

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



2015
Annual Report

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

	PAGE
Organizational Chart.....	i
PROGRAM-LEVEL REPORTS	
Aquatic Wildlife Management.....	1
Bird Farms	6
Conservation Education.....	8
Conservation Engineering.....	12
Customer Services	14
Department Administration	20
External Research	23
Feedgrounds.....	27
Financial Management.....	30
Habitat.....	34
Habitat and Access Management.....	44
Habitat Protection	49
Information	51
Information Technology	56
Legislatively Mandated Expenses.....	63
Personnel Management.....	65
Property Rights (Lands) Management.....	69
Regional Information and Education Specialist	74
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management	77
Specialized Statewide Law Enforcement.....	85
Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management.....	90
Strategic Management	109
Support Facilities and Personnel.....	112
Wildlife Health Laboratory Services	116

APPENDIX A

INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS

BIG GAME

Bighorn Sheep.....	A-1
Bison	A-2
Elk.....	A-3
Moose.....	A-4
Mule Deer	A-5
Pronghorn.....	A-6
Rocky Mountain Goat.....	A-7
White-tailed Deer.....	A-8

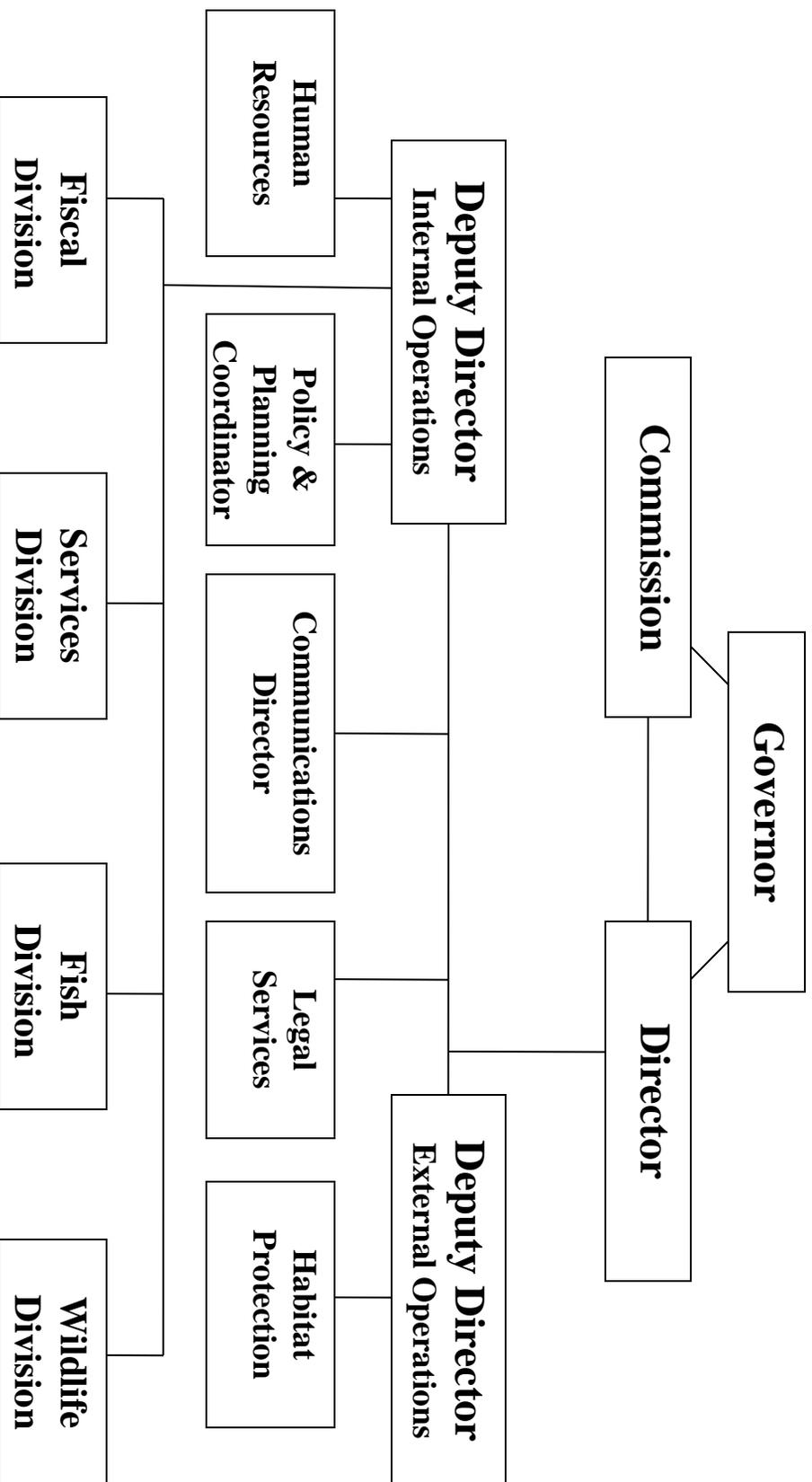
TROPHY GAME	
Black Bear.....	A-9
Grizzly Bear	A-10
Mountain Lion	A-11
Gray Wolf.....	A-12
SMALL GAME	
Cottontail.....	A-13
Snowshoe Hare	A-14
Squirrel.....	A-15
UPLAND GAME	
Pheasant	A-16
Gray Partridge.....	A-17
Chukar.....	A-18
Sage-Grouse.....	A-19
Sharp-tailed Grouse	A-20
Blue Grouse	A-21
Ruffed Grouse.....	A-22
Mourning Dove.....	A-23
Turkey	A-24
WATERFOWL	
Duck	A-25
Goose	A-26
Sandhill Crane.....	A-27
Rail, Snipe, Coot.....	A-28
FISHERIES	
Sport Fisheries	A-29
Commercial Fisheries	A-30
FURBEARERS	
Bobcat	A-31
Other Furbearers	A-32
RAPTORS	
A-33	
NONGAME AND NON-LICENSED USES PROGRAMS	
A-34	

APPENDIX B

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Summary of Game and Fish Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.....	B-1
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances	B-3
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures	B-4
Schedule of Expenditures by Strategic Plan Programs.....	B-6
Statewide Five-Year Comparison of License Sales.....	B-7
Expenditure Allocations by Program	B-15
Agency Expenditure by Species.....	B-17
Revenue Allocations by Program	B-18
Revenue Collected by Species	B-20
Agency Expenditures by Program, Five-Year History.....	B-21

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Organization Chart



PROGRAM-LEVEL REPORTS

Program: Aquatic Wildlife Management

Division: Fish

Mission: Conserve and enhance all aquatic wildlife, reptiles, amphibians, and their habitats for current and future generations. We will provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities.

Program Facts: The Aquatic Wildlife Management Program is made up of seven sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>FY 15 Annual Budget</u>
Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations	41.5	\$5,148,721
Regional Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	34.2	\$3,319,677
Aquatic Invasive Species**	16.0	\$1,341,023
Boating Access	0.0	\$796,448
Aquatic Nongame (CWCS)***	8.8	\$609,216
Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	5.5	\$518,296
Fish Spawning	2.2	\$160,540
Fish Distribution	0.0	\$128,862
TOTAL	108.2	\$12,022,783

* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

** Legislatively funded program.

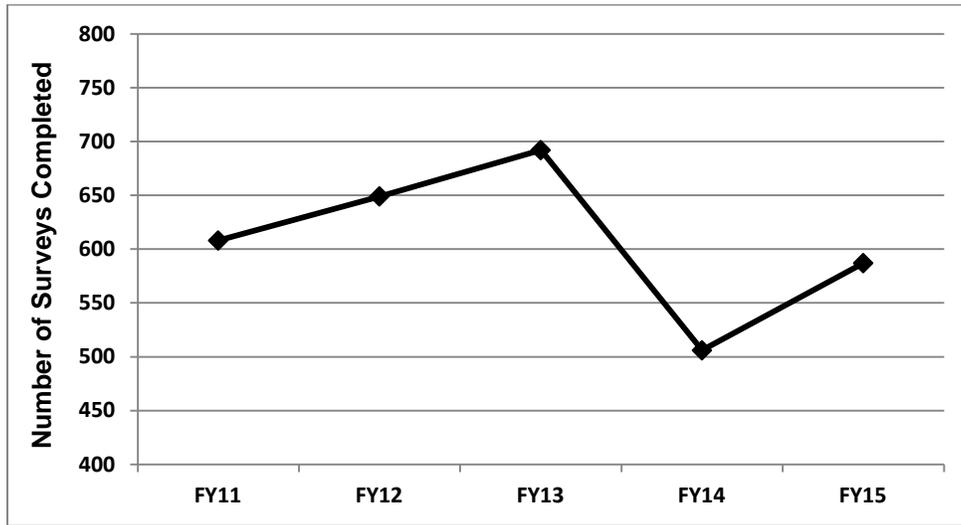
*** Includes funding from the General Fund and State Wildlife Grants (SWG).

The Aquatic Wildlife Program is located across the state in eight regional offices, Cheyenne Headquarters, and ten remotely located fish hatcheries and rearing stations.

Primary Functions of the Aquatic Wildlife Management Program:

- **Conserve and enhance all aquatic wildlife, amphibians, and reptiles** by scientifically assessing populations at both local and watershed levels, controlling exotic species where necessary, and where ecologically and economically feasible reintroducing native species into suitable habitats in order to conserve these taxa for future generations.
- **Provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities** through a system of fish management that attempts to first manage wild fisheries where possible, but relies upon an evaluation-based fish-stocking program. The sub-program meets angler desires by stocking salmonids (trout, grayling, and kokanee) that come from egg sources within Wyoming and are reared using modern fish culture practices. Non-salmonid (walleye, bass, catfish, etc.) fisheries are maintained through the trade of excess eggs with federal and other state agencies. Efforts will balance the productive capacity of habitats with public desires.

Performance Measure #1: Number of stream and lake surveys completed (Personnel with this program will work to complete at least 540 stream and lake surveys per year).



Story behind the performance:

The quality of Wyoming’s fisheries is a direct reflection of the quality of Wyoming’s lakes, rivers, and streams. Stream and lake surveys are conducted to determine the condition of fisheries. Until recently, surveys have been targeted towards evaluating the need to change management approaches, primarily for native and introduced sport fishes. Fish Division’s survey strategy now includes more long-term projects to conserve and restore Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). These projects often involve surveys targeting nongame, as well as sport fishes.

In FY 15, a total of 587 streams and lake surveys were completed (404 stream surveys and 183 lake surveys). This was an increase over FY 14, but was nearly identical (four percent lower) to the average of 606 stream and lake surveys conducted per year in the previous five years. This increase was due primarily to a 136 percent increase in the number of stream surveys, most of which were conducted in the Lander, Cody, and Green River Regions. The increase in stream survey effort was associated with SGCN management efforts and a native fish survey in the Badwater Creek drainage in the Lander Region.

What has been accomplished:

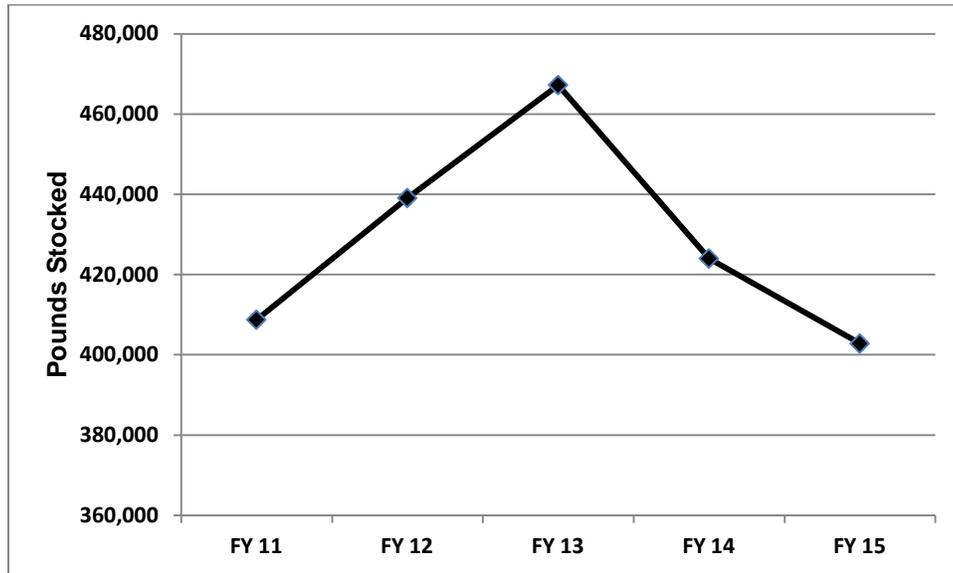
The increase in stream surveys was associated largely with five specific projects. A two-year native fish survey of all waters in the Badwater Creek drainage (Lander Region) was completed that involved significant survey effort. The fish community in the drainage was found to be dominated by native nongame species, none of which are SGCN. A second project in the Lander Region involved the collection of tissue samples from cutthroat trout in the North Fork Popo Agie River drainage. The samples were collected to determine the genetic status of the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations in this watershed. Three projects in the Cody Region were associated with the increase in stream survey effort. Many stream surveys were associated with the first year of a project to determine the availability of juvenile sauger habitat in the

Bighorn River. This project was initiated to begin monitoring the reproductive success of sauger that are being stocked (see bullet below) to bolster the population in the drainage. Additional surveys on the Bighorn River were associated with a second new project to assess natural reproduction of shovelnose sturgeon in the Bighorn River. The third major stream survey effort in the Cody Region was conducted on Dead Indian Creek. Five stream surveys were conducted to determine if Yellowstone cutthroat trout stocked following a chemical treatment project are successfully reproducing. High flows hampered survey efforts and no young-of-year cutthroat were captured. The fifth project responsible for an increase in stream surveys was conducted in the Muddy Creek drainage in the Green River Region. A number of concurrent efforts are underway in this drainage, all of which are being conducted to secure and restore the native fish community to the upper portions of the Muddy Creek watershed. These projects involve the construction of barriers to facilitate chemical treatment projects needed to remove non-native species that threaten the persistence of native cutthroat trout, as well as native nongame SGCN.

Other major accomplishments in FY 15 include:

- Fisheries surveys of the North Laramie River were completed (n=19) in ongoing efforts to monitor the recovery of aquatic wildlife following the Arapahoe Fire of 2012. Populations of native fishes that were decimated by the fire are being restored via transplants from the mainstem Laramie River downstream.
- Completed 18 surveys associated with efforts to provide fish passage in important trout fisheries on Big Creek and the Encampment River (North Platte River tributaries).
- Continued efforts to bolster sauger populations in the Wind River via egg collections from wild sauger, hatchery rearing of eggs, and juvenile sauger stocking. This is a collaborative effort between the Department, the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Cody and Lander Regions collaborated on a project to identify factors limiting juvenile sauger habitat in the Wind and Bighorn Rivers. A total of 173 side-channels were identified.
- Continued surveys to plan for the restoration of Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations in Eagle Creek (North Fork Shoshone River drainage) and Soda Butte Creek (Yellowstone headwaters). Soda Butte Creek chemical restoration will take place in 2015. Depending on the results of public scoping, the Eagle Creek chemical treatment project may begin in 2016.
- A drainage-wide survey of the Spread Creek Basin in the Snake River drainage was completed to evaluate the status and distribution of native fish species, including Snake River cutthroat trout.
- Surveyed Black's Fork Basin tributaries to monitor populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. The population of cutthroat in Gilbert Creek was found to have increased nine-fold since chemical restoration was completed in 2005.

Performance Measure #2: Pounds of fish stocked (Personnel with this program will work to produce 375,000 pounds annually)



Story behind the performance:

By Commission policy, “Fish reared at Department facilities shall be stocked only in waters with insufficient natural recruitment where public access is provided, except in very limited conditions, as provided by policy”. Fish stocking thus occurs primarily in artificial reservoir and downstream tailwater habitats. The Department’s five native cutthroat trout brood stocks are also used to restore populations of genetically pure trout in their native drainages. Fish stocking is the culmination of a process that begins with egg taking from captive and wild brood stocks (egg sources) and ends with the stocking of the right strain or type of fish into waters at the scheduled time and fish size. The eggs are hatched and reared at one of 10 facilities and then stocked using the fish culture sub-program’s distribution trucks/system. The fish culture sub-program meets its trout, salmon (kokanee), and grayling needs in state. The fish culture sub-program also receives, in trade for surplus grayling and trout eggs, warm or cool water sport fishes not available in Wyoming.

In FY 15, 4,539,436 trout, kokanee, and grayling totaling 402,805 pounds were stocked from 10 Wyoming facilities and the unmanned Flume Creek Facility. The FY 15 production denoted a decrease of 21,194 pounds compared to 423,999 pounds in FY 14. This reduction is a direct result of budget cutting measures for FY 14 which eliminated stocking 78,000 pounds scheduled for the 2014 calendar year which spans from July 2014 through December 2014 of FY 15. The five-year rolling average for fish production in Wyoming fish culture facilities is 428,375 pounds, a slight increase of 3,075 over the average last year.

Despite the disruption of scheduled stocking, all fish culture facilities were in full operation and met production goals under the reduced stocking plan. The recent expansion at Speas Hatchery continues to be the main factor for the increased production since FY 09, as a full production cycle was initiated with the 2015 fish stocking schedule. Prior to the cut in production, the sub-

program developed an evaluation process to progressively increase production at Speas and bring all other facilities on line.

Beyond rearing sauger fry and tiger muskie at Speas Hatchery, warm or cool water sport fishes not available in Wyoming are received in trade for surplus grayling and trout eggs. This year, the fish culture sub-program stocked six coolwater and warmwater fish species from other state agencies sources including: sauger, shovelnose sturgeon, hybrid sunfish, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and walleye. Sauger were initially received as eggs at the Speas Hatchery and transferred as fry to Garrison National Fish Hatchery in North Dakota to be reared in ponds and returned to Wyoming as fingerlings to be stocked in the upper Wind River drainage in a cooperative restoration program. All tiger muskie were received as fry from Nebraska, reared at the Speas Hatchery isolation facility, and stocked as large fingerlings.

All statewide stocking requests were assessed and reallocated throughout the system to offset the production cuts at several facilities in order to balance the rearing cycles efficiently. While pounds are easily tracked or measured, the quality of the fish stocked continues to be emphasized. This is done by not overstocking facilities and incorporating modern fish health practices that stress optimum, not maximum, production levels. New rearing units at Ten Sleep and Speas are continually being evaluated to determine ultimate production levels. The emphasis of stocking is to release high quality fish for the greatest return when stocking to improve sport fisheries or to restore native trout fisheries. Although adjustments were needed to address budget reductions, the fish culture sub-program continues to meet the sub-program's internal goal of producing +/- 10 percent of the requests made from regional aquatic wildlife managers.

Program: Bird Farms

Division: Wildlife

Mission: Enhance pheasant hunting opportunity in Wyoming.

Program Facts: The Bird Farm Program is made up of one major sub-program, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget.

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Bird Farms	5.4	\$753,371

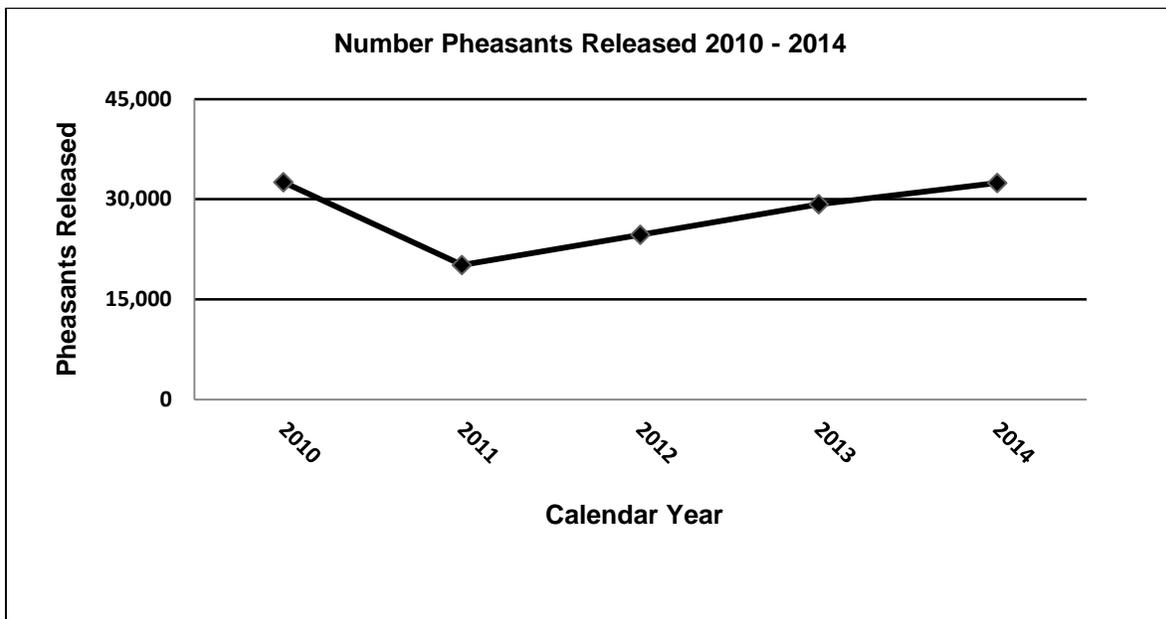
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

Bird farm facilities are located in Sheridan and Yoder.

