase from 2004. There were ten Chapter 45 permits which is the same number as the previous year. There were twenty-eight Chapter 56 permits issued, which is an increase from only fifteen the previous year.

The Wildlife Violator Compact among states continued to expand and now includes 23 different states. Two additional states have passed legislation to join. The database has been enhanced and is now accessed through the Internet. There are currently more than 4000 individuals entered into this database.

During FY 2006, the Department registered 26,270 watercrafts. 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. The WLEC attended the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA) conferences. The WLEC also attended NASBLA's first ever workshop.

A new case management system is in the final preparation stages. Delays in getting all wardens hooked up with high speed internet service should be completed this winter, with the new CMS system going on line during the same time.

### Problem Areas

Increases in the number of wildlife violator compact states also create 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 we will not be able to realize all of the available matching money from the Coast Guard.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

The percentage of annual work plan elements achieved is documented by means of work schedule analysis. The Department's Law Enforcement Coordinator in the Casper Regional Office maintains these reports.

### **Strategy: Law Enforcement Investigative Unit**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

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

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

In FY06, the unit was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes. Investigators spent 4,964 hours investigating cases. The unit closed 65 cases and convicted 62 defendants. These defendants paid \$60,475.00 in fines and an additional \$87,429.00 in state and federal restitution. The total of these is \$147,904.00.

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

The Law Enforcement Investigative Unit had three major work elements scheduled for FY06 (all completed): Wildlife Law Enforcement Investigations, Intelligence System Maintenance, and Law Enforcement Training. The unit had two minor work elements scheduled (all accomplished): Assist region law enforcement efforts, and Assist region non-law enforcement efforts.

#### Problem Areas

The number of investigators and the 40-hour workweek continue to hamper effectiveness. Available overtime money continues to restrict total work hours investigators are able to work. In addition, two investigators retired at the end of calendar year 2005 and were not replaced as of June 30, 2006.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. This information is documented by means of work schedule analysis of Investigators and Investigative Unit Supervisor.

### **Strategy: Stop Poaching**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy provides funding and coordination for the Stop Poaching program that is designed to pay rewards to individuals who provide reports of the illegal taking of wildlife. The Stop Poaching program had 3 work plan elements scheduled for FY06 (all completed): Document total number of Stop Poaching Reports, Payment of Rewards, and Issuance of Certificates of Appreciation.

The Stop Poaching Program is based on a calendar year and during 2005 there were a total of 464 calls received through the stop poaching hotline. In addition there were 2 reports that came in for a reward payment without a stop poaching number and 9 reports that came from the TIP Wildlife Violation Submission website. Enforcement action on these calls resulted in fines totaling \$41,630.00. A total of \$1,800.00 in rewards was paid to informants during this same time period.

Calendars were printed and distributed displaying the Stop Poaching phone number in an effort to make the number more available to the public. These calendars are small enough to be placed on the dashboard of most vehicles.

#### Problem Areas

There are no problem areas identified at this time.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information on the percentage of annual work plan elements achieved can be obtained from the annual work plan reports available from the Wildlife Division Administration in Cheyenne. The Law Enforcement Coordinator's staff maintains records of reports received, rewards paid, and suspects prosecuted. This information can be accessed through the Wildlife Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## OBJECTIVE: STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

Wyoming's Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was unanimously approved by the National Acceptance Advisory Team in August 2005. The CWCS identifies 279 wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and their habitats. It offers a number of actions recommended to conserve these species. The highest priority is data collection, to document the status of these species in Wyoming.

One major project dominated the activities of the Strategic Management Coordinator in FY06. The coordinator developed a revised comprehensive program-level strategic plan for Commission approval. Involving many Department personnel in all divisions, this document will serve as a management tool by providing guidance and direction to the Department's 24 programs as they meet future challenges and opportunities. In addition, the coordinator began to prepare the FY06 State of Wyoming Strategic Plan Report for the Department's portion of the Government Annual Report.

In addition to these major tasks, the Strategic Management Coordinator was responsible for developing and either conducting or coordinating numerous survey projects. During FY06, the coordinator assisted in the development of a series of four surveys that were used to evaluate the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) program. The coordinator conducted the PLPW survey that was distributed to Department employees. The coordinator also assisted in the development of two telephone surveys, *Licensed Deer Hunters' Opinions On and Attitudes Toward Deer Management in Wyoming* and *Wyoming Residents' Use of Information Sources Regarding Wildlife Issues: Implications for Developing Effective Communications Strategies*. Finally, the Strategic Management Coordinator organized and coordinated a workshop attended by Department staff, which focused on a presentation of the *Wildlife Values in the West* survey results by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) contractors from Colorado State University.

### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Strategic Management Coordinator. Of individuals that had interacted with the Strategic Management Coordinator, 83.9% indicated they were satisfied with the services provided by the Strategic Management Coordinator.

### Problem Areas

Budget shortfalls have reduced the funding available to conduct planning activities and social science research while demands for services continue to increase. During FY06, several projects had to be either rejected or abandoned due to higher priority activities.

### Strategic Plan Changes For Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed and approved in FY07.

## Documentation of Outcome Measures

The *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* was used to measure employee satisfaction with services provided by this program. Specifically, question 4 within Objective 7 was used for this purpose. Copies of this report can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator.

During FY06, the coordinator assisted in the development of a series of four surveys that were used to evaluate the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) program. The coordinator also assisted in the development of two telephone surveys, *Licensed Deer Hunters' Opinions On and Attitudes Toward Deer Management in Wyoming* and *Wyoming Residents' Use of Information Sources Regarding Wildlife Issues: Implications for Developing Effective Communications Strategies*.

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### **Strategy: Strategic Management**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

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#### *Problem Areas*

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## Strategic Plan Changes For Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed and approved in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Documentation of output measures for this strategy and copies of completed surveys can be obtained from the Strategic Management Section in Cheyenne.

## **OBJECTIVE: BIRD FARMS**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

Personnel at the bird farms raised and released 31,367 pheasants in FY06. These birds were released on Department lands, private lands leased for public hunting through the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) program, and private lands where landowners allow public hunting access. The Sheridan Bird Farm produced 15,464 pheasants, while the Downar Bird Farm produced 15,903. Bird Farm personnel continue to upgrade production facilities as budgetary constraints allow, assist with local wildlife check stations, collect chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples, and assist with spawning operations. Additional efforts directed toward habitat improvement projects on WHMAs utilizing funds provided through the Killough Foundation and assistance from the construction crew personnel and their equipment. Personnel at both bird farms conducted tours for school classes, 4-H and FFA groups, and local civic groups and organizations.

### Outcome Measures

Production and release records show that 31,367 pheasants were raised and released.

### Problem Areas

Habitat conditions in release sites, particularly Walk-In Access areas, reflect extreme drought conditions present in southeast Wyoming. Poor habitat conditions and lack of hiding cover may negatively impact hunting opportunity and success.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Data showing records of production and release are on file at the Downar and Sheridan Bird Farms.

## **Strategy: Bird Farms**

### Narrative and Output Measures

This strategy has always operated more efficiently than many other strategies and production has increased since efficiency was encouraged. Personnel in this strategy achieved their production outputs and also continued maintaining and enhancing bird habitat units in the surrounding area.

Personnel at the bird farms raised and released 31,367 pheasants in FY06. Personnel in this strategy achieved their production outputs and also continued maintaining and enhancing bird habitat units in the surrounding area. Major work plan elements completed include: raise and release the maximum number of pheasants, maintain facilities, maintain vehicles and equipment. Minor work plan elements completed include: habitat improvement projects on local WHMAs, improve water delivery and irrigation, assist with check stations/PLPW program/CWD monitoring/fish spawning, conducted facility tours and provided extension services.

### Problem Areas

Habitat conditions in release sites, particularly Walk-In Access areas, reflect extreme drought conditions present in southeast Wyoming. Poor habitat conditions and lack of hiding cover may negatively impact hunting opportunity and success.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Document of Output Measures

The work plan for this strategy includes two major items, raise maximum numbers of pheasants in a cost-effective manner and release them to increase opportunity for sportsmen. Production is documented in reports produced by the bird farms.

## **OBJECTIVE: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

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

The Division continued work on several major projects this year in addition to routine accounting and licensing functions. The Department issued an RFP in late fall 2004 for the development of a POS system for license selling agents and eventually a re-write of the license draw system for issuance of limited quota licenses. A contract was finalized with the successful

vendor, Outdoor Central, in September 2005 to begin Phase I, the development of the POS system. A team of Department employees, led by the agency Project manager, continues to work with the contractor, reviewing programming code and testing. Due to several changes in the contractor's staff, the contractor was not able to meet preliminary estimates on when the project would be put in production. At this time, coding and testing is approximately 50% complete, with anticipated roll-out by early 2007.

During the summer of 2006, work also began as a joint effort between state ITD and WGF programmers to develop an Internet application for the limited quota big game licenses. It is anticipated that this application will be ready to be tested by late 2006.

These projects are intended to provide sportsmen with improved license application and issuance processes, simplify license-selling agent reporting, and provide improved information for harvest survey, law enforcement and federal reporting requirements.

Currently, licensing information continues to be available through the Internet from license results, demand indices, leftover license information in addition to application and packet information.

In FY06, the Department had to manage substantially increased application volume due to a modification of Commission regulation, allowing nonresidents to apply for preference points for deer, antelope and elk. This change resulted in a 48% increase in the number of nonresident elk applications, a 26% increase in nonresident deer applications, and a 30% increase in nonresident antelope applications. Substantially all of this change resulted from applicants choosing to purchase preference points. Due to this major increase, the Department missed the tentative draw date for the first of the season's draws, nonresident elk, by five days. However, all of the remaining limited quota draws were run either on or before the published tentative draw dates. During FY06 approximately 255,000 limited quota application species fee types, in addition to access and search and rescue donations, were received and processed by the Division for over 50 different types of licenses and permits. This represents an increase of approximately 30,000 application species fee types or 13% over the previous fiscal year and 20% increase from FY04.

The number of license-selling agents administered by the Division increased changed from 353 to 355 agents by year end. Twenty-six new agents were approved by the Commission. All new agents are provided Department training. In FY06, 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 the predator stamp, the proceeds of which while accounted for by the Department are to be distributed to the Animal Damage Management Board, after Department administrative costs.

In the General Accounting section, significant time was devoted to setting up the landowner incentive grant program in which the Department received a \$767,000 competitive (Tier II) grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and submitting new projects and annual close-out reports for the state wildlife grant program. The Department also developed a grant proposal for a second year of LIP Tier II funds and was notified in August 2006, that they were again successful, with an award of \$765,000. LIP Tier II funds require a 50% state match. Additionally, the Department has over 45 projects either completed or still in process in the State Wildlife program, which is funded at a 50% or 75% level with federal funds.

The Department continues to work with USFWS on one issue remaining from the 2003-2004 audit regarding land disposal. While there were no disallowed costs or other management issues, the corrective action plan on land disposal is still in process.

A final area where significant time was expended within this section was on integrating the new DAR, time reporting system with personnel and payroll information and the State Auditor's systems to reduce time expended on data input and validation.

In the Disbursements section, some minor modifications were made in the purchasing credit card system to insure proper accounting for re-issued card account numbers. Currently, employees continue to utilize the new VPS system completed in FY04. Entry time for transactions in this system increased slightly due to vacancies and employee turn-over in the section, to approximately 4.5 days from document receipt to transfer to the state auditor's office for processing. The state wide purchasing credit card program has continued to expand with over 160 employees currently utilizing this system. Training sessions for employees interested in being a part of this program were held in conjunction with Commission meetings and new employee orientation sessions during the year and approximately 37 new employees were trained, with the majority of those electing to receive cards during FY06.

Accordingly, much Divisional time was spent on upgrading and/or developing new systems and processes. All of the systems, except the PPCAS cost accounting system, for which the design document has been completed but programming has not begun, are complete at this time. The PPCAS system was delayed to allow for the unplanned re-write of the DAR time recording system necessitated by changes in the state personnel roles. It is planned that this system will be re-written in FY07.

#### Outcome Measures

In FY06, slightly over 42,000 expenditure transactions were reviewed by Disbursements personnel and processed directly through the State Auditor's office. The amount remained almost constant from FY05; however, the time for processing payment vouchers increased slightly from 4 to 4.5 days.

The majority of Department receipts are from limited quota license applications processed between January and June. Over \$44.8 million (up 11%) was received from approximately 255,000 limited quota license application species fee types during this period. Processing time for receipts, increased only slightly, from 17 to 17.5 days, or approximately 11 working days, not unexpected due to the significant increase in volume of applications. During January and May, when volume was the lowest, funds were deposited within approximately 8 calendar days of receipt. Funds are deposited prior to completed processing of applications in order to expedite interest income.

Additionally, keypunch and other errors resulted in approximately 57 of the 127 requests for license adjustments or refunds considered by management between August 1, 2005 and July 31, 2006. These requests constituted less than 0.1% of the 162,000 limited quota licenses issued and preference point applications received in the License draw system.

For FY06, the Department has continued to measure those two outcomes, which provide meaningful data related to fiscal operations (accuracy and timeliness of operations), where data was available (could be collected without significant expenditure of additional costs) and where data could be compared over time. Additionally, results from the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* provide the opportunity for employees to measure the overall performance of various programs. Where all responses were treated equally and only responses were included in the calculations, 92.9% of personnel were satisfied with the services provide by the various sections in the Financial Mgmt program.

## Problem Areas

The Department encountered serious problems, from a processing standpoint, with the adoption of nonresident preference points. As application deadline dates and tentative draw dates remained unchanged, but both volume and complexity increased dramatically, the Department instituted a 16 hour work day, with two shifts running from 6:30 am to midnight. Due to the limited space available within the facility for data entry operators and the need to insure internal control over the monetary funds, which made off-site entry undesirable, the ability to hire additional operators without using multiple shifts was not possible. Even with the institution of two shifts, full-time Department employees were required to work significant overtime to provide adequate levels of supervision for temporary workers and to perform the more difficult error investigation, correction and reconciliation tasks.

In the development of the POS system for license selling agent, while the Department utilized a sophisticated project management system for tracking purposes, contractor delays in providing programming code for review and correction of errors early on in the project, were major factors in rolling back the implementation date. While the contractor has initiated internal changes to address this problem and the Department believes these changes will greatly assist the review and correction process, project implementation will still be delayed by up to six months. However, the Department believes that it is most important to focus on insuring that the system is functional and easy for license selling agents to use, rather than focusing on meeting the original time estimates.

Changes area also anticipated in the Department's in-house systems, primarily as a result of system changes by other State agencies. As the Department must interface with the State Auditor's separate accounting, fixed asset and payroll systems, any changes in any one of these systems may and often do require changes in the Department's systems. Over the past three years, changes have been anticipated in the State Auditor's system, but to date the majority of those changes have been delayed by the Auditor's office. Currently, the State Auditor is working on a major upgrade to the state's accounting system, to be implemented in July 2007, which may require extensive changes to in-house financial systems to allow for integration with the upgrades in the coming year.

Finally, the Department continues to spend increasing time addressing compliance and reporting requirements for its federal funds. In the summer of 2005, the Department completed the development of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. This funding source, while providing expanded dollars to the amount of approximately \$500,000 annually for species at risk, has been a time consuming program to administer from development, monitoring and reporting standpoint. We anticipate that the reporting required at the conclusion of the grant period will necessitate much more detailed information than required for other existing programs, even though the funding is only approximately 10% of our major PR/DJ programs. This program has required significant time commitments from both Fiscal and divisional field personnel to insure that reporting requirements are being met. Additionally, the new LIP Tier II funds, while providing on-the-ground funding for habitat work, will be equally time consuming to state wildlife grants, both from a financial and programmatic standpoint.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department has several changes that are anticipated to be in place in 2007 to help accommodate the increased application volume due to preference points. In July 2006, changes to Chapter 44 of the WGF regulations were approved by the Commission to provide for a separate application period (July 1 to September 30) for the purchase of preference points, which should spread out the increased application volume from a five-month to nine-month period so that the use of multiple shifts can be minimized. Additionally, an Internet application for limited quota applications is currently in development and may be able to be implemented for at least a portion of the 2007 filing season. Both of these changes, should assist in reducing the data entry volume and also help to reduce data entry errors.

Additionally, the planned rewrite of the Department's cost accounting system in 2007 should assist in providing more flexibility in Department reporting of expenditures paid through third party funding in addition to improved management reporting.

Finally, the Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Outcome Measures

Records pertaining to the speed of transaction entry into financial systems, the accuracy of transaction processing, and copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Revenue Collection and Licensing**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Licensing sections administered the sale of almost 835,000 over-the-counter licenses and conservation stamps during fiscal year 2006. During that period, the number of License selling agents increased slightly from 353 agents to 355. Additionally, during this period, 26 applications for agents were approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. License-selling agents sell over fifty different types of licenses, conservation stamps and other Department permits. In addition, over 255,000 limited quota applications (deer, antelope, elk, turkey, moose, sheep, goat, bison) for licenses, permits and preference points 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 administered grants the state wildlife grant and Landowner incentive program from USFWS in addition to multiple federal grants from the Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Reclamation; Forest Service, Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection agency, Department of Agriculture and from other state agencies and conservation groups.

## Problem Areas

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.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. The Department will have to invest significant financial and personnel resources for these new projects. Additionally, some changes in personnel functions can be anticipated and may require the addition of positions and/or re-alignment of existing positions as increased complexity of systems may require different personnel needs before this project is complete. Also, continued changes in federal funding legislation and federal audit recommendations could also require changes in the next fiscal year as the amount of time required for administering federal programs continues to increase.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information related to the number of licenses sold, the number of license agencies, the number of limited quota applications processes, and the number of licenses distributed annually can be obtained either from the License Sales and Accounting Supervisor or the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Accounts Payable**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Accounts Payable 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 4.5 days to complete processing on over 98% of those claims. In addition, approximately 43,000 landowner coupons, up 10% from FY 05, were processed from 2,400 affidavits submitted by landowners between December and February and paid between January and April. Of those payments, 16 Landowners elected to have their landowner coupons utilized for predator management and \$2,691 was transferred to the ADMB. Additionally, this section continued to maintain and expand on the use of the statewide purchasing credit card by Department employees.

## Problem Areas

While a planned modification of the WOLFs system by the State Auditor has been delayed several times, this modification will be implemented by June 2007, requiring modifications in Department systems to accommodate these changes. .

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. Changes to integration of existing financial with the upgraded state accounting system will need to be pursued in 2007.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information regarding the number of transactions processed and speed of entry onto financial systems can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Financial Systems Administration**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Financial administration is responsible for budget development and monitoring, fiscal training, financial reports and design and maintenance of all internal financial systems. Various (four) half-day training sessions were conducted in Cheyenne and Casper for wildlife, fish and service division supervisors to provide updated information on fiscal purchasing, payment, budgetary, payroll, inventory, and federal funds compliance and reporting issues. Additionally, training sessions on credit cards for employees requesting to utilize the statewide purchasing card were held at several locations throughout the state during the year, with a total of 37 employees trained. Video conferencing equipment is being utilized, whenever possible, to minimize time and travel costs. Several presentations were made to the TRW legislative committee related to alternative funding issues. Additionally, the Department developed and submitted a budget for inclusion in the Governor's executive branch budget for the 2007-2008 biennium for two Department programs, vet services and local sage grouse working groups, in addition to several construction projects, and appeared before the JAC.

This section was instrumental in guiding the rewrite of the Department's DAR (time reporting system and integration of that system with the State Auditor's payroll system).

Monthly financial statements (balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditures on a cash basis) were provided to Commissioners and Department staff within 3 working days of the end of each month. Additionally, the section compiled various payroll information and budgetary and expenditure information requested by the Travel Recreation and Wildlife Committee of the Wyoming State Legislature.

## Problem Areas

The rewrite of the PPCAS (cost accounting) system in FY 2006 was delayed to FY 2007, due to substantial time commitments for legislative work in addition to employee turn-over in the general accounting section. These rewrites are necessary as the original systems were over fifteen years old and the outdated software was no longer supported and it will be necessary to complete this rewrite in 2007.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. This section may require additional personnel assistance in the budgeting process if alternative funding is successful.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information regarding the number of employees trained, the number of fiscal manual updates produced, and the number of Department transactions processed can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Asset Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

Asset Management is responsible for all Department purchasing, and maintaining Department inventories of fixed assets, uniforms and supplies.

## Problem Areas

The section has experienced significant personnel turnover in the last three years. Significant efforts were expended in the last two years 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.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Information regarding the number of purchasing requisitions processed and the number of fixed assets added to or modified on the state system can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **OBJECTIVE: PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

More efficient mechanisms for processing the Department's payroll have been implemented in the past year. Time and leave records are now directly interfaced with the State Auditor's Office eliminating the need to data enter this information. While the usual implementation clichés have plagued this effort the final outcome has resulted in more accurate and timely payroll and leave information with a reduction in manual effort.