Primary Function of the Bird Farm Program:

- **Enhance pheasant hunting opportunity in Wyoming** through the production and release of high quality pheasants.

Performance Measure #1: Number of pheasants released annually (Personnel with this program will work to release 25,000 pheasants each year.)



Story behind the performance:

Due to continued loss of pheasant habitat in Wyoming and increased demand for pheasant hunting, pheasants being produced at the Department's bird farms have become an important part of the hunters' "bag" in recent years. Continuing drought, poor habitat conditions, and stable or increasing demand for pheasant hunting will result in continued demand into the future. Pheasants have been produced for recreational hunting at the Sheridan facility since 1937 and the Yoder facility since 1963. Annual bird production and survival is related to weather conditions including losses from illness, occasional hail, snowstorms, and excessive heat that may slow the growth of young pheasants. Bird farm personnel coordinate release schedules with regional personnel to maximize the efficiency of bird distribution during the months of October, November, and December of each year. The vast majority of Wyoming's pheasant hunting occurs in Goshen County in the southeastern part of the state. Established pheasants throughout the state are supplemented by releases from the Department's Downar (Yoder) and Sheridan Bird Farms.

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of pheasants released ranged from 20,137 to 32,548 with an average of 27,806. The number released in 2014 was 32,433.

What has been accomplished:

Personnel at the Sheridan Bird Farm finished upgrades to outbuildings that house feeders, water fountains, and heavy equipment. Major window upgrades were completed on the shop and the incubator room. Incubator and hatching equipment was upgraded with modern computer controls and electronics. Personnel continue with an aggressive plan to control noxious vegetation at the Sheridan Bird Farm. Personnel continue to assist other Department projects such as fish population studies, check stations, chronic wasting disease, brucellosis monitoring, and extension services.

Downar Bird Farm personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. They assisted other Department projects and provided extension services. Projects included habitat work on local Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, fish inventories, antelope surveys, and some work with the Private Lands Public Wildlife Program.

Program: Conservation Education

Division: Office of the Director

Mission: Provide learning and participation opportunities relating to both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife management, wildlife conservation, wildlife related skills, and lawful and ethical behavior.

Program Facts:

The Conservation Education Program is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Hunter Education	1.0	\$ 174,655
Conservation Education	2.0	277,981
TOTAL	3.0	\$ 452,636

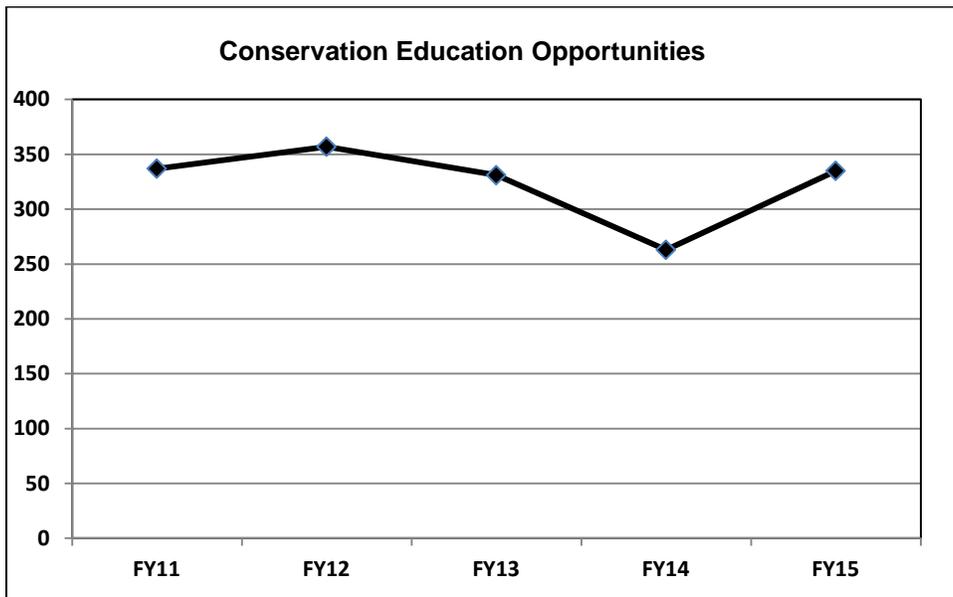
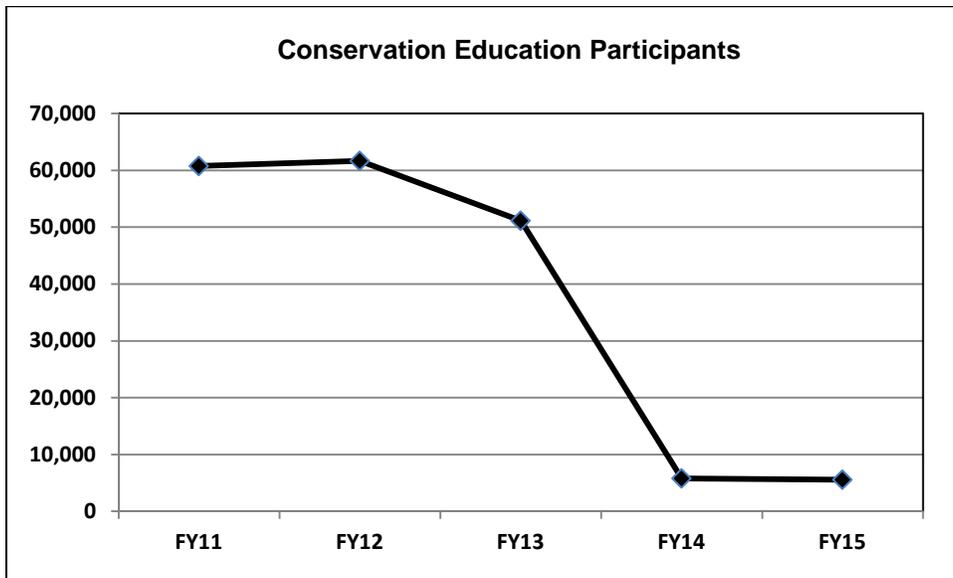
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants. These programs do require statewide responsibilities, travel, and assistance from regional personnel.*

These statewide programs are located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Conservation Education Program:

- **Provide learning and participation opportunities** to youth and adults in outdoor skills, and as required by state statute, continue to offer hunter education so that hunters engage in ethical, lawful, and safe actions.
- **Create awareness** in youth and adults of the importance of planned management practices for wildlife and their habitats within their specific ecosystems.

Performance Measure #1: Number of educational opportunities offered and number of people reached annually through conservation education efforts (personnel from this program will work to provide at least 200 conservation education opportunities to 50,000 people).



Story behind the performance:

FY 15 continues with the changes from FY 14 to the Conservation Education Program when the Department significantly reduced its budget, including cutting several education programs and opportunities. With the reduction of these services, the Conservation Education Program continued to focus on Hunter Education, Forever Wild Families, and the Volunteer Programs, as well as development of new educator resources.

The Department's Forever Wild Families Program harnesses the power of family and community to develop new hunters and anglers supporting the North American Model of Wildlife Management. For years, state agencies have introduced people to these pursuits, but haven't documented whether such efforts create lifelong hunters and anglers. Wyoming's Forever Wild Families Program is different, it measures long-term changes in behaviors and attitudes, such as whether participants buy hunting or fishing licenses and pursue other outdoor activities as a result of the program. The program not only introduces people to angling and hunting, it creates lifelong hunters and anglers who understand and support the agency's work.

Rather than focusing solely on youth (who may not have the support of their families), Wyoming's goal is to link angling and hunting to adult motivations so the youth who participate have parent, mentor, or guardian support. Having a built-in support system within families and communities is critical to a new hunter or angler's decision to continue hunting or fishing. The model for this program is being adopted in several states across the U.S.

The program offers customized outings to those with limited experience or demonstrated early desertion. Over the course of a year, families participate in experiential learning sessions designed to help them develop greater skills, interest, and awareness in fishing, hunting, and the outdoors. In the program's second year, families are paired with community members who mentor them in more advanced fishing, hunting, and outdoor skills. Ninety-two percent of first-year participants bought fishing and/or hunting licenses the following year.

What has been accomplished:

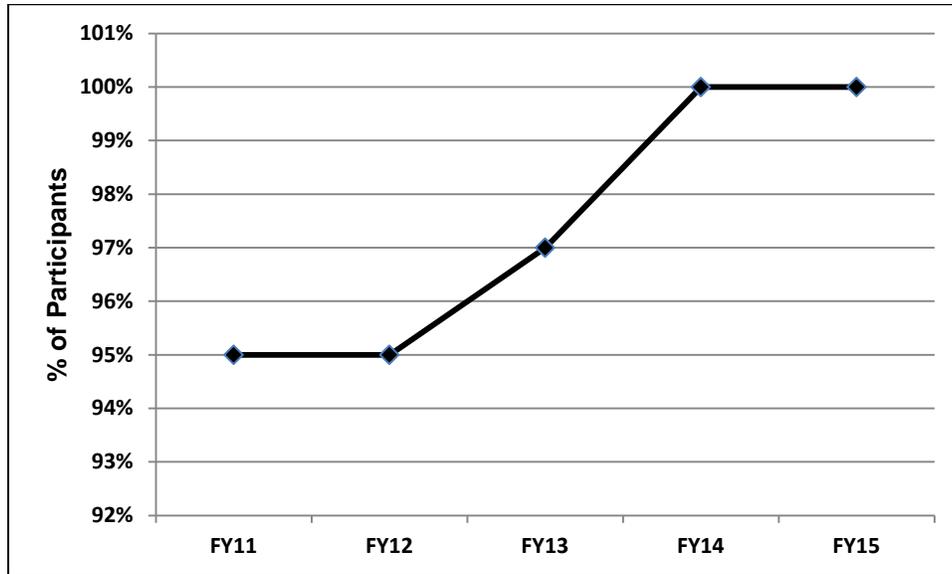
Work has been done to continue Department outreach and increase conservation education opportunities for the entire age-spectrum, not just youth.

The Forever Wild Families Program increased opportunities for conservation education events in FY 15 and continued to receive positive feedback from those associated with the program. The program model has received national recognition, with the lead employee for this program being invited to present on the program at many national forums. Additionally, participants that have gone through the program have an 80 percent retention rate as hunters and/or anglers.

Conservation education staff also participated in several activities located around the state ranging from youth shooting events to providing training, education, and mentoring to women at the Women's Antelope Hunt.

Hunter education continues to serve a large volume of students year-around throughout the state with education delivered through a network of volunteers. With a new change in staff leadership, evaluations are being conducted to seek feedback from both instructors and students on the program and its contents. Specifically, committees made up of volunteer instructors are being formed to look at the program and provide recommendations.

Performance Measure #2: Percentage of participants rating conservation programs as “meets expectations” (personnel with this program will work to ensure that programs meet or exceed the expectations of at least 80 percent of participants).



Story behind the performance:

Surveys related to this goal are directly related to the Forever Wild Families Program, as all other conservation education programs do not conduct surveys.

What has been accomplished:

For the second year in a row, satisfaction for the Forever Wild Families Program has been rated at 100 percent. With the program now in its fourth year trend, data is starting to be measured and tracked.

The Hunter Education Program is developing a set of measurable objectives to help evaluate the program as it relates to students, parents, and volunteer.

Program: Conservation Engineering

Division: Services

Mission: Provide engineering technical support to aid in conserving wildlife and providing public access.

Program Facts: The Conservation Engineering Program is made up of one major sub-program, listed below with number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Conservation Engineering	7.0	\$ 747,804

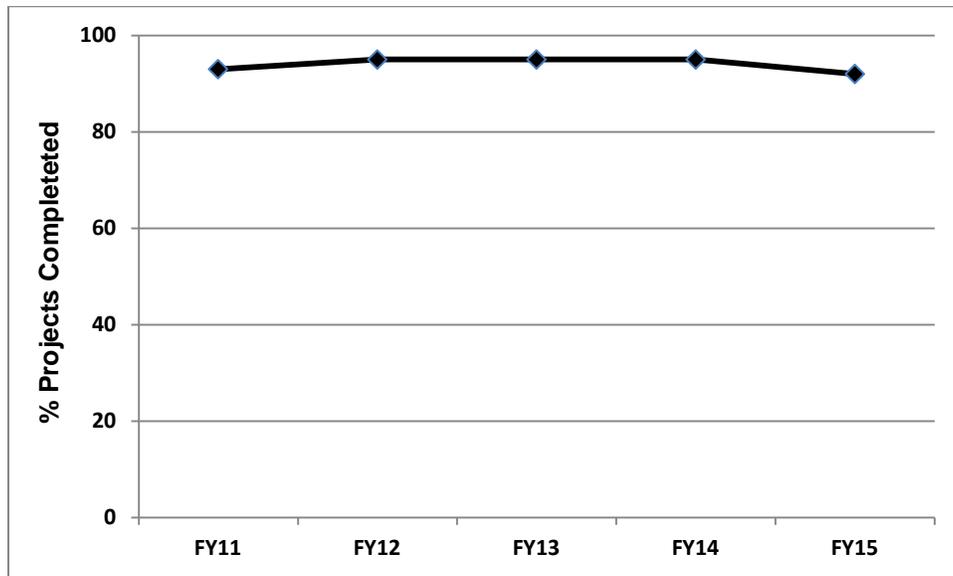
** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

This program consists of the engineering, surveying, and drafting sections and is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Conservation Engineering Program:

- **Engineering technical support** is provided through engineering, surveying, and drafting to maintain the Department's physical structure of offices, housing, hatcheries, research facilities, Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, boating access facilities, and Public Access Areas often using private sector consultants.
- **Engineering technical support** is provided by acting as caretaker of the Department's water rights statewide and routinely making water rights filings for new permits, alterations, or research problems that arise.
- **Engineering technical support** is provided by the drafting section for the Department's statewide signage through design, purchase, and coordination with field personnel and the Wyoming Department of Transportation in the installation of signs.
- **Engineering technical support** is provided through the drafting section for most of the Department's mapping, including herd unit maps, floating access, public access, and maintaining the Department's land status maps.
- **Engineering technical support** is provided through the survey section for boundary surveys of all Commission-owned properties.
- **Engineering technical support** for all major new construction projects is provided through the Civil Engineer for design, bid, and construction management using in-house professionals and private sector consulting firms.
- **Engineering technical support** through the drafting section provides many types of displays for all divisions and some outside agencies for use at various functions such as Commission meetings, the Private Lands Public Wildlife Access sub-program, court displays, and public meetings.

Performance Measure #1: Work with divisions to ensure that project requests and capital facilities projects are completed. (Personnel with this program will work to ensure that at least 90 percent of all project requests and capital facilities projects are completed).



Story behind the performance:

The Conservation Engineering Program provides a service to wildlife and fisheries management employees and ultimately, wildlife and fisheries enthusiasts who enjoy the resource. The program has experienced an increase in workload including major hatchery projects, regional office renovations, and the Private Lands Public Wildlife Program in addition to routine projects. Consisting of a small core of specialists, performance is greatly affected by the number of personnel and workload. Since FY 08, Conservation Engineering has had a full complement of consistent, qualified staff along with a firm, customer-friendly leadership base, which has improved employee project completion efficiency. Other than a benchmark completion rate in FY 08 of 90 percent, the three-year average has remained above the 92 percent mark, with completion levels in FY 13 and FY 14 reaching 93 percent and 95 percent respectively.

Program: Customer Services

Division: Fiscal

Mission: To effectively respond to customer requests and provide guidance to hunters, anglers, and non-consumptive users.

Program Facts: The Customer Services Program is made up of two sub-programs listed below with number of staff and FY 15 budget. Customer Services is broken into three sections: telephone information center, telecommunications services, and alternative enterprises.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Customer Services	3.0	\$ 138,256
Mailroom	1.0	556,964
TOTAL	4.0	\$ 695,220

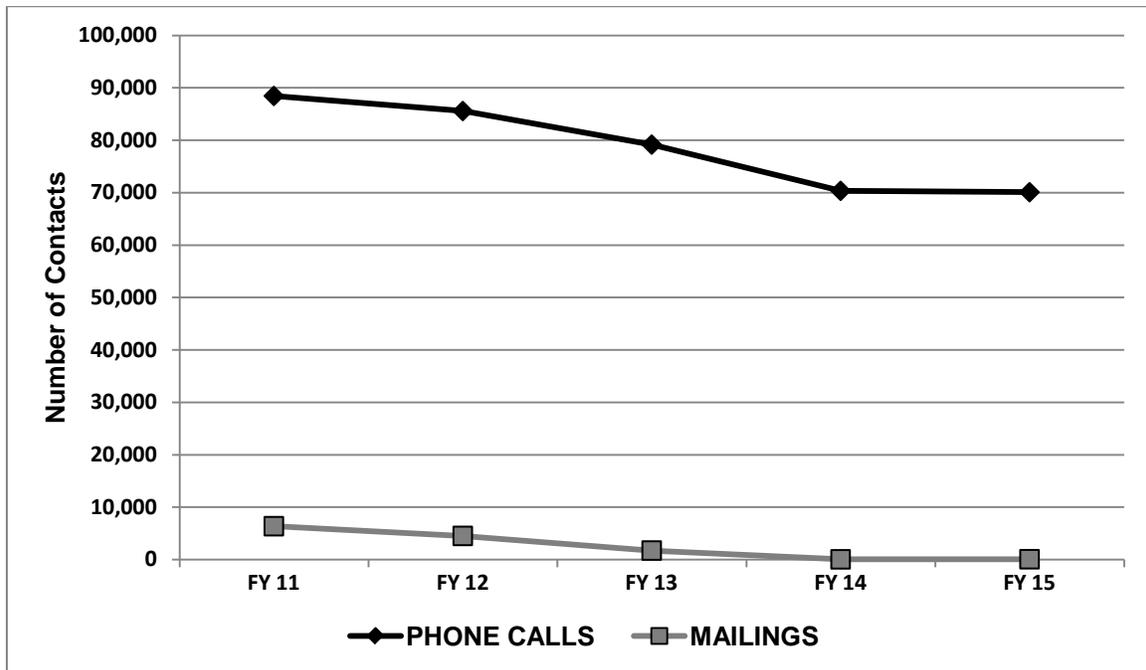
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

The Customer Services Program is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Customer Service Program:

- **Serve external customers** by providing regulation and other agency information via telephone and mailings.
- **Serve internal customers** by providing telecommunications, mailroom, and staffing assistance.
- **Serve people and wildlife** by offering products and publications that generate revenue that contribute to the support of Department programs.

Performance Measure #1: Volume of customer contacts (personnel with this program will maintain the capacity and infrastructure needed to address at least 75,000 customer contacts: 10,000 mailings and 65,000 phone calls per year).



Story behind the performance:

The Department's license issuance process, associated statutes, regulations, and other responsibilities are complex. A main point of contact serves as an important resource for customers. The contacts included in this measurement are the phone calls received in the Department's telephone information center for general information, assistance with applying for or obtaining a license, and requesting information to be mailed to a customer. The volume of incoming phone calls is tracked through reports generated from the Avaya IQ telephone system software. All requests for information and materials to be mailed directly to a customer are tracked through the customer mail request function within the return mail database. The Department began using this database in January 2015. The quantity of mailings for this performance measure does not include the mailing of licenses to customers. The types of information mailed to customers are regulation booklets and other Department publications.

The highest volume of calls are received during the time frame in which customers are submitting their applications for limited quota hunting licenses, checking to determine if they drew a license, obtaining leftover licenses, and obtaining permits for the Hunter Management Program. Requests for materials to be sent in the mail are centered on the time period in which customers are obtaining information to submit their applications for limited quota drawings.