Substantial statistical data has been compiled and entered into spreadsheets concerning employees' compensation. This data has been extensively utilized in analyzing and identifying compensation inequities and implementing market pay adjustments.

The predicted increase in long-term employee retirements has started to occur resulting in a great deal of recruitment and associated position classification review and revamping. It is noteworthy that significant effort has gone into simply keeping the Department staffed given the reduction in numbers of qualified applicants and increased vacancies.

The Leadership Development program was reinvigorated and Personnel Management played a role in moving this process forward.

In conjunction with State Personnel staff new and more accurate information and benchmarks were identified for use in determining appropriate rates of market driven compensation.

A new safety program for drivers was developed and will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year.

Significant progress has been made in cleaning out old records and addressing a backlog in filing.

### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Personnel Management section. Of respondents that had interacted with the Personnel Management staff, 93.2% indicated they were satisfied with the services that had been provided by this section.

### Problem Areas

Increasing workloads and demands on the limited number of human resource staff coupled with the continued decentralization of the human resource functions continue to stress the ability of existing staff in meeting the day to day required tasks. Confusing and rapidly changing compensation systems complicate the daily functioning and continue to confuse the general population of employees. Providing adequate training is a challenge in this rapidly evolving area. Compliance with State and Federal laws covering everything from mandatory drug and alcohol testing for CDL drivers to compliance with FMLA, FLSA and EEO laws, performance appraisal training, mandatory sexual harassment and safe driving training, not to mention leadership and specific skills training, are proving to nearly overwhelm the existing staff and threaten the ability of the Department to be in full compliance.

Additional efforts to attract and retain qualified applicants in an ever increasingly competitive job market are also of great concern. The number of qualified applicants interested in obtaining a position with the Department continues to decline with compensation rates being a significant area that discourages many potential candidates.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. Tracking numbers of personnel actions and timelines associated with the fundamental human resource process will become new elements monitored annually.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator. Specifically, question 4 within Objective 8 is currently used for evaluation purposes.

### **Strategy: Personnel Management**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

Approximately 70% of the annual work plan elements were achieved. Approximately 249 Department employees attended training sessions conducted or arranged by Personnel Services.

#### Problem Areas

Unanticipated events such as employee disciplinary actions or employee grievances tend to exacerbate the already heavy workload of the unit. Frequent changes to laws and rules make consistent application difficult and preclude implementation of new programs or improved processes. Delays in processing personnel actions by the Human Resource Division of the Department of Administration and Information have proven to be a significant problem in providing timely service.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

The documentation of output measures for this strategy can be obtained from the Department's Personnel office.

## **OBJECTIVE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

Continuing in FY06, all Information Technology (IT) hardware (with the exception of telephones and cell phones), software, and technical services budget items were part of the IT Branch budget. This allowed the Department to maintain and support consistent technologies throughout the agency, leverage volume discounts, and to ensure conformance with statewide standards and compliance with.

IT staff replace outdated hardware by installing 105 new computers, workstations and laptops throughout the agency in FY06. With advances in technologies and increased demands for sharing large data files, the speed of remote communications lines has become a significant issue. In FY06, sixty-five additional high speed DSL connections into the Internet were installed and then Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology was implemented to connect many of these remote offices to the agency Wide Area Network (WAN), resulting in an ability to directly access and work with agency information from these locations.

The IT branch continues to work with the Fiscal Division and an outside contractor to develop an on-line hunting and fishing license application process. During FY06, IT Programmers worked closely with the Electronic License Coordinator and the contractor to complete the initial programming, write a use test case application and reporting package, and perform test-case analysis for roll out of the system. IT Operations support staff have been procuring and building servers and putting various network technologies in place in preparation to roll out this new licensing system, in addition to developing an operating system image for the point-of-sale touch screen devices.

There has been an ongoing need to integrate the various pockets of data and GIS usage throughout the agency. During FY06, IT/GIS personnel facilitated an agency-wide GIS working group with representatives from Services, Fish and Wildlife Divisions. This group identified needs and direction for central GIS coordination and made recommendations to Department administration. The GIS working group has already seen successes with recent budget approval to begin building the framework for this project. We anticipate a significant workload accompanying a statewide oil and gas project that will require much of our attention.

Installation and licensing of the 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 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 by automating much of the process.

With the increasing cost of fuel, the demand for a better means of conducting meetings throughout the agency to reduce overall travel has been growing. We began to address this issue by implementing a video conference solution between the Cheyenne and Casper offices and this has paid off during the short time it has been in place. We hope to install the same technology in the majority of our regional offices to further our long-term savings.

A noteworthy improvement to our network infrastructure came with the upgrade of all the Layer 2 and 3 switches on the Cheyenne location Local Area Network and the implementation of an Intrusion Detection System that will allow us to see problems with virus and other malicious attacks from the Internet so we can be more proactive in dealing with vulnerabilities. In

addition, we installed an off-site software and hardware solution for the Cheyenne headquarters servers that included a Storage Area Network device located at the Department of Transportation.

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. 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 license draw results, the IT Development staff reviewed the design of the Department Web site, which led to a rewrite of the draw results application using newer technologies. Following stress testing, significant improvements were made in accessibility and functionality of the Department Internet Web site. We have been able to increase the Web site handling capacity from 300 requests per minute, with a 50% error rate, to over 1300 requests per minute with zero errors. Numerous steps were completed to increase the handling capacity.

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 was installed to replace the existing T-1 line. Following these changes, constituents saw a significant improvement in accessibility and functionality when interacting with the Department Website.

Applications and programs written by the IT Development section included creating a new Hunter Safety application that helps manage Hunter Safety Courses, Students and Instructors, and it prints out Hunter Safety cards; writing a new 'Species of the Season' Challenge application for the general public that helps support the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and gives users the ability to learn about endangered species and record their wildlife observations for the selected species; replacing a Microsoft Access base Fish Stream and Lake Application with a system housed in Microsoft SQL; and creating a process to extract and exchange hunter information with the Department of Family Services to help aid in their Dead Beat Parent program.

In addition, we purchased an Online Storefront application and customized it for our use. This application will allow people to purchase merchandise online, in a secure fashion. We also redesigned the flow of the resident and non-resident online hunting applications and we processed numerous requests to help support our CWD, Grizzly Bear, Brucellosis, Mountain Lion plan, and Sage grouse programs and redesigned the Laboratory Web pages with new content.

Additional Web site enhancements included: numerous updates to the Private Lands Public Wildlife program to enhance hunter's ability to obtain permission slips for hunting big game on private lands, a new Web-based application Hunter Assistant program that allows constituents to contact landowners who don't want to participate in the PLPW program, an Animal Profile application that allows users to learn specific details about mammals, amphibians, fish, and birds.

Intranet Web site additions and enhancements included modifications to the State Credit Card Application to allow cardholders the ability to have multiple credit cards in the system. We also added a new Trophy Game Incident Report form to allow employees the ability to submit incidents online, a sign-up registration application to help manage the Department Leadership Development Program, and Terrestrial Wildlife Theses dating back to the mid 1970's.

The GIS Section maintains approximately 50 layers of statewide GIS data. New layers created this past year included warden district boundaries and furbearer trapping area boundaries. All data sets comprising big game information are current as of the end of the fiscal year. These data include seasonal ranges, parturition areas, migration routes, migration barriers, and herdunit boundaries. In response to requests from the field biologists using this data, a Microsoft Excel form was developed to record statistics on seasonal range and parturition by big game herdunit. Landownership is also calculated on a herdunit basis. Statistics will be calculated for each herdunit as they are updated. Preliminary big game hunt area boundaries for the 2007 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. Ongoing work included analyses and map production focusing on species in greatest conservation need, as documented in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, and planning and preparation for implementation of ArcSDE, which allows for centralized geospatial data management and was approved as part of the Department GIS program effort. In addition, the section is taking a greater role in the maintenance of the GIS-based Decision Support System. The contract GIS position was renewed via an approved FY06 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.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Department's IT/GIS personnel. The percent of employees satisfied with the level of courteousness and professionalism was 83.6%, 79.7% for attention and timeliness, and 78.6% for quality of services provided.

#### Problem Areas

The IT Development Section continues to handle a high number of project requests ranging from Department Internet and Intranet site additions and improvements to application enhancements (to include data entry and synchronization via Palm Pilot or other handheld device technology) and many other programming requests. These requests exceed our current man-hour capacity. With an increase in programmer time spent on the Electronic License Project, several lower priority projects have been delayed.

The IT Operations Section continues to experience a significant increase in requests for new hardware and software ranging from handheld devices to desktop publishing programs, high speed Internet connections and video conference support. The demand for disk space on computers and servers continues to rise. In addition to the implementation and support workload, network infrastructure (to include firewalls, intrusion detection devices, and server operating systems) upgrades will continue to be essential in order to protect our systems from malicious activities and to address vendor technology changes.

Another significant challenge facing us is that vendor support for outdated systems is being dropped in most areas and this is driving a continual upgrade path for existing technologies throughout the agency. With the pace of technology industry changes, combined with security threats to our systems, we are getting further into areas that are out-of our experience levels. Significant time and energy must be dedicated to training, planning and implementation of the

newer technologies. Manpower needed to address these issues will also be a significant factor in our ability to keep up with agency technology demands. Several lower priority technologies will continue to be delayed due to limitations in staffing and corresponding man-hours.

The use of GIS technology throughout the agency has been increasing at a dramatic pace, resulting in a full-time permanent person to support all GIS activity in the Headquarters office and to assist regional office personnel. Federal grant money was obtained to support an additional contract position; however, this position is limited to specific tasks outlined in the federal grant. With new systems in place, demands for GIS maps and overlays have and will continue to increase. The IT Manager and GIS Coordinator have been working with agency administration to address these problems. A GIS working group with representatives from Services, Fish and Wildlife Divisions was formed and is working on these issues. This working group has been compiling recommendations for agency administration to address future GIS demands.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY06. Further changes are anticipated in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

### **Strategy: Information Technology/Geographic Information System**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

A total of thirteen properties were evaluated during FY06 through the Habitat and Access Evaluation Process. Since its inception, a total of 215 properties have been processed through this process.

#### Problem Areas

The use of GIS technology throughout the agency has been increasing at a dramatic pace, resulting in a full-time permanent person to support all GIS activity in the Headquarters office and to assist regional office personnel. Federal grant money was obtained to support an additional contract position; however, this position is limited to specific tasks outlined in the federal grant. With new systems in place, demands for GIS maps and overlays have and will continue to increase. The IT Manager and GIS Coordinator have been working with agency administration to address these problems. A GIS working group with representatives from Services, Fish and Wildlife Divisions was formed and is working on these issues. This working group has been compiling recommendations for agency administration to address future GIS demands.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY06. Further changes are anticipated in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Information on the IT Branch's response time to requests for services and the percentage of "Up time" (availability) of the Information Technology infrastructures components is available in the IT/GIS Branch office.

## **OBJECTIVE: SUPPORT FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

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, with two regional office managers 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% 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 office were remodeled and expanded. Funding for replacement of the Pinedale regional office, through a lease purchase agreement, was secured with a 2006 legislative appropriation. At this time, however, the remodel/expansion of the Cheyenne headquarters building remains on hold, as without legislative capital facility funding, it is unlikely that the Department can move forward with this scale of project. Both the Pinedale and Cheyenne offices have little or no public access areas, meeting rooms and insufficient office space for permanent employees.

The Department had no major remodeling of office facilities during FY06. However, in addition to routine operational costs, the Department did expend \$44,583 for work at the Casper regional office, repairing and/or replacing floor coverings and a portion of the roof. Similar work, involving floor and roof repair, was completed at the Sheridan office, with \$97,434 expended on that project during FY06. A minor HVAC upgrade at the Cheyenne headquarters office cost \$8,765 while \$2,671 was expended for an electrical upgrade at the Green River office.

### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate aspects of support personnel and facilities. Of respondents that worked in a regional office, between 81.8 – 96.2 %, depending upon region, were satisfied with the level of clerical, logistical and budgeting support provided by regional office managers and support staff. Of individuals that worked in either the Cheyenne Headquarters or one of the regional offices, between 37.5 – 93.8% of respondents, depending upon regional office, indicated they were

satisfied with the workspace provided by the facility in which they worked. No ADA complaints, as to facility access, were noted in FY06.

### Problem Areas

The Department still has one regional facility, plus the Cheyenne headquarters building, which have not been upgraded. While the Department has secured legislative funding for replacement of the Pinedale office, due to the difficulty in obtaining property in this area, it is anticipated to be several years before the Department will actually be able to occupy the replacement facility, currently utilized by the Bureau of Land Management.

Substantial electrical, HVAC and safety issues have been identified in the Cheyenne headquarters building and there has been some work done within the last few years, but the work does still not address many of these problems within the building. Additionally, problems continue with computer operations in the Cheyenne building basement, and the Department would prefer to only use basement space for storage or meeting rooms, but that is not possible as there is not existing space on the first and second floor of the building to accommodate such a move. The ability to replace this facility will be dependent on future nontraditional funding sources.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department has been increasingly unable to accurately forecast utility cost adjustments in the last few years due to significant swings in utility rates; utility costs increased more than twice the overall cost of inflation last year and these costs continue to escalate. Additionally, due to significant increases in the cost of wood and steel products plus often the lack of a significant number of bidders, it is difficult to estimate actual costs of construction in advance and most construction projects have been running in excess of estimates. Accordingly, the Department has often found it necessary to scale back the work to be done in various projects. Planned construction work at regional offices for FY07 include roof modifications and parking lot repairs at Lander; a cold storage building at Laramie; exterior painting of the Cody office and exterior staining of the Sheridan office in addition to some minor repair work at Casper, Green River, and Pinedale for a total of \$150,000.

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne. Specifically, questions 2 and 3 within Objective 10 were used for evaluation purposes.

## **Strategy: Regional Office Management**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Department's eight regional offices, with a staff of 16 regional office managers and 4.5 contract FTEs clerical personnel, sold approximately 33,000 licenses and permits during the year, an increase of approximately 6% from the previous year. Regional offices also provide duplicate hunter safety cards, hunter information packets, regulations and answer a myriad of hunter and angler questions in addition to beginning in 2005, renewing boat registrations. In addition, over 200 permanent and contract personnel located in the regional offices were provided clerical and other logistical support.

### Problem Areas

While the Department was successful in securing a general fund appropriation for purchase of a new office facility in Pinedale, the actual conclusion of that transaction is dependent on the BLM completing construction of a new complex and moving out of their existing facility, which the Department has under contract to purchase. There is the potential that this may not occur for several years, so the Department will continue to house personnel in the existing facility, which is extremely space limited, both from an employee and general public use, in the near future.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Regional office managers will be involved in the implementation of the new POS licensing system during 2007, as the roll-out of this new system will occur first at the headquarters building, then at regional offices, prior to distribution to license selling agents.

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Information on the number of licenses sold and employees supported by the Regional Office Managers can be obtained from the Department's Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Department maintains seven regional offices, a satellite office in Pinedale, a small facility in Buffalo, and the Cheyenne Headquarters Office. Two regional office managers are assigned to each facility for logistical support. Department employees are located either in regional offices or the headquarters facility, except for hatchery personnel, game wardens, some terrestrial biologists, and personnel at the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille. Remodel/expansion of the Cheyenne headquarters building remains on the list for

legislative funding being requested by the Department. The 2006 Legislature approved funds to purchase a building in Pinedale.

The Department completed major repairs at the Sheridan office (roof and the flooring was replaced.) The shop office was re-roofed and new flooring was placed at the Casper office. The Visitor Center in Cheyenne was converted to a conference room, storage space, and work space for Alternative Enterprises. Two other rooms have been split for additional office space at the headquarters office.

#### Problem Areas

Workspace and storage problems remain at Pinedale, Cheyenne, and Cody.

#### Strategic Plan Changes

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator. Specifically, questions 2 and 3 within Objective 10 were used for evaluation purposes.

### **OBJECTIVE: LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED EXPENSES**

#### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

The Department administers several programs in which payments are required to be made to individuals or other state agencies, in accordance with Wyoming Statute or specific appropriation. Included among these programs are: Landowner coupons and Damage Claims, and specific appropriations from Department funds for Salec, Peace Officer and Early Retirement and Cost Allocation. The Department must insure these programs meet their statutory requirements, while minimizing the amount of Department cost associated with administering these programs.

#### Outcome Measures

The Department was able to process all payments and/or transfer funds to other State Agencies as required, with no increased budget for administrative costs associated with these programs.

#### Problem Areas

Costs in this strategy have increased this year. Cost allocation, which is a pass through of state administrative agencies costs, increased \$36,000 or 6% in FY06, following a 30% increase from FY04. The cost of this program, which is not controllable at the Department level, has

increased in the last five years significantly more than the rate of inflation. Landowner coupon costs also increased, approximately 10% from FY05, following a 22% increase in the prior year. Additionally, salec, the state-wide radio network, administered by WYDOT and used primarily by WGF law enforcement personnel, had increased costs of 23%, reflecting a pass through of higher costs incurred by WYDOT in administering the program. As the Department has no ability to control the costs in this strategy, estimation can only be based on prior history.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Information related to payment processing and fund transfers to other agencies can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

### **Strategy: Legislatively Mandated Expenses**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

The Department reviewed and processed monthly requests for transfer of appropriated funds to the State Retirement system and Department of Transportation in addition to an annual request from the Budget office for Cost Allocation. Additionally, approximately 2,400 landowners received payments, which totaled \$558,000 for landowner coupons, and damage claims, amounting to \$230,000 were processed.

#### Problem Areas

The only problem noted in these areas is the difficulty in anticipating costs from one year to the next as the Department has little control over the determination or payment of these items.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Information related to payment processing and fund transfers to other agencies can be obtained from the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **OBJECTIVE: MAILROOM**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

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. In the largest mailing of the year, the nonresident deer and antelope licenses and resident deer, elk and antelope license mailing, 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.

### Outcome Measures

In FY06, the percent internal satisfaction with mailroom services provided was 80.0%, according to the *Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*.

### Problem Areas

Postal rates continue to increase and the Department will need to keep pace with this outside, uncontrolled force.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. Further changes are anticipated in FY06. Beginning FY07, the Mailroom Objective will become a strategy under the Information Objective.

### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne.

## **Strategy: Mailroom**

### Narrative and Output Measure

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.

## Problem Areas

Postal rates continue to increase and the Department will need to keep pace with this outside, uncontrolled force.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

Beginning FY07, the Mailroom Objective will become a strategy under the Information Objective.

## Documentation of Output Measures

Number of pieces of mail properly handled. The documentation of these output measures can be obtained from the Department's Services Division office when that information is made available.

## **OBJECTIVE: CONSERVATION ENGINEERING**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

During FY06, the Conservation Engineering program completed a substantial amount of capital facilities work on projects that were funded by the legislature. This work included construction of the Big Fork Ditch Tunnel Bypass and Pond 10 Wetland improvements on the Yellowtail WHMA. In addition, major rehabilitation work at the Wigwam Rearing Station and Dubois Fish Hatchery were completed. A test well for additional water was drilled, completed and tested for the Speas Rearing Station. Other hatchery work focused on brood pond building screens at the Wigwam and Ten Sleep Hatcheries, road improvement work at the Speas Rearing Station, and facility improvement work at the Clark's Fork Hatchery. Boating Access projects were completed at Glendo Reservoir, Grayrocks Reservoir, Saratoga Lake, Keyhole Reservoir, Twin Buttes Reservoir, Meeboer Lake, and Fremont Lake. The Casper Regional Office Shop was re-roofed and the Sheridan Regional Office was re-roofed and the flooring replaced. The Buffalo Warden Station received major repairs and remodel. Cheyenne Headquarters visitor center was remodeled for Alternative Enterprises, a new conference room, and storage area.

The Survey Section completed numerous boundary and topographic surveys, including boundary surveys at the following areas: Medicine Lodge WHMA, Tillet Springs Rearing Station, LaMomont Access Area, Daniel Green River, Green River Lower Access, Pennock Mountain, Red Rim-Grizzly and at the Jelm Access Area. The surveyors also completed topographic surveys at the Speas Rearing Station, Ten Sleep Hatchery, Wigwam Rearing Station, Story Hatchery and survey work associated with fish passage projects in the Cody Region. Water rights issues were addressed throughout the year; the Section developed six instream flow maps and applications for filing with the State Engineer's Office including a change in use and instream flow maps at the Como Bluff Hatchery, Wigwam Rearing Station, and the Dubois Fish Hatchery and consulted with Department field personnel at the Table Mountain, Wick, and San Mesa WHMAs with respect to various water rights issues and projects.