During FY 15, there were three customer service representatives to handle all incoming calls and requests for information. This is a reduction of two representatives from prior years. During this time period, 70,092 calls were answered of the 78,442 total calls directed to the telephone

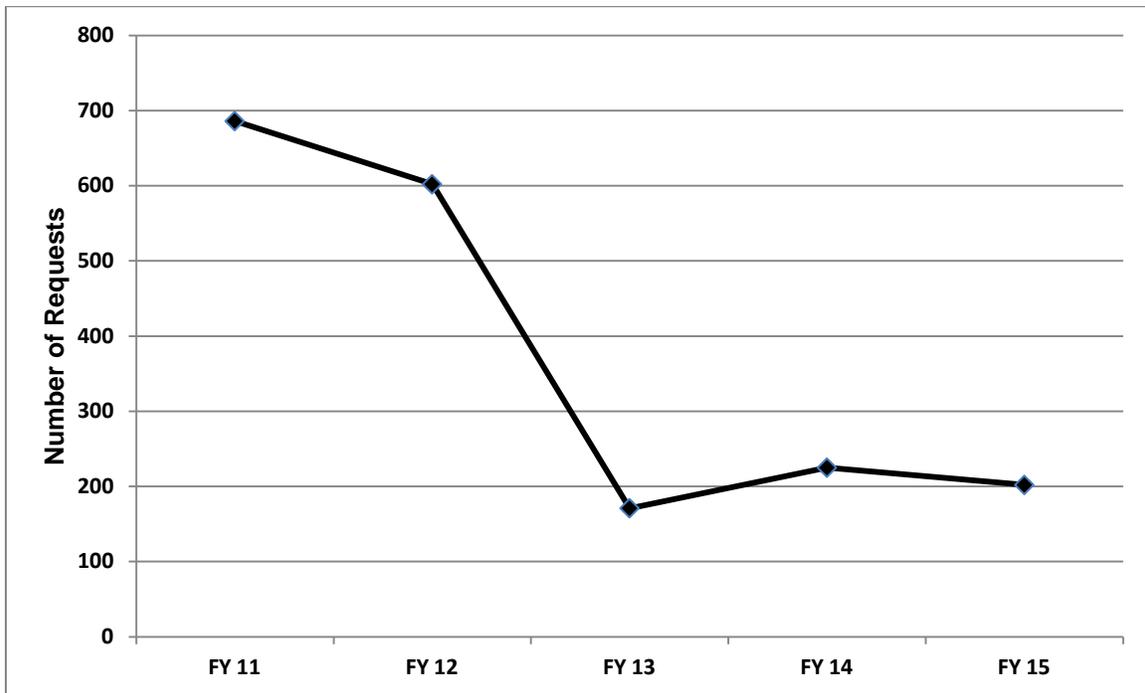
information center. The calls that were not answered were abandoned calls (8,350) where the caller hung up before the customer service representative concluded the preceding call. This represents a level of service of 89 percent (an increase from the prior FY 14 measurement of 88 percent). During FY 14, all front counter staff were cross trained to assist in the telephone information center during high call volume days.

Most calls are currently related to:

1. Assistance with navigating the Department's website
2. Assistance with the Department's electronic license system to apply for or purchase a license, watercraft registration, or AIS decal
3. Questions related to licensing and/or regulations
4. Requests for assistance to correct sportsperson records
5. Obtaining drawing odds
6. Requests for regulations
7. Obtaining drawing results
8. Private Land Public Wildlife Program assistance
9. Fishing information
10. Watercraft related questions
11. Hunter safety information
12. General regulations

For the past five years, the average number of phone calls has been 83,096 and the average number of mailings has been 3,979. In FY 14, the telephone information center staff answered 70,351 incoming calls and processed 62 mailing requests for information from customers. As reflected in the performance measure chart, there have been reductions in the number of incoming calls received and a significant reduction in requests for materials to be mailed to customers. Both of these reductions are a result of customers using the Department's website to obtain information and to apply for or purchase licenses. The reduction also reflects that customers are comfortable with using this process.

Performance Measure #2: Number of departmental telecommunication requests handled (Personnel with this program will maintain the capacity and infrastructure to handle at least 400 telecommunication requests from Department employees per year).



Story behind the performance:

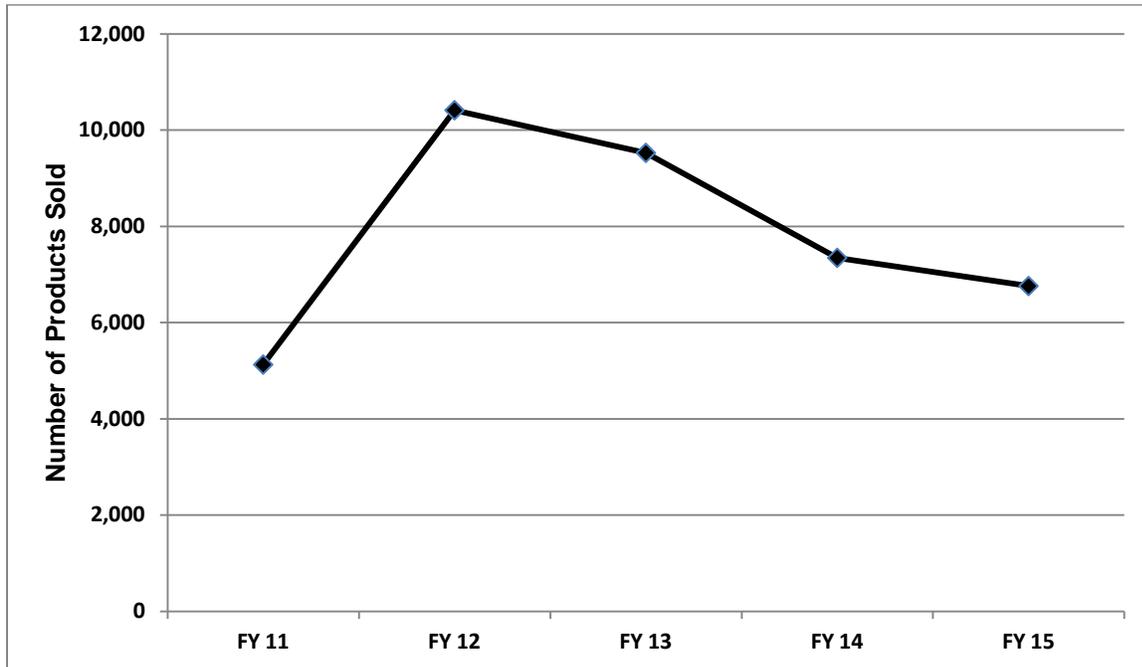
Previously, one customer service employee staffed this section as part-time duties. These part-time duties were transferred to a Help Desk/Procurement position in the Information Technology Program in June 2012 and became effective in the Strategic Plan as of the beginning of FY 13.

As the Telecommunications Liaison, this employee serves as the point of contact for Department employees with State Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and private vendors for all telecommunication related issues. Telecommunications is growing due to the rapid pace of the cellular environment and this is expected to continue as the cellular industry moves away from support of analog cellular service. The types of support calls noted in this report include cell phone upgrades, replacements, plan or billing changes, general inquiries, disconnections, and service and repair calls for analog and digital landlines.

Work orders are submitted through Telemaster Software for cellular needs, construction, or telecommunication equipment requests. This employee works closely with ETS telecommunications personnel to fulfill these requests and for troubleshooting phone and data line issues throughout the state.

As in FY 14, the FY 15 numbers noted here reflect items that required actual work orders and several were combined under one work order when appropriate. This also allowed for better and timelier service to Department employees. It can be expected that ongoing requests for troubleshooting, password resets, and new phone orders will continue.

Performance Measure #3: Number of products sold to customers (Personnel with this program will work to sell at least 8,000 products per year).



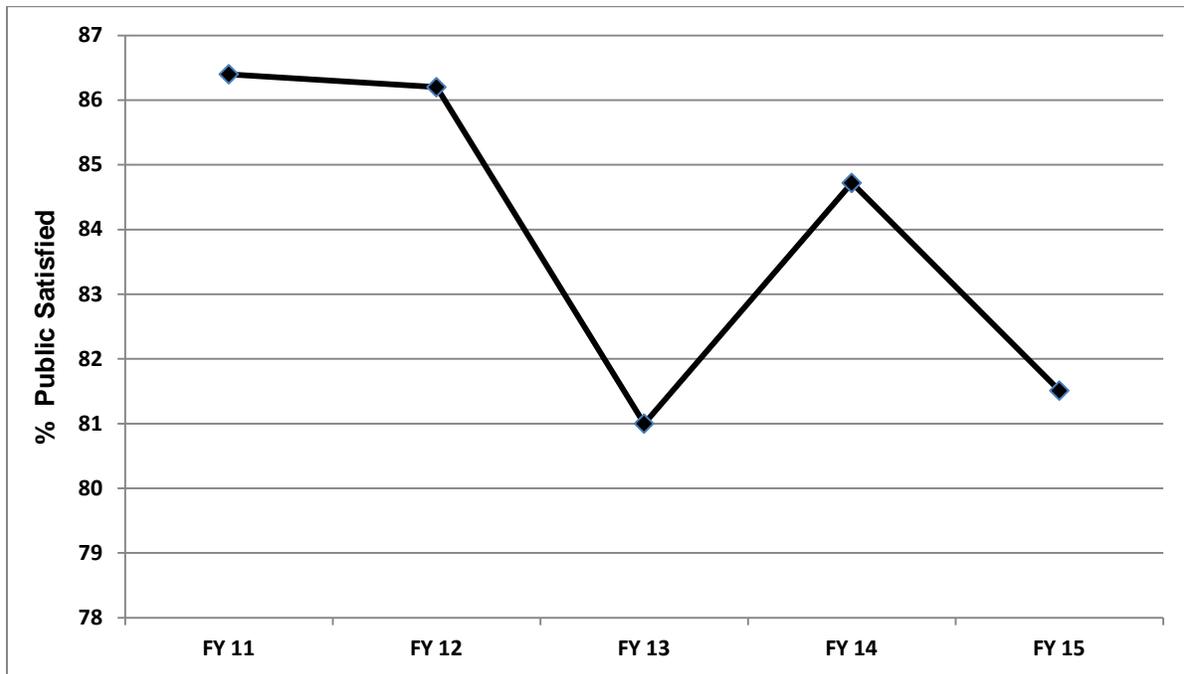
Story behind the performance:

The products offered by Alternative Enterprise feature the logo "Wyoming's Wildlife Worth the Watching" and the Department's "Official Gear" line. The distribution of products helps to promote the Department's brand as well as build awareness and approval for the Department's mission and work while providing an opportunity for all persons to financially contribute to the Department's conservation efforts.

The products sold relate to wildlife, the Department, and its programs, so the number of products sold is an indication of how successful this program is at promoting the Department to the public. The products are sold above cost, so an increase in number of products sold will be reflected in greater profits. The target markets include residents, nonresidents, consumptive, and non-consumptive wildlife users. The profit generated by product sales is used exclusively for habitat restoration and conservation, hunting and fishing access, and other wildlife programs.

Since FY 11, the average number of products sold annually was just over 8,100. In FY 15, the number of products sold was 6,759. The decrease is due to the gift shop being more selective in the types of products sold. The store is buying fewer quantities and focusing more on higher quality items. With this strategy, although sales numbers are lower, higher overall profits are being achieved. Products like GPS chips, which are one of the best selling items, have much higher profit margins than other products. The goal is to make sure customers and constituents continue to have a positive experience with the store, and with the Department. Keeping high quality items helps build the integrity of the program and fosters a positive image of the Department.

Performance Measure #4: Percent of general public satisfied with how their information needs are handled (Personnel within this program will work to ensure that at least 80 percent of the public is satisfied with how their information needs are handled).



Story behind the performance:

The Telephone Information Center is often the only contact customers have with the Department until they meet a warden or biologist in the field. Their opinion of the Department and the Department’s credibility are formed as a result of these contacts. Customer needs often include questions related to the online application process, drawing odds, requests for forms, and other website navigation assistance. The information given to hunters and anglers by customer service representatives needs to be accurate, current, and communicated in a professional manner.

Annually, the external client satisfaction survey is distributed to randomly selected members of the public who had purchased hunting and fishing licenses the previous year. In FY 15, 409 individuals were surveyed which included 177 residents and 232 nonresidents. The survey provides the opportunity for the public to evaluate the customer service provided by the Department. Since FY 11, an average of 83.97 percent of the public who had interacted with the Telephone Information Center staff were satisfied with how their information needs were handled. However, of the 390 survey participants that responded to the specific survey question on contacting the Telephone Information Center during FY 15, only 100 used the Telephone Information Center for assistance.

Additionally, the survey indicated that 18 percent of the individuals who utilized the Telephone Information Center were transferred to other Department personnel to obtain the information or assistance requested.

Program: Department Administration

Division: Department-wide

Mission: Provide leadership for wildlife conservation in Wyoming.

Program Facts:

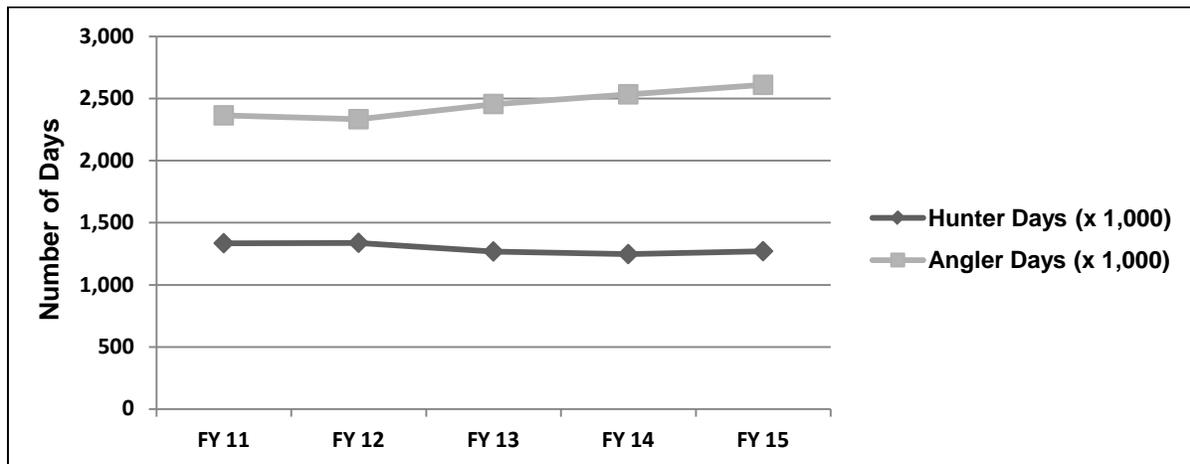
The Department Administration Program is made up of four major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Administration	23.0	\$ 3,930,093
WGFD Vehicle Fleet	0.0	724,736
Commission	.8	120,551
TOTAL	23.8	\$ 4,775,380

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

This program is located in the Department’s Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Performance Measure #1: Number of days in the field by hunters and anglers (personnel with this program will work to provide at least 1.1 million hunter days and 2.3 million angler days per year).



Story behind the performance:

The number of days hunters spent in the field during FY 15 was 15.5 percent above performance measure standards. Hunter days did increase 1.9 percent between FY 14 and FY 15. Big game, small game, and upland game days increased while trophy game, furbearers, and migratory game bird days all decreased. In spite of recreation days being above target, declining access for hunting continues to impact hunter days as licenses go unsold in areas with difficult access.

The number of angler days is trending upwards over the last five years, with FY 15 up slightly over the previous year. Good fishing conditions and improved economic conditions likely account for this trend. The increase in fishing in 2014 was largely due to increasing numbers of nonresident anglers, with increases in the number of annual and daily fishing licenses sold. In terms of license sales, the number of all license types sold increased by 0.7 percent overall, while total revenue from fishing license sales increased by about 0.2 percent. The previous year was the highest ever for license revenue. The Department is encouraged that this high level of revenue continued to be sustained.

For the period FY 11 - FY 15, Wyoming residents and nonresidents have expended an average of 1,291,385 hunter days and 2,458,544 angler days. In FY 15, 1,270,181 hunter recreation days and 2,608,955 angler recreation days were provided. Values reflect lifetime license holders included in the estimate of hunter and angler recreation days. Angling days in FY 15 were 13.4 percent above the target of 2.3 million angler days.

What has been accomplished:

The Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Access Program enhances and/or maintains public hunting and fishing access onto Wyoming private and landlocked public lands. This is accomplished by enrolling private landowners into one of the three access programs: Hunter Management Area (HMA), Walk-in Hunting Area (WIHA), and/or Walk-in Fishing Area (WIFA). The landowner and Department personnel negotiate the terms of an agreement including: agreement length (one to five years), the species that can be harvested, the geographic location, dates access will be allowed, and any other specific rules or stipulations. In return for access, landowners benefit in several ways including:

- A modest monetary payment based on the number of acres or stream length enrolled;
- Increased law enforcement presence;
- Increased wildlife management (population control and damage prevention); and,
- Assistance in managing sportsmen such as alleviating phone calls and other disruptions to landowners (access maps, hunter instruction on ranch rules, etc.).

The PLPW Access Program assists landowners through the management of hunters and anglers, providing sportsmen and sportswomen places to hunt and fish and reducing agricultural damage through hunter harvest. The Department benefits through increased wildlife management opportunities, increased license sales, reduced agricultural damage, and providing quality hunting and fishing access to the public. During 2014, the PLPW Access Program experienced many successes, including, but not limited to:

- Providing access to 2,787,947 acres (1,762,342 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 1,025,605 acres of public lands) for hunting within the boundaries of the WIHA and HMA Programs. This included land in every county within Wyoming.
- Providing additional access to 185,585 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of the WIHA and HMA which would not have been accessible without the PLPW Program.
- Providing fishing access to 3,781 lake acres and 98 stream miles through the WIFA Program.

- Issuing 24,033 online permission slips to 15,146 individual hunters for access to the HMA Program and the National Elk Refuge.
- Providing free hunting and fishing access on Walk-in Areas to anyone with the proper licenses. Many of the participants are families, contributing to the maintenance and enhancement of hunting and fishing traditions.
- Responding to 277 e-mails received through the PLPW website regarding hunting, fishing, or the PLPW Program. The majority of these e-mails (75 percent) were responded to within one or two days of receipt.
- Increasing hunting access translates into improved wildlife population management and decreased agricultural damage through harvest.
- Increasing license sales in hunt areas with historically low leftover license sales.

Hunters surveyed during the 2014 hunting season for harvest results indicated 21.3 percent of antelope hunters, 14.5 percent of deer hunters, and 13.0 percent of elk hunters indicated they had used either a WIA or a HMA to hunt. Hunters surveyed during the 2014 hunting season, who indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity provided through the WIHA or HMA Programs, were 80.5 percent (82.7 percent average since 2010); deer, 71.8 percent (73.6 percent average since 2010); and elk, 71.8 percent (72.5 percent average since 2010).

The PLPW Access Program is funded by Department funds and the Access Yes Program. Department funds, primarily from license sales, fund the daily operations of the program including personnel. Revenue for the Access Yes Program is generated from the sale of lifetime and annual conservation stamps, donations from organizations and individual hunters and anglers, state restitution fees from court-imposed fines from wildlife violations, and interest. Except for a few exemptions, every hunter and angler must purchase an annual conservation stamp, unless a lifetime conservation stamp has been purchased previously.

Program: External Research

Division: Office of the Director

Mission: Conduct timely, applied research on fish and wildlife management issues.

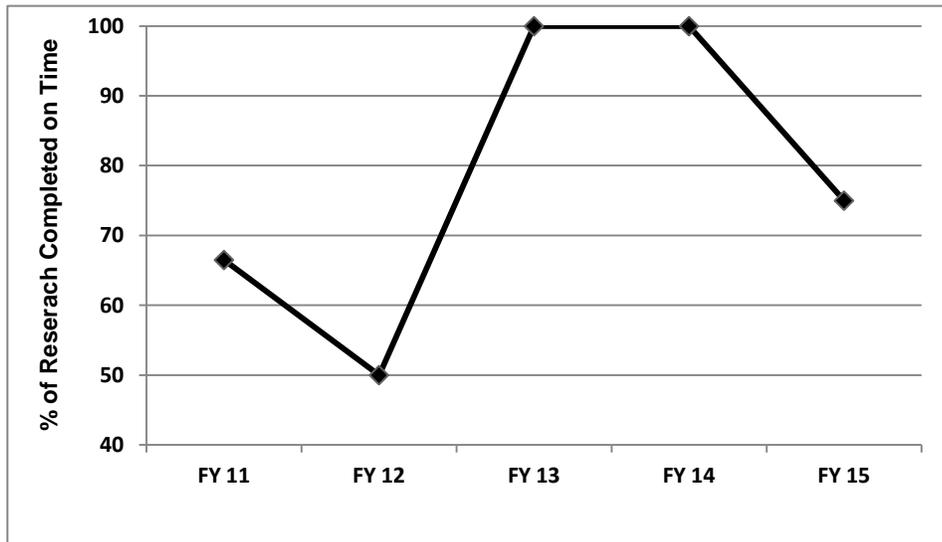
Program Facts: Scientific investigations are typically conducted by researchers associated with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit), universities, and independent researchers. The External Research Program funds no Department personnel, but by agreement, \$40,000 per year is used to help fund administration of the Coop Unit. Listed below is the FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
External Research	0	\$ 475,295

Primary Functions of the External Research Program:

- **Conduct research to provide answers to wildlife management questions or issues that require rigorous, scientific study** by developing research proposals and budgets in cooperation with the Department and by hiring and overseeing researchers and/or graduate students to conduct research that is designed to have immediate applications by fish and wildlife managers.

Performance Measure #1: The percentage of funded projects that submit a final report within specified terms of the grant. (Personnel in this program will work to submit 90 percent of reports within terms of the grant).



Story behind the performance:

The Department is responsible for developing proposals for applied research projects to improve wildlife management in Wyoming. Since the Department has no internal staff dedicated to conducting research, research projects are developed in cooperation with the Coop Unit and other researchers. These proposals are ranked and prioritized by Fish and Wildlife Divisions prior to receiving Department funding. With the exception of some wildlife veterinary research, all Department research is outsourced to the Coop Unit, universities, and other contracted professionals. For many projects, Department funding is not sufficient to complete the needed research. In these instances, senior Coop Unit scientists or other researchers use Department funds as seed money with which to leverage other sources for additional funds. This model has typically resulted in approximately a 3:1 funding stream for Department research priorities and has been used to fund many complex projects that would not have been possible without outside funding.

Annually, Fish and Wildlife Divisions evaluate the progress of ongoing research and whether projects will be completed and reports submitted as specified. Variables affecting the timely completion of research are most often controllable; however, in the recent past, this performance measure has been negatively affected by staff turnover at the Coop Unit. Over the last four years, two new assistant unit leaders have been hired, Dr. Anna Chalfoun for terrestrial nongame in May 2011 and Dr. Annika Walters for fisheries in June 2011. Chalfoun's position represents the first time the Coop Unit has had faculty explicitly dedicated to research on nongame and sensitive species. The Coop Unit has also implemented a database to track research progress and alert students and advisors about looming deadlines resulting in a higher percentage of projects meeting deadlines. With respect to the Coop Unit, it is notable that their faculty and graduate students routinely share data, findings, techniques, and other project information on a real-time, as-needed basis; this takes the form of phone calls, project updates, presentations, written quarterly reports, data sharing, and other outreach to Department field and administrative personnel.

What has been accomplished:

For Wildlife Division, eight maintenance and operation (M&O) research projects were scheduled to close during FY 15 (Wyoming Range Mule Deer, Pinedale Anticline Mule Deer, Ungulate Migrations, Using Stable Isotopes to Identify Ungulate Migrations Routes, Platte Valley Mule Deer, Photo Monitoring, Sierra Madre Elk, Snowy Range Moose). Seven projects were extended through FY 16 and the Pinedale Anticline Mule Deer has ended. In several cases, project goals have been expanded beyond their initial objectives, thus requiring extensions. Others are on track, but needed to be extended to assure that grant funds could be spent on remaining project costs. Grant language allows 90 days after final project billing before final reports are due. Reports are expected within this period and will be reported upon in this report next year.

The Coop Unit continues to provide reliable, objective science to help inform management of Wyoming's wildlife resources. For example, one recent project has provided the scientific basis for the Department's switch from POP-II to the Spreadsheet Model as the primary tool used for monitoring big game populations and setting harvest quotas. The postdoc associated with the project also played a large role in writing the users manual and training Department biologists on

the new method. Also, the Statewide Moose Habitat study is providing tools that will allow Department biologists to reduce moose populations before they become so dense as to over browse their habitat. More recently, Wildlife Division has relied heavily upon Coop Unit data and research in developing a definition for big game migration corridors statewide. Coop Unit research, done in collaboration with the Department, has developed methodologies to identify big game high-use corridors and stopovers, to enhance Department understanding of the importance of migration for herd productivity, and to a better understand the ways in which different types of development influence the viability of migration corridors.

The Department continues to work with the Coop Unit and other university researchers to meet aquatic research needs. Eight Fish Division research projects were underway or initiated in FY 15. Six of these projects were scheduled for completion in FY 15 and three were completed on time. Two new aquatic projects were initiated with the Coop Unit in FY 15.

At the end of FY 15, five aquatic research projects were ongoing (two new and three continuing). Final reports for two continuing projects are tardy, due to students gaining employment while their theses were still unfinished. Projects initiated in FY 15 include: 1) A project conducted by a masters student in the Coop Unit that will attempt to use stable isotopes from trout otoliths to determine where recruitment of important sport fish occurs in the upper North Platte River watershed; and 2) A project conducted by a masters student in the Coop Unit that aims to determine what if any relationship there may be between livestock grazing, chytrid fungus, and boreal toads survival in the upper Green River drainage. Continuing projects in FY 15 include: 1) A project conducted through the Coop Unit that is using all of the data collected from warm and coolwater streams in eastern Wyoming to develop priorities areas for conservation; 2) A project conducted through the Montana State University Cooperative Research Unit investigating the affects of angler harvest on burbot populations in lakes in the upper Wind River drainage; and 3) A project conducted by the Coop Unit is examining habitat use, movement, and interconnectedness of Columbia spotted frog populations in the Big Horn Mountains.

Aquatic projects completed in FY 15 include: 1) A project conducted by the University of Wyoming, Department of Botany that used genetic analyses to determine genetic introgression with non-natives and relatedness of native suckers including bluehead and mountain suckers in the Green River Basin. The project found hybridization to be common in many drainages in Colorado and Wyoming and even occurring between native sucker species. However, hybridization beyond the first generation was rare in almost all drainages. Muddy Creek in southern Wyoming appears to be an extreme case, where hybridization beyond the first generation and among species seems to be rampant. 2) A project conducted by researchers at Colorado State University modeled the foodweb of Buffalo Bill Reservoir to determine the impacts of lake trout and illegally stocked walleye on the self-sustaining wild rainbow-cutthroat trout fishery in the reservoir and the North Fork Shoshone River. Researchers found that spatial overlap was much higher for walleye and rainbow-cutthroat trout than lake trout and rainbow-cutthroat trout. Additionally, individual consumption of rainbow-cutthroat by walleye was much higher than by lake trout. Growth in the walleye population could result in substantial declines in the wild rainbow-cutthroat fishery. 3) A project conducted by the Coop Unit examined what impacts, if any, water management had on burbot in the upper Wind River drainage. The study found that outmigration of burbot from native headwater lakes was generally low, while

entrainment in lower basin canals was substantial. This apparent conflict was largely solved by the identification of burbot recruitment in Pilot Butte Reservoir (within the irrigation project) and some potential riverine burbot in the Wind River proper. 4) A project conducted through the University of Idaho investigated the most efficient methodology for capturing illegally introduced burbot in the Green River and where they are most likely found. The study found burbot selected large substrates, were most active in autumn upstream of reservoir inlets, and most efficiently captured by small mesh baited hoop nets and nighttime electrofishing.

Program: Feedgrounds

Division: Wildlife

Mission Statement: To maintain Commission population objectives and control elk distribution in an effort to minimize conflicts with human land uses.

Program Facts: The Feedground Program operates 22 feedgrounds and is made up of one sub-program, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Feedgrounds	2.0	\$2,814,068

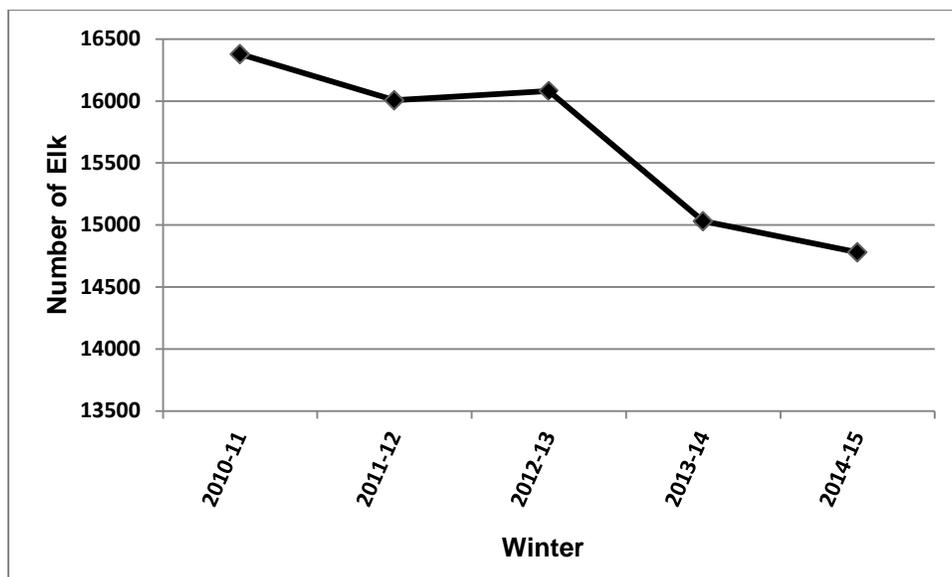
This program is uniquely organized in that it is statewide, but located in the Pinedale Region. Personnel are assigned in Pinedale and Etna. The program is supervised by the Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisor.

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

Primary Function of the Feedground Program:

- **Maintain elk population objectives and control elk distribution** by providing supplemental feed. Supplemental feeding will assist in the prevention of damage to personal property and assist in the prevention of commingling with livestock to reduce opportunities for disease transmission.

Performance Measure #1: Number of elk attending feedgrounds (Personnel from this program will work to feed at least 14,934 elk.)



Story behind the performance:

Elk feedgrounds have been an important management tool since the early 1900s. Elk conflicts with agriculture, such as damage to stored hay and feedlines, risk of cattle exposure to brucellosis because of commingling, deep snow accumulations, and loss of native ranges to development significantly impact the ability of elk to utilize native ranges without conflict. During most winters, elk feedgrounds maintain a significant percentage of the total elk population, while native ranges support relatively few elk. Wyoming constituents are accustomed to the increased elk hunting opportunities afforded by high elk numbers that are possible because of feeding.

About 14,800 elk were fed during the winter of 2014-2015. This is 953 more than the 40-year average. In 2014-2015, most winter feeding operations were started by January and finished by April 1. A less than average amount of hay was fed at 5,451 tons. The 40-year average is 6,760 tons. During the last five winters, the number of elk attending the feedgrounds has ranged between 14,800 elk (winter 2014-2015) and 16,378 elk (winter 2010-2011). In order to reduce damage/commingling conflicts and prevent excessive starvation, elk in the Jackson and Pinedale regions were fed. Emergency feeding operations took place last season in the Buffalo Valley.

Winter conditions during 2014-2015 were mild to moderate. Overall, the feeding season was 94 days, 26 days shorter than the previous season of 120 days. The average feeding season is 122 days. Wolves continue to chase elk from and between feedgrounds. These factors can influence the number of elk counted on feedgrounds and/or fed. Three of seven (Jackson, Afton, and Fall Creek) elk herd units had elk numbers below their individual objectives. Commonly, between 73 percent and 84 percent of the elk in the region are fed each year. This is because adequate native range is not available. These elk are fed at select locations that allow elk to be attracted to feedgrounds. Feeding at these locations assists in keeping elk away from potential commingling/damage situations. While elk attend feedgrounds, adequate hay (quantity and quality) is fed to reduce starvation. Public acceptance of elk mortality on feedgrounds is low. Long-term average mortality from all causes has not exceeded 1.5 percent on all feedgrounds combined. Mortality resulting from old age, hunter crippling, wolf predation, vaccination, and elk trapping cannot be prevented by feedground management techniques. Other causes of mortality (goring, some diseases, and malnutrition) may be related to feedground management. Feedground managers should utilize available techniques to minimize these causes of mortality. Percent winter mortality for 2014-2015 was .9 percent, .5 percent less than the previous year. A Necrotic Stomatitis/Dermatitis outbreak was confirmed on Soda Lake for the second consecutive year but no outbreaks were recorded on other feedgrounds, which contributed to decreased elk mortality than the previous year.

In addition to helping support elk population numbers and hunting opportunities in northwest Wyoming, elk attendance on feedgrounds provides an opportunity to vaccinate elk for brucellosis and to reduce conflict with private landowners. During winter 2014-2015, 52 percent (n=2176) of elk calves on feedgrounds were ballistically vaccinated with Strain 19. This was the eighth year Fall Creek and Scab Creek Feedgrounds were excluded and the ninth year Muddy Creek Feedground was excluded from vaccination operations due to the test and removal program (for further details, see Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program). This year

was the final year for vaccination efforts to take place on all feedgrounds due to the loss of biobullet vaccine manufacturing.

What has been accomplished:

- The overall average feeding season was 94 days.
- 5,451 tons of hay was fed.
- Elk mortality was .9 percent.
- Wolves caused elk mortality at five of 22 feedgrounds. There were 48 elk documented by elk feeders that were killed by wolves. This number decreased by 27 from the previous year.

Program: Financial Management

Division: Fiscal

Mission: Ensure accountability of all Department assets to the Department's publics, including financial compliance with federal and state requirements and assisting in management planning and decision-making by providing financial information.

Program Facts: The Financial Management Program is listed below with number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Revenue Collection & Licensing**	16.5	\$ 1,507,595
Asset Management	3.5	\$ 611,957
Disbursements**	3.0	\$224,509
TOTAL	23.0	\$ 2,344,061

* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

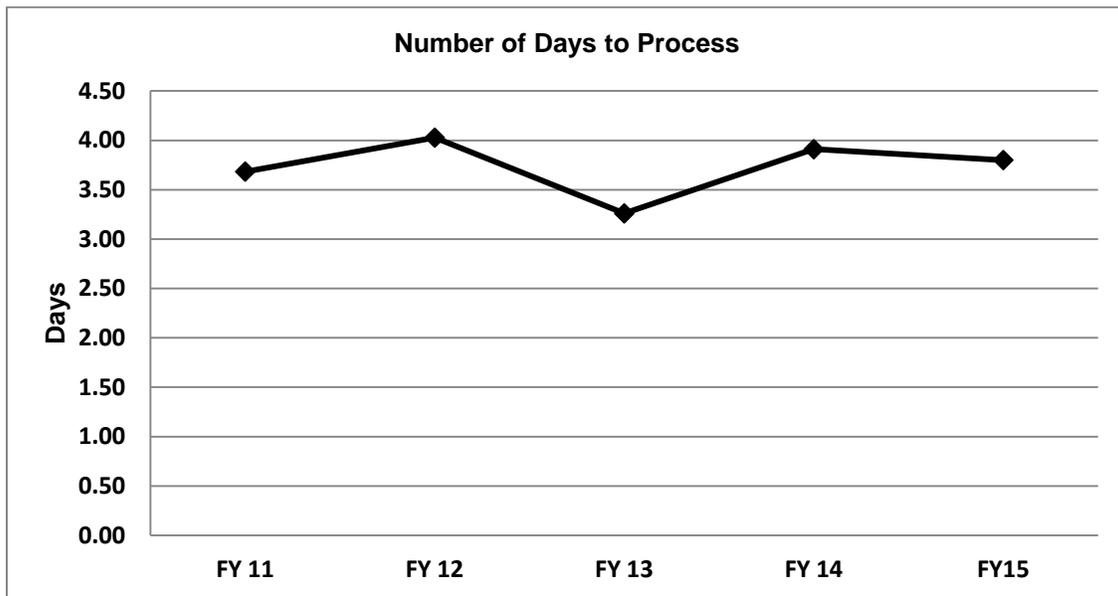
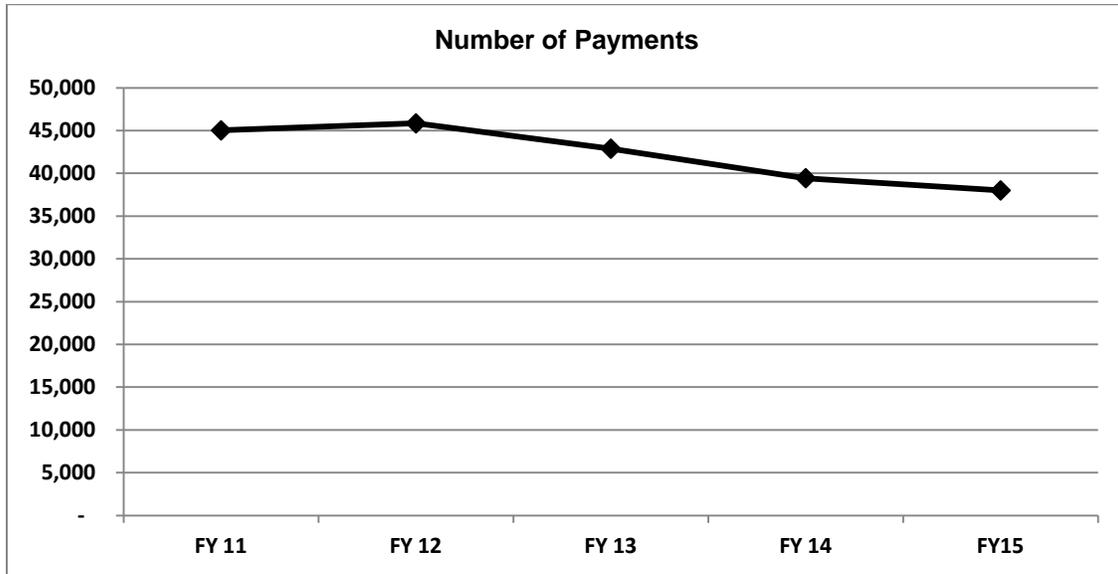
** Includes one 1/2 fiscal specialist position.

This program is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Financial Management Program:

- **We ensure accountability and compliance** by being responsible for billing, collecting, and accounting for all Department revenues and administering the systems to accommodate administration of all Department revenues including issuance of personal hunting and fishing licenses, permits, tags, and stamps; watercraft registration; commercial hatchery, taxidermist, and bird farm licenses; and federal, state, local, and private grants and donations, to include receipts in excess of \$64 million annually. In addition, we initiate, review, and process slightly less than 38,000 payment transactions in accordance with state requirements.
- **We ensure accountability and compliance** by maintaining and updating the financial records of all Department fixed assets to include personal property (vehicles, office and shop equipment, leasehold improvements) and real property (buildings, infrastructure, land improvements).
- **We assist in Department management planning and decision-making** by developing and monitoring the Department's annual budget to ensure compliance with state requirements. In addition, we provide monthly and annual financial reports to agency personnel and to external publics.

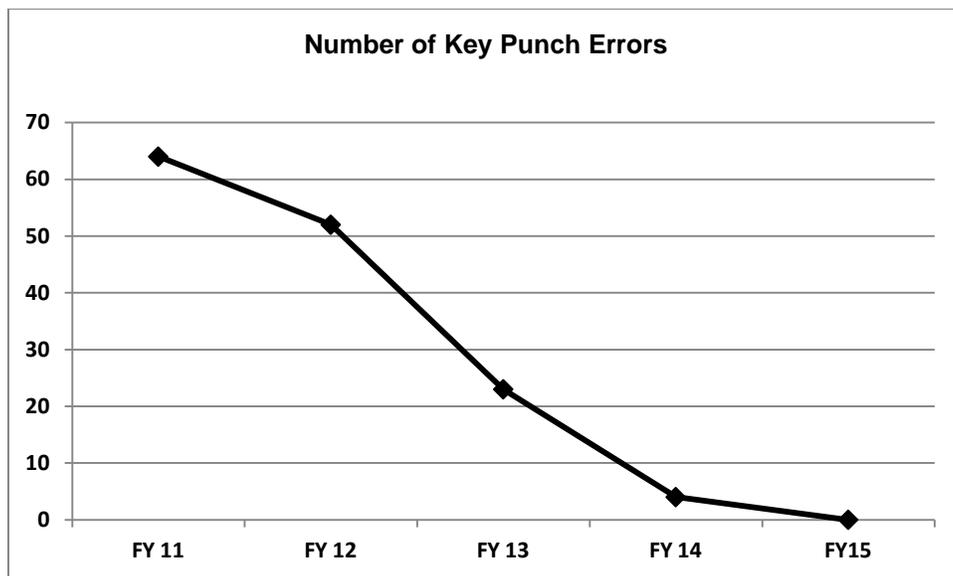
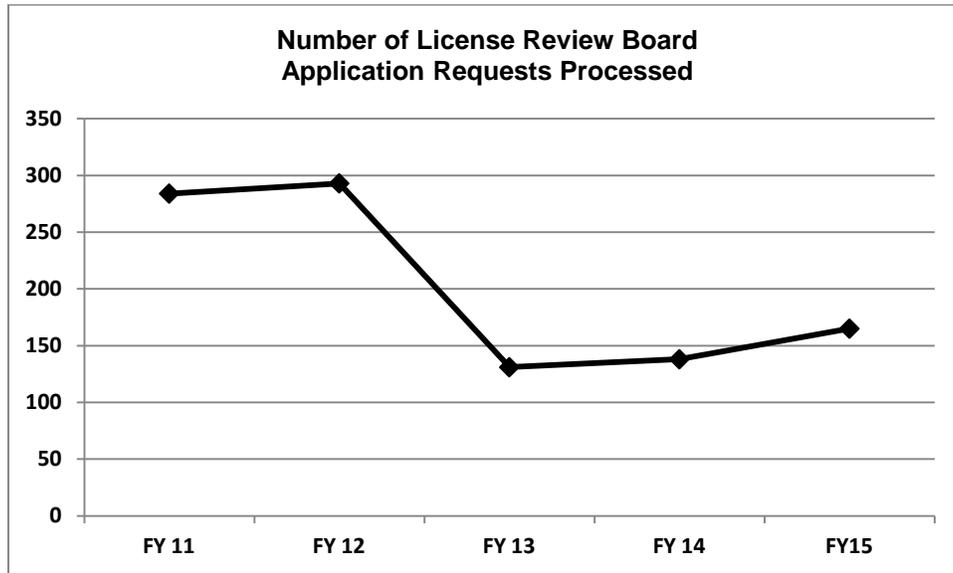
Performance Measure #1: Timeliness of processing payment transactions. (Personnel with the program will work to ensure payments are processed within four working days and receipts are processed within 10 working days).



Story behind the performance:

With the increased use by Department personnel of the State Visa Card for acquisition of goods, the number of actual payment transactions decreased in FY 15 by approximately 2.5 percent to slightly less than 38,000 annual transactions. With the increase use of the State Visa Card, further reductions in payment transactions are anticipated. The processing turn-around time went from 3.91 days to 3.8 days. The level attained in FY 15 is slightly less than the previous year as a result of ongoing training throughout the agency.