The Drafting Section designed 13,752 signs for special regulations, parking areas, boating access areas, and PLPW projects. The Section redesigned and updated the PLPW databases and then rebuilt the maps/information and designed the publications. The Section also designed and updated the Internet sites for the PLPW Program with maps, information and printable PDF files for 30 Hunter Management Areas and Walk-in Hunting and Fishing areas statewide. The Section Supervisor actively participated on the agency GIS team that is working to design and implement a more effective statewide GIS program. The Section is mapping and updating information on all Department-administered lands to include surveyed boundaries, land status, developments, topography, signing, mineral ownership, irrigation, water rights, and utilities. Other drafting projects include: development of Hunt Area maps; GIS maps for the Wildlife Federation and the Department of Agriculture showing crucial wildlife habitat, sage grouse leks; wildlife parturition areas; and roadless areas; numerous maps and PowerPoint presentations for statewide energy development-impacts to wildlife work; capital facilities projects; land acquisition maps for the Lands Program and Division Chief; and maps for proposed capital facilities projects. The Section completed numerous drafting products for the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.

Conservation Engineering personnel represented the Department at the Association of Conservation Engineers in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The Chief Engineer served on a committee to design handbooks for recreational boating and fishing facilities and to rewrite and update the manual for States Organization for Boating Access; this work was supported by a grant from USFWS-Federal Aid.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Conservation Engineering personnel. Of respondents that had interacted with the Conservation Engineering staff, 77.3% indicated they were satisfied with the services provided.

#### Problem Areas

The Conservation Engineering Branch continues to address workload issues/concerns and process improvements to accomplish Department priorities.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07. In addition, approval for an Assistant Chief Engineer position has been approved.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

The *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* was used to evaluate this program. Specifically, question 4 of Objective 12 was used for this purpose. Copies of the survey can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator at the Cheyenne Headquarters.

## **Strategy: Conservation Engineering**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Conservation Engineering Branch completed 21 engineering and 22 survey projects. In addition, 26 drafting requests for mapping, visuals, and drawings were completed during FY06. A total of 13,752 signs were delivered statewide.

### Problem Areas

The Conservation Engineering Branch was downsized in the 1995, which resulted in the loss of an engineer, a drafting position, and other permanent and contract personnel. However, requests for engineering services continue to increase, resulting in extremely heavy workloads.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Information on the percentage of annual work plan elements achieved can be obtained from records maintained in the Conservation Engineering Office.

## **OBJECTIVE: REGIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

A second level of I&E work unit coordination was achieved through participation in an all-Information and Education program meeting, and two follow-up meetings of the Information and Education Leadership Team. Through this effort, work scheduling at all levels of the information and education branches was coordinated and completed. This accomplishment enhanced the ability of Regional I&E Specialists to work closely with other work units to provide statewide information and education support in an effective and timely manner.

A *News in Your Region* section was added to the Department's Web site, creating a regional news web page for each regional office. The regional I&E specialists post important information specific to their region on a regular basis.

### Outcome Measures

Regional I&E specialists are involved in media outreach, planning, and public information and education efforts on a weekly basis. Regional I&E specialists average one to five print releases per week, totaling 257 releases. Approximately 330 radio spots and 12 television public service announcements were produced and 60 media interviews and requests for information were completed. Weekly or monthly radio shows are hosted in Casper, Worland, Kemmerer,

Sheridan, Gillette, and Evanston. Regional I&E specialists conducted and/or assisted in approximately 139 conservation education programs and workshops. Thirty-one articles were submitted to Wyoming Wildlife News.

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey*, respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the Regional Information and Education Specialists. Of respondents that had interacted with the Regional Information and Education Specialists, depending upon region, between 57.1- 95.1% were satisfied with the specialists' ability to disseminate information to the public, between 69.2 - 95.1% were satisfied with the specialists' ability to disseminate information internally and act as part of the regional team, between 63.2 - 95.0 % were satisfied with the specialists' ability to conduct education efforts, and between 60.0 – 91.8% were satisfied with the overall services provided by the specialists.

#### Problem Areas

Work unit accountability and outputs continue to be addressed through improved work scheduling and coordination.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

All elements of the work plan critical to the function of this objective were accomplished. Documentation of these efforts is available from the Services Division administration office in Cheyenne. Documentation includes: (1) Information on the number of programs, workshops, participants, and cooperative projects conducted can be obtained from the Services Division Monthly Reports and (2) Information on the number of man-days of assistance provided to regional personnel is available from the Department's Daily Activity Report system that is maintained by the Fiscal Division.

Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome Internal Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator. Specifically, questions 4, 5, 6, and 9 were used to evaluate this Objective.

### **Strategy: Regional Information and Education**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

All elements of the annual work plan were achieved, which included the production of over 738 news releases, radio spots, conservation education programs, media interviews, and public service announcements. Regional I&E Specialists assisted the Conservation Education Branch in Hunter Education, Aquatic Education, Project WILD, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), Whisky Mountain Youth Conservation Camp, the annual Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition, and WILD About O.R.E.O. Regional I&E Specialists organized, instructed, and coordinated the Staying Safe in Bear, Mountain Lion, and Wolf Country workshops, Ft. Laramie Bat Festival, Jackson Elk Festival, and International Migratory Bird Day celebrations. Eight hunter information stations and one hunter festival provided non-resident and resident hunters with useful hunting-related information. Materials and equipment (canoes, stream trailers, education trunks) were loaned to schools, youth, scout, and church groups through the O.R.E.O.

program. The Regional I&E Specialists coordinated the canoe pond, hunter skills and ethics trail, bear trail exhibit, fish passage obstacle course, and archery skills course at the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition. Over 12,000 individuals participated in the 2005 event.

The regional I&E specialists played a vital role as facilitators. Each regional I&E specialist facilitates the monthly meetings of a local sage grouse working group, whose goal is to develop a local sage grouse conservation plan. Regional I&E specialists also facilitated small group discussions at the Sage grouse Forum held in Riverton and two meetings of the wildlife biologists assigned to the working groups.

The regional I&E specialists assisted other regional personnel and participated in intra- and inter-agency coordination efforts. Some of this assistance included: sage grouse lek surveys, first-aid training, moose surveys, antelope classifications, electro-fishing and gill netting, hunter check stations, season setting meetings, regional coordination team meetings, facilitation of Department meetings, and strategic communication planning.

Regional I&E Specialists served as liaisons for the Department as appointees to various boards, committees, and working groups. These included the Governor's Natural Resource Tour Steering Committee, National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center Board of Directors, Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear 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, Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition Advisory Board, Sheridan County Ambassador Program, and the Jackson Interagency Visitor Center Advisory Group.

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. 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 numerous occasions, which included workshops, Internet course field days, coordinating, advertising, teaching, and providing classroom materials.

### Problem Areas

The I&E Specialists need to continue to implement the new prioritization process and coordination with their regions and the other I&E work units, to ensure that regional I&E work is consistent with the agency's priorities.

### Documentation of Output Measures

All elements of the work plan critical to the function of this strategy were accomplished. Documentation of these efforts is available from the Services Division Office in Cheyenne. Information on the number of programs, workshops, participants, and cooperative projects conducted during FY05 can be obtained from the Services Division Office in Cheyenne,

documented in the Services Division Monthly Reports. Information on the number of man-days of assistance provided to regional personnel is available from the Department's Daily Activity Report system that is maintained by the Fiscal Division Administration in Cheyenne.

## **OBJECTIVE: EDUCATION**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

During FY06, Education Branch personnel conducted conservation education programs, workshops and seminars for approximately 14,127 people. An additional 10,592 participants attended the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.

Volunteer coordination and work for the Department is also a part of the Education Objective. Eighteen new Hunter Education Instructors were certified, making a total of 390 volunteer instructors that conducted 169 hunter education classes, resulting in the certification of 4,575 students. Volunteer hunter education instructors provided 6,000 hours of service to the Department. The volunteer program, Wild Work, had 345 volunteers with 4,497 service hours. Project WILD facilitators conducted 21 workshops for 385 teachers. Two Water Education for Teachers (WET) WILD/Project Learning Tree workshops were conducted for 50 additional teachers.

The Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.) program was presented to 37 new instructors. A total of 295 have now 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 7,600 Wyoming youth. In addition, 5,151 Wyoming youth participated in the fishing skills activities at the Expo. The Aquatic Education Program completed two interpretive walk-through displays for the Dubois Fish Hatchery and the Wigwam Fish Rearing Station.

### Outcome Measures

Almost 25,000 Wyoming citizens were exposed to the Department's education programs, camps, workshops, and the Expo – a significant increase since FY05. Approximately 390 volunteer instructors assisted in the hunter education program, and 345 volunteers assisted in wildlife and fish management efforts. Volunteers contributed over 4,400 hours. Over 96% 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.

### Problem Areas

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.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

## Documentation of Outcome Measures

Customer satisfaction with the quality, availability and accessibility of services - the numbers of participants, workshops and classes conducted by education personnel are reported on a monthly basis and are on file in the Conservation Education Branch Office. Participant survey results are collected and maintained in the Conservation Education Branch Office.

### **Strategy: Conservation Education**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

During FY06, Conservation Education Branch personnel conducted conservation education programs, workshops and seminars for about 14,127 people. An additional 10,592 participants attended the 2005 Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo.

Eighteen new Hunter Education Instructors certified, making a total of 390 volunteer instructors that conducted 149 hunter education classes, resulting in the certification of 3,665 students. Volunteer hunter education instructors provided 5,016 hours of service to the Department. The volunteer program, Wild Work, had 388 volunteers provide 5,605 service hours. Project WILD facilitators conducted 21 workshops for 385 teachers. Two Water Education for Teachers (WET) WILD/Project Learning Tree workshops were conducted for 50 additional teachers.

The Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.) program was presented to 37 new instructors. A total of 295 have now been certified to teach O.R.E.O. Approximately 100 schools or youth organizations now incorporate O.R.E.O. into their curriculums or programs.

The Aquatic Education Program assisted in 25 community-fishing clinics for about 7,600 Wyoming youth. In addition, 5,151 Wyoming youth participated in the fishing skills activities at the Expo. The Aquatic Education Program also completed two interpretive walk-through displays for the Dubois Fish Hatchery and the Wigwam Fish Rearing Station.

#### Problem Areas

During FY06, there were only 235 Conservation Education program opportunities available, a decrease in program opportunities from the average of 254 programs offered annually since FY04. This decrease occurred because we had two employees retire and those positions were vacant for several months, which limited our ability to offer more program opportunities. However, even with this drop in programs offered, the number of participants in FY06 was 24,719 which is just short of the three year average of 25,894 participants a year. This occurred because the participant numbers per program have steadily increased. This increase in demand and a shortage of staff created some difficulty meeting the demand for education programs, particularly during periods of high demand.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

In FY07, we will continue to evaluate and modify programs to incorporate Department priorities and meet the participation needs of the public, recognizing the numbers alone are not an indication of an effective educational program. With a new Hunter Education Coordinator, we will evaluate and modify the Hunter Education instructor and student programs to provide more effective and consistent instruction throughout the state. We will continue to collaborate with conservation organizations, Department of Education, local, state and federal agencies, community organizations, businesses and individuals to build effective conservation educational programs.

### Documentation of Output Measures

The numbers of participants, workshops and classes conducted by education personnel are reported on a monthly basis and are on file in the Conservation Education Branch Office. Participant survey results are collected and also maintained in the Conservation Education Branch Office. Information on the number of man-days of assistance provided to regional personnel is available from the Department's Daily Activity Report system. Conservation Education programs are evaluated using a feedback form completed by participants. For the past few years the evaluation forms for the various programs have not had consistent measurements, the forms simply allow participants to rate the overall program as "meets expectations" or "does not meet expectations" and an opportunity to provide input towards future programs.

### **Strategy: Hunter Education**

#### Narrative and Output Measures

In FY06, 18 new Hunter Education instructors were certified, making a total of 212 volunteer instructors that conducted 149 hunter education classes, resulting in the certification of 3,521 students. Volunteer Hunter Education instructors provided 5,016 hours of service to the Department. An Internet course offering Hunter Education on-line became available in January of 2004. As popularity of this program grew, we had an additional 144 people complete the Hunter Education course on the Internet during FY06. The 15 Internet Field Day Instructors held 10 field days to fulfill the classroom component of the online course. Two shooting clinics were given to approximately 41 people, including one all-female shotgun clinic presented to 13 participants. Eighteen participants competed in the Wyoming Youth Hunter Education Challenge held at the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo, and another estimated 5,151 youth attended shooting activities while at this event. One Becoming An Outdoor Woman workshop was held for 50 women. Assistance was given to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and about 250 4-H members participated in the fourth annual Outdoor Skills competition at the State 4-H Shoot in Douglas, which is the largest event held at the State Shoot.

## Problem Areas

Existing Hunter Education personnel cannot meet the demand for proactive hunter education programs during high demand periods. Due to limited resources (i.e., Hunter Education Coordinator Position was vacant for several months) and the current high demand, opportunities for expanding our Hunter Education services continue to be limited.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

We will evaluate and modify the Hunter Education instructor and student programs to provide more effective and consistent instruction throughout the state. The Hunter Education Coordinator will develop guidelines for use during Internet Field Days so participants that take the course online are sure to receive all the appropriate information and safety instruction. The Hunter Education Coordinator and the Conservation Education Supervisor are in the process of developing strategies for recruiting and retaining Hunter Education Instructors, especially in areas without regional office support.

## Documentation of Output Measures

All elements critical to the Hunter Education Strategy were accomplished. Documentation of these efforts is available from the Conservation Education Branch Office. Information on the number of classes taught and students and instructors certified is available from a database managed by the Conservation Education Branch. The number of days of assistance provided to regions is documented with the Department's Daily Activity Report system. The number of instructor hours donated is documented within a database managed by the Conservation Education Branch. The number of schools with Hunter Education in the classroom is also documented and maintained by the Conservation Education Branch.

## **OBJECTIVE: INFORMATION**

### Major Accomplishments and Efficiencies

In FY06, Information personnel prepared and distributed 52 news release packets containing 233 individual news releases. Fifty-two radio programs in 10-minute, 3-minute and 30 second formats were distributed through the Department website. Six video public service announcements were produced, along with 52 weekly television news programs. As a new outreach tool, two segments on Game and Fish programs were prepared for the Outdoor Channel's Fish and Wildlife Journal, which appears on cable and dish television programming systems across the country. The Information work unit was also successful in securing FY07 funding for a new video editing system which will improve the efficiency of video production, expand our current production abilities and offer the ability to produce DVDs for in-house feature video production. The average paid circulation for the *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine for FY06 was 30,903 subscribers, with an additional 5,100 copies sold on news stands and at Department offices. The average paid circulation for the *Wyoming Wildlife News* was 5,102,

with an additional 36,000 copies distributed free of charge at license vendors and Game and Fish offices. In FY06, the Department launched its new E-newsletter. Monthly editions of the newsletter are distributed free of charge to subscribers through e-mail and the Department's Web site. A total of 1,735 users subscribed to the e-newsletter from its launch November 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006.

The Telephone Information Center (TIC) fielded over 84,000 phone calls in FY06 and in some instances was the only contact that individuals had with the agency. The TIC also fulfilled requests for information via mail, which accounted for over 8,000 mailings. Other projects include large mailings for other sections within the agency. The TIC took over 900 phone orders for Alternative Enterprises (AE) products. Product sales exceeded \$160,000 for FY06 with approximately \$30,000 generated by sales of hunter lists. Work continues on an online store to be launched by September 2006. The TIC Supervisor participated on the Electronic License team, served as site supervisor for Expo, was appointed the agency contact for the University of Wyoming Trademark office as part of a MOU with the Wyoming Secretary of State, was assigned to the Governor's office for a role as liaison for communities in Wyoming affected by energy development. Other efforts were directed towards personnel issues within the section and attending various agency meetings. Telecommunications within TIC is charged with communicating the agency's service needs of over 1000 billed numbers to the Department of Administration and Information (DAI). The telecommunications liaison responded to 465 internal telecommunication requests while continuing the role as lead worker for the TIC and providing customer service via telephone.

#### Outcome Measures

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the efforts of the Department's TIC. Of respondents that had contacted the TIC through the Department's 1-800 number, General Information Number, or 1-900 number, 85.3% indicated their information needs had been handled in a good fashion.

#### Problem Areas

The Information and Publications work units distribute a majority of the Department's news and information, but it is not the only work unit or division preparing and disseminating news. One challenge is the coordination of public outreach efforts between divisions and across regions to maintain a consistent position on issues. Additionally, the Department does not have a full-time photographer. Several personnel in the Information and Publications work units work to meet this need, but these requests are scheduled in and around existing duties. As a result, the *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and Department stock photo file is out of date. The TIC continues to deal with high turnover and associated impacts to customer service.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

To improve efficiency, a reorganization of the Information Objective will be implemented. Beginning FY07, the Information Objective will be reorganized to include the Information,

Publications and Mailroom work units. Two additional outcome measures will be added to the Information Objective, including (1) Number of radio news, television news, public service announcements and print news releases produced; and (2) Average paid monthly circulation of the *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and *Wyoming Wildlife News*. We will begin to record data for future performance measures to measure the efficiency and reach of its information tools. Future performance measures will include the monthly mailing date for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and *Wyoming Wildlife News* subscribers, total circulation for the monthly e-newsletter, and the volume of customer inquiries handled through phone, e-mail, walk-in visits, letters or at tradeshow booths. The Telecommunications, Telephone Information Center and Alternative Enterprises work units will comprise a new objective, Customer Service.

#### Documentation of Outcome Measures

Information related to each of the following output measures can be obtained from the Information Branch supervisor in the Cheyenne office. Copies of the *FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne. Specifically, a question 8 was used to evaluate this Objective.

#### **Strategy: Customer Services**

##### Narrative and Output Measures

The total number of news releases, radio news programs, television news programs and public service announcements for FY05 was 380 information pieces disseminated. Print news releases are distributed to Wyoming's 43 local newspapers, the AP, license selling agents and additional regional press. The packet is also posted on the Department's Web site for visitors to read. Radio news programs are distributed weekly in a ten-minute, three-minute and 30-second format, totaling 156 separate productions that aired on Wyoming radio stations. Weekly television news programs are distributed to two Wyoming stations, and 6 video public service announcements were distributed to nine television news stations in Wyoming and other states. Audience size is estimated at 150,000 for television programming and 100,000 for radio programming. In addition to producing traditional television news programs, the Section assists other Department personnel and outside agencies with video production needs, including instructional and promotional videos, compilation videos and narration. Approximately 23 man-days of assistance were provided to regional personnel on various projects such as CWD monitoring, hunter information field stations, sampling and restoration efforts. An additional 43 man-days were provided in preparation and manning booths at seven national sports shows, the Wyoming State Fair and the Wyoming Lodging and Tourism conference.

##### Problem Areas

The audio/visual news of the Department is distributed by 2 FTEs. Because of their schedules and need to be in the production studio to produce and distribute news on a weekly basis, it is often hard to schedule field time to cover projects or accumulate stock footage to

supplement the video library. While posting the weekly radio news programs on the Department's website for download is an efficient distribution method, there is no method for tracking which format or stories are being used the most or which stations are running them. A survey mechanism or reporting tool is needed to better understand the use and reach of this tool. There is currently no system for recording or logging customer inquiries handled by the Information Branch, making determining workloads and suggested methods to improve efficiency difficult.

### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

The TIC strategy will be removed from the Information Objective, and included as a separate strategy under the new Customer Service Objective.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Information related to each of the following output measures can be obtained from the Information Branch supervisor in the Cheyenne office. Specifically, all work plan elements critical to the Media strategy were accomplished. Numbers of productions are documented within the media section. The size of audience is estimated by looking at population of various locations, and audience demographics used by various media outlets. The number of man-days of assistance is documented within the Daily Activity Report system.

## **Strategy: Publications**

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Publications section produced 12 issues of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and six issues of *Wyoming Wildlife News*. The average paid monthly circulation for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine for FY06 was 30,903 subscribers, with an additional approximately 5,100 copies sold on newsstands and at Department offices. The average paid semi-monthly circulation for *Wyoming Wildlife News* was 5,102, with an additional 36,000 copies distributed free of charge at license vendors and Game and Fish offices.

### Problem Areas

Three FTEs are responsible for producing the Department's two major publications. Because of limited staff and the complex nature of the issues being reported on, the magazine often fails to be produced and distributed to subscribers in a timely manner. One new outcome measure that will be reported on in future years is the number of publications distributed to subscribers on-time. In addition, the Publications Work Unit has been without an official photographer. The result is heavy reliance on freelance photos and an out-of-date photo file.

## Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

### Documentation of Output Measures

Percentage of annual work plan elements achieved. The documentation of these efforts can be obtained from the Services Division Administration in Cheyenne. Records related to subscriptions and free distribution can be obtained from the Services Division Administration office in Cheyenne. Twelve issues of *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine* and six issues of the *Wyoming Wildlife News* were produced. Copies of these documents may be obtained from the Publications Office in Cheyenne.

## Strategy: Telephone Information Center

### Narrative and Output Measures

The Telephone Information Center (TIC) program fielded over 84,000 phone calls in FY06 and in some instances was the only contact that individuals had with the agency. The TIC also fulfilled requests for information via mail, which accounted for over 8,000 mailings. Other projects include large mailings for other sections within the agency. The TIC took over 900 phone orders for Alternative Enterprises (AE) products. Product sales exceeded \$160,000 for FY06 with approximately \$30,000 generated by sales of hunter lists. Work continues on an online store to be launched by September 2006. The TIC Supervisor participated on the Electronic License team, served as site supervisor for Expo, was appointed the agency contact for the University of Wyoming Trademark office as part of a MOU with the Wyoming Secretary of State, was assigned to the Governor's office for a role as liaison for communities in Wyoming affected by energy development. Telecommunications within TIC is charged with communicating the agency's service needs of over 1000 billed numbers to the Department of Administration and Information (DAI). The telecommunications liaison has responded to 465 internal telecommunication requests while continuing the role as lead worker for the TIC and providing customer service via telephone.

Within the *FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey*, hunters and anglers were asked to evaluate the efforts of the Department's TIC. Of respondents that had contacted the TIC through the Department's 1-800 number, General Information Number, or 1-900 number, 85.3% indicated their information needs had been handled in a good fashion.

### Problem Areas

High turnover and associated impacts to the knowledge base as a whole will continue to result in occasional misinformation given to the public. Current DAI procedures are not efficient and result in unnecessary agency telecommunications costs. Completion and testing of an accounting process that is capable of reconciling with WOLFS is in its infant stages. If this

process is not maintained accurately it will compromise future growth within AE. Inventory tracking and marketing efforts in AE could be improved.

#### Strategic Plan Changes for Next Year

The Department began major changes to the Strategic Plan in FY05. A new strategic plan will be completed in FY07.

To improve efficiency, a reorganization of this branch will be completed by FY07. A new objective, Customer Service, will be established and include: Customer Service Center (TIC), Telecommunications, and Alternative Enterprises (AE). With the implementation of the License Selling Point of Sale Help Desk, we will focus more effort on communicating with the IT Branch in order to deliver high-quality service to the license selling agents. We will also be expanding our AE product line to market more assertively and seek new venues to promote the agency's brand. We will begin to explore potential telecommunications processes utilizing the HEAT software in cooperation with the IT Branch. With a full staff it will be possible to send TIC representatives into the field to assist with internal and external projects and special events.

#### Documentation of Output Measures

Copies of *the FY06 Strategic Outcome External Client Satisfaction Survey* can be obtained from the Department's Strategic Management Coordinator in Cheyenne. Numbers of phone calls and mailings are documented and can be obtained from the Telephone Information Center Office in Cheyenne.

APPENDIX A:  
INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMS

# BIG GAME

Pronghorn Antelope

Elk

Mule Deer

White-tailed Deer

Moose

Bighorn Sheep

Rocky Mountain Goat

Bison

## ANTELOPE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>515,294<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>51,430</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>461,950<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 4,931,280</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>39,526</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 1,988,810</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>42,327</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 6,920,090</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 2,881,194</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>132,625</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 14,860,450</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 73</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 376</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 40 of 44 pronghorn herds. Population estimates for the other 4 herds were not available.

<sup>b</sup>Statewide population objective calculated from 43 of 44 pronghorn herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

Wyoming's pronghorn antelope population increased steadily the past four years, but changed only slightly between 2004 and 2005. In 2005, the state population was estimated to be 515,294 animals compared to the objective of 461,950. The state population increased beyond its objective mainly because of the Department's inability to issue sufficient licenses to obtain harvests that will control the species and because of inadequate access. The recent stabilization of pronghorn numbers is due primarily to drought conditions that have reduced fawn production and survival rates, and to a slight increase in harvest of antlerless animals. Declining range conditions due to drought and extensive loss of habitat from escalating mineral development are of great concern to managers. The Department continues to monitor habitat conditions, recommend improvements where necessary, seek mitigation of habitat lost to development, and promote hunting seasons that move the population toward the objective.

The Department increased license quotas in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 in an attempt to reduce the number of animals the state's drought-depleted habitats must support. Access restrictions continue to impede getting adequate harvest in many herds. The Department continues to work to improve hunter access through efforts such as the Private Lands Public Wildlife program. Harvest increased 14% in 2003 and 6% in 2004. The 2005 harvest of 39,526 animals was a 9% increase over the 2004 harvest. However, hunter effort increased to 3.4 days per animal harvested, slightly above the 5-year average (3.3 days/animal).

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>39,526</b>	<b>132,625</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>51,430</b>	<b>4,931,280</b>	<b>2,881,194</b>	<b>14,860,450</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

## ELK

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>93,449<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>56,550</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>83,185</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 7,565,022</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>19,708</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 3,921,181</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>49,972</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 11,486,203</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 10,789,073</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>365,256</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 32,562,491</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 547</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,652</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 28 of 35 elk herds. Population estimates for the other 7 herds were not available.

The Department continues to manage for a reduction in Wyoming's elk population. The population was at a high in the 1990s, increased by 5% in 2005 and is now 12% above the statewide objective of 83,185 animals.

The harvest decreased 7% from 2004 to 2005 and was below the 5-year average (21,312). Hunter success remained stable over the past 5 years at approximately 40%. Hunter effort (days/animal) increased in 2005, but remained slightly below the 5-year average (18.7 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 stay at their current numbers. Access 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>19,708</b>	<b>365,256</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>56,550</b>	<b>7,565,022</b>	<b>10,789,073</b>	<b>32,562,491</b>
<sup>1</sup> 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## MULE DEER

### 2005:

<b>Population:</b>	<b>500,256<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold: <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>84,533</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>564,650<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue: <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 9,482,629 *</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>35,266</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 3,641,957 *</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>62,092</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 13,124,586 *</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 4,813,400</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>307,256</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 30,007,186</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 136</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 851</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 36 of 39 mule deer herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

<sup>b</sup>Statewide population objective calculated from 38 of 39 mule deer herds. There is no objective for 1 herd.

Wyoming's mule deer population remained stable in 2005 and is now approximately 89% of the statewide objective. The 2005 population is lower than it was at its recent peak in 2000. The decline is due primarily to the persistent drought, the resulting poor range conditions and their effect on reproduction and survival. The Department will continue to monitor habitats and recommend improvements where necessary. Field personnel are proposing a further reduction in some herds to lessen the impacts of deer on drought-depleted browse plants until moisture conditions improve.

Harvest and hunter success decreased slightly in 2005. A harvest of 35,266 is below the 5-year average of 36,653, and the 57% success rate is slightly above the 5-year average (56%). Hunter effort increased in 2005 from 8.2 days per animal harvested to 8.7, but remained below the 5-year average (8.9 days/animal). Hunter access and habitat conditions continue to be concerns. The Department has been working to address these issues through its Private Lands Public Wildlife program, habitat improvement projects and strong advocacy for mitigation of impacts related to mineral extraction. However, the greatest improvement in habitat conditions will come with improved moisture conditions.

### 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 <sup>1</sup>	Lic. Rev. (\$) <sup>1*</sup>	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. <sup>2</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>35,266</b>	<b>307,256</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>84,533</b>	<b>9,482,629 *</b>	<b>4,813,400</b>	<b>30,007,186</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes both mule deer and white-tailed deer.

<sup>2</sup> 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>51,798<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>84,533*</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>52,000<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 9,482,629*</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>12,333</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 3,641,957*</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>23,549</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 13,124,586*</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 520,579</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>97,416</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 9,550,710</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 42</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 774</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 2 of 5 white-tailed deer herds. Population estimates for the other 3 herds were not available.

<sup>b</sup>Statewide population objective calculated from 3 of 5 white-tailed deer herds. There is no objective for 2 herds.

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 2005 white-tailed deer harvest was 15% higher than the 2004 harvest, and hunter numbers increased by 8% from 2004. Hunter success and effort increased slightly in 2005 to 52% and 7.9 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 <sup>1</sup>	Lic. Rev. (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter (\$) Expend. <sup>2</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>12,333</b>	<b>97,416</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>84,533 *</b>	<b>9,482,629 *</b>	<b>520,579</b>	<b>9,550,710</b>
<sup>1</sup> Includes both mule deer and white-tailed deer.								
<sup>2</sup> 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## MOOSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>9,546<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>14,680</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 214,029</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 633,093</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 847,122</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 928,822</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 604,914</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,362</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 887</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 9 of 10 moose herds. Population estimate for the other 1 herd was not available.

Although Wyoming's largest moose populations are in the west and northwest, moose occur in other areas of the state. Moose have recently expanded into the mountain ranges of south central Wyoming from an introduced herd in northern Colorado, which is 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 2005 hunting season was the eighth year in which a restriction against harvesting a 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, have resulted in dramatic population declines and license quota reductions over the past several years. In 2005, harvest declined for a fourth year, while hunter success and hunter effort increased. The 2005 hunter success rate is slightly above average (87%), and the 2005 effort rate is slightly below average (7.0 days/animal). Permit quotas for western hunt areas will be reduced again in 2006 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>214,029</b>	<b>928,822</b>	<b>604,914</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

## BIGHORN SHEEP

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>5,516<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>7,685<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 130,853</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 660,989</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 791,842</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 1,066,634</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 533,798</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 6,201</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 3,103</b>

<sup>a</sup>Statewide population was calculated from 10 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. Population estimates for the other 4 herds were not available.

<sup>b</sup>Statewide population objective calculated from 12 of 14 bighorn sheep herds. There are no objectives for 2 herds.

The estimated number of Wyoming's bighorn sheep increased slightly (4%) in 2005. 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 in some herds.

The 2005 bighorn sheep harvest was smaller than that of 2004 (205) and was below average (190). Hunter success decreased 15% in 2005, accompanied by an increase in hunter effort. The 2005 hunter success rate and hunter effort are below average (79% and 11.6 days/animal harvested, respectively).

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>130,853</b>	<b>1,066,634</b>	<b>533,798</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 10,520</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 18,020</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 28,540</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 35,806</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 16,467</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,885</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 867</b>

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

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

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Rocky Mountain goat program.								
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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>35,806</b>	<b>16,467</b>
<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## BISON

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 23,219</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 29,388</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 52,607</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 15,728</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 44,458</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 437</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,235</b>

The bison population in the Jackson Herd has increased at a steady pace over the years. There has been a 71% 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 36 bison in 2005, following harvests of 31 bison in 2004, 40 in 2003, 47 in 2002 and 41 in 2001. License sales have decreased during the past three years despite the need for sales to be increased in order to reduce this population to its objective. Hunter success in 2005 was 77% compared to 66% in 2004, 71% in 2003, and 83% in 2002. Hunter effort was 7.5 days per bison harvested, which is a substantial increase from 3.9 days per bison harvested in 2004. 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 (\$)
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>23,219</b>	<b>15,728</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

# TROPHY GAME

Black Bear  
Grizzly Bear  
Mountain Lion

## BLACK BEAR

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>2,904</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 174,576</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 62,624</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 237,200</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 482,313</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 1,456,180</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,741</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 5,257</b>

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 regional office within three days of the harvest. Accurate harvest information is vital to management of black bears in Wyoming since other forms of data are hard to collect.

The 2005 harvest is 6% lower than the 2004 harvest (294 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 2005 hunter success rate was slightly lower than that of the previous year (2004 = 13%). The 2005 hunter effort decreased slightly, but was above average (73 days/animal harvested).

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>174,576</b>	<b>482,313</b>	<b>1,456,180</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and 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 much of northwest Wyoming, mainly in Yellowstone National Park and the Caribou-Targhee, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests. Grizzly bears have become established in habitats well beyond the recovery zone that have 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 have proposed removing ESA protection and returning management of this population to states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

The Wyoming, Idaho and Montana state management plans for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population have been completed and approved, and the Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Subcommittee completed the conservation strategy that will guide management after the population is delisted. The Department will continue to participate in interagency monitoring of this population and conflict resolution while it remains under ESA protection and after the states assume management.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s grizzly bear program.	
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)
FY 2002	1,434,981
FY 2003	1,378,442
FY 2004	937,890
FY 2005	1,048,088
<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>1,237,122</b>

## MOUNTAIN LION

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>1,548</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 71,706</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 31,006</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 102,712</b>
<b>Success Rate:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 393,315</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>613<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 100,821</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 2,248</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ 576</b>

<sup>a</sup>Calculated only from successful legal mountain lion hunters who reported days hunted

Mountain lions are distributed throughout much 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, den sites and suitable prey bases. Mountain lions are opportunistic predators within established and well-defended territories.

Mountain lions 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 adjusted in recent years to limit population growth and to address lion/human and lion/livestock incidents in some areas.

The 2005 mountain lion harvest is slightly less than that of 2004 and is the lowest for the past 5 years. Hunter effort increased substantially from 3.8 days per lion harvested in 2001 to 5.1 days per lion harvested in 2002, then decreased in 2003 to 4.0 days per lion harvested. Hunter effort declined again in 2004, then remained stable at 3.5 days per lion harvested in 2005. The 2005 effort rate is below average (4.0 days/animal).

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 <sup>1</sup>	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)	Hunter Expend. (\$) <sup>2,3</sup>	
2001	213	15%	1,397	53,005	718,591	11,675,679 <sup>3</sup>	
2002	201	13%	1,545	61,627	499,805	13,128,916 <sup>3</sup>	
2003	199	12%	1,608	69,272	250,254	122,584	
2004	181	12%	1,530	67,161	335,197	100,858	
<b>2005</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>71,706</b>	<b>393,315</b>	<b>100,821</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Calculated based on the number of licenses sold.

<sup>2</sup> 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure).

<sup>3</sup> 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, and interest earned on Department cash balances.

# SMALL GAME

Cottontail  
Snowshoe Hare  
Squirrel

## COTTONTAIL

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	89,823	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	8,967	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	10.0	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	30,842	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>1</sup></b>	\$ 7,686,134
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	0.3	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	\$ 86

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

The 2005 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 89,823 in 2005. Hunter numbers and recreation days each increased 48% from 2004. The number of animals harvested per hunter increased for a third year. The number of days/animal decreased for the third year and is below the 5-year average (0.6 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>89,823</b>	<b>30,842</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>7,686,134</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## SNOWSHOE HARE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	703	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	239	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	2.9	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	815	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>1</sup></b>	\$ 203,106
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	1.2	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	\$ 289

The snowshoe hare is distributed throughout 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 increased for the first time since 2002 and was well above the 5-year average (519). Fewer hunters harvested snowshoe hares at a higher rate than in 2004 and invested less effort. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2005 was well above the 5-year average (1.6 animals/hunter), and the 2005 effort rate was well below the 5-year average (2.5 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>203,106</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## SQUIRREL

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	1,434	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	306	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	4.7	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	1,242	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>1</sup></b>	\$ 309,519
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	0.9	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	\$ 216

Red squirrels occupy mountain coniferous forests throughout the state. Fox squirrels occupy deciduous forests, cottonwood-riparian areas, and agricultural and urban areas.

Squirrel hunter participation remained stable while harvest decreased in 2005. In 2005, a total of 306 hunters harvested 1,434 squirrels. Hunters invested slightly more effort per squirrel harvested in 2005 than 2004, and each hunter harvested about 1 squirrel less during the 2005 season than in 2004.

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. <sup>1</sup>
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	0.8	307	**	**	321,408
<b>2005</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>309,519</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

# UPLAND GAME

Pheasant

Gray Partridge

Chukar

Sage Grouse

Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Blue Grouse

Ruffed Grouse

Mourning Dove

Turkey

## PHEASANT

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	29,472**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ 585,668 **
<b>Harvest:</b>	65,979	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ 948,229 **
<b>Hunters:</b>	12,573	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ 1,533,897 **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	5.2	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ 4,311,179 **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	51,253	<b>Hunter Expenditures: <sup>1</sup></b>	\$ 12,772,760
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	0.8	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ 65
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 194

Pheasants are not as abundant in Wyoming as they are in neighboring states, but there are many opportunities to harvest the popular upland game bird. 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 majority of Wyoming's pheasant hunting occurs in Goshen County in the southeastern part of the state, but there are other opportunities near Riverton, in the Bighorn Basin and in the Sheridan area. Established pheasant populations are supplemented by releases from the Department's Downar and Sheridan Bird Farms.

The 2005 pheasant season showed a major increase in harvest, recreation days, and number of hunters from 2004. Improved moisture conditions, resulting in better vegetation and increased survival, have allowed pheasant populations to increase. Hunter effort rates have remained fairly constant since 2002. However, hunter success increased in 2005. The 2005 harvest rate and success rate are better than average (4.6 birds/hunter and 0.9 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 (\$). <sup>1</sup> Expend.
2001	38,892	38,836	3.8	1.0	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
<b>2005</b>	<b>65,979</b>	<b>51,253</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>12,573</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>12,772,760</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## GRAY PARTRIDGE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>5,335</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 1,329,535</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not available</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ 378</b>

The gray (Hungarian) partridge, native to eastern Europe and central and southwest Asia, are most abundant in Sheridan County and the Bighorn Basin, but can be found in many other parts of the state. The gray partridge was introduced to Wyoming in the early 1900s 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%. However, harvest and hunter numbers increased in 2003, 2004, and again in 2005. Harvest increased by 35% and the number of hunters increased by 76% in 2005.

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. <sup>1</sup>
2001	3,031	6,416	1.6	2.1	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
<b>2005</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>5,335</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>1,329,535</b>
<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><sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

## CHUKAR

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>8,302</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ <b>2,068,941</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ <b>190</b>

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. Following a harvest increase of 28% in 2003, a harvest declined of 10% in 2004, chukar harvest increased by 194% in 2005. Hunter numbers increased 86% from 2004 to 2005. Recreation days increased for the third year, from a low of 3,921 in 2002 to 8,302 in 2005. The result for 2005 was a harvest per hunter that exceeded the average (2.9) and an effort rate that was well below average (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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>8,302</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2,068,941</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## SAGE-GROUSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	13,176	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	5,231	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	2.5	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	12,176	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 3,034,381
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	0.9	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 230

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 3 years, closures have been in effect in parts of the state. Sage-grouse seasons were again conservative in 2005.

The 2005 harvest increased from 2004, up 12%. Hunter numbers and recreation days decreased slightly, by 4% and 8%, respectively. Harvest rate improved from 2004 to 2005, and effort decreased. Harvest rate was above and hunter effort was below the 5-year average (2.1 birds/hunter and 1.2 days/bird, respectively).

The Department is participating in interstate sage-grouse conservation efforts. It will continue to monitor sage-grouse populations and to try to improve habitat conditions throughout 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>13,176</b>	<b>12,176</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5,231</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>3,034,381</b>

\*\*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.

<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

## SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	2,712	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	1,128	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	2.4	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	3,729	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 929,304
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	1.4	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 343

Sharp-tailed grouse occur, and are harvested in, eastern Wyoming. Thousands of acres of marginal farmlands in the state were converted to wildlife habitat that benefits sharp-tailed grouse through the Conservation Reserve Program. And, the Department's Walk-In Access Program, begun 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 harvest increased 90% between 2004 and 2005. However, the 2005 harvest is 77% less than the 2000 harvest and 32% less than the 2001 harvest. The numbers of hunters and recreation days increased since 2002. The success and effort rates also improved in 2005, and they are better than average (2.0 birds/hunter and 2.0 days/bird, respectively)

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>929,304</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## BLUE GROUSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	13,076	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	4,986	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	2.6	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	19,782	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 4,929,872
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	1.5	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 377

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. The Department maintains liberal hunting seasons and harvest limitations since hunting has little influence on blue grouse populations. Blue grouse numbers fluctuate primarily due to natural factors such as weather events and, to some degree, detrimental land use practices.

Blue grouse harvest increased for the third year in a row, while hunter numbers and recreation days decreased. The 2005 harvest was 4% higher than in 2004, and the 2005 hunter number was 6% lower than in 2004. The 2005 harvest rate increased, and the effort rate decreased from 2004. The harvest rate is slightly above the 5-year average (13,037), and the effort rate equals the 5-year average (1.5 days/bird).