Performance Measure #2: Number of external customer license inquiries resulting in Department correction of errors.



Story behind the performance:

During FY 15, 389,907 applications were submitted for limited quota drawings and preference point purchases. Beginning January 2014, all applications were required to be submitted online except landowner applications. During FY 15, 269,690 applications were submitted online with 3,222 manual applications being processed from landowners. With the requirement for online submission, the error rate should be minuscule. The only key punch errors would be from the small number of landowner applications processed or errors that occur with license selling agents issuing incorrect licenses. During FY 15, the Department did not have to correct licenses or

issue refunds for key punch errors. The Department had to issue refunds for seventeen applicants due license selling agent errors.

The majority of License Review Board applications received relate to requests for refunds due to death of the license holder or medical issues in which the license holder is unable to use their license. Applications are also received for requests to carryover eligible licenses to the next hunting season.

Program: Habitat

Division: Fish and Wildlife

Mission: Holistically manage, preserve, restore, and/or improve habitat to enhance and sustain Wyoming's fish and wildlife populations for current and future generations.

Program Facts: The Department's Habitat Program is made up of four major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Terrestrial Habitat Management	10.0	\$ 1,256,367
Aquatic Habitat Management	10.2	1,183,873
Fish Passage	2.0	303,959
Water Management	2.4	254,502
Wyoming Landscape Cons. Initiative	1.0	108,983
TOTAL	23.6	\$ 3,107,684

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

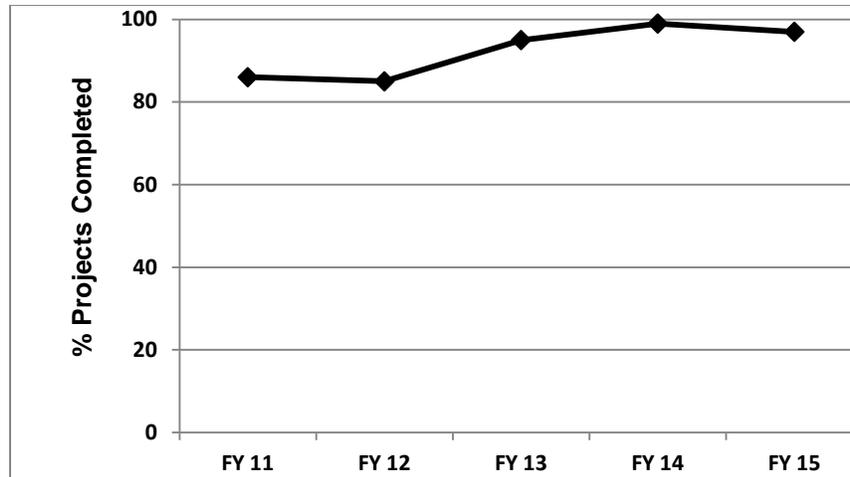
The Habitat Program has incorporated the Water Management and Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) Programs (formerly sub-programs in the Aquatic Wildlife Management Program).

The Habitat Program has statewide responsibilities. Permanent personnel are located in Buffalo (1), Casper (2), Cheyenne (5), Cody (2), Green River (2), Jackson (1), Lander (2), Laramie (3), Pinedale (2), and Sheridan (2).

Primary Functions of the Habitat Program:

- **Manage, preserve, and restore habitat for the long-term sustainable management of fish and wildlife populations** by inventorying wildlife habitat conditions, determining where conditions are limiting, and planning and implementing projects at watershed and landscape scales in order to conserve and restore habitat quality. This is accomplished by integrating various land uses while involving the general public, private landowners, and land management agencies.
- **Increase fish and wildlife-based recreation through habitat enhancements that increase productivity of fish and wildlife populations** by designing and implementing habitat improvement projects in cooperation with private landowners and/or public land managers.

Performance Measure #1: Terrestrial Habitat Management – Percent of terrestrial habitat projects and actions completed that addressed habitat conservation, enhancements, and restoration activities for wildlife within priority areas and/or habitat types. (Personnel in this program will work to complete at least 75 percent of planned activities).



Story behind the performance:

This measure of habitat conservation, enhancements, and restoration activities to improve the quantity or quality of wildlife is tied to the accomplishments of the Department’s terrestrial habitat personnel. These individuals primarily address the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission’s Habitat Program by implementing the 2009 Strategic Habitat Plan (SHP) goals 1, 2, 3, or 5, and to some extent goal 4. The five goals of the 2009 SHP are: Goal 1) Conserve and manage wildlife habitats that are crucial for maintaining terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations for the present and the future; Goal 2) Enhance, improve, and manage priority wildlife habitats that have been degraded; Goal 3) Increase wildlife-based recreation through habitat enhancements that maintain or increase the productivity of wildlife; Goal 4) Increase public awareness of wildlife habitat issues and the critical connection between healthy habitat and abundant wildlife populations; and Goal 5) Promote collaborative habitat management efforts with the general public, conservation partners, private landowners, and land management agencies.

The following describes how the number of habitat projects implemented annually is determined for terrestrial habitat projects. Information compilation is primarily derived from individual employee submission of summaries and includes information from FY 15 individual employee work schedules. These sources reflect guidance provided in the SHP which identifies 144 potential action items to pursue toward achieving the five goals (https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Habitat/Strategic%20Habitat%20Plan/SHP2015_Final.pdf). Prior to each fiscal year, habitat personnel develop work schedules and performance goals consistent with the SHP that address priority areas; on-going projects; routine follow-up monitoring; and opportunities to collaborate with private landowners, land management agencies, and conservation groups. These goals are tracked individually and reported collectively in terms of accomplishing a percentage of the performance goals completed

for the fiscal year. Information is compiled from annual and monthly activity highlight reports, daily activity reports, and annual performance appraisal evaluations as related to annual work schedules, the Governor's Annual Report Habitat Program Performance Measures, and the Annual Report on SHP Accomplishments for calendar year 2014. Information is also obtained from individual employee performance appraisal goals as well as the development of FY 15 funding applications and submissions for Department trust funds, other internal funding sources, and funding applications to outside entities. The Department's 2014 Annual Report on SHP Accomplishments also highlights many of these habitat projects.

The tracking of performance measures and goals improves the Department's ability to measure the Habitat Program's success and quality over time, sometimes decades, for long-term conservation and restoration efforts on large-scale, landscape projects. This is one way the Department measures the success and the quality of the Habitat Program.

Attempts were made to more narrowly define what constituted a "habitat project". This was based on guidance provided in the revised SHP; consolidation of projects; working on projects larger in scale; and combining projects that address habitat conservation, habitat enhancements, and restoration activities to improve the quantity or quality of wildlife within priority areas and/or habitat types. A project was defined as a habitat-related effort requiring over one percent or at least three days of an employees' work annually. This does not include routine monthly administration such as daily activity reports, or annual assistance on Department or regional tasks and meetings. A project was also defined as beginning with the general identification of a need or opportunity, assessment and evaluation, collaboration with landowners and managers, development of specific objectives, securing funding, implementation and intensive monitoring, and assessment of results. These attempts follow guidance provided in the revised 2009 SHP regarding which projects are habitat conservation or restoration versus those that were mainly habitat enhancement or were related to other goals in the 2009 SHP.

What has been accomplished:

The terrestrial habitat section planned 141 habitat projects and implemented 137 projects (97 percent) during FY 15. An additional 27 unplanned projects were addressed and implemented during the fiscal year. Terrestrial section administration and personnel administered and worked on over 139 different funding grants, agreements, and contracts which included 27 Department trust fund projects for FY 15 or earlier. An additional 11 new FY 16 Department trust fund terrestrial projects were approved with an additional five developed, but not funded.

Reasons for project goals not being completed or implemented for this reporting segment were largely beyond the direct control of habitat personnel and include: 1) climatic conditions; 2) grantees elected not to execute grant agreements; 3) personnel retirements, job changes, and resignations with the positions frozen and not filled; 4) threatened and endangered species concerns, National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) withdrawal, and federal agency cancellation of the project; and 5) delays for additional information needs and requirements. In addition, habitat personnel have been asked to spend additional time developing proposals for the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) funds and associated applications for matching funds. At the same time, habitat personnel are expected to follow more stringent internal processes and procedures. Lastly, unplanned projects, defined as those requiring

approximately three or more days of effort by section personnel also need to be addressed. Planned and unplanned habitat activities resulted in a total of 164 projects completed and ongoing for FY 15.

FY 15 accomplishments are in the 2014 Annual Report on SHP Accomplishments, which spans calendar year 2014 (and thus is half of FY14 and half of FY 15). Selected accomplishments include:

- 3,235 acres of mechanical tree removal
- 5,595 trees and shrubs planted
- 26,143 acres of herbicide weed treatments
- 75 miles of wildlife friendly fences installed
- 1,419 acres of upland grass, forb, and food plots seeded
- 783 acres of prescribed burns, and
- 1,500 acres of herbicide application to thin sagebrush

Select examples of terrestrial habitat projects and accomplishments completed include:

- Douglas Core Area Wildfire Restoration: 12,000 sagebrush plants planted within the 5,000 acre project area
- Wyoming Range Mule Deer: 5,260 acres of cultural clearance and 2,463 acres of treatments
- Squaw Mountain: 1,000 acres of cheatgrass sprayed
- Big Creek Ranch: 200 acres of aeration/seeding and 920 acres of spike herbicide treatment
- Whiskey Mountain: 160 acres of herbicide and 370 acres of fertilizer treatments
- Bolton Creek Riparian Restoration: 212,480 pounds of shredded tree material moved and 12 insta-dams installed
- Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area: 450 acres of Russian Olive sprayed, 400 acres of targeted grazing, 5 sites monitored
- Oil Creek Cheatgrass II: 2,021 acres of cheatgrass sprayed

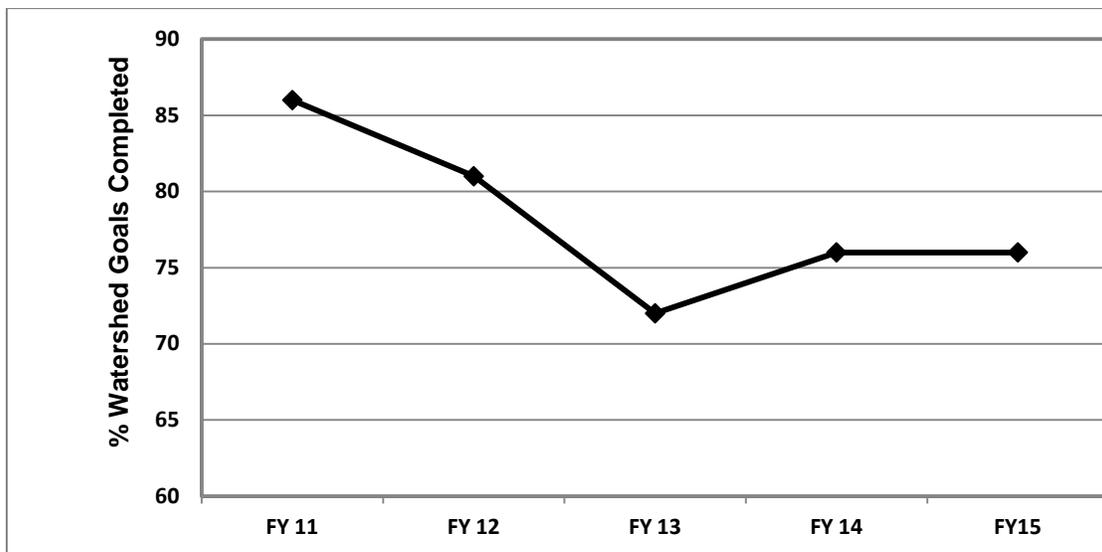
Projects were accomplished by personnel working with partners and soliciting grants from outside sources including: WWNRT, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill Programs, National Wild Turkey Federation, the Wyoming Governor's Sage-Grouse Fund, private landowners, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, Mule Deer Foundation, WLCI, Bowhunters of Wyoming, and private and corporate donors among others. Most of the terrestrial habitat projects include working with a variety of internal and external working groups and partnerships.

Habitat biologists have and continue to lose some productivity relative to implementation of SHP goals and projects due to increasing requests to assist in the mitigation of habitats disturbed from energy development, BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Forest Service Forest Plan activities and revisions, USDA Farm Bill changes and requirements, and internal Department administrative requests. Besides reducing time available for planning and implementing on-the-ground habitat management and enhancement projects, biologists have had less time to seek funding and develop partnerships with landowners and land managers. Lastly, and perhaps most

importantly, Department budget reductions as well as federal budget reductions have reduced project submission for FY 15.

One of the most time consuming but gratifying aspects of the terrestrial habitat section is developing partnerships and collaborating with private landowners, land management agencies, private industry, and conservation partners. Personnel spend considerable time on these partnerships and continue to write grants and receive funds from a variety of other sources, including state, federal, private, and corporate donors.

Performance Measure #2: Aquatic Habitat - Percentage of watershed restoration and habitat enhancement activities accomplished annually. (Personnel in this program will implement at least 75 percent of planned activities).



Story behind the performance:

The aquatic habitat section achieved 94 out of 123 or 76 percent of planned habitat projects in FY 15. An additional six unplanned projects were accomplished. On average, aquatic habitat biologists in each region completed 13 projects. The Department’s 2014 Annual Report on SHP Accomplishments highlights many of these habitat projects. The Fish Division work plans and progress reports for calendar years 2014 and 2015 contain additional details about aquatic habitat project plans and progress for FY 15. Aquatic section personnel and administration tracked and worked on 17 Department trust fund projects from FY 15 or earlier. An additional 15 new FY 16 trust fund aquatic projects were funded with another four developed but not funded. Finally, the aquatic habitat section administered funds from other sources for additional projects. Overall, approximately 37 aquatic projects involving substantial funds were developed, implemented, or administered over the fiscal year.

What has been accomplished:

FY 15 accomplishments are in the 2014 Annual Report on SHP Accomplishments, which spans calendar year 2014 (and thus is half FY 14 and half of FY 15). Selected accomplishments include:

- 10 watershed assessments spanning over 24 stream miles
- 12 detailed stream assessments spanning 3.4 stream mile,
- 10 bank enhancements covering over 2 miles
- 18 instream structures installed
- Five fish screen installed
- Seven detailed riparian monitoring sites cover 0.7 stream miles
- 4.5 upstream stream miles connected

Select examples of aquatic habitat projects and accomplishments include:

Habitat Protection

- Participated in the Rock Springs BLM RMP process by supplying expert input about aquatic and terrestrial resources and likely effects of various proposed land management alternatives.

Habitat Assessment

- Employed the Wyoming Habitat Assessment Methodology in multiple watersheds in the Jackson and Laramie Regions including Dell Creek, Dawson Creek, Jack Creek, and Miner Creek. These assessments provide a sound and systematic basis for identifying issues that can be addressed through projects to improve aquatic resources.
- Inventoried 122 points of diversion for fish passage in the upper Green River Basin.
- Water temperature loggers were deployed at sites throughout the North Fork Popo Agie River, Wind River, Sweetwater River, Red Canyon Creek, and Little Popo Agie Rivers. This network provides a baseline of water temperature conditions and an index to the health of watersheds.

Project Planning and Development

- Participated in the “Platte River Revival” and associated efforts in the City of Casper to restore river function and enhance various public recreation and fishery values in the North Platte River.
- Developed a design for fishway on the Encampment River at the WYCO Club Property to improve trout passage and provide for boater portaging.
- Through a fish passage grant, assisted with design of a culvert replacement on Yellow Creek in southwest Wyoming to benefit Bonneville cutthroat trout and leatherside chub.
- Assisted with design of fish screens on the Dunoir River.
- Developed a plan and funding for providing fish passage and maintaining grade on Middle Redwater Creek on the Black Hills National Forest.
- Completed a design for irrigation diversion rehabilitation on the East Fork Wind River on the Spence Moriarty Wildlife Management Area.
- Developed stream restoration designs and construction plans with Trout Unlimited for an eroding bank of the Encampment River on a private land parcel.

On-The-Ground

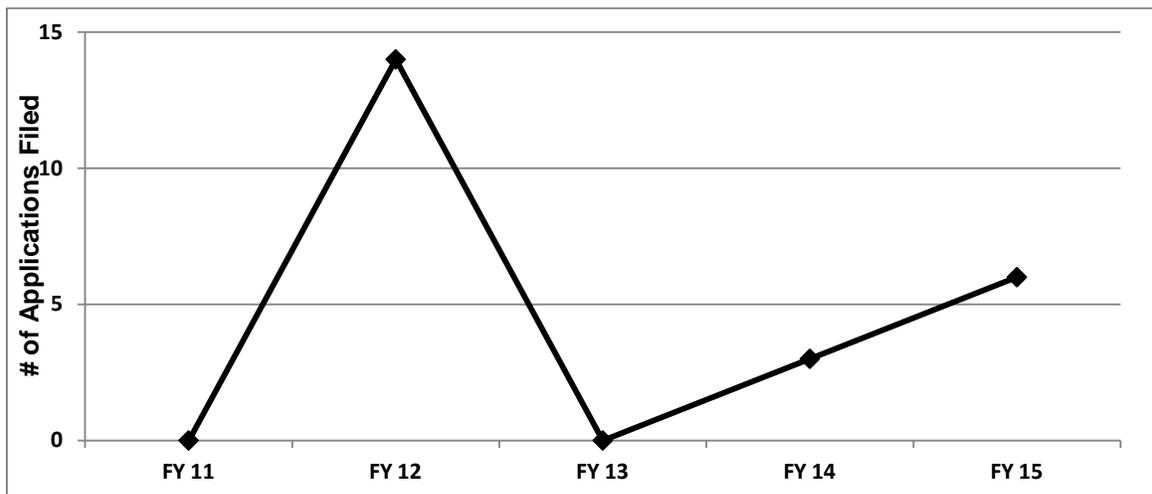
- Worked with Trout Unlimited and the Muley Fanatic Foundation to plant and maintain riparian vegetation along Gooseberry Creek in the Green River region.
- Completed river restoration along 1,200 feet of the Encampment River to improve fishery habitat, reduce private land loss, and improve riparian vegetation.
- Eroding banks along Bear Creek on the Department's Spence Moriarty unit were addressed by constructing bankfull benches with toewood to reduce annual erosion and sediment input.
- The Mead Coffeen Diversion Ditch on South Piney Creek was patched as an intermediate stop-gap solution to continue water diversion to the Story Hatchery.

Maintenance or Monitoring

- Measured aspen and cottonwood browsing and leader growth on Little Mountain and the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge to work toward improved grazing management.
- Monitored willow communities along the North Tongue River and South Tongue River.
- Monitored screen and fishway performance at sites on Trout Creek, Bitter Creek, Clear Creek at Kendrick, Bear Creek, Goose Creek, and the Tongue River.

Some of these accomplishments are shared with partners including: WWNRT, Unlimited, WLCI, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal USDA Farm Bill Program Funds, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, and private and corporate donors among others.

Performance Measure #3: Water Management/Instream Flow – The number of applications for instream flow water rights filed (Personnel in this program will work to file at least three instream flow water rights applications per year).



Story behind the performance:

One of the primary responsibilities of water management is filing applications for instream flow water rights. Each application is the culmination of several years studying the relationship between physical habitat and hydrology of individual stream segments. Not all field work, data analysis, and report preparation can be completed within one year, which is one reason why the

number of filings varies between years. Filings are typically submitted in blocks as groups of applications are prepared. This protocol allows Department engineering staff to make efficient use of their time by preparing needed maps all at once. This approach also allows the Water Development Commission to better plan and prepare legislatively mandated feasibility studies since these studies are done by consultants who submit bids for groups of stream segments.

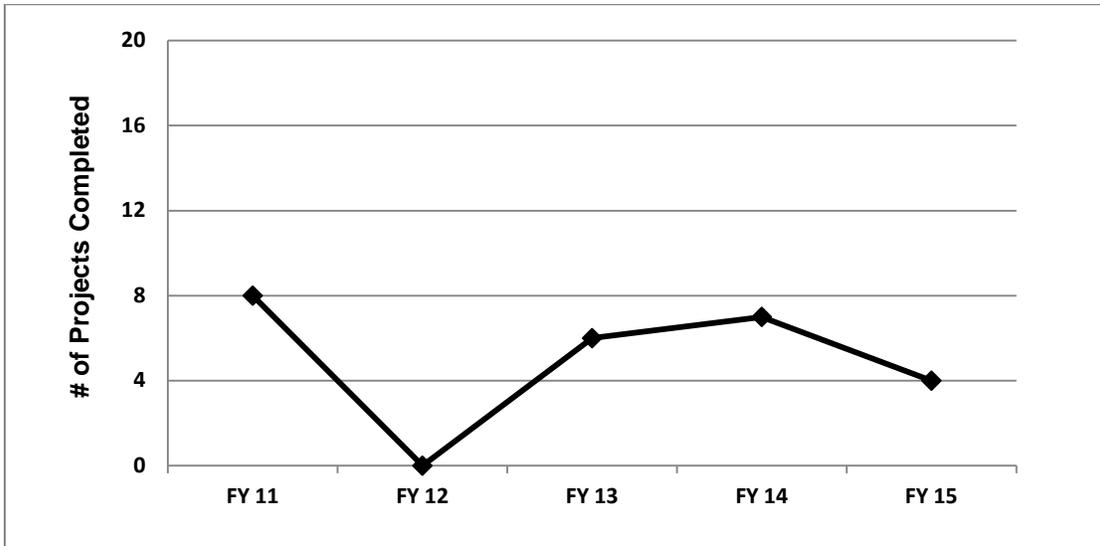
This measure shows the number of instream flow water rights applications filed with the State Engineers Office. The high number of filings submitted to the State Engineer in FY 12 included some studies that were begun in FY 11. However, four of the filings in FY 12 were made in late June 2012 and three more filings were submitted to the State Engineer's Office in late July 2013. This pattern reflects somewhat on the risk of reading too much into the graph provided. Data collection, analysis, and filings are in a more stable pattern now that the backlog of potential filings has been reduced and the number of new studies has been somewhat lower in recent years. The long-term average number of filings over the past five years is on par with the average number of filings over the course of the instream flow program – about five filings per year.

What has been accomplished:

Instream flow filings are the first step in the process of securing permanent minimal flow protection for streams that afford critically important habitat for public trust fisheries. The 134 instream flow filings that have been submitted to date provide a significant measure of protection for all species of trout in 637 miles of streams in the state.

Another function of this section is the X-Stream Angler Program. This program is focused on increasing instream flow awareness and support as well as angler retention and recruitment. Presentations were made at several meetings over the past year to let people know about the program and short promotional articles and news releases have been prepared for release in *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine*. The Casper Star Tribune newspaper published several informative articles about the instream flow program in general and the X-Stream Angler program. Employees of the water management unit contacted fish section managers at several sporting goods stores to encourage participation in the program. Good feedback continues to be received about the program and participation in the program is increasing. As of mid-summer 34 X-Stream Angler hats have been awarded.

Performance Measure #4: Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) - Number of habitat enhancement/restoration projects completed (personnel in this section will work to complete at least eight habitat projects annually).



Story Behind the Performance:

The WLCI, working with partners, funded nine new projects and 10 continuing projects in FY 15. With this said, there are an additional 18 projects that have received funding in previous years. The project proponents stated that they did not need additional funds for FY 15 to complete these 18 projects. Both the new and continuing funded projects include aspen restoration efforts, sagebrush improvements (juniper removal), wildlife friendly fencing, stream restoration, spring improvements, mountain shrub improvements, invasive weed control, and a habitat lease. By comparison, in FY 14, there were seven new projects and 21 continuing projects. The difference between years is a function of the number of projects being proposed by

Local Project Development Teams and the level of federal funding for WLCI. Of the 19 projects funded in FY 15, four of the projects can be considered complete. Many of the projects are continuing projects that will take a number of years to complete (i.e. weed control, habitat improvements, wildlife friendly fencing), while others were held-up due to NEPA requirements, or other unexpected circumstances.

What has been accomplished:

WLCI is a long-term, science-based effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale in southwest Wyoming, while facilitating responsible development through local collaboration and partnerships. In FY 15, the BLM hired a new coordinator to oversee the operations program. With the aid of the BLM leadership, WLCI continued to be successful through the addition of unobligated BLM funds being moved to WLCI. These unobligated funds helped WLCI move down the list of new projects. WLCI, again, held numerous coordination meetings, field trips, and work sessions (over 16 Local Project Development Team and Executive Committee meetings alone) to develop projects and identify priorities. Coordination Team members met with nongovernmental organizations, permittees, and landowners, as well as other agencies and entities to coordinate WLCI activities.

In FY 15, WLCI's partners completed four projects: Platte Valley Mule Deer Habitat Improvement, Circle B Ranch and Cattle Project, Little Mountain Aspen Stand Protection, and the Peoples Canal Fish Barrier. The Platte Valley Mule Deer Habitat Improvement project consisted of aspen treatments, sagebrush understory improvements, riparian habitat improvements, and mountain shrub treatments. The Circle B Ranch and Cattle Project consisted of developing several springs and providing offsite water for both livestock and wildlife, as well as modifying a number of fences to wildlife friendly standards. The Little Mountain Aspen Stand Protection effort involves erecting modified steel jack fences around small aspen pockets to relieve these stands from herbivory by elk. The Peoples Canal Fish Barrier is a twofold project; preventing passage by non- native aquatic species thereby protecting native Colorado River cutthroat trout, bluehead and flannelmouth sucker populations on the Henry's Fork; and consistently providing the Peoples Canal Company with their appropriated water.

In FY 15, there were three new projects that received Ruby Pipeline mitigation dollars: Ruby Cheatgrass, Ruby Conifer, and Circle B Ranch and Cattle Project. Objectives include: treating cheatgrass within the Ruby Pipeline area as established by the WLCI Ruby Sub-focus Group; removing juniper within sagebrush to improve the health of the sagebrush community and remove raptor perches which prey upon sage-grouse; and providing wildlife friendly fencing along private and public lands, controlling invasive weed species, and improving water quality through improved water developments as well as fencing springs and wetlands to manage livestock access. WLCI Ruby funds have previously funded eight other projects that are continuing: Low Stress Livestock Handling in Sage Grouse Core Habitats; Map, Monitor, & Inventory Springs, Seeps, and Reservoirs; Pygmy Rabbit Occupancy Rates; Pygmy Rabbit Use in Oil Fields; Riparian Exclosures in Sage Grouse Core Habitats; Elk Mountain State Water Development and Elk Mountain Private Water Development; and Map and Model Insect Prey by Sage Grouse Broods.

Program: Habitat and Access

Division: Services

Mission Statement: Conserve and Enhance Wildlife Habitat, Serve the Public

Program Facts: The Habitat and Access Program manages and administers Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and Public Access Areas for the Department. In addition, the program will complete project requests for other divisions within any single fiscal year. Listed below is the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat and Access	25.6	\$ 4,053,901

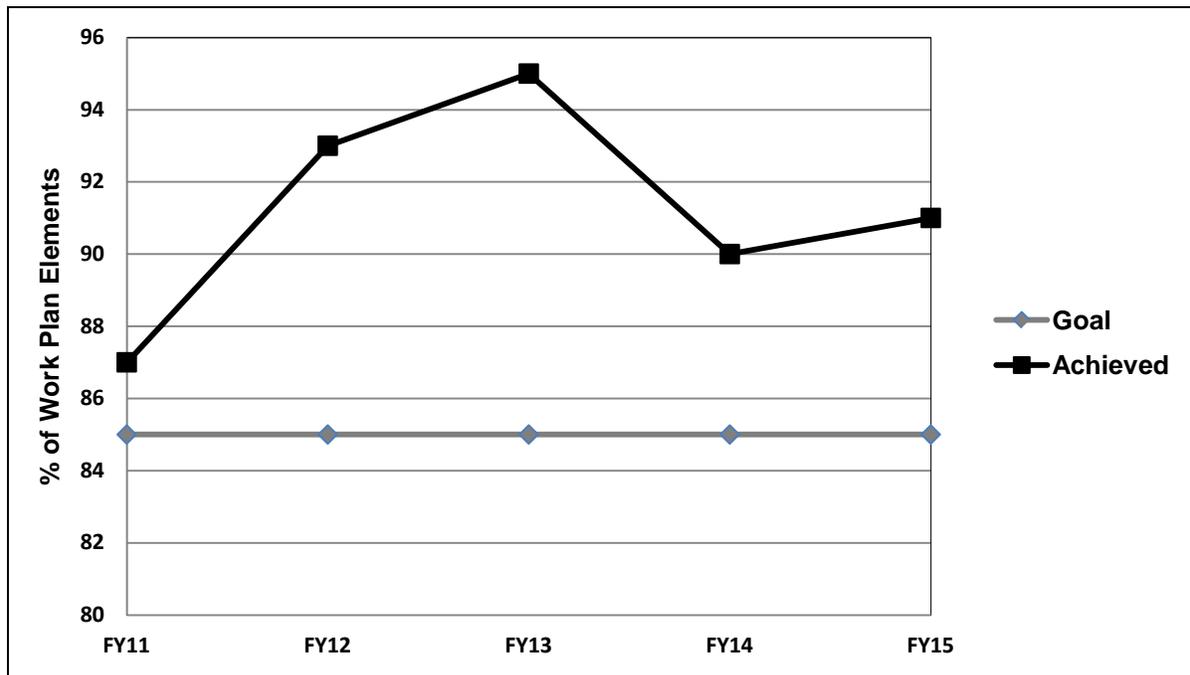
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

The program is located statewide with personnel in Jackson, Pinedale, Cody, Lovell, Sheridan, Laramie, Saratoga, Yoder, Lander, Dubois, Cheyenne, and Casper.

Primary Functions of the Habitat and Access Program:

- **On behalf of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, manage and protect Commission property rights for the benefit of the Commission, the Department, and the people of Wyoming** by facilitating wildlife conservation through conserving and improving wildlife habitat on Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA). We serve the public by providing for safe and reasonable public recreation of the wildlife resource on WHMAs while maintaining a balance between habitat conservation and public recreation on those lands.
- **On behalf of the Commission, manage and protect Commission property rights for the benefit of the Commission, the Department, and the people of Wyoming** through providing for safe and reasonable public access and recreation of the wildlife resource on Public Access Areas.
- **Provide technical knowledge and development services to the Department** by working on project requests, which conserve wildlife habitat through the Department's Strategic Habitat Plan and increase public recreational opportunities within the state.
- **Operate in a cost-effective and efficient manner** through the balance of private sector contracts and trained Department crews.

Performance Measure #1: Percent of work plan elements achieved (Personnel in this program will work to achieve at least 85 percent of their work plan elements).



Story behind the performance:

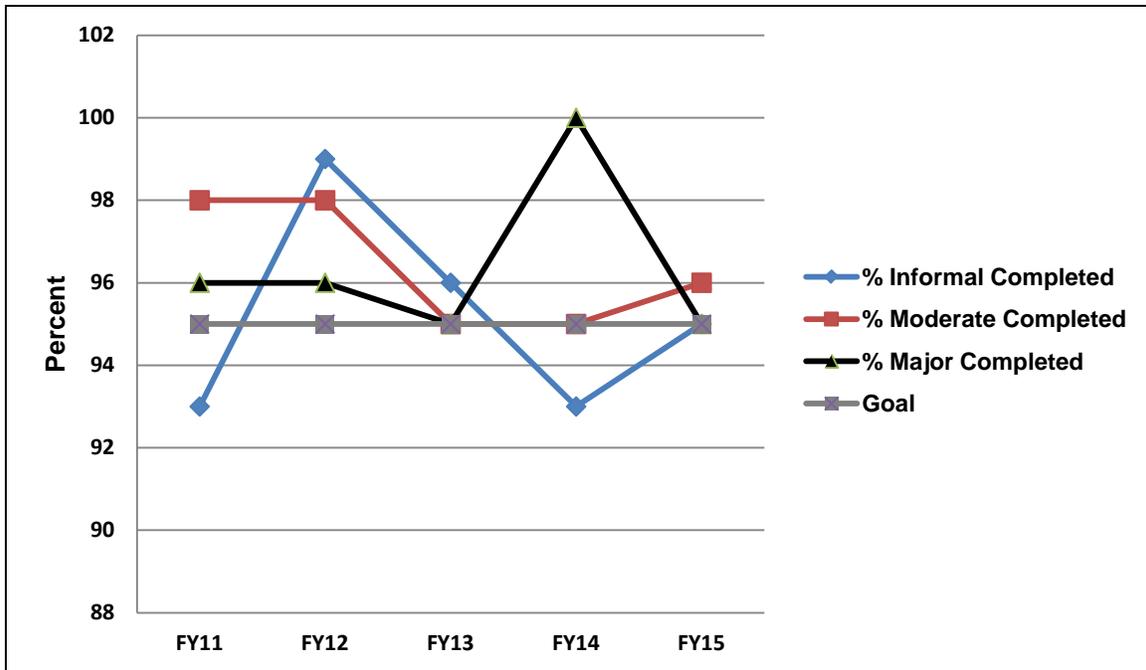
The program is responsible for administering and managing 37 unique WHMAs and 198 Public Access Areas (PAAs). The WHMAs and PAAs are managed according to the Managed Land and Access Summary (MLAS) developed for each individual area. The work plans are developed prior to each fiscal year in an attempt to address major anticipated needs and requirements of the MLAS for administering and managing the WHMAs and PAAs. The percent of work plan elements achieved is considered to be excellent because the majority of priorities and necessary services (90 percent average) are being provided. As illustrated above, this has been fairly consistent for the last five years. There was a decrease in FY 14, caused by a reduction in employees. We still achieved 90 percent of the work plan because the program addressed Department priorities foremost and not necessarily program priorities. This keeps the work unit on task and always accomplishing the highest priority work plan elements. Second, is that after many years of high turnover in personnel, the work unit has stabilized, allowing more work to be accomplished.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 15, work units were able to focus on high priorities. Habitat and Access crews spent more time working on fences, hay meadows, irrigation and general maintenance of WHMAs and PAAs. The program has fewer personnel, but an increasing workload so only high priorities have been accomplished. Here are just a few of the things the program accomplished in 15: farming on Yellowtail, Ocean Lake, Springer, and South Park WHMAs and Spence and Moriarity Wildlife Management Area; converting open ditches to gated pipe; building of American with Disabilities Act pads for outhouses; building of a new shop in Saratoga;

maintaining over 600 miles of fence; irrigating 4,700 acres; monitoring grazing on 44,000 acres, developing nine new PAAs; developing springs and wells; rebuilding fences; haying 300 acres to provide hay to feedgrounds; maintaining feedground facilities; working on wetland plans across the state; spraying approximately 1,500 acres of noxious weeds; and maintaining 198 PAAs and 37 WHMAs totaling over 410,000 acres.

Performance Measure #2: Percent of project requests completed (Personnel in this program will work to complete at least 95 percent of requested projects).



Story behind the performance:

The Habitat and Access Program is requested to assist or provide services for other programs within the Department. On average, 125 (95 percent) of these requests will be completed yearly. In order to track, schedule, and complete these requests, they are separated into three categories: informal, moderate, and major project requests. Informal requests take less than two employee days to complete, moderate project requests will take up to ten employee days to complete, and major projects are projects that require more than ten employee days. The vast majority of requests are major and address the Department’s Strategic Habitat Plan. The project requests are for assistance or services that only this program can provide within the Department. Project requests vary from large-scale habitat projects, such as aspen and sagebrush treatments, to heavy equipment work on a hatchery.

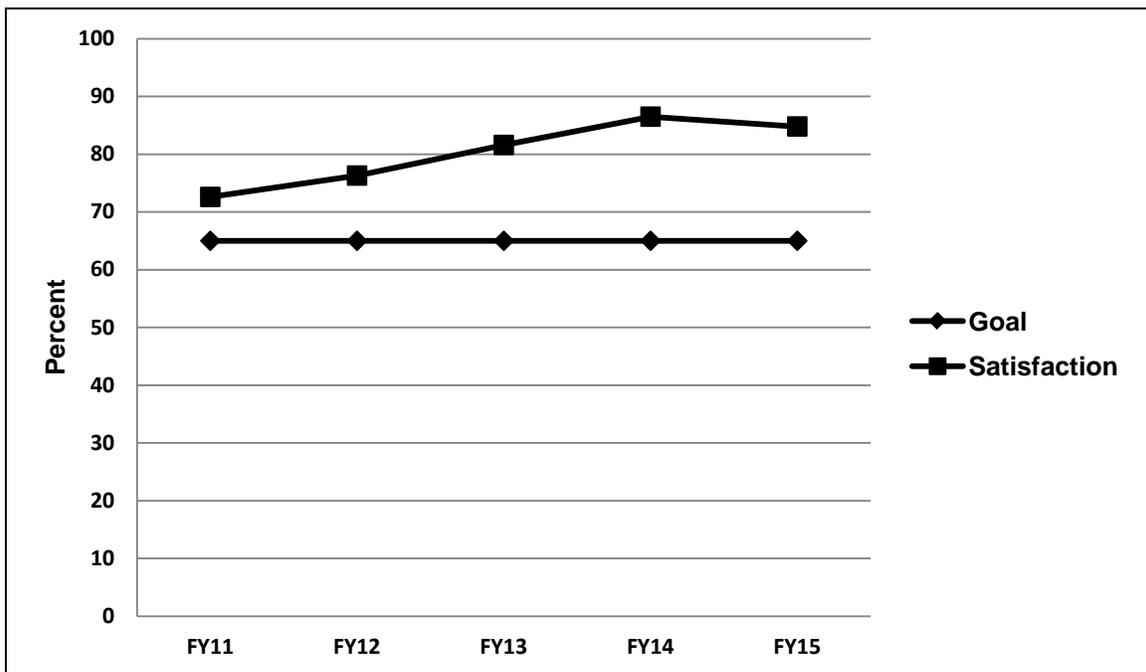
The percent of project requests completed has been excellent within the constraints of employee availability and budget capacity. The percent of project requests completed has been consistent between 2010 and 2014 with an average of 95 percent of informal, 97 percent of moderate, and 97 percent of major project requests being completed. Results for 2015 varied minimally from

this average with 95 percent of informal, 96 percent of moderate, and 95 percent of major project requests being completed within the year. However, there are three reasons that a higher percentage of project requests are not completed. The first is that the program addresses Department priorities foremost and not individual program priorities. It is extremely important for the program to stay flexible in order to accommodate Department priority projects that may develop after the initial project requests are scheduled. Second, in order to accommodate as many project requests as possible, schedules are developed utilizing 100 percent of all possible personnel time. If a project request is delayed, canceled, or changed by the requestor, it affects the percent of project requests completed.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 15, the Habitat and Access Program completed 95percent of project requests. One of the major projects was habitat treatments for the Sublette Mule Deer herd. Over 800 acres were treated with mowing, seeding and dixie harrowing. The Platte Valley Habitat Mule Deer Initiative was also supported by aerating 200 acres, mowing 25 acres, and seeding another 50 acres. Other projects included installing pipelines, cleaning major irrigation canals, repairing dams and dikes, performing river bank stabilization, creating fish barriers, installing sheet pilings, building new PAAs, working on feedground facilities, and rebuilding PAA roads. Work was started on a 10,000 foot irrigation canal to pipeline conversion on the Wick WHMA which will be completed in fall 2016.

Performance Measure #3: Percent of public satisfied with the management and maintenance of Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and Public Access Areas (Personnel in this program will work to achieve an external satisfaction rate of at least 65 percent).



Story behind the performance:

The majority of Wyoming residents and nonresidents appreciate the efforts of the Department in providing opportunities to access hunting and fishing within the state. The average percent of public satisfied with management and maintenance of PAAs and WHMAs is 86.5 percent. The program has received slowly increasing marks among the public for its efforts in managing and maintaining facilities such as roads, restrooms, parking areas, signs, habitat, and fences on WHMAs and PAAs – from a starting point of 65.5 percent in FY 05 to 84.8 percent in FY 15. However, neither the general public nor Department employees always understand management objectives on WHMAs or PAAs. Those objectives should be better communicated to the public. In addition, with numerous state and federal agencies providing recreational opportunities across the state, the majority of the public is confused as to whether an area is managed by the Department or by another agency.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 15, work units spent considerable time maintaining and repairing existing facilities, improving habitat, working on roads, irrigating, and controlling weeds. The habitat and access crews have spent time educating the public about their responsibilities and the areas that the Department manages. Effort has been placed into educating the public that Commission property rights and lands managed by the Habitat and Access Program are different from Office of State Lands and Investments, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program. This goals will continue to be pursued.

Program: Habitat Protection

Division: Office of the Director

Mission: The Habitat Protection Program coordinates project proposal and land management plan reviews and recommends appropriate wildlife stipulations and mitigation strategies to protect important game and non-game habitats and to facilitate the implementation of the Governor's Sage-grouse Executive Order.