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>13,076</b>	<b>19,782</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>4,929,872</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## RUFFED GROUSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	3,182	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	1,475	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	2.2	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	6,940	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 1,729,517
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	2.2	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 544

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 ruffed grouse harvest decreased in 2005 and was well below average (5,930). Hunter numbers also decreased in 2005, as did recreation days. Effort increased and was above average (1.8 days/bird). Hunter success declined and was below average (2.8 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>1,729,517</b>
<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><sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

## MOURNING DOVE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>44,280</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ <b>2,262,827</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ <b>Not available</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ <b>51</b>

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 occupies a wide variety of native habitats in Wyoming, as well as farmlands and urban areas.

The Wyoming mourning dove harvest increased 38% in 2005. Hunter numbers increased 29%, and recreation days increased 19%. The 2005 harvest and effort rates were 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>44,280</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2,262,827</b>
<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><sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

## TURKEY

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>7,960</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ 183,947
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ 160,666
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>6,833</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ 344,613
<b>Bird Hunter:</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ 253,273
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>21,536</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 5,368,003
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ 66
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 1,392

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 3% and hunter numbers decreased 4% from 2004 to 2005. Hunter success remained stable and was above the 5-year average (55%). 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. <sup>1</sup>
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	3,956	22,238	0.6	5.6	7,094	180,837	304,936	5,358,017
<b>2005</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>21,536</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6,833</b>	<b>183,947</b>	<b>253,273</b>	<b>5,368,003</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 and 2005 were 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, 2003 per day expenditure x 1.068 = 2005 per day expenditure, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).

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

# WATERFOWL

Duck

Goose

Sandhill Crane

Rail, Snipe, Coot

## DUCK

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>72,368</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>8,072</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>48,039</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 11,971,799</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not available</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ 165</b>

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, leading to comparatively poor breeding conditions and fall recruitment. However, water conditions were markedly improved in the springs of 2004 and 2005 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.

The number of hunters, harvest, and recreation days increased dramatically in 2005. The 2005 harvest and effort rates were better than their 5-year averages (8.6 birds/hunter and 0.7 days/bird, respectively).

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>72,368</b>	<b>48,039</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8,072</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>11,971,799</b>
<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><sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

## GOOSE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	55,678	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	8,729	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	6.4	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	50,406	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 12,561,679
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	0.9	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 226

Goose hunting in Wyoming has been excellent for a number of years despite drought conditions that have affected water availability. Canada geese traditionally have provided most of the goose hunting in Wyoming, but expanding populations of lesser snow geese have increased hunter opportunities for them, especially in late winter.

The 2005 harvest increased 115% from 2004, and was the third increase in a row. Recreation days in 2005 increased 78% from 2004, while the 2005 hunter success and effort rates were better than average (4.7 birds/hunter and 1.2 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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>55,678</b>	<b>50,406</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>12,561,679</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## SANDHILL CRANE

**2005:**

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	116	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	196	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	0.6	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	430	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ 107,160
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	3.7	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ 924

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 Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes has increased slightly in size and recruitment in the past few years. The Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes has been relatively stable since the early 1980s, but increased slightly over the past 3 years.

During the 2005 season, 196 hunters harvested 116 cranes in Wyoming. The success rate decreased from 2004 to 2005, equaling the 5-year average. Hunter effort was average in 2005 at 3.7 days per animal harvested.

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 (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Hunter (\$) Expend. <sup>2</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>107,160</b>
<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><sup>1</sup> Management costs are for both greater and lesser Sandhill crane.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).</p> <p>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

## RAIL, SNIPE, AND COOT

### 2005:

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>Hunter Expenditures:</b>	\$ <b>336,184</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	\$ Not available
		<b>Economic Return per Bird:</b>	\$ <b>443</b>

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. <sup>1</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>336,184</b>
**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.								
<sup>1</sup> 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, 1999 per day expenditure x 1.170 = 2005 per day expenditure).								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and 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

### 2005:

<b>Recreation Day Objectives:</b>	<b>2,778,000</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 4,669,286</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>2,256,200</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 5,602,162</b>
<b>Fish/Day:</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 10,271,448</b>
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>349,979</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 14,300,540 ***</b>
<b>Economic Return Per Day:</b>	<b>\$94.45</b>	<b>Angler Expenditures:</b> <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>\$ 213,111,011</b>

In 2005, Wyoming was estimated to have provided 2.25 million angler days. Overall, numbers of fishing licenses continued a five-year decline very strongly correlated with the persistent drought conditions. 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 that anglers fish primarily 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 FY05 were largely devoted to renovating several older developments for several larger reservoirs including Holmes Crossing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir, a complete redevelopment of facilities at Viva Naughton Reservoir and completion of the Bishop Point complex for Pathfinder Reservoir. Upgraded boat docks were also installed at three locations on Glendo Reservoir. All told, about \$658,000 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	Recreation Days <sup>1</sup>	Fish/Day	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Angler Expenditure <sup>1,2</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>2,256,200</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>349,979</b>	<b>4,669,286</b>	<b>14,300,540</b>	<b>\$ 213,111,011</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure). Program costs do not include a general fund appropriation received in 2005 for hatchery capital construction. Recreation days for 2005 were adjusted from values reported in the 2001 survey, based on number of licenses sold and the days fished per license.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to 2003, angler expenditure figures were calculated to include non-licensed anglers, pioneers, and 6-13 year olds. However, these calculations could not be reproduced.

\*\*\* Does not include general fund capital construction dollars expended in FY06 of \$3,214,769 for hatchery renovations.

## 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.

**2005:**

**License Sold:** 754  
**License Revenue:** \$ 23,894  
**All Other Agency revenue\*:** \$ 2,958  
**Total Program Revenue\*\*:** \$ 26,852  
**Program Costs\*:** \$ 57,201

During 2005, 72 fishing preserves, 14 commercial fish hatcheries, 612 seining, and 56 live bait dealers were sold.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.			
Year	Licenses Sold	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2001	617	\$ 23,965	\$ 28,262
2002	682	\$ 19,225	\$ 17,674
2003	673	\$ 19,682	\$ 20,690
2004	705	\$ 20,959	\$ 43,615
<b>2005</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>\$ 23,894</b>	<b>\$ 57,201</b>
* 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

<b>2005:</b>		<b>Licenses Sold <sup>4</sup>:</b>	<b>1,496</b>
<b>Bobcat Harvest<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 57,369</b>
<b>Bobcat Trappers<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$ 30,198</b>
<b>Bobcats per Trapper<sup>3</sup>:</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 87,567</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 310,444</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Benefits to the State: <sup>5</sup></b>	<b>\$ 11,911,980</b>
		<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ Not available</b>
		<b>Economic Return per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ Not available</b>

There is a variety of fur bearing species 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.

Due to the poor response rate for the annual furbearer harvest survey over a period of years, the Department discontinued it in 2002. Since then, only bobcat harvest information has been collected as part of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) requirements for bobcat pelt tagging. The Department relies 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 is available for the annual CITES report and for Department use. This information is only 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 <sup>1</sup>	Bobcats/Trapper <sup>3</sup>	Number Trappers <sup>2</sup>	Licenses Sold <sup>4</sup>	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)	Benefits to the State (\$) <sup>5</sup>
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>57,369</b>	<b>310,444</b>	<b>11,911,980</b>

<sup>1</sup>The number of bobcats tagged in Wyoming.  
<sup>2</sup>The number of trappers who had bobcats tagged.  
<sup>3</sup>The number of bobcats per successful trapper.  
<sup>4</sup>The total number of furbearer licenses sold.  
<sup>5</sup> 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, 2001 per day expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 per day expenditure).

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and 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 2005, 13 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry. The 2005 success rate (31%) and the total harvest (13) decreased from 2004.

Nineteen resident licenses were issued and 6 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 32%. Twenty-three nonresident licenses were issued and 7 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 30%.

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 <sup>1</sup>	Licenses Sold <sup>2</sup>	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
<b>2005</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5,292</b>	<b>128,083</b>

<sup>1</sup>Based on capture licenses sold.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes 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*). Data for subsequent years are based on this survey, with inflation corrected for by using the Consumer Price Index.

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 Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille, 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, wildlife-viewing guides have been developed, and a variety of publications have been produced to inform and educate the public about nongame wildlife. Interactive educational programs include: Project WILD, O.R.E.O. (Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities), BOW (Becoming and Outdoors Woman). 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
<b>2005</b>	<b>3,924,000</b>	<b>295,398,065</b>
<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 1.078 = 2004 expenditure, 2001 expenditure x 1.115 = 2005 expenditure).</small>		

APPENDIX B:  
HUNTER AND ANGLER  
EXPENDITURE

Estimates of 2005 Expenditures in Wyoming  
by Hunters and Anglers

Restitution Values of Game Animals

**SUMMARY OF 2005 CALENDAR YEAR HARVEST, LICENSE SALES AND EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING  
BY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**

<b>LICENSE</b>	<b>HARVEST</b>	<b>HUNTERS</b>	<b>SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>RECREATION DAYS</b>	<b>DAYS/ ANIMAL</b>	<b>LICENSES ISSUED</b>	<b>LICENSE SALES <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>
<b>ANTELOPE</b>								
RESIDENT	15,618	17,882	87.3%	58,378	3.7	21,890	\$504,641	\$5,424,250
NONRESIDENT	23,908	24,445	97.8%	74,247	3.1	29,540	\$4,426,639	\$9,436,200
<b>MULE DEER</b>								
RESIDENT	17,888	35,559	50.3%	187,708	10.5	50,695	\$1,331,075	\$18,643,909
NONRESIDENT	17,378	26,533	65.5%	119,548	6.9	33,838	\$8,151,554	\$11,363,276
<b>WHITE-TAILED DEER</b>								
RESIDENT	7,371	14,683	50.2%	68,147	9.2	-----	-----	\$6,768,633
NONRESIDENT	4,962	8,866	56.0%	29,269	5.9	-----	-----	\$2,782,077
<b>ELK</b>								
RESIDENT	15,418	40,549	38.0%	305,482	19.8	46,493	\$1,832,117	\$23,816,599
NONRESIDENT	4,290	9,423	45.5%	59,774	13.9	10,057	\$5,732,905	\$8,745,893
<b>MOOSE</b>								
RESIDENT	560	648	86.4%	4,073	7.3	669	\$57,512	\$386,927
NONRESIDENT	122	127	96.1%	600	4.9	129	\$156,517	\$217,987
<b>BIGHORN SHEEP</b>								
RESIDENT	121	169	71.6%	1,566	12.9	174	\$16,896	\$285,730
NONRESIDENT	51	63	81.0%	357	7.0	62	\$113,957	\$248,068
<b>ROCKY MTN GOAT</b>								
RESIDENT	14	14	100.0%	37	2.6	15	\$1,515	\$8,222
NONRESIDENT	5	5	100.0%	14	2.8	5	\$9,005	\$8,245
<b>BISON</b>								
RESIDENT	32	43	74.4%	262	8.2	45	\$14,895	\$44,042
NONRESIDENT	4	4	100.0%	8	2.0	4	\$8,324	\$416
<b>BLACK BEAR</b>								
RESIDENT	216	1,982	10.9%	19,717	91.3	2,651	\$97,292	\$1,115,491
NONRESIDENT	61	241	25.3%	1,326	21.7	253	\$77,284	\$340,688
<b>MOUNTAIN LION <sup>3</sup></b>								
	175	-----	-----	613	3.5	1,548	\$71,706	\$100,821
<b>TURKEY</b>								
RESIDENT	2,659	5,046	52.7%	16,492	6.2	5,983	\$71,673	\$4,015,868
NONRESIDENT	1,196	1,787	66.9%	5,044	4.2	1,977	\$112,274	\$1,352,135
<b>COTTONTAIL</b>								
	89,823	8,967	1001.7%	30,842	0.3	-----	-----	\$7,686,135
<b>SNOWSHOE HARE</b>								
	703	239	294.1%	815	1.2	-----	-----	\$203,106
<b>SQUIRREL</b>								
	1,434	306	468.6%	1,242	0.9	-----	-----	\$309,519

**SUMMARY OF 2005 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 <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL HUNTER EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup>
PHEASANT	65,979	12,573	524.8%	51,253	0.8	29,472	\$585,668	\$12,772,760
GRAY PARTRIDGE	3,520	1,750	201.1%	5,335	1.5	-----	-----	\$1,329,535
CHUKAR	10,909	2,465	442.6%	8,302	0.8	-----	-----	\$2,068,941
SAGE GROUSE	13,176	5,231	251.9%	12,176	0.9	-----	-----	\$3,034,381
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	2,712	1,128	240.4%	3,729	1.4	-----	-----	\$929,304
BLUE GROUSE	13,076	4,986	262.3%	19,782	1.5	-----	-----	\$4,929,872
RUFFED GROUSE	3,182	1,475	215.7%	6,940	2.2	-----	-----	\$1,729,517
MOURNING DOVE	44,280	3,194	1386.3%	9,080	0.2	-----	-----	\$2,262,827
DUCK	72,368	8,072	896.5%	48,039	0.7	-----	-----	\$11,971,799
GOOSE	55,678	8,729	637.9%	50,406	0.9	-----	-----	\$12,561,679
SANDHILL CRANE	116	196	59.2%	430	3.7	-----	-----	\$107,160
RAIL	74	90	82.2%	168	2.3	-----	-----	\$41,867
SNIPE	522	207	252.2%	769	1.5	-----	-----	\$191,642
COOT	163	143	114.0%	412	2.5	-----	-----	\$102,675
RAPTOR	13	42	31.0%	-----	-----	41	\$5,292	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST	HUNTERS	SUCCESS RATE	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED	LICENSE SALES <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL ANGLER EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup>
SPORT FISHING	-----	-----	250.0%	2,256,200	2.5	349,979	\$4,669,286	\$213,111,011
COMMERCIAL	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1,058	\$51,549	-----

LICENSE	HARVEST <sup>4</sup>	HUNTERS <sup>5</sup>	SUCCESS RATE <sup>5</sup>	RECREATION DAYS	DAYS/ANIMAL	LICENSES ISSUED <sup>6</sup>	LICENSE SALES <sup>6</sup>	TOTAL TRAPPER EXPENDITURES <sup>6</sup>
TRAPPING	3,179	468	679.3%	No Data	No Data	1,496	57,369	\$11,911,981

**SUMMARY**

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>492,956</b>	<b>248,330</b>		<b>3,458,582</b>		<b>588,074</b>	<b>28,156,945</b>	<b>\$382,361,191</b>
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<sup>1</sup>License Sales figures will vary slightly from Statement of Revenue and Expenditures due to timing differences between subsidiary and general ledger reporting.

<sup>2</sup>Total Hunter and Angler Expenditure figures do not include license sales.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated only from successful legal mountain lion hunters who reported days hunted.

<sup>4</sup>Only successful bobcat trappers surveyed.

<sup>5</sup>Bobcat trappers only.

<sup>6</sup>All 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>2005 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

APPENDIX C:  
BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL  
SUMMARIES

## FY07 BUDGET SUMMARY

### MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Director .....	\$2,051,522
Fiscal Services .....	3,958,939
Services(1) .....	10,615,365
Fish (2) .....	9,769,631
Wildlife .....	18,735,310
<b>TOTAL M&amp;O</b>	<b>45,130,767</b>
COUPONS .....	535,000
EARLY RETIREMENT .....	90,444
DAMAGE .....	500,000
COST ALLOCATION .....	700,000
SALECS .....	252,000
ACCESS EASEMENTS .....	785,000
PROPERTY RIGHTS .....	200,000
ELECTRONIC LIC PROJECT .....	589,144
WILDLIFE TRUST .....	980,831
STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS .....	761,112
LANDOWNER INCENTIVE TIER I .....	172,088
REIMBURSED CONTRACTS .....	3,000,000
<b>FY07 BUDGET</b>	<b>53,696,386</b>
AUTHORIZED CARRYOVER	4,807,681
<b>AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR FY07 SPENDING*</b>	<b>58,504,067</b>

(1) does not include FY07-08 capital construction appropriation awarded to the State Department of Administration of \$15.75 million in construction funds for renovation and replacement work at two hatcheries, 1 regional office and several comfort stations and handicapped accessible areas. Does include 50% of the biennial appropriation for the general fund vet services and sage grouse local working group programs.

(2) due to final figures not available for the market pay adjustments approved by the State Compensation Commission at the time this budget was approved by the WGF Commission, there will be some minor decreases to this budget.

**FY07 DETAIL BUDGET  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROJECTS)**

	FY 07	FY 06	% CHNG
<b><u>OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR</u></b>			
ADMINISTRATION	650,013	731,748	-11%
PERSONNEL	413,248	305,948	35%
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH	386,910	392,500	-1%
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	337,967	341,641	-1%
STATEWIDE HABITAT PROTECTION	305,037	295,997	3%
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	132,942	135,426	-2%
COMMISSION	96,388	102,302	-6%
sub-total	2,322,505	2,305,562	1%
<b><u>FISCAL AND ADMIN SERVICES</u></b>			
REVENUE COLLECTION	2,303,605	2,320,717	-1%
LEGISLATED EXPENSES	2,077,444	1,957,274	6%
REGIONAL OFFICE MANAGEMENT	1,129,927	1,095,191	3%
ASSET MANAGEMENT	574,038	554,251	4%
ADMINISTRATION	224,436	216,656	4%
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	215,318	203,682	6%
FINANCIAL SYSTEMS	146,107	142,198	3%
sub-total	6,670,875	6,489,969	3%
<b><u>SERVICES</u></b>			
HABITAT ACCESS & MAINTENANCE	2,535,817	2,238,371	13%
MANAGEMENT INFO SYSTEMS	2,015,698	1,709,440	18%
HEADQUARTERS & SUPP FACILITIES	1,017,913	1,034,168	-2%
PROPERTY RIGHTS	562,550	689,903	-18%
MAIL SERVICES	685,807	650,896	5%
PUBLICATIONS	682,535	686,347	-1%
GAME & FISH LABORATORY	554,750	559,869	-1%
CUSTOMER OUTREACH & INFO	544,090	369,189	47%
CONSERVATION ENGINEERING	524,948	450,746	16%
REGIONAL I/E	515,720	533,719	-3%
ADMINISTRATION	458,817	438,653	5%
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	427,477	427,886	0%
CUSTOMER SERVICES	247,644	203,202	22%
HUNTER EDUCATION	159,527	162,946	-2%
sub-total	10,933,293	10,155,335	8%

**FY07 DETAIL BUDGET  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
(EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROJECTS)**

	FY 07	FY 06	% CHNG
<b><u>FISH DIVISION</u></b>			
HATCHERIES & REARING STATIONS	3,972,889	4,109,106	-3%
REG AQUATIC WILDLIFE MNGT	2,808,115	2,635,583	7%
AQUATIC HABITAT MNGT	1,292,605	1,036,033	25%
BOATING ACCESS	928,000	726,900	28%
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MNGT	444,858	416,008	7%
ADMINISTRATION	365,961	345,551	6%
WATER MNGT	210,672	221,480	-5%
FISH SPAWNING	207,608	236,445	-12%
FISH DISTRIBUTION	205,833	95,692	115%
subtotal	10,436,541	9,822,798	6%
<b><u>WILDLIFE DIVISION</u></b>			
REGIONAL GAME WARDENS	5,573,064	5,176,895	8%
REGIONAL TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGISTS	2,594,896	2,463,947	5%
REGIONAL WILDLIFE SUPERVISORS	1,507,355	1,220,909	23%
VETERINARY SERVICES	1,433,241	2,018,570	-29%
WILDLIFE FEEDING	1,365,792	1,326,497	3%
TERRESTRIAL HABITAT	1,327,557	1,155,578	15%
PROPERTY RIGHTS (ACCESS YES AMDIN)	1,268,558	1,186,338	7%
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT	816,875	634,283	29%
TROPHY GAME & CONFLICT RESOLUTION	809,441	742,938	9%
BIOLOGICAL SERVICES	796,545	750,204	6%
ADMINISTRATION	673,768	614,027	10%
SAGE GROUSE MNGT	669,578	615,986	9%
TERRESTRIAL NONGAME	568,541	500,674	14%
BIRD FARMS	474,034	404,642	17%
BOATING SAFETY & INVEST ADMIN	222,052	174,803	27%
WATERFOWL	131,875	123,700	7%
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT	100,000	100,000	0%
sub-total	20,333,172	19,209,991	6%
<b>BUDGETS ON A STRATEGIC BASIS</b>	<b>\$ 50,696,386</b>	<b>\$ 47,983,655</b>	<b>6%</b>

## WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FY07 BUDGET

### WILDLIFE TRUST FUND PROJECTS:

#### HABITAT PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Bates Creek Watershed Restoration*	25,000
Bighorn Basin Prescribed Burn	10,000
Cheatgrass Control Project*	5,000
Fish Passage at Low Head Diversions	8,000
Fish Passage NRCS Match Funds on Private Lands	15,000
Jackknife Creek Restoration Project	25,000
LaBarge Wetland Project*	10,000
Lake DeSmet Diversion (Clear Creek) Rehabilitation*	25,000
Maki Aspen Enhancement	25,000
North Laramie Range Habitat Initiative	15,000
PLPW Habitat Grants*	10,000
Roaring Fork Watershed Aspen Preservation	13,600
Roath Habitat Management Technical support*	20,000
SE Wyoming Gas Guzzlers*	5,000
South Wind River Mule Deer Habitat Enhancement	15,000
Southern Laramie Range Prescribed Burns	15,000
Spring Creek Project	16,690
Trout Creek Fish Passage, Phase I	25,000
Winward Technical Assistance Contract*	11,625
Landowner Incentive Program Match	75,000
Habitat projects	<b>\$369,915</b>

<b>Property Rights Specialist Program*</b>	70,969
<b>Habitat Biologist Program*</b>	448,737
Habitat programs	<b>\$519,706</b>

#### CONSERVATION EDUCATION (WORTH THE WATCHING) PROJECTS

Raptor Electronic Field Trip	985
Upper Green River Float Map	7,000
Wyoming's Important Bird Area Brochure	2,100
Educational Projects	10,085
Alternative Funding Program	<b>\$81,125</b>

**TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRUST PROGRAMS/PROJECTS** **\$980,831**

### STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROJECTS:

Big Horn Native Fish Survey *	81,273
Black Footed Ferret Surveys *	52,613
Conflict Resolution with Grizzly Bears *	57,697
CRC in North Fork **	51,923
Cutthroat Conservation *	72,812
Effects of Winter Recreation on Small Mammals *	17,442
Fish Entrainment	41,743
Green River Catostomidae* **	64,000
Green River Watershed Assessment *	16,500

## WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FY07 BUDGET

### WILDLIFE TRUST FUND PROJECTS:

Grizzly Bear Monitoring	36,733
Herpetological Program *	20,267
Making Gis Useful *	36,874
Sage Grouse Hat Six *	8,500
Salt River Spawning of Snake River CT * **	7,775
Terrestrial Nongame Species Surveys *	90,719
Wapiti Bear Management *	46,581
Wind River Burbot **	57,660

### **TOTAL DEPARTMENT FY07 State Wildlife Projects**

**\$761,112**

\* ongoing projects

\*\*work being performed by the UW coop unit

**MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS BUDGETS (FY 87 - FY 07)**

**(Does not include Enhancements, Trust Projects, Property Rights, Capital Facilities or Reimbursed Projects)**

<b>FY 87</b>	<b>\$19,913,441</b>	<b>FY 92</b>	<b>\$27,073,153</b>	<b>FY96 (Continued)</b>	<b>FY01 (Continued)</b>	<b>FY06 (Continued)</b>			
Game Division	7,483,347	Game Division	9,893,600	SALECS	217,000	Coupons	515,000	Fish Division	17,962,143
Fish Division	4,451,347	Fish Division	5,708,203			Early Retirement	305,000	Services Division	9,294,901
HATS Division	2,843,805	HATS Division	4,035,772	<b>FY 97</b>	<b>\$30,484,636</b>	Damage	500,000	Fiscal Services	9,670,901
Communications Division	1,538,464	I&E Services Division	2,723,179	Wildlife Division	11,479,769	Cost Allocation	350,000	Office of Director	2,059,320
Fiscal Division	2,359,229	Fiscal Services Division	2,469,238	Fish Division	6,255,709	SALECS	224,000	Coupons	500,000
Administration Division	1,236,638	Office of Director	942,412	Services Division	7,033,623			Early Retirement	105,274
Coupons	750,000	Coupons	600,000	Fiscal Services Division	2,780,604	<b>FY 02</b>	<b>\$39,727,021</b>	Damage	500,000
Damage	500,000	Damage	500,000	Office of Director	984,931	Wildlife Division	14,047,986	Cost Allocation	600,000
		Early Retirement	200,749	Coupons	560,000	Fish Division	9,107,324	SALECS	252,000
				Early Retirement	378,000	Services Division	8,982,248		
<b>FY 88</b>	<b>\$21,040,674</b>	<b>FY 93</b>	<b>\$29,674,362</b>	Damage	500,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,648,879	<b>FY07</b>	<b>\$47,208,311</b>
Game Division	7,381,078	Game Division	10,561,574	Cost Allocation	300,000	Office of Director	2,081,384	Wildlife Division	18,735,410
Fish Division	4,602,523	Fish Division	6,124,559	SALECS	212,000	Coupons	475,000	Fish Division	9,769,631
HATS Division	2,920,979	HATS Division	4,114,019	<b>FY 98</b>	<b>\$33,776,380</b>	Early Retirement	262,200	Services Division	10,615,365
Communications Division	1,553,215	I&E Services Division	3,253,794	Wildlife Division	12,747,313	Damage	500,000	Fiscal Services	3,958,939
Fiscal Division	1,436,749	Fiscal Services Division	2,377,512	Fish Division	6,755,891	Cost Allocation	370,000	Office of Director	2,051,522
Administration Division	702,834	Office of Director	1,632,904	Services Division	7,332,429	SALECS	252,000	Coupons	535,000
Agency Common	1,193,296	Coupons	860,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,097,432			Early Retirement	90,444
Coupons	750,000	Damage	500,000	Office of Director	1,822,313	<b>FY 03</b>	<b>\$40,545,447</b>	Damage	500,000
Damage	500,000	Early Retirement	250,000	Coupons	602,000	Wildlife Division	14,843,001	Cost Allocation	252,000
				Early Retirement	369,002	Fish Division	8,856,919	SALECS	47,208,311
<b>FY 89</b>	<b>\$20,465,981</b>	<b>FY 94</b>	<b>\$30,946,580</b>	Damage	500,000	Services Division	9,015,519		
Game Division	7,576,046	Game Division	10,423,261	Cost Allocation	330,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,904,386		
Fish Division	4,146,592	Fish Division	6,185,826	SALECS	220,000	Office of Director	2,165,017		
HATS Division	2,540,610	HATS Division	4,539,758	<b>FY 99</b>	<b>\$33,582,267</b>	Coupons	450,000		
I&E Services Division	1,583,581	I&E Services Division	3,568,632	Wildlife Division	12,155,687	Early Retirement	208,605		
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,337,388	Fiscal Services Division	2,996,836	Fish Division	7,017,794	Damage	500,000		
Office of Director	689,602	Office of Director	1,687,267	Services Division	7,615,445	Cost Allocation	350,000		
Agency Common	1,217,162	Coupons	750,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,025,520	SALECS	252,000		
Coupons	750,000	Early Retirement	295,000	Office of Director	1,824,772	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>\$39,572,909</b>		
Damage	500,000	Wildlife Division	10,126,225	Coupons	515,000	Wildlife Division	14,520,159		
Early Retirement	125,000	Fish Division	6,187,409	Early Retirement	358,249	Fish Division	8,780,831		
Damage	500,000	HATS Division	4,195,529	Damage	500,000	Services Division	8,921,007		
		I&E Services Division	3,204,102	Cost Allocation	342,200	Fiscal Services	3,622,015		
<b>FY 90</b>	<b>\$20,533,195</b>	Fiscal Services Division	2,692,088	SALECS	227,600	Office of Director	2,002,835		
Game Division	8,084,170	Office of Director	1,956,424	<b>FY 00</b>	<b>\$36,238,774</b>	Coupons	400,000		
Fish Division	4,406,561	Coupons	650,000	Wildlife Division	12,970,024	Early Retirement	164,062		
HATS Division	2,693,910	Early Retirement	150,000	Fish Division	8,377,249	Damage	500,000		
I&E Services Division	1,661,592	Damage	500,000	Services Division	7,765,569	Cost Allocation	410,000		
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,329,610	Cost Allocation	300,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,297,221	SALECS	252,000		
Office of Director	708,133	SALECS	217,000	Office of Director	1,860,511	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>\$40,720,306</b>		
Agency Common	474,219	Salary Contingency	493,544	Coupons	515,000	Wildlife Division	14,890,882		
Coupons	550,000	Wildlife Division	10,126,225	Early Retirement	325,600	Fish Division	8,979,167		
Damage	500,000	Fish Division	6,187,409	Damage	500,000	Services Division	9,426,638		
Early Retirement	125,000	HATS Division	4,587,011	Cost Allocation	400,000	Fiscal Services	3,569,888		
		I&E Services Division	3,504,112	SALECS	227,600	Office of Director	2,031,455		
<b>FY 91</b>	<b>\$22,518,236</b>	Fiscal Services Division	3,018,908	<b>FY 01</b>	<b>\$36,571,119</b>	Coupons	500,000		
Game Division	8,711,427	Office of Director	1,249,286	Wildlife Division	12,900,839	Early Retirement	138,276		
Fish Division	4,787,533	Coupons	600,000	Fish Division	8,617,707	Damage	500,000		
HATS Division	2,876,190	Early Retirement	333,820	Services Division	7,884,777	Cost Allocation	432,000		
I&E Services Division	1,941,699	Damage	500,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,355,319	SALECS	252,000		
Adm. & Fiscal Svcs. Div.	1,383,147	Cost Allocation	300,000	Office of Director	1,917,494	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>\$44,624,002</b>		
Office of Director	746,640	Wildlife Division	10,288,181			Wildlife Division	44,624,002		
Agency Common	876,600	Fish Division	6,803,683						
Coupons	600,000	HATS Division	4,587,011						
Damage	500,000	I&E Services Division	3,504,112						
Early Retirement	95,000	Fiscal Services Division	3,018,908						
		Office of Director	1,249,286						
		Coupons	600,000						
		Early Retirement	333,820						
		Damage	500,000						
		Cost Allocation	300,000						

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

**% CHNG  
FY 03  
TO  
FY 06**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	
<b>ASSETS:</b>					
PETTY CASH	\$ 14,750	\$ 14,750	\$ 14,450	\$ 14,675	
CASH - OPERATIONS	22,658,283	18,473,868	16,862,195	15,221,185	49%
CASH- WILDLIFE TRUST INTEREST	1,630,155	1,568,387	1,620,801	1,718,782	-5%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	<u>957,866</u>	<u>894,141</u>	<u>827,509</u>	<u>716,722</u>	<u>34%</u>
	25,261,054	20,951,146	19,324,955	17,671,364	43%
CASH - WILDLIFE TRUST CORPUS	19,473,876	18,773,926	18,121,434	17,017,938	14%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,748,685	2,554,027	2,436,869	1,890,305	45%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,013	49,978	50,000	50,000	0%
CASH - APPS/LICENSES IN PROCESS	13,221,845	18,667,441	12,618,476	10,614,144	25%
RETURNED CHECKS	<u>8,001</u>	<u>51,349</u>	<u>3,996</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u>41%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>60,763,474</u>	<u>61,047,867</u>	<u>52,555,730</u>	<u>47,249,430</u>	<u>29%</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	251,390	88,807	248,900	152,632	65%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	93,135	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	40,534	42,259	34,296	49,496	-18%
UNDISTRIBUTED DRAW/APPS PENDING	13,221,845	18,667,441	12,618,476	10,614,144	25%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	64,431	49,607	49,607	28,266	128%
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	<u>208,907</u>	<u>205,717</u>	<u>161,500</u>	<u>210,449</u>	<u>-1%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,887,107	19,153,831	13,205,914	11,154,987	24%
 <b>FUND BALANCE:</b>					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES	4,321,386	3,921,674	2,985,165	2,961,197	46%
WILDLIFE TRUST FUND CORPUS	19,473,876	18,773,926	18,121,434	17,017,938	14%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST	1,511,912	1,566,769	1,516,725	1,506,505	0%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS	933,591	877,326	812,709	706,722	32%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	2,748,685	2,571,939	2,436,869	1,890,305	45%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,013	49,978	50,000	50,000	0%
UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND	17,836,904	14,539,058	13,426,914	11,961,776	49%
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><b>46,876,367</b></u>	<u><b>42,300,670</b></u>	<u><b>39,349,816</b></u>	<u><b>36,094,443</b></u>	<u><b>30%</b></u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><b>60,763,474</b></u>	<u><b>61,454,501</b></u>	<u><b>52,555,730</b></u>	<u><b>47,249,430</b></u>	<u><b>29%</b></u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS  
FROM EXPENDABLE FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

<b>EXPENDABLE FUNDS</b>			%PR CH
<u>REVENUE RECEIVED</u>			<u>FY 05</u>
Hunting & Fish Lic@	\$ 28,158,607	\$ 28,116,477	0%
Preference Points	2,646,708	170,784	1450%
Conservation Stamps	649,230	613,726	6%
Boating Registration	411,781	357,948	15%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,428,582	1,114,797	28%
Pooled Interest Trt	857,249	723,509	18%
Income from Inv&Land	208,196	258,719	-20%
Nonfederal Grants	709,290	419,809	69%
Application Fees	1,688,900	1,611,100	5%
Publication Sales	176,135	192,071	-8%
Access Yes c-stamp/donations	707,209	651,692	9%
Federal Aid & Grants	9,898,176	9,782,938	1%
General Funds	1,247,299		
Other Items	<u>71,042</u>	<u>64,843</u>	<u>10%</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE EARNED</b>	<b>48,858,404</b>	<b>44,078,413</b>	<b>11%</b>
 <u>EXPENDITURES MADE</u>			
Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	1,709,092	1,600,322	7%
Fiscal Division	3,169,735	2,952,563	7%
Services Division	8,434,589	8,314,196	1%
Fish Division	7,985,396	7,909,943	1%
Wildlife Division	<u>15,633,748</u>	<u>13,976,166</u>	<u>12%</u>
<b>TOTAL M&amp;O EXPENSES</b>	<b>36,932,560</b>	<b>34,753,190</b>	<b>6%</b>
Access Payments	648,710	572,876	13%
Trust Projects	646,645	589,740	10%
Legislated Expenses	1,750,310	1,615,045	8%
Carryover M/0 /Trust FD	<u>1,983,580</u>	<u>2,110,514</u>	<u>-6%</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXP</b>	<b>41,961,805</b>	<b>39,641,365</b>	<b>6%</b>
Licensing Project	342,681	170,511	101%
Reimbursable Contracts	1,292,608	1,417,928	-9%
State Wildlife Grants	536,288	528,603	1%
LIP Tier I Grants	59,906		
Property Rights	1,750	0	
Carryover	<u>661,506</u>	<u>343,202</u>	<u>93%</u>
<b>TOTAL NONOP EXPENDTRS</b>	<b>2,894,739</b>	<b>2,460,244</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>44,856,544</u></b>	<b><u>42,101,609</u></b>	<b><u>7%</u></b>
<b>DEFICIT OF REV OVER EXP</b>	<b><u>\$4,001,860</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,976,804</u></b>	<b><u>102%</u></b>

All Department revenue is recognized above excepting: 1)\$374,843 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 \$48,386 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp (\$649,230) revenue deposited in the wildlife trust fund; W.S. provides the corpus cannot be spent, but interest earned may be used for operations;

3)access donations of \$125,960 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 \$15,018 (net profit on a cash basis for revenue of \$151,099 and expenses of \$136,081) from sale of promotional products and publications.

All Department expenditures, excepting capital construction costs of \$3,921,674 paid in FY06 and funded from a capital construction general fund 2004 Legislative appropriation.

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,  
Expenditures FY06**

			Game and Fish Operating Fund	Wildlife Trust Fund	Access Fund	State Wildlife Grants and LIP	100% Funded Third Party Grants	Sub-Total Agency Funding	General Fund (non capital construction)
<b>Aquatic Wildlife Management</b>	8.58%	\$ 3,779,536	\$ 3,567,265			\$ 116,372	\$ 95,899	\$ 3,779,536	
<b>Bird Farms</b>	0.90%	398,364	390,916				7,448	398,364	
<b>Co-op Unit Research</b>	0.82%	359,356	201,057			158,299		359,356	
<b>Conservation Engineering</b>	0.93%	411,276	411,276					411,276	
<b>Department Administration</b>	5.13%	2,261,613	2,261,613					2,261,613	
<b>Education</b>	1.42%	623,647	499,392	24,379			99,876	623,647	
<b>Feedgrounds</b>	2.55%	1,121,946	1,121,946					1,121,946	
<b>Financial Management</b>	4.92%	2,166,907	2,172,962				-6,055	2,166,907	
<b>Fish Culture^</b>	9.91%	4,365,231	4,365,231					4,365,231	
<b>Habitat/Access Management ^</b>	9.93%	4,376,146	3,483,356	673,346		61,108	158,336	4,376,146	
<b>Information</b>	2.59%	1,142,990	1,142,990					1,142,990	
<b>Legislated Expenses (2)</b>	4.06%	1,787,396	1,787,396					1,787,396	
<b>Mailroom</b>	1.46%	644,677	644,677					644,677	
<b>Management Info Systems</b>	3.84%	1,692,804	1,634,861			51,342	6,601	1,692,804	
<b>Personnel Management</b>	0.58%	255,618	255,618					255,618	
<b>Property Rights</b>	3.48%	1,534,860	878,650		648,710		7,500	1,534,860	
<b>Regional Information and Educ.</b>	1.12%	491,982	491,982					491,982	
<b>Specialized Law Enforcement</b>	2.34%	1,031,858	727,933				303,925	1,031,858	
<b>Strategic Management</b>	1.09%	478,420	312,671	80,937		10,153	74,659	478,420	
<b>Support Facilities/Personnel</b>	4.16%	1,831,946	1,831,946					1,831,946	
<b>Terrestrial Wildlife Management</b>	25.28%	11,139,494	10,411,188			228,859	291,214	10,931,261	208,233
<b>Wildlife Habitat Protection</b>	0.67%	294,793	264,624				30,169	294,793	
<b>Wildlife Health and Lab Services</b>	4.26%	1,877,933	458,834				380,103	838,937	1,038,996
								-	
<b>TOTAL DEPT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>44,068,793</b>	<b>39,318,384</b>	<b>778,662</b>	<b>648,710</b>	<b>626,133</b>	<b>1,449,675</b>	<b>42,821,564</b>	<b>1,247,229</b>
Electronic Licensing Project		787,681	787,681					787,681	
Alternative Enterprises		136,081						-	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT EXPENDED DURING FY 06</b>		<b>44,992,555</b>	<b>40,106,065</b>	<b>778,662</b>	<b>648,710</b>	<b>626,133</b>	<b>1,449,675</b>	<b>43,609,245</b>	<b>1,247,229</b>

(1) does not include general fund capital construction expenditures of \$1,557,396 for fish culture program and \$649,916 for the habitat program