Program Facts: The Habitat Protection Program is located in Cheyenne and Casper, and consists of the following:

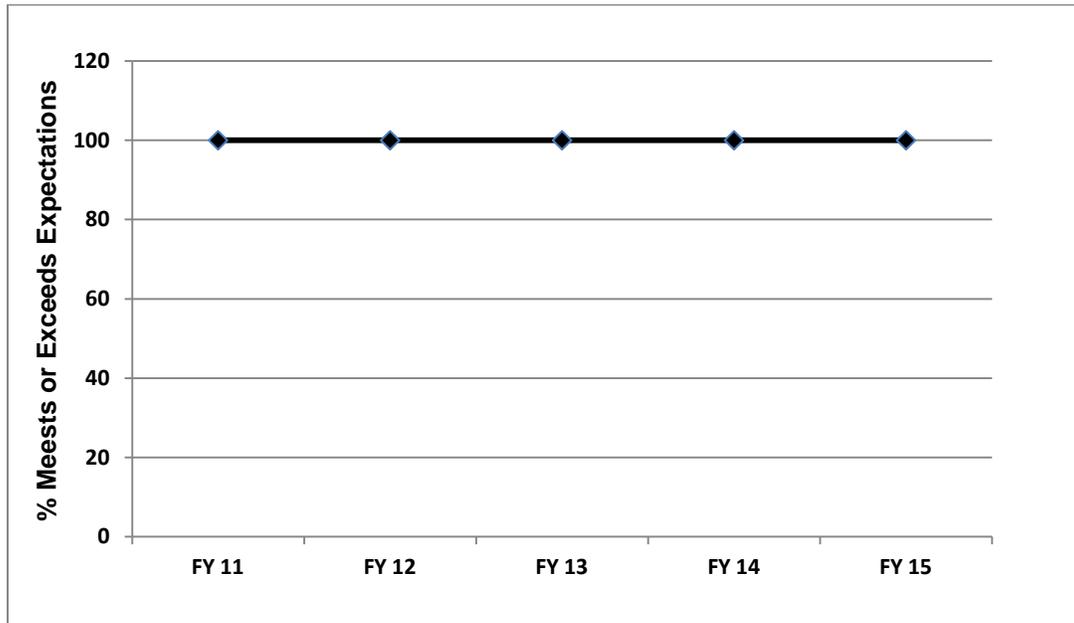
	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>FY 15 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat Protection Program	7.0	\$ 708,540

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

Primary Functions of the Habitat Protection Program:

- **Coordinate Department review and evaluation** of land use plans, projects, policies, and activities that affect fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and make recommendations consistent with Department and Commission policies, position statements, and habitat protection strategies.
- **Develop and negotiate planning and mitigation strategies** regarding energy development.
- **Participate and monitor** federal and state agency land management plans.
- **Provide updated recommendations** for project proponents and the Department.
- **Review federal and state agency** development applications that are proposed within the Wyoming Sage-grouse Core Population Areas.

Performance Measure #1: Performance appraisals (Personnel in this program will work to ensure 100 percent of performance appraisals are rated as meets or exceeds expectations).



Story behind the performance:

The Department is responsible for conserving over 800 species of fish and wildlife for the benefit of the citizens of Wyoming and visitors. Most of the management focus for maintaining viable populations of these species depends upon availability of suitable habitat. The Department actively manages only a very small percentage of that habitat. Thus, a large part of the Department’s responsibility toward maintaining and supporting Wyoming citizens’ fish and wildlife resource entails advising the land use actions of other parties so that negative impacts on species and habitats can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated, and positive effects are supported and enhanced.

Key action items of the Department are: reviewing and evaluating land use actions, acting as liaisons with other parties that have authorities and roles in those actions, formulating strategies to minimize negative impacts, and participating in negotiations to assure implementation of those strategies. Support of these functions by the Office of the Director is necessary for their successful implementation, and performance appraisals of program personnel are the key Department measure of the success of this program. The performance appraisals include items that the Office of the Director uses to describe and reflect program effectiveness with other agencies, based on their awareness of the Department’s relationship and positive communication with those agencies. An average rating of “meets expectations” or “exceeds expectations” for the three professional positions within the Habitat Protection Program will indicate satisfactory performance in addressing the primary functions of the program.

Program: Information

Division: Office of the Director

Mission: Disseminate information to promote public understanding and support for wildlife, wildlife habitat, wildlife conservation, and the Department's management programs.

Program Facts: The Information Program is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and the FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Information	6.0	\$ 545,248
Publications	1.0	391,395
TOTAL	7.0	\$ 936,643

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

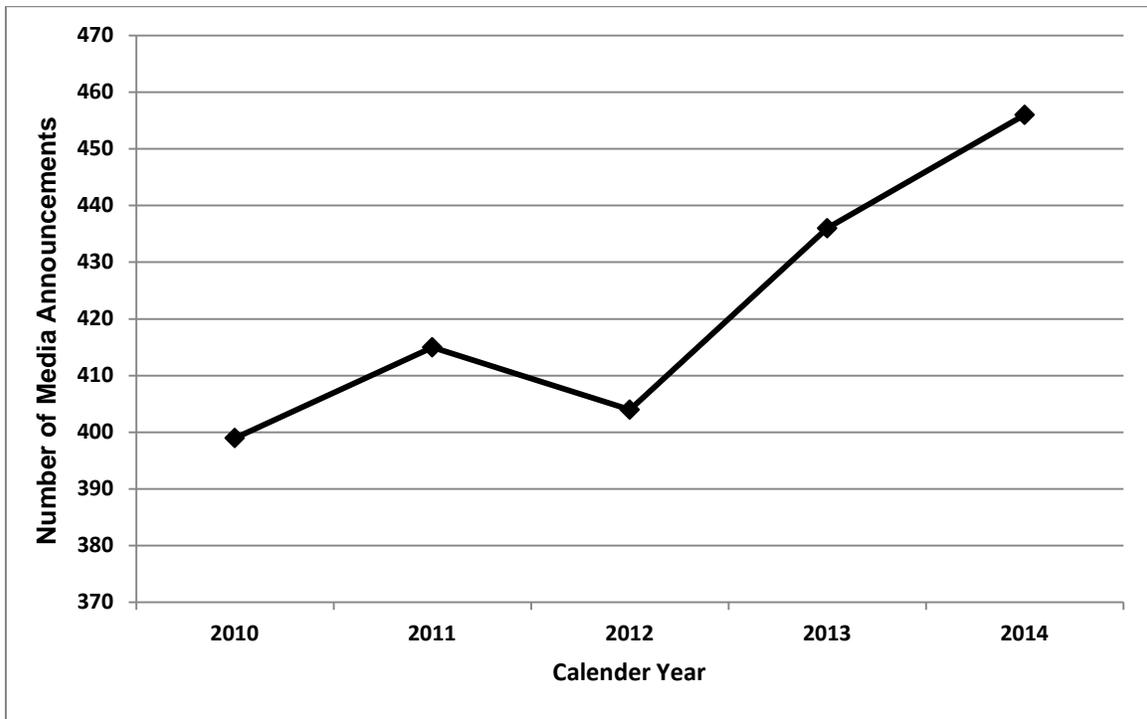
The Information Program includes the information and publications sub-programs. This program was moved from the Services Division to the Office of the Director in July 2013.

This program is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Information Program:

- **Disseminate information to promote public understanding and support for wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wildlife conservation** through audio, video, print, and other media, as well as personal contact with constituents. These efforts provide wildlife-related information to facilitate the development of informed support for Department programs.
- **Encourage involvement and cooperation of the Department's management programs** through proactive outreach strategies, including three external publications that encourage interest in wildlife and wildlife habitat, and provide information on current Department management practices. These publications, provided consistently throughout the fiscal year, facilitate the development of informed support for Department programs.
- **Serve people** by providing wildlife, hunting, and fishing related information through the news media.

Performance Measure #1: Number of radio news, television news, public service announcements, and print news releases produced (Personnel in this program will work to produce at least 300 news releases and public service announcements per year).



Story behind the performance:

The information sub-program produces and distributes weekly print, radio, and television news. The weekly radio program includes a 10-minute, 3-minute, and 30-second program. Radio stories are produced in digital format and are available for download via the Department’s website. Currently, approximately 17 radio stations around the state use the program, reaching an audience of more than 75,000 each week.

Weekly television news programs are posted on YouTube and the Department’s website. Where appropriate, the video news stories are cross-referenced with print news stories, providing exposure in this expanding area.

Print news release packets are prepared and distributed weekly via an e-mail distribution list to each of Wyoming’s 43 local newspapers, representing 175,000 Wyoming households. The packet is also distributed to the Associated Press, radio stations, and participating license vendors. In addition, many out-of-state media sources, outdoor writers, federal and state government, and non-government agency personnel receive the press releases. The packet can be viewed on the Department’s website.

The average information dissemination for the last five years is 415 individual print, radio, or television news releases, or public service announcements. In 2014, the number of news, radio

interviews, and public service announcements distributed was 456. The number of news releases distributed fluctuates depending upon the issues and challenges the Department faces each year. The use of web-based tools, including social media (Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter) and GovDelivery, is maximizing efficient delivery and distribution of information whether in print or video form. As of September 2015, approximately 12,500 people “Like” and follow the Department’s Facebook page. In FY 14, the Department’s YouTube channel had 148,843 individual video views and gained 439 dedicated followers. As of September 2015, approximately 2,000 people “Follow” the Department’s Twitter page. GovDelivery has 85,564 subscribers and 221,192 subscriptions. Social media impact and following expands on a daily basis and is expected to continue to grow exponentially.

While the information sub-program distributes a great deal of the Department’s news and information, it is not the only work unit or division developing news. One challenge is to coordinate the Department’s public outreach efforts with other work units within the Department to ensure the Department maintains a consistent position on issues and covers all issues efficiently.

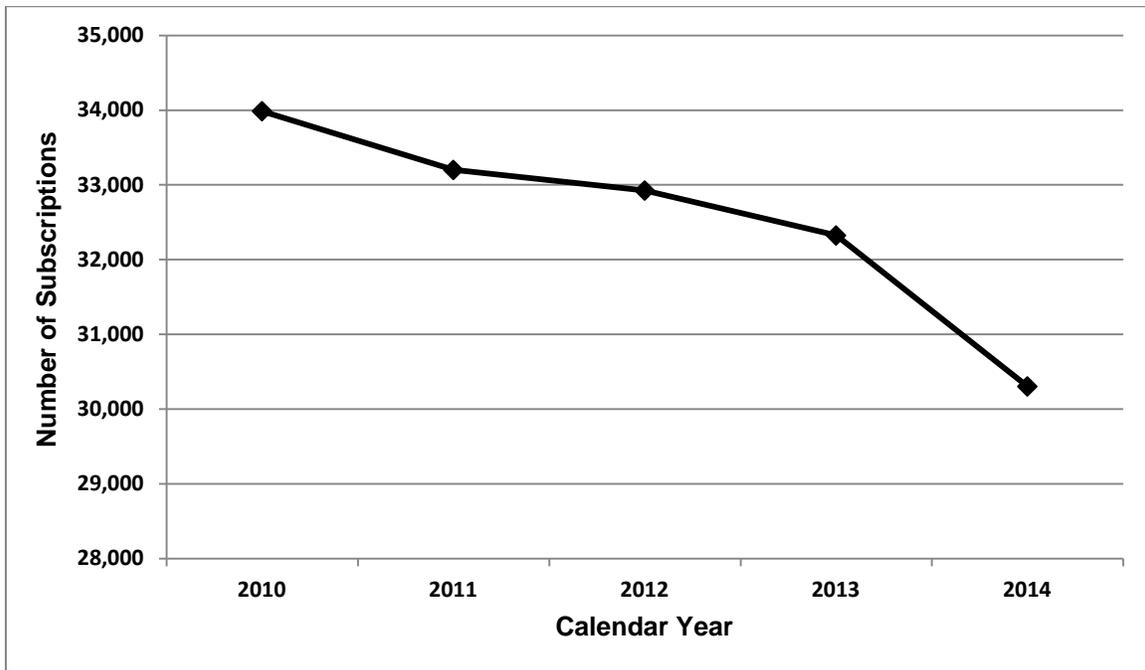
What has been accomplished:

The Department has weekly meetings with regional staff to ensure news releases from the Department are strategically disseminated and make sense for regional audiences.

Social media reach continues to grow providing a valuable tool for individual communication and listening for the public.

GovDelivery email subscribers increased by over 200 percent due largely to license buyers providing the Department with email addresses for communication.

Performance Measure #2: Paid subscriptions of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and *Wyoming Wildlife News* (personnel in this program will work to maintain at least 35,000 active subscriptions to these two publications).



Story behind the performance:

The publications sub-program produced two regular publications: *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine (a monthly, 4-color publication) and *Wyoming Wildlife News* (a semi-monthly tabloid newspaper) which was discontinued in FY 14 in an effort to recognize budget efficiencies. Average monthly readership for the magazine was 30,303. The publication is used by the Department to generate appreciation and support for wildlife and wild places in the state as well as to raise awareness of issues that affect wildlife and outdoor recreation.

Wyoming Wildlife News targeted anglers, hunters, and trappers inside the state. The focus of the *News* was outdoor recreation along with the management of fish and terrestrial game. The *News* was distributed free of charge at Department offices, license-selling agents, and other distributors across Wyoming and into western Nebraska.

During FY 14, in an effort to recognize budget efficiencies within the publications section of the Information Program *Wyoming Wildlife News* was discontinued and much of its content (column by the Department’s director, column by sportsman Tom Reed, news about application deadlines, news about Department policy and its field personnel) was integrated into *Wyoming Wildlife*. The final issue of *Wyoming Wildlife News* was distributed to subscribers and distribution points in January 2013. Subscribers who had paid for a subscription to *Wyoming Wildlife News* as part of a combination subscription with *Wyoming Wildlife* received a subscription extension for the magazine.

Wyoming Wildlife magazine targets a broad, more general audience. Many of the magazine's subscribers are hunters and anglers, but a large proportion of its readers have a broader interest in the state's wildlife and open spaces. The magazine attempts to deepen their interest in (and support for) wildlife and wildlife conservation in Wyoming. Two-thirds of the magazine's subscribers mailing addresses are in states other than Wyoming.

The average for annual paid subscriptions to *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine over the last five years is 32,547, a number that has remained fairly constant over the years. The decrease in the graphs is attributed to the loss of subscribers to *Wyoming Wildlife News*. Assuming an average household size of 2.59 people, it is estimated that the magazine reaches about 84,296 people per issue. Adequate funding of promotional efforts for magazine subscriptions would allow the staff to increase circulation, income, and readership.

The publications sub-program uses some freelance articles and photographs, resulting in increased costs related to purchasing articles and photos. Moreover, there is a need for additional funds for a survey tool to better illuminate readers' reactions to the magazine.

What has been accomplished:

With the recognition of budget efficiencies, the publications section realized a cost savings of approximately \$200,000 in the areas of production, products, and personnel for FY 15.

The yearly Wyoming Wildlife calendar was incorporated into the issue cycle of the magazine, and is currently being distributed with the November issue.

Program: Information Technology

Division: Services

Mission: Provide high quality, secure technology solutions, services, and support to the Department and external constituents to allow for sound fiscal and management decisions.

Program Facts: The Information Technology (IT/GIS) Program is made up of one major sub-program, listed below with number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Information Technology	20.8	\$ 2,941,791

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget as well as eight positions that were transferred to the State Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) as a part of the statewide IT Consolidation Project. These positions are included in this report as they continue to be funded through the Department's Information Technology Budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

One At-Will-Employee-Contract position created to help provide extended-hours technical support for the Department's Electronic License Point-of-Sale (IPOS) Service was eliminated. Payroll for one Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst position was funded in the 601A CWCS 14-15 General Fund budget. One additional contract position was continued with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Both positions remain as GIS support positions within the GIS section of the IT/GIS Program.

The current program is made up of administration and three sections: application development, operations and support, and GIS.

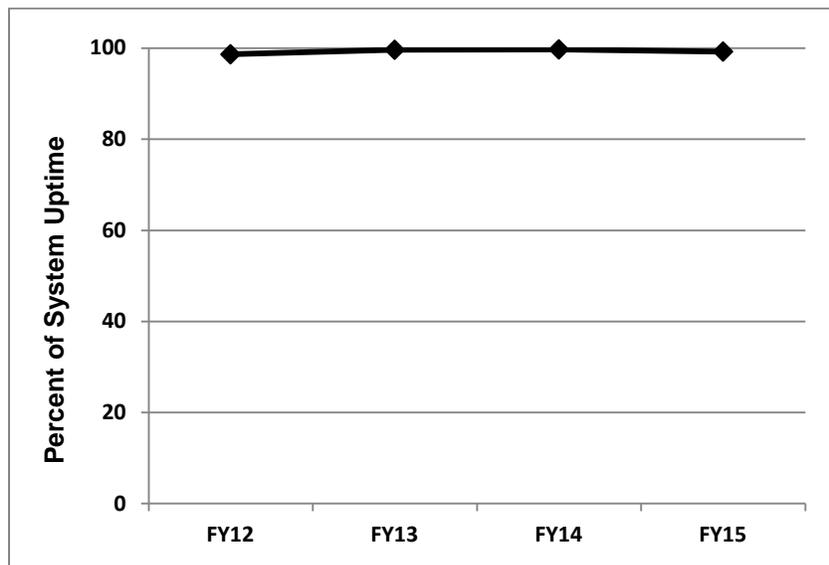
This program is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Information Technology Program:

- **Provide high quality, secure technology solutions for the Department** to support its overall mission and to empower personnel to achieve completion of their workload through the use of technology in a successful, efficient, timely, and cost-effective manner.
- **Provide services and support to ensure data integrity and security.**
- **Provide support to external constituents** by providing and supporting an internet hardware and software framework to facilitate better Department communication with its constituents and to provide a means for dynamic interaction between the Department and the general public.
- **Facilitate sound fiscal decisions** by evaluating technology to identify the best solution to a given problem, challenge, or situation and leverage information technology network architecture, hardware, and software to identify opportunities for cost savings.
- **Facilitate sound management decisions** by developing and maintaining Department data standards and applications to support department-wide centralization of data; identifying and

developing technical options for resolving application or system problems; researching new technology and making recommendations on the adoption of new methods or the acquisition of new technical hardware and software tools to improve agency operations; and monitoring emerging technologies to effectively evaluate opportunities to improve current agency operations by incorporating or migrating to viable new hardware, software, and technology implementations.

Performance Measure #1: Percent system uptime (Personnel in this section will work to ensure the system is up at least 95 percent of the time).



** Prior to FY 12, the performance measure for the IT/GIS Program was “Percent of employees satisfied with the IT/GIS Program”. This performance measure was replaced by “Percent system uptime” in the Department’s FY 12- FY 16 Strategic Plan. While employee satisfaction is important to evaluating the IT/GIS Program’s performance, it fails to describe how well the IT/GIS Program is satisfying the overall technology needs of the Department. Percentage of system uptime is believed to more accurately track this measure. Although there is no data on percentage of system uptime from years prior to FY 12, the performance of the primary functions of the IT/GIS Program, in comparison to previous years, is being tracked in the “Story behind the performance” section while multiple year data for system uptime is being compiled.*

Story behind the performance:

Since the mid-1970s, the Department has utilized both computers and associated electronic information systems and networks to facilitate the efficient exchange of information both among employees and between employees and outside entities. Originally, specific computer expertise was not necessary and many technically savvy Department personnel wrote their own computer applications. Since that time, computers and computerized equipment have been used to expand and enhance the volume and variety of tasks that can be performed by individual employees and/or groups of employees. As this capacity has grown and permeated every facet of the Department's operations, a broad array of responsibilities have developed that must be addressed at every level of the Department's hierarchy.

In 1996, the GIS section was organizationally combined with IT to form what is now called the IT/GIS Program. Then in early 2004, due to the increased workload, an increasingly clear division of labor along with statewide IT governance initiatives, the IT portion of this program was split into two distinct sub-sections with a separate supervisor over each. With this change, the IT/GIS Program is now made up of three separate sub-sections (operations and support, application development, and GIS, in addition to program administration). These sub-sections are responsible for managing 22 physical servers; 78 virtual servers; 504 personal computers located in the headquarters office, eight regional offices, and remote locations throughout Wyoming, as well as 296 IPOS system touch screen devices located at Department offices and license selling agent locations throughout Wyoming; developing and supporting over 75 mission critical applications; and maintaining approximately 70 layers of statewide GIS data, additional derived data layers, and associated GIS applications such as a black bear bait location reservation application. The program is also responsible for procurement and support of a wide range of peripheral devices ranging from printers to digital cameras, GPS units, and all related software.

To make effective technology strategy recommendations, IT/GIS personnel must maintain a thorough understanding of the goals, objectives, and methods through which the Department's various programs can connect. Continual changes to the environment in which the applications operate (interfaces to other applications; changes to hardware, software, and operating systems; new data from users; evolving technologies) requires a dedicated team of informed operations specialists, application developers, and GIS analysts working cooperatively to maintain and improve these systems.

System and service failures can rapidly impact large numbers of customers, suppliers, and internal staff. Network outages, server failures, e-mail downtime, and broken desktop computers can significantly reduce the productivity of the entire Department and impact its customer service. Thus system uptime is critical to providing a level of service not only necessary for Department personnel to conduct their work, but also essential to maintaining consistent license sales. Average uptime for Department systems for FY 15 was 99.254 percent, down from 99.725 percent in FY 14, however still well above the 95 percent goal.

Since implementing the Department's e-commerce systems in 2007, the Department has become increasingly dependent upon technologies to process license sales (1,177,847 items totaling \$73,132,586 were processed through these systems in calendar year 2014). It is essential that data integrity is maintained and that this system has the capacity to handle over 230 concurrent

License Selling Agents, plus Internet users. At peak times, it is not improbable that there could be 6,000 to 8,000 Internet users submitting online applications per day. For just the first hour of reduced price leftover sales, there were 3,857 unique shopping carts in 2012, 3,647 in 2013, 3,334 in 2014, and 3,354 in 2015.

Thus, reduced or failed service during even part of a day can seriously impact business and certainly influence both internal and external customer perception of the Department. Conversely, when the IT operations team is executing effectively in building and maintaining a robust infrastructure, and the IT application development team has programmed streamlined and well performing applications, their work is invisible since the technology is performing as employees and customers expect.