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

<b>BIG GAME LICENSES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Resident Antelope	\$22.00	11,583	12,260	12,970		
Resident Antelope	\$26.00				13,013	
Resident Antelope	\$27.00					13,811
Depredation Resident Antelope	\$22.00					
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	1,942	2,094	2,110	2,218	2,285
Depredation Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$20.00	3,162	3,724	4,308		
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$24.00				4,357	
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00					4,788
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	385	434	527	548	525
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	440	379	324	300	296
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	50	54	51	59	54
Depredation Resident Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00					
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$16.00				108	114
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$15.00				20	17
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>17,562</b>	<b>18,945</b>	<b>20,290</b>	<b>20,623</b>	<b>21,890</b>
Nonres Special Antelope	\$285.00	1,790	1,803	1,886		
Nonres Special Antelope	\$425.00				1,455	
Nonres Special Antelope	\$426.00					1,498
Nonres Antelope	\$185.00	11,168	11,709	12,861		
Nonres Antelope	\$225.00				13,399	
Nonres Antelope	\$226.00					14,478
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	557	587	674	830	931
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$50.00	5,483	6,261	7,604		
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$60.00				7,955	
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$29.00					11,913
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$30.00	291	413	511	588	
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00					720
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>19,289</b>	<b>20,773</b>	<b>23,536</b>	<b>24,227</b>	<b>29,540</b>
<b>TOTAL ANTELOPE LICENSES</b>		<b>36,851</b>	<b>39,718</b>	<b>43,826</b>	<b>44,850</b>	<b>51,430</b>
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$75.00	211	189	182		
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$95.00				187	
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$96.00					174
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,500.00	71	69	66		
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,900.00				64	
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$1,901.00					62
<b>TOTAL BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSES</b>		<b>282</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>236</b>
Resident Deer	\$25.00	41,682	41,556	40,698		
Resident Deer	\$30.00				39,596	
Resident Deer	\$31.00					38,591
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	6,122	5,933	5,718	5,414	5,353
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00	3,382	3,266	3,790		
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$24.00				4,233	
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00					5,479
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	359	305	337	435	514
Depredation Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$20.00		167			
Depredation Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00		28			
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	993	861	718	628	554
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	59	48	46	46	36
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$19.00				138	157
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$15.00				19	11
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>52,597</b>	<b>52,164</b>	<b>51,307</b>	<b>50,509</b>	<b>50,695</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Nonres Special Deer	\$310.00	4,372	4,263	4,149		
Nonres Special Deer	\$460.00				3,278	
Nonres Special Deer	\$461.00					2,948
Nonresident Deer	\$210.00	24,787	25,198	24,933		
Nonresident Deer	\$260.00				24,076	
Nonresident Deer	\$261.00					24,569
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	910	953	1,022	1,042	1,158
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$50.00	2,807	2,466	2,984		
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$60.00				2,950	
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$29.00					4,915
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$30.00	151	147	162	194	
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00					248
Nonresident Depredation Deer	\$210.00		6			
<b>TOTALS</b>		33,027	33,027	33,250	31,540	33,838
<b>TOTAL DEER LICENSES</b>		<b>85,624</b>	<b>85,191</b>	<b>84,557</b>	<b>82,049</b>	<b>84,533</b>
Resident Elk	\$35.00	41,548	41,106	39,734		
Resident Elk	\$42.00				38,357	
Resident Elk	\$43.00					37,192
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	4,457	4,255	4,025	3,969	3,801
Depredation Resident Elk	\$42.00				91	
Depredation Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00				9	
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	1,083	927	788	695	573
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$30.00	3,684	3,955	3,835		
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$36.00				4,038	4,229
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	265	268	244	297	326
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	47	49	52	62	52
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$27.00				243	294
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$23.00				30	26
<b>TOTALS</b>		51,084	50,560	48,678	47,791	46,493
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$600.00	2,821	2,809	2,807		
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$880.00				2,783	
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$881.00					2,785
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$400.00	6,599	6,387	5,959		
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$480.00				5,757	
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$481.00					5,536
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	171	147	164	154	151
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$200.00			1,751		
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$150.00	1,738	2,023			
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$240.00				1,636	1,538
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$75.00	80	86			
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00			69	61	47
<b>TOTALS</b>		11,409	11,452	10,750	10,391	10,057
<b>TOTAL ELK LICENSES</b>		<b>62,493</b>	<b>62,012</b>	<b>59,428</b>	<b>58,182</b>	<b>56,550</b>
Resident Moose	\$75.00	1,198	1,167	1,002		
Resident Moose	\$90.00				777	
Resident Moose	\$91.00					669
Nonresident Moose	\$1,000.00	208	219	187		
Nonresident Moose	\$1,200.00				150	
Nonresident Moose	\$1,201.00					129
<b>TOTAL MOOSE LICENSES</b>		<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>798</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Mountain Goat	\$75.00	13	12	12		
Resident Mountain Goat	\$100.00				12	
Resident Mountain Goat	\$101.00					15
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$1,500.00	4	4	4		
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$1,800.00				4	
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$1,801.00					5
<b>TOTAL MOUNTAIN GOAT LICENSES</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>

COMMERCIAL LICENSES	PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Comm'l Fish Hatchery	\$125.00	18	14	16		
Comm'l Fish Hatchery	\$150.00				12	
Comm'l Fish Hatchery	\$151.00					14
Deal in Live Bait	\$45.00	64	61	62		
Deal in Live Bait	\$55.00				65	
Deal in Live Bait	\$56.00					56
Fishing Preserve	\$90.00	84	75	62		
Fishing Preserve	\$110.00				62	
Fishing Preserve	\$111.00					72
Resident Fur Dealer	\$35.00	15	19	13		
Resident Fur Dealer	\$42.00				13	
Resident Fur Dealer	\$43.00					11
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$190.00	8	7	9		
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$230.00				9	
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$231.00					10
Game Bird Farm	\$90.00	104	103	108		
Game Bird Farm	\$110.00				117	
Game Bird Farm	\$111.00					115
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$25.00	451				
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$15.00		532	533	566	
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$16.00					612
Resident Taxidermist	\$45.00	152	152	157		
Resident Taxidermist	\$55.00				168	
Resident Taxidermist	\$56.00					163
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$500.00	4	5	2		
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$600.00				4	
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$601.00					5
<b>TOTAL COMMERCIAL LICENSES</b>		<b>900</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,058</b>

FUR BEARING/TRAP LICENSES	PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$30.00	1,001	1,156	1,256		
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$35.00				1,310	
Res Fur Bearing Trap	\$36.00					1,347
Res Youth Fur Bear Trap	\$6.00	101	106	100	113	110
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$170.00	26	27	32		
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$200.00				31	
Nonres Fur Bearing Trap	\$201.00					39
<b>TOTAL FUR BEARING/TRAPPING LICENSES</b>		<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>1,496</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

GAME BIRD/SML GAME LICENSES:		PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Res Bird/Small Game Annual		\$15.00	14,129	12,326	11,091		
Res Bird/Small Game Annual		\$18.00				10,189	
Res Bird/Small Game Annual		\$19.00					10,278
Res Daily Bird/Small Game		\$5.00	879	765	859		
Res Daily Bird/Small Game		\$6.00				1,155	
Res Daily Bird/Small Game		\$7.00					1,108
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual		\$50.00	2,191	1,925	2,004		
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual		\$60.00				1,824	
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual		\$61.00					1,868
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game		\$15.00	5,089	4,465	4,417	5,107	
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game		\$16.00					6,203
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual		\$40.00	68	68	81	80	106
<b>TOTAL COMBINATION LICENSES</b>			<b>22,356</b>	<b>19,549</b>	<b>18,452</b>	<b>18,355</b>	<b>19,563</b>
GAME BIRD LICENSES:		PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Resident Game Bird		\$10.00	7,776	7,652	7,821		
Resident Game Bird		\$12.00				8,024	
Resident Game Bird		\$13.00					7,767
3-Day Special Bird		\$15.00	128	115	74	0	
<b>TOTAL GAME BIRD LICENSES</b>			<b>7,904</b>	<b>7,767</b>	<b>7,895</b>	<b>8,024</b>	<b>7,767</b>
SMALL GAME LICENSES:		PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Resident Small Game		\$10.00	1,479	1,510	1,658		
Resident Small Game		\$12.00				1,971	
Resident Small Game		\$13.00					2,142
<b>TOTAL SMALL GAME LICENSES</b>			<b>1,479</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>2,142</b>
TURKEY LICENSES:		PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Resident Spring Turkey		\$10.00	3,888	3,728	3,814		
Resident Spring Turkey		\$12.00				4,188	
Resident Spring Turkey		\$13.00					4,165
Resident Fall Turkey		\$10.00	1,952	1,756	1,938		
Resident Fall Turkey		\$12.00				2,230	
Resident Fall Turkey		\$13.00					1,818
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>5,840</b>	<b>5,484</b>	<b>5,752</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>5,983</b>
Nonres Spring Turkey		\$50.00	1,147	1,187	1,251		
Nonres Spring Turkey		\$60.00				1,414	
Nonres Spring Turkey		\$61.00					1,545
Nonres Fall Turkey		\$50.00	522	511	671		
Nonres Fall Turkey		\$60.00				572	
Nonres Fall Turkey		\$61.00					432
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>1,669</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>1,977</b>
<b>TOTAL TURKEY LICENSES</b>			<b>7,509</b>	<b>7,182</b>	<b>7,674</b>	<b>8,404</b>	<b>7,960</b>
GAME FISH LICENSES:		PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Resident Fishing Annual		\$15.00	87,873	81,394	78,750		
Resident Fishing Annual		\$18.00				73,541	
Resident Fishing Annual		\$19.00					72,932
Resident Youth Fishing Annual		\$3.00	8,341	7,413	6,780	6,368	6,255
Resident Daily Fish		\$3.00	31,952	31,950	35,565	39,862	
Resident Daily Fish		\$4.00					40,427
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>128,166</b>	<b>120,757</b>	<b>121,095</b>	<b>119,771</b>	<b>119,614</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Nonres Fishing Annual	\$65.00	16,203	16,644	17,011		
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$75.00				14,033	
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$76.00					13,842
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,941	3,858	3,733	3,554	3,371
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$6.00					
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$10.00	252,686	227,693	220,137	218,894	
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$11.00					213,152
<b>TOTALS</b>		<u>272,830</u>	<u>248,195</u>	<u>240,881</u>	<u>236,481</u>	<u>230,365</u>
<b>TOTAL FISHING LICENSES</b>		<b>400,996</b>	<b>368,952</b>	<b>361,976</b>	<b>356,252</b>	<b>349,979</b>

<b>LIFETIME LICENSES:</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$400.00	39	82	162	121	
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$401.00					100
Fishing	\$250.00	41	41	110	74	
Fishing	\$251.00					70
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$475.00	623	644	1,407		
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$550.00				195	
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$551.50					289
Bird/Small Game	\$250.00				23	
Bird/Small Game	\$251.00					21
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$400.00				3	
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$401.50					3
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$325.00	423	429	1,279		
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$400.00				129	
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$401.50					157
Conservation Stamp	\$75.00	1,845	1,739	6,032		
Conservation Stamp	\$150.00				79	
Conservation Stamp	\$150.50					86
<b>TOTAL LIFETIME LICENSES</b>		<b>2,971</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>8,990</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>726</b>

<b>OTHER LICENSES:</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Resident Archery	\$10.00	9,265	9,716	10,111		
Resident Archery	\$12.00				10,836	
Resident Archery	\$13.00					11,144
Nonresident Archery	\$20.00	2,490	2,580	2,930		
Nonresident Archery	\$24.00				3,254	
Nonresident Archery	\$25.00					3,362
<b>TOTAL ARCHERY LICENSES</b>		<b>11,755</b>	<b>12,296</b>	<b>13,041</b>	<b>14,090</b>	<b>14,506</b>

Res License to Capture Falcon	\$25.00	23	25	20		
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$30.00				17	
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$31.00					19
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$170.00	24	26	21		
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$200.00				16	
Nonres Lic to Capture Falcon	\$201.00					22
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$10.00	96	95	91		
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$12.00				85	
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$13.00					99
License to Capture Fur Bearing Animal	\$15.00	1	2	3	2	
License to Capture Fur Bearing Animal	\$16.00					1
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00			22	74	73
Duplicate with Coupon	\$3.00	964	875	948	1,010	
Duplicate with Coupon	\$4.00					1,077
Duplicate without Coupon	\$3.00	116	133	113	109	
Duplicate without Coupon	\$4.00					127

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$3.00	488	426	425	753	
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$4.00					750
Duplicate Commercial	\$3.00	1	2	1	1	
Duplicate Commercial	\$4.00					1
Duplicate Lifetime	\$4.00					174
<b>TOTAL OTHER LICENSES</b>		<b>1,713</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>2,343</b>
<b>PERMITS:</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Goose Special Management Permit	\$10.00	266	186	87	21	
Pheasant Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00	4,855	5,839	6,013	6,010	5,995
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.00	314	229	243	249	
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$10.50					272
<b>TOTAL PERMITS</b>		<b>5,435</b>	<b>6,254</b>	<b>6,343</b>	<b>6,280</b>	<b>6,267</b>
<b>STAMPS AND TAGS:</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Conservation Stamps	\$10.00	191,929	186,535	181,599	168,992	
Conservation Stamps	\$10.50					169,573
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$5.00			15,762		
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$10.00				15,308	
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$10.50					14,397
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$5.00	245				
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00		240	220	320	365
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	7,563	7,809	6,577	6,616	7,098
Interstate Game Tags	\$3.00	14,726	14,763	15,227		
Interstate Game Tags	\$5.00				15,829	15,181
<b>TOTAL STAMPS AND TAGS</b>		<b>214,463</b>	<b>209,347</b>	<b>219,385</b>	<b>207,065</b>	<b>206,614</b>
<b>TROPHY GAME LICENSES:</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Resident Black Bear	\$30.00	2,258	2,675	2,601		
Resident Black Bear	\$36.00				2,702	
Resident Black Bear	\$37.00					2,651
Nonres Black Bear	\$250.00	164	232	289		
Nonres Black Bear	\$300.00				247	
Nonres Black Bear	\$301.00					253
<b>TOTAL BLACK BEAR LICENSES</b>		<b>2,422</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>2,904</b>
Resident Mountain Lion	\$20.00	1,275	1,423	1,457		
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00					
Resident Mountain Lion	\$24.00				1,396	
Resident Mountain Lion	\$25.00					1,423
Resident Additional Mountain Lion	\$15.00	12		1	3	
Resident Additional Mountain Lion	\$16.00					3
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$250.00	109	121	150		
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$300.00				130	
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$301.00					122
Nonres Additional Mountain Lion	\$75.00	1			1	
Nonres Additional Mountain Lion	\$76.00					
<b>TOTAL MOUNTAIN LION LICENSES</b>		<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,548</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

WILD BISON LICENSES:	PRICE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Resident Wild Bison	\$275.00	42	53	51		
Resident Wild Bison	\$330.00				48	
Resident Wild Bison	\$331.00					45
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$1,688.00	2	6	5		
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$2,100.00				4	
Nonresident Wild Bison	\$2,101.00					4
<b>TOTAL BISON LICENSES:</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>GRAND TOTAL LICENSES:</b>		<b>869,145</b>	<b>832,724</b>	<b>843,226</b>	<b>816,408</b>	<b>818,489</b>

HIP PERMITS ISSUED: 12,458

**EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS FY PROGRAM -- FY 06**

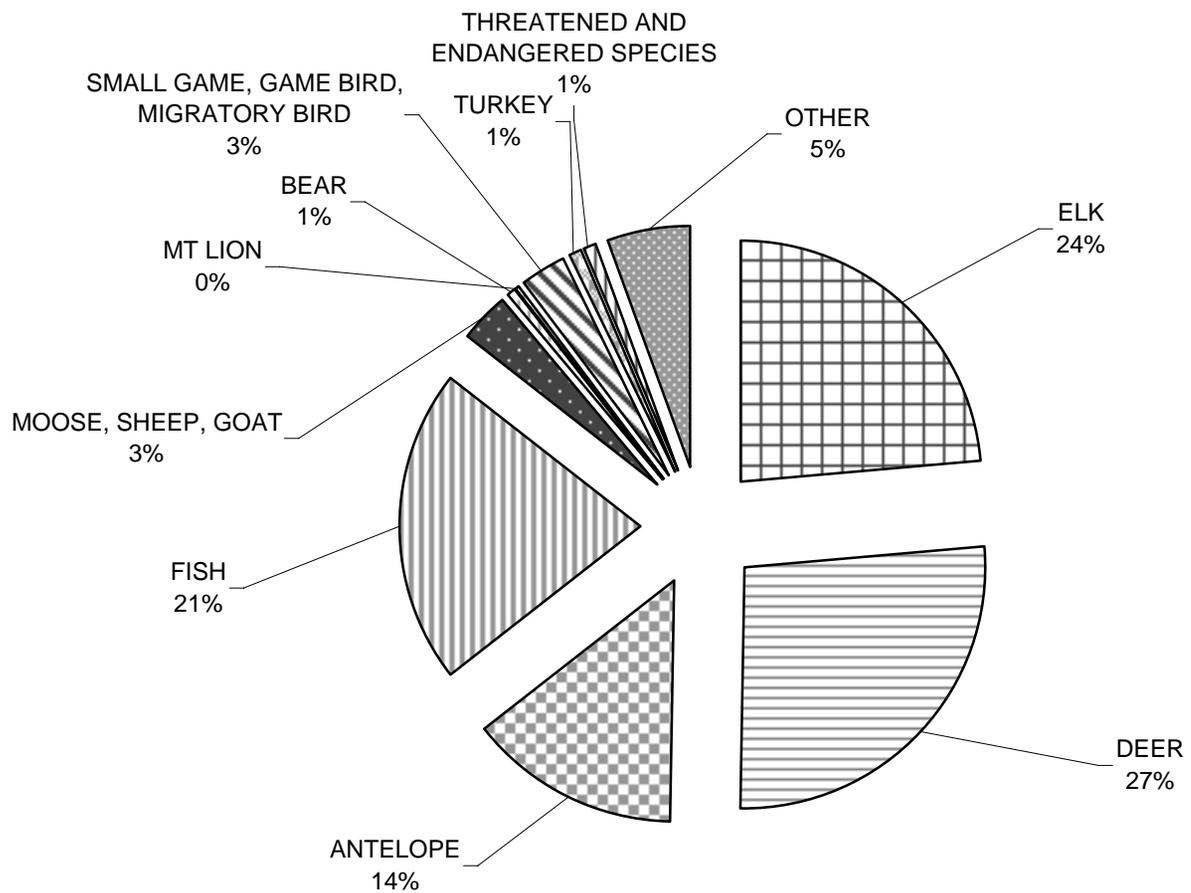
<b>CODE</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION</b>	<b>GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*</b>	<b>COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION</b>
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	10,943,853		
BC	ANTELOPE	2,172,301	708,893	2,881,194
BD	ELK	8,134,514	2,654,559	10,789,073
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	804,198	262,436	1,066,634
BF	MOOSE	700,293	228,529	928,822
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	26,996	8,810	35,806
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	296,543	96,772	393,315
BK	BLACK BEAR	363,644	118,669	482,313
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	932,739	304,383	1,237,122
BM	MULE DEER	3,629,104	1,184,296	4,813,400
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	392,495	128,084	520,579
BP	BISON	11,858	3,870	15,728
BW	WOLF	140,934	45,991	186,925
CA	SMALL GAME	62,919	20,533	83,452
CB	GAME BIRDS	667	218	885
CC	PHEASANTS	697,111	227,490	924,601
CF	TURKEY	190,957	62,316	253,273
CG	PARTRIDGE	1,627	531	2,158
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	12,524	4,087	16,611
CT	SAGE GROUSE	1,496,648	488,405	1,985,053
CV	SHARPTAILED GROUSE	19,008	6,203	25,211
DB	GEESE	653,129	213,137	866,266
DC	DUCKS	74,561	24,332	98,893
DD	SWANS	135,838	44,328	180,166
DE	DOVES	53,459	17,445	70,904
DF	CRANES	42,960	14,019	56,979
FX	SPORT FISH	10,782,015	3,518,525	14,300,540

**EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS FY PROGRAM -- FY 06**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION</b>	<b>GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*</b>	<b>COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION</b>
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	227,067	74,099	301,166
HC	BEAVER	6,995	2,283	9,278
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	43,127	14,074	57,201
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	219,056	71,485	290,541
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	242,947	79,282	322,229
NC	RAPTORS	96,569	31,514	128,083
ND	NONGAME FISH	299,915	97,872	397,787
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	178,147	58,135	236,282
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	4,806	1,568	6,374
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	46,692	15,237	61,929
NJ	BALD EAGLE	10,578	3,452	14,030
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	194,539	63,484	258,023
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	13,140	4,288	17,428
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	124	40	164
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	64,959	21,198	86,157
NR	BLACK TAILED PRAR DOG	37,543	12,252	49,795
NS	WHITE TAILED PRAR DOG	13,023	4,250	17,273
NW	WYOMING TOAD	856	279	1,135
NX	EXOTIC GAME	6,742	2,200	8,942
ZZ	NONWILDLIFE	512,834		512,834
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>		<b>44,992,554</b>	<b>10,943,853</b>	<b>44,992,554</b>

\*Most costs for the Office of the 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  
Collected by Species FY06  
(includes general fund noncapital construction )**



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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>%</b>
Antelope	2,904,751	6.65%	2,827,952	6.98%	2,497,594	6.21%	3,025,576	7.16%	2,881,194	6.40%
Elk	9,523,439	21.81%	8,550,907	21.12%	8,837,890	21.98%	8,833,834	20.92%	10,789,073	23.98%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	1,000,238	2.29%	736,527	1.82%	986,233	2.45%	1,229,246	2.91%	1,066,634	2.37%
Moose	594,652	1.36%	617,427	1.52%	646,341	1.61%	1,004,466	2.38%	928,822	2.06%
Rocky Mountain Goat	62,592	0.14%	85,146	0.21%	90,268	0.22%	68,613	0.16%	35,806	0.08%
Mountain Lion	718,591	1.65%	499,805	1.23%	250,254	0.62%	335,197	0.79%	393,315	0.87%
Black Bear	718,130	1.64%	809,961	2.00%	466,154	1.16%	480,138	1.14%	482,313	1.07%
Grizzly Bear	1,434,981	3.29%	1,378,442	3.40%	937,890	2.33%	1,048,088	2.48%	1,237,122	2.75%
Mule Deer	4,854,044	11.12%	4,170,980	10.30%	5,260,386	13.08%	4,735,670	11.21%	4,813,400	10.70%
White-tailed Deer	573,571	1.31%	436,408	1.08%	362,474	0.90%	412,043	0.98%	520,579	1.16%
Bison	79,895	0.18%	26,313	0.06%	69,759	0.17%	33,162	0.08%	15,728	0.03%
Wolf	37,171	0.09%	506,029	1.25%	118,968	0.30%	498,312	1.18%	186,925	0.42%
Small Game	56,423	0.13%	33,767	0.08%	53,275	0.13%	62,989	0.15%	83,452	0.19%
Game Birds	299,903	0.69%	113,900	0.28%	57,453	0.14%	915	0.00%	885	0.00%
Pheasants	870,916	1.99%	895,270	2.21%	874,552	2.17%	936,535	2.22%	924,601	2.06%
Turkey	299,900	0.69%	272,393	0.67%	214,604	0.53%	304,936	0.72%	253,273	0.56%
Partridge	92,476	0.21%	44,886	0.11%	43,289	0.11%	2,102	0.00%	2,158	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	25,459	0.06%	17,324	0.04%	18,661	0.05%	16,577	0.04%	16,611	0.04%
Sage Grouse	921,657	2.11%	979,917	2.42%	1,158,226	2.88%	1,395,137	3.30%	1,985,053	4.41%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>%</b>
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	42,812	0.10%	39,304	0.10%	29,070	0.07%	26,713	0.06%	25,211	0.06%
Geese	568,739	1.30%	431,698	1.07%	367,575	0.91%	602,585	1.43%	866,266	1.93%
Ducks	183,435	0.42%	185,602	0.46%	149,015	0.37%	62,430	0.15%	98,893	0.22%
Swans	448,125	1.03%	311,047	0.77%	352,925	0.88%	129,526	0.31%	180,166	0.40%
Doves	113,928	0.26%	111,845	0.28%	74,903	0.19%	96,222	0.23%	70,904	0.16%
Cranes	42,312	0.10%	44,203	0.11%	28,417	0.07%	77,044	0.18%	56,979	0.13%
Sport Fish	15,129,474	34.65%	14,029,271	34.65%	14,101,248	35.07%	14,435,377	34.18%	14,300,540	31.78%
Bobcat/Lynx	130,074	0.30%	174,655	0.43%	221,064	0.55%	222,287	0.53%	301,166	0.67%
Beaver	39,702	0.09%	48,900	0.12%	33,998	0.08%	45,489	0.11%	9,278	0.02%
Commercial Fisheries	28,262	0.06%	17,674	0.04%	20,690	0.05%	43,615	0.10%	57,201	0.13%
Nongame Mammals	129,713	0.30%	183,609	0.45%	210,921	0.52%	235,140	0.56%	290,541	0.65%
Nongame Birds	286,589	0.66%	360,314	0.89%	393,752	0.98%	228,277	0.54%	322,229	0.72%
Raptors	100,238	0.23%	58,004	0.14%	135,319	0.34%	133,707	0.32%	128,083	0.28%
Nongame Fish	54,205	0.12%	60,732	0.15%	151,536	0.38%	298,081	0.71%	397,787	0.88%
Amphibians/Reptiles	133,301	0.31%	173,350	0.43%	93,110	0.23%	162,745	0.39%	236,282	0.53%
Predatory Birds	***		498	0.00%	1,809	0.00%	2,818	0.01%	6,374	0.01%
Peregrine Falcon	30,873	0.07%	54,621	0.13%	46,309	0.12%	87,545	0.21%	61,929	0.14%
Bald Eagle	17,705	0.04%	27,291	0.07%	23,026	0.06%	40,725	0.10%	14,030	0.03%
Black-Footed Ferret	45,000	0.10%	30,330	0.07%	80,867	0.20%	115,837	0.27%	258,023	0.57%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>%</b>
Canadian Lynx	4,599	0.01%	187	0.00%	1,475	0.00%	2,262	0.01%	17,428	0.04%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	358	0.00%	443	0.00%	99	0.00%	***		164	0.00%
Predatory Mammals	75,899	0.17%	175,646	0.43%	90,785	0.23%	62,334	0.15%	86,157	0.19%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	345,575	0.79%	332,885	0.82%	119,605	0.30%	60,362	0.14%	49,795	0.11%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	***		936	0.00%	2,416	0.01%	4,720	0.01%	17,273	0.04%
Wyoming Toad	150,017	0.34%	137,343	0.34%	36,828	0.09%	702	0.00%	1,135	0.00%
Exotic Game	47,066	0.11%	76,644	0.19%	104,323	0.26%	99,471	0.24%	8,942	0.02%
Nonwildlife	443,104	1.01%	418,736	1.03%	394,642	0.98%	529,280	1.25%	512,834	1.14%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>	<b>43,659,894</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>40,489,122</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>40,209,998</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>42,228,830</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>44,992,554</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* 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	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006*	
		AMT	%								
001	Legal Research	3,940	0.01	864	0.00	11,218	0.03	174	0.00	9,016	0.02
002	Legal Briefs	11,921	0.03	8,689	0.02	5,358	0.01	105	0.00		
003	Legal Pleadings	1,379	0.00			646	0.00	4,171	0.01	5,730	0.01
004	Legal - Court Appearances	2,428	0.01	2,198	0.01	2,526	0.01	78	0.00	1,053	0.00
005	Legal Conferences										
051	Fee Title Acq-Aquatic Habitat	600	0.00			327,357	0.81			200	0.00
052	Fee Title Acq-Rip Habitat	3,127	0.01	1,868	0.00	9,124	0.02	5,045	0.01	3,090	0.01
053	Fee Title Acq-Ter Habitat	62,893	0.14	26,877	0.06	427,684	1.06	15,650	0.04	30,307	0.07
054	Fee Title Acq-Boat Access	309	0.00	764	0.00	271	0.00	325	0.00	340	0.00
055	Fee Title Acq-Public Access	934	0.00	114	0.00	50	0.00			2,855	0.01
056	Fee Title Acq-Dept Facilities	19,225	0.04	6,678	0.02	17,028	0.04	12,904	0.03	8,888	0.02
061	Non-Fee Title-Aquatic Habitat	17,013	0.04	2,912	0.01	6,894	0.02	3,283	0.01	57,722	0.13
062	Non-Fee Title-Rip Habitat	1,386	0.00	4,805	0.01	1,802	0.00	4,274	0.01	6,628	0.01
063	Non-Fee Title-Ter Habitat	81,327	0.19	30,676	0.07	57,769	0.14	50,683	0.12	73,214	0.16
064	Non-Fee Title-Boat Access	11,597	0.03	8,559	0.02	6,847	0.02	4,527	0.01	82,818	0.18
065	Non-Fee Title-Public Access	361,565	0.83	480,403	1.14	527,205	1.31	574,139	1.36	647,368	1.44
066	Non-Fee Title-Dept Facilities	6,434	0.01	4,747	0.01	4,931	0.01	3,871	0.01	2,504	0.01
100	Administration	5,339,859	12.23	5,239,673	12.41	5,319,143	13.23	5,674,710	13.44	6,164,379	13.70
105	Clerical	834,714	1.91	856,844	2.03	825,573	2.05	905,987	2.15	937,430	2.08
110	License Sales & Accounting	1,391,736	3.19	1,146,692	2.72	1,153,364	2.87	1,159,805	2.75	1,801,258	4.00
114	Product Sales & Alt Funding	139,249	0.32	126,873	0.30	113,255	0.28	125,090	0.30	135,714	0.30
115	Fiscal	559,755	1.28	650,223	1.54	643,042	1.60	752,326	1.78	682,333	1.52
121	Management Planning	601,165	1.38	728,383	1.72	671,215	1.67	787,240	1.86	914,539	2.03
122	Strategic Planning	272,117	0.62	204,729	0.48	213,517	0.53	243,581	0.58	178,605	0.40
125	Procurement & Inventory	516,147	1.18	384,922	0.91	144,086	0.36	301,150	0.71	595,744	1.32
130	Regulations	143,649	0.33	167,173	0.40	161,602	0.40	148,651	0.35	171,630	0.38
132	Season Setting	138,621	0.32	104,817	0.25	121,101	0.30	105,999	0.25	110,127	0.24
135	Grant-in-Aid Administration	59,411	0.14	41,345	0.10	40,463	0.10	85,585	0.20	88,345	0.20
140	Inter-Agency Communications	584,761	1.34	647,428	1.53	670,011	1.67	649,293	1.54	758,520	1.69
141	Mngt Info Systems (LE & LIC)	822,328	1.88	621,551	1.47	495,885	1.23	604,632	1.43	287,154	0.64
142	Mngt Info Systems (other)	24,287	0.06	94,738	0.22	204,820	0.51	107,888	0.26	99,585	0.22
143	Mngt Info Systems-Hdw/Soft			243,003	0.58	198,652	0.49	339,690	0.80	578,691	1.29
145	Intra-Agency Communications	931,545	2.13	803,828	1.90	986,836	2.45	989,670	2.34	1,147,356	2.55
149	Commuting Mileage	1,875	0.00	1,307	0.00	4,328	0.01	6,254	0.01	8,901	0.02

## ALL AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON AN ACTIVITY BASIS

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006*	
		AMT	%								
150	Hunter Safety	213,296	0.49	181,503	0.43	171,068	0.43	163,725	0.39	136,839	0.30
155	Conservation Education	305,465	0.70	289,623	0.69	223,509	0.56	220,450	0.52	235,521	0.52
156	Aquatic Education	45,656	0.10	76,850	0.18	71,676	0.18	84,323	0.20	70,733	0.16
158	Mass Media Presentations	72,712	0.17	78,696	0.19	77,514	0.19	100,740	0.24	123,196	0.27
160	Public Contacts	1,334,742	3.06	1,258,604	2.98	1,320,920	3.29	1,381,499	3.27	1,410,750	3.14
165	Info Documents & Displays	776,257	1.78	772,528	1.83	725,474	1.80	774,396	1.83	881,366	1.96
170	Wyo Wildlife Magazine	540,868	1.24	465,362	1.10	471,306	1.17	499,757	1.18	487,433	1.08
175	Extension Service	85,019	0.19	62,182	0.15	50,599	0.13	56,679	0.13	70,974	0.16
180	In-Service Training	1,234,485	2.83	1,198,385	2.84	992,824	2.47	1,175,375	2.78	1,104,752	2.46
181	Instructional Training			55,202	0.13	35,734	0.09	84,545	0.20	76,244	0.17
201	Habitat Dvmt on Priv Land	8,752	0.02	33,120	0.08	6,247	0.02	2,927	0.01	19,559	0.04
210	Department Facility Dev	2,951,024	6.76	1,104,204	2.61	355,781	0.88	570,197	1.35	1,196,816	2.66
231	Wildlife Rearing Facility Dev	408,679	0.94	257,651	0.61	238,304	0.59	329,293	0.78	145,604	0.32
232	Watering Facility Dev	29,555	0.07	48,110	0.11	8,095	0.02	398,592	0.94	110,860	0.25
233	Motor Boat Access Dev	1,590,961	3.64	854,741	2.02	548,122	1.36	1,006,647	2.38	512,878	1.14
234	Stream Habitat Development	192,107	0.44	411,326	0.97	583,328	1.45	124,115	0.29	79,038	0.18
235	Reservoir/Lake Habitat Dev	27,911	0.06	9,514	0.02	9,267	0.02	7,799	0.02	18,713	0.04
236	Impoundment Development	9,596	0.02	26,786	0.06	2,941	0.01	959	0.00	2,197	0.00
236	NEPA Development	2,516	0.01	14,973	0.04	4,031	0.01	8,413	0.02	45,491	0.10
240	Riparian Habitat Dev	235,192	0.54	207,667	0.49	92,298	0.23	42,955	0.10	32,706	0.07
250	Terrestrial Habitat Dev	26,171	0.06	15,132	0.04	18,169	0.05	11,364	0.03	27,157	0.06
260	Public Facility Development	131,953	0.30	77,825	0.19	245,513	0.61	227,243	0.54	16,834	0.04
270	Cropland Development	1,381	0.00			65	0.00	537	0.00	3,981	0.01
280	Transport Facility Dev	62,095	0.14	11,303	0.03	1,521	0.00	1,762	0.00	538	0.00
290	Fence Construction	24,215	0.06	21,551	0.05	3,966	0.01	5,113	0.01	27,274	0.06
299	Other Misc Public Dev	1,501	0.00	356	0.00	464	0.00	898	0.00	666	0.00
300	Routine Enforcement	1,517,018	3.47	1,445,324	3.57	1,521,509	3.78	1,423,828	3.37	1,568,165	3.49
310	Enforcement Investigations	484,168	1.11	511,221	1.26	555,736	1.38	592,248	1.40	544,815	1.21
320	Enforcement Administration	241,255	0.55	281,100	0.69	289,749	0.72	374,954	0.89	237,380	0.53
401	Habitat Mngt on Priv Land	1,059	0.00	1,106	0.00	966	0.00	784	0.00	6,064	0.01
410	Facility Maintenance	1,448,259	3.32	1,352,211	3.34	1,581,414	3.93	1,652,729	3.91	1,566,001	3.48
420	Equipment Maintenance	329,737	0.76	347,085	0.86	392,162	0.98	357,077	0.85	398,714	0.89
422	Equine Maintenance									33,804	0.08
430	Aquatic Habitat Maintenance	224,985	0.52	98,255	0.24	70,444	0.18	81,180	0.19	36,447	0.08
433	Motor Boat Access Site Main	117,408	0.27	163,378	0.40	126,358	0.31	146,413	0.35	99,495	0.22
440	Riparian Habitat Maintenance	164,823	0.38	105,033	0.26	95,710	0.24	122,602	0.29	116,778	0.26
450	Terrestrial Habitat Main	125,626	0.29	128,613	0.32	140,256	0.35	156,014	0.37	144,416	0.32
451	Noxious Vegetation Control	29,046	0.07	33,814	0.08	52,453	0.13	52,585	0.12	53,897	0.12
452	Livestock Grazing	40,603	0.09	37,580	0.09	44,424	0.11	30,416	0.07	50,604	0.11

### ALL AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON AN ACTIVITY BASIS

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006*	
		AMT	%								
453	Permanent Cover/Food Patch	183,525	0.42	127,782	0.32	259,745	0.65	229,061	0.54	237,945	0.53
454	Veg Cover Mngt-Presc Burns	67,771	0.16	23,953	0.06	53,230	0.13	68,746	0.16	85,188	0.19
455	Veg Cov Mngt-Mech Tmnt	14,721	0.03	1,554	0.00	23,293	0.06	41,264	0.10	120,442	0.27
456	Veg Cov Mngt-Chem Tmnt	13,054	0.03	19,559	0.05	9,260	0.02	19,068	0.05	19,104	0.04
457	Watering Facility Maintenance	6,208	0.01	5,327	0.01	14,344	0.04	5,786	0.01	31,821	0.07
458	Cropland Maintenance	35,975	0.08	26,427	0.07	11,479	0.03	35,103	0.08	25,409	0.06
460	Public Access Maintenance	348,048	0.80	392,425	0.97	405,878	1.01	379,748	0.90	413,238	0.92
480	Transport Facility Maintenance	250,587	0.57	239,897	0.59	178,523	0.44	125,044	0.30	119,707	0.27
490	Fence Maintenance	367,675	0.84	408,994	1.01	307,753	0.77	303,191	0.72	235,000	0.52
510	Habitat & Populations Evaluations	1,192,075	2.73	1,207,610	2.98	1,259,640	3.13	1,070,372	2.53	1,225,037	2.72
511	Habitat Inventory	584,559	1.34	608,513	1.50	662,645	1.65	640,914	1.52	741,166	1.65
512	Fish & Wildlife Population Studies	1,734,245	3.97	1,730,332	4.27	1,736,235	4.32	1,864,803	4.42	2,229,737	4.96
514	Non G&F Habitat/Pop Eval					34,883	0.09	114,841	0.27	86,085	0.19
520	Public Use Inventory	1,034,831	2.37	1,105,579	2.73	960,655	2.39	1,014,561	2.40	1,031,969	2.29
530	Resource Reconnaissance	130,235	0.30	137,411	0.34	139,615	0.35	143,118	0.34	168,939	0.38
540	Environmental Protection	518,362	1.19	561,939	1.39	656,589	1.63	565,290	1.34	532,926	1.18
551	Disease Investigation	602,930	1.38	482,892	1.19	895,924	2.23	798,141	1.89	1,133,900	2.52
553	Life History/Ecology Investigations	255,679	0.59	240,663	0.59	140,148	0.35	198,801	0.47	248,220	0.55
554	NonGame Life History Inv									3,848	0.01
571	Economic Investigation									166	0.00
576	Investigation of Techniques	103,659	0.24	107,215	0.26	139,387	0.35	85,608	0.20	90,774	0.20
577	Artificial Propagation Investigations	82,243	0.19	62,370	0.15	20,877	0.05	4,147	0.01	1,693	0.00
610	Fish & Wildlife Control	367,809	0.84	342,135	0.85	324,499	0.81	443,474	1.05	463,126	1.03
620	Damage Prevention	437,729	1.00	452,420	1.12	468,195	1.16	445,704	1.06	614,737	1.37
630	Damage Claims	775,776	1.78	757,060	1.87	779,294	1.94	793,767	1.88	926,066	2.06
710	Fish & Wildlife Rearing	1,508,381	3.45	1,534,287	3.79	1,491,052	3.71	1,488,404	3.52	1,691,014	3.76
712	Fish Egg Collection	165,354	0.38	180,618	0.45	201,452	0.50	196,880	0.47	196,117	0.44
715	Wildlife Stocking-Restoration	5,591	0.01	7,798	0.02	9,977	0.02	6,666	0.02	6,086	0.01
716	Wildlife Stocking-Maintenance	200,727	0.46	139,126	0.34	173,536	0.43	237,640	0.56	243,657	0.54
717	Wildlife Stocking-Put &Take	97,800	0.22	115,181	0.28	104,123	0.26	103,412	0.24	110,869	0.25
718	Wildlife Stocking-New Species Est	3,795	0.01	11,546	0.03	2,431	0.01	294	0.00	673	0.00
720	Wildlife Feeding	1,274,800	2.92	1,264,707	3.12	904,103	2.25	1,325,159	3.14	1,010,609	2.25
730	Trapping & Transplanting	53,595	0.12	27,903	0.07	19,122	0.05	33,761	0.08	93,223	0.21

**ALL AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON AN ACTIVITY BASIS**

#num	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006*	
		AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%	AMT	%
810	Paid Leave-Military, Admin	283,373	0.65	335,484	0.83	188,696	0.47	136,757	0.32	136,501	0.30
811	Paid Leave-Annual	1,505,154	3.45	1,630,032	4.03	1,561,230	3.88	1,642,387	3.89	1,632,214	3.63
812	Paid Leave-Sick	337,525	0.77	386,924	0.96	352,465	0.88	372,426	0.88	380,110	0.84
813	Paid Leave-Comp Time Off	128,671	0.29	156,855	0.39	165,408	0.41	232,398	0.55	134,461	0.30
814	Paid Leave-Holiday	595,472	1.36	596,647	1.47	689,214	1.71	704,033	1.67	742,358	1.65
815	Paid Leave-Bee Time									78,302	0.17
816	Paid Leave-Personal Day									3,058	0.01
830	Employee Moving	37,092	0.08	28,419	0.07	22,857	0.06	33,311	0.08	25,889	0.06
900	Boating Enforcement	240,531	0.55	227,092	0.56	197,708	0.49	251,676	0.60	258,270	0.57
905	Boating Accident Invest	3,144	0.01	6,703	0.02	2,859	0.01	1,976	0.00	5,979	0.01
910	Boating Certificate & Sales	34,450	0.08	35,387	0.09	40,271	0.10	43,070	0.10	47,088	0.10
915	Boating Administration	73,695	0.17	65,471	0.16	46,885	0.12	52,412	0.12	88,781	0.20
920	Boating Education	7,013	0.02	4,576	0.01	31,542	0.08	20,070	0.05	13,904	0.03
925	Search & Rescue	3,235	0.01	2,102	0.01	2,881	0.01	4,323	0.01	4,420	0.01
930	Local Law Enforcement Assistance	9,406	0.02	8,609	0.02	10,861	0.03	9,041	0.02	8,786	0.02
935	Boating Buoy Maintenance							3,578	0.01	6,414	0.01
940	Boating Equip/Supp Proc							691	0.00	782	0.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,659,893</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40,489,121</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>40,204,284</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42,228,830</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44,992,554</b>	<b>100</b>

\*includes general fund expenditures of \$1,247,229 in FY06 for vet services and sage grouse program

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

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<b>FY</b>	<b>LANDOWNER COUPONS</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>DAMAGE CLAIMS</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
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%
<b>2006</b>	<b>558,454</b>	<b>9.08%</b>	<b>229,926</b>	<b>26.04%</b>

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