One example of a negative affect stemming from a system malfunction happened at 11:36 PM on June 1, the day when the resident big game application draw deadline was at midnight. Network hardware maintained by the state's Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) went down, resulting in several resident hunters not being able to access the license draw system to submit their applications before the deadline. While this was not something for which Department IT branch employees had control, it certainly was a reflection on them from a constituent perspective and Department administration definitely received negative feedback for this occurrence. This instance led to extensive communications with ETS at all levels and several measures were put in place to avoid this type of situation in the future.

Another example of this was seen in July 2014, in regards to selling leftover big game licenses through the Department's website. Typically, the number of licenses sold during the first fifteen minutes of each leftover day exceeds the total license sales on a normal sales day. The full-price leftover sales day was impacted by a coding problem with sales of licenses to groups (parties) during the payment process. This issue stemmed from earlier attempts to get the credit card processor to handle the majority of the transactions to be completed on the vendor's side. Because of issues with vendors, the alternate processing had to be reversed. The party side of this reversal was incomplete and caused issues for hunters trying to complete transactions. The problem was quickly identified and corrected, but since such a large amount of transactions occurred in the first hour, it had an impact. The issue did not affect IPOS sales or individual purchases; however, as many online retailers have experienced during similar high demand situations, this resulted in a number of unsatisfied internal and external customers. As a result, additional testing controls were put in place to alleviate any future occurrences. This was in addition to IT branch personnel participating in quality improvement and quality assurance teams who have developed a wide variety of improvements in the process, which resulted in a resounding success in leftover license sales in July of 2015.

The sales volume for 2015 was relatively flat from previous years for both the full-price leftover day (July 8, 2015) and reduced-price leftover day (July 15, 2015). The number of leftover licenses available for sale continued to be lower than in previous years. Total licenses available have decreased 48 percent from 2013 levels (73,080 to 37,939). Even with a 28 percent drop in full-price licenses available from 2014 (10,364 to 7,448), the sales for the first day (through 4 PM) increased from 2,988 licenses (\$587,920) to 3,101 licenses (\$667,122). The significant dollar increase was due to a shift of more non-resident purchases. Reduced price licenses had a

similar 27 percent decrease in availability (41,865 to 30,491) and experienced a slight decrease (approximately 6 percent) in the number of licenses issued from 8,177 (\$716,100) to 7,658 (\$777,918). The increase in total dollars was due to an increase in the number of cow/calf licenses issued to both residents and non-residents.

With advances in worldwide e-commerce and growing threats to the security of e-commerce systems, securing credit card transactions and further hardening systems to help guard against identity theft have taken center stage. As of July 2010, the IT/GIS Program has been required to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS). This brings with it a significant set of requirements and ways of managing Department technologies in order to meet and maintain compliance. These requirements affect everything from network infrastructure down to the individual desktop. With the advent of entirely new PCI-DSS requirements and an increasing need to secure transactions, work in this area continues, including the contracting of a new credit card vendor.

In light of work done on the Department's e-commerce systems, IT/GIS Program personnel continue to face challenges with integrating and centralizing many Department computer applications, specifically in relation to allocating adequate programming time. This involves a large number of applications originally developed by Department employees and ultimately integrated into a centralized system. As a result of increased technology and programming demands, some application development resources have been shifted to other agency requests; however, statutory and regulatory changes continue to require ongoing electronic license system enhancements.

The IT Help Desk and IT Governance are in place to assist Department employees and external customers in achieving their individual goals. In particular, IT Governance functions by setting rules and regulations under which the IT/GIS Program functions and establishes mechanisms to ensure compliance with those rules and regulations. A critical role of both entities is also to help protect against system failures which have a great influence on customer satisfaction, which in turn supports the need for system uptime.

The IT Help Desk interacts with Department personnel on a constant basis. There are few, if any, other entities within the Department that daily interact and impact virtually every employee. Response time, courtesy of representatives, level of follow-up/follow-through, and resolution speed are all factors that drive customer satisfaction. With the exponential rate that technologies are evolving, it can be a daunting challenge to provide the desired technologies, in a timely manner, and at a reasonable cost. In addition, employees typically need follow-up support. These challenges are especially true when considering that this must be done in compliance with the security standards noted above. Similar to service failure, a single mistake by IT/GIS personnel can impact the reputation of the entire Department because of actual and perceived ramifications of the error. Several other areas that affect the user base include user administration, capacity planning, disaster recovery, and security as noted above.

When looking at the IT operations, the section continued to provide extended-hours technical support for the Internet Point-of-Sale System, which includes 296 touch screen devices located at Department offices and license selling agent locations throughout Wyoming. This has impacted

the section's ability to respond as quickly to agency requests for technical services when compared to previous years; however, at present, the IT/GIS Program is able to keep up with demand.

Regarding the IT governance aspect, the Wyoming Legislature created a state Chief Information Officer position during the 2002 budget session. Significant implications for the Department started in 2003. With this position came a statewide IT governance structure, which began implementation of centralized common IT services throughout state government including technology procurement.

During the 2012 budget session, the Wyoming Legislature consolidated the majority of technology statutes and created a new agency named the Department of Enterprise Technology Services to house certain state government IT personnel. All positions in the Department's IT operations section were identified to be transferred to this agency; however, they have been reassigned directly back to the Department to perform the same work previously done as Department employees. Formal transfer of these positions from the Department to Enterprise Technology Services took place on July 1, 2013.

W.S. 9-2-2019 and 9-2-2901 through 9-2-2907 also removed Department information technology procurement exemptions from statute and now requires the Department to seek approval from the State Chief Information Officer prior to purchasing technologies over a specified dollar threshold. As the IT/GIS Program continues to work through the transition and budgeting processes, the impacts to the Department's business processes and customer service continue to evolve.

This process has required a significant amount of effort and time commitment, especially for the Department's IT Manager and IT Operations Supervisor. This in turn has placed more workload on the Application Development, Operations, and GIS Supervisors in order to address daily Department specific IT issues. This, along with agency conformance to the statewide governance structure and accompanying changes in IT policy and technology procurement methods, has undoubtedly impacted satisfaction with the program's quality of services from previous years. This demand continues to require a large amount of time in order to ensure that Department interests are considered throughout the IT governance process.

Another factor that has affected customer satisfaction since early 2003 is an Electronic Licensing Service that was implemented in conjunction with Fiscal Division as noted above. Aside from mission critical applications, this project continued to be an extremely high priority for IT administration and the development and operations sub-sections during FY 15.

The time and effort dedicated to this project has resulted in many other Department projects being placed on hold. As statutes and Commission regulations evolve, the need to dedicate programming to this system will likely remain, to some degree, into perpetuity and internal customer satisfaction is likely to be affected. While the application development section has been working on various smaller projects as they are able, it is known from personal interactions that Department personnel desire more of their applications completed. In an effort to address some of this workload, a position was added to this section and classified at the senior

programmer level. The application development section also experienced turnover in three of their eight positions and continues training to get the new personnel up to speed on existing systems. With this and the addition of the new position, they are beginning to be able to accomplish more work in this area.

A similar influence on customer satisfaction has been an effort to centralize and reduce fragmentation of GIS work throughout the Department. The program is continuing to see large support for this initiative. It is speculated this support is in part due to individuals beginning to see value in collaboration and benefits of centralized data as well as providing the ability to serve GIS data through the Department's Internet site.

At the same time, department-wide demand for GIS work has continued to rise. Examples of these demands include ongoing assignments to the Western Governors Association's Wildlife Council Crucial Habitat Assessment Tools (CHAT) technical leads sub-group, the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and work with the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center to re-develop the Department's GIS-based decision support system. As more efforts have been initiated to address concerns associated with species and their habitats (sage-grouse implementation recommendations, State Wildlife Action Plan revision and implementation, Strategic Habitat Plan revision, etc.), impacts on data needs, analyses, and GIS technology products have increased. Enterprise-level geospatial application development is also demanding more resources, including a black bear bait location reservation web application, developed in FY 14. Various attempts to address the growing demand for GIS have been made over the years, but more recent implementation of the Esri ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS Online environments are beginning to address these needs. In addition, the structure for a centralized geospatial data repository, or enterprise geodatabase, is being designed. In addition, a position was transferred from the Engineering Branch of Services Division and reclassified as a GIS Support Specialist level in an effort to further develop and implement our Esri ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS Online environments.

The GIS necessary to support this work are an integrated part of the Department's larger technology infrastructure. As such, the program's ability to maintain uptime of these systems is essential to supporting these projects. With the additional Department priorities noted above, the program's ability to address projects and activities planned earlier has been delayed, thus customer perceptions of the program's service in these areas continues to decline.

Program: Legislatively Mandated Expenses

Division: Fiscal

Mission: Ensure funding availability and statutory compliance for those programs for which the Department is required to earmark funds to meet Wyoming statutory provisions.

Program Facts: The Legislatively Mandated Expenses Program is listed below with the fiscal year 2015 (FY 15) budget:

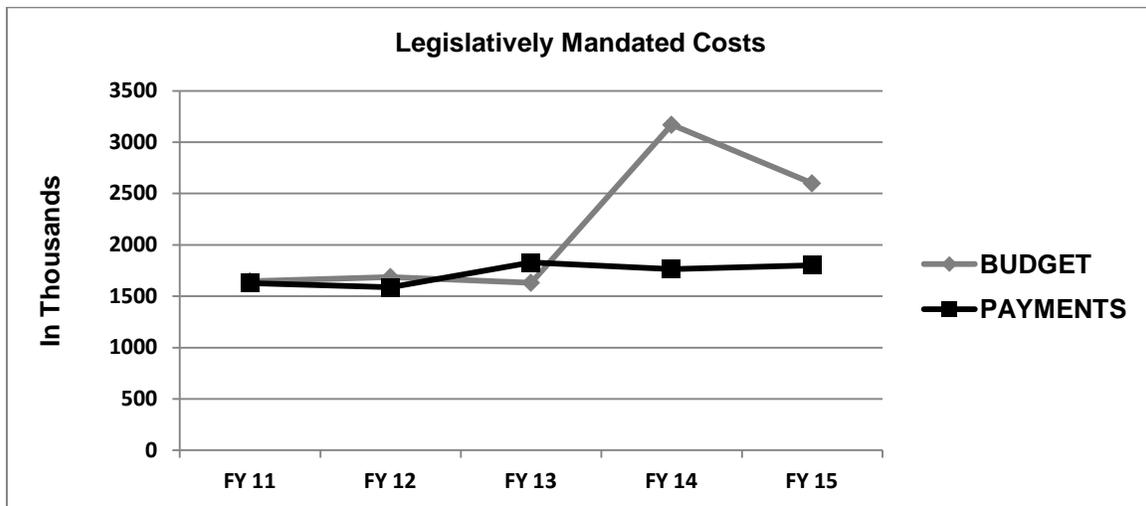
<u>Sub-Program</u>	<u>#FTE's</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Damage Claims	0	\$1,200,000
Landowner Coupons	0	800,000
Retiree Assessment	0	59,364
State Agency Law Enforcement System (SALEC)		240,000
Cost Allocation	0	300,000
TOTAL		\$ 2,599,364

This program is administered from the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Function of the Legislatively Mandated Expenses Program:

- **To ensure funding is available and statutory compliance is met by establishing budgets** and processing eligible payments as they are required for each respective program in accordance with Wyoming state statutory and/or regulatory requirements.

Performance Measurement #1: Commission approved budget is sufficient to meet annual payments.



Story behind the performance:

Between 2004 and 2007, general fund costs escalated 16 percent, from \$1.5 million in FY 04 to \$1.73 million in FY 07. However, in 2008, the State Budget Office, with the approval of the Governor's Office, discontinued the charge for cost allocation, which had increased to over \$600,000 annually by FY 06. The Budget Office began assessing this charge to the Department in the mid 1990s. Normally, these costs are charged to allow agencies to capture additional federal dollars, whereas the majority of federal funds the Department receives are formula based, where additional costs do not result in additional funds being awarded to the Department. This moratorium was lifted in FY 14 and has since been budgeted and paid for from the Commission's budget. For FY 14 and FY 15 only the Enterprise Technology Service's portions of the assessments have been required for reimbursement.

The significant increase in damage claim payments between FY 11 and FY 13 is the direct result of the FY 14 and FY 15 budgeted amounts. In FY 15, the damage claim budget was \$1,550,000, which is \$1,050,000 over the Wyoming statutorily required amount. Due to the increase volume of damage claims and commodity prices, this budget amount ensured that there would be sufficient funds to cover anticipated damage claims during the fiscal year. The total amount of damage claims paid in FY 15 was less than \$850,000 which explains the majority of the difference between the budget and the expenditures for the Legislative Mandated Expenditures Program for this reporting period.

The other areas within this program remained relatively constant. The payments in this program (damage claims, landowner coupons, peace officer retiree assessment, cost allocation, and SALEC) are non-discretionary as the payment amounts are either set by legislation, regulation, or are pass-through costs of other state agencies.

Program: Personnel Management

Division: Office of the Director

Mission: Institute and administer policies, procedures, and programs that facilitate recruitment and retention of effective and productive employees to meet the needs of the Commission, the Department, and the citizens of Wyoming.

Program Facts: The Personnel Management Program is made up of one sub-program, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

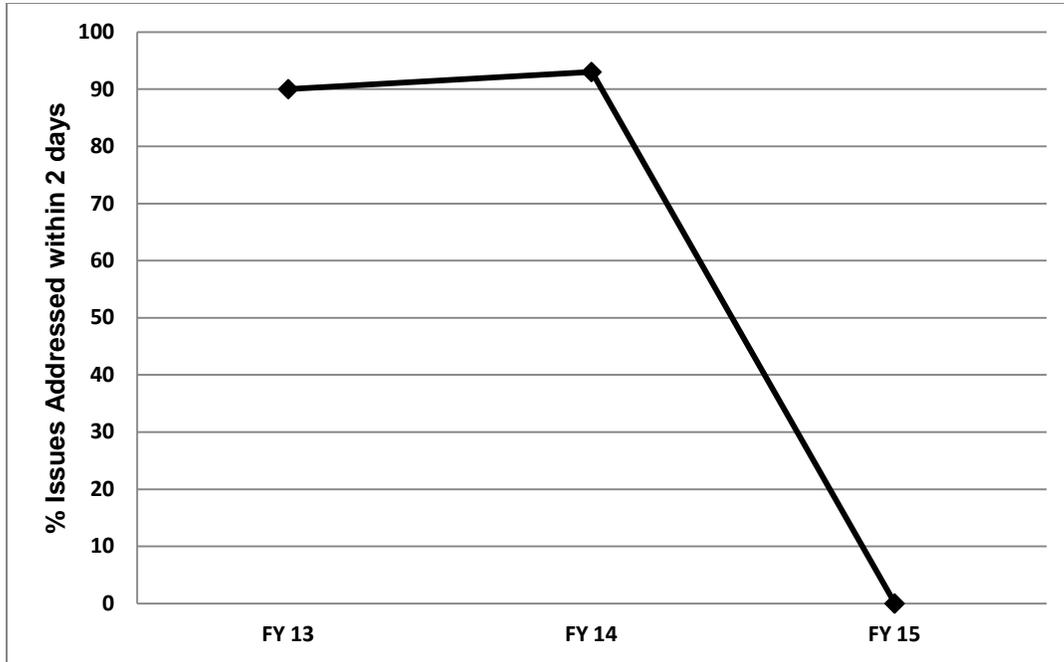
<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Personnel Management	3	\$347,856

This program is located in the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Personnel Management Program:

- **Facilitate recruitment and retention of effective and productive employees**, by conducting recruitment activities, training, compensation analysis, benefit administration, payroll services, discipline guidance, rule and law advice, and providing general counsel to employees and administrators of the Department.
- **Develop and maintain effective and productive employees** through recommendation and implementation of policies, procedures, programs, and practices developed with employee and managerial input.

Performance Measure #1: Questions and requests are addressed and completed within a two (2) day time frame. Exceptions to this are identified and communicated to employees. (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 90 percent of questions are addressed in this time frame).



Story behind the performance:

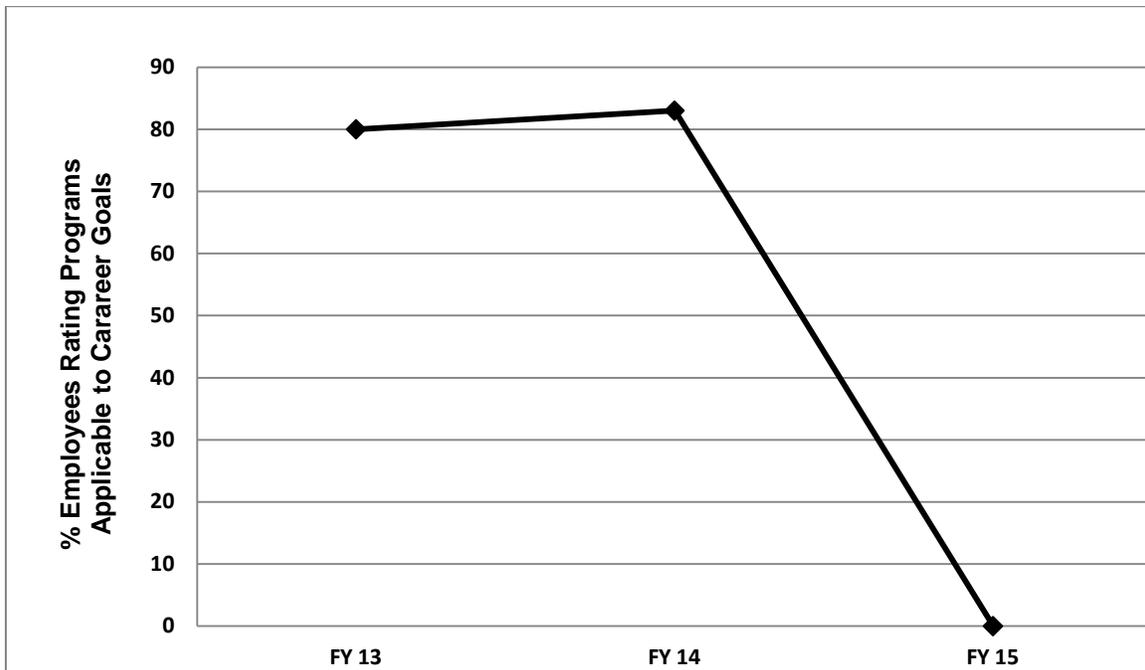
Excellent customer service is critical to the success of the Personnel Management Program. In addition to maintaining a courteous and professional work environment, personnel management staff strives to provide accurate, timely, and valuable information and services to both internal and external customers. An effective and productive workforce relies on accurate and timely receipt of information and responses to questions in keeping with the self-prescribed expectations of work behaviors. Employees who, through experience, develop a confidence in the accuracy and timeliness of services provided by personnel management can realize significant positive impacts in their own productivity and effectiveness. The mission of the Personnel Management Program in recruiting and retaining effective and productive employees can only be met if employees and administrators feel confident in the information and services provided by Personnel Management. This performance measure is being reported as “zero” because we did not complete an internal survey of employees to determine the level of satisfaction with programs offered by the Human Resources section.

What has been accomplished:

Each individual in the Personnel Management Program has customer service as a specific goal and behavioral competency that is measured via the performance evaluation system. Each individual in the program has the clear understanding that customer service is a top priority. The outcome of this particular performance measure is evaluated by direct observations of the

program manager, as well as feedback from internal and external customers. Each individual in the program consistently performs at above-average levels for customer service.

Performance Measure #2: Develop, enhance, and implement programs that focus on developing employees to enable them to achieve their career goals. (Personnel in this section will work to ensure that 80 percent of employees feel these programs are applicable to their career goals.)



Story behind the performance:

The employees of the Department have always been regarded as its most valuable asset. The workforce continues to face the challenges associated with the baby boomer generation leaving the workplace in large numbers. As they go, their experience, knowledge, and leadership go with them. It is imperative that the Department provides its employees with the opportunities to excel in their current positions, as well as to develop the knowledge and skills needed to move into key leadership positions. Department employees have been faced with rising health insurance costs for several years and have had minimal salary increases in the past 5 years, with no anticipated increases in the near future. It is important to continue developing and implementing new programs that support employees through difficult financial times. This performance measure is being reported as “zero” because we did not complete an internal survey of employees to determine the level of satisfaction with programs offered by the Human Resources section.

What has been accomplished:

During the course of FY 15, the Department has re-implemented the Leadership Development Program, which has historically been a very popular and effective training program for

employees. The Department has also placed a high priority on the successful execution of the Performance Management Program which, amongst other benefits, allows Department employees to be eligible for legislatively approved pay increases. The Department continues to fund and promote the use of the Employee Assistance Program. Now in the second year of existence, this program has seen an increase in employee awareness and usage amongst employees.

Program: Property Rights (Lands) Management

Divisions: Services and Wildlife

Mission: To administer and monitor currently owned Wyoming Game and Fish Commission property rights. To acquire property rights to restore and conserve habitat to enhance and sustain wildlife populations now and in the future. To acquire property rights, provide public access and public recreation, such as hunting and fishing access on private and landlocked public land.

Program Facts: The Property Rights Management Program is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with number of staff and FY 15 budgets:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Property Rights (Lands) Admin. **	4.0	\$ 735,873
PLPW Access Sub-Program	5.0	1,421,531 ***
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 2,157,404

* *Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

** *Includes Property Rights Administration and Strategic Habitat Plan.*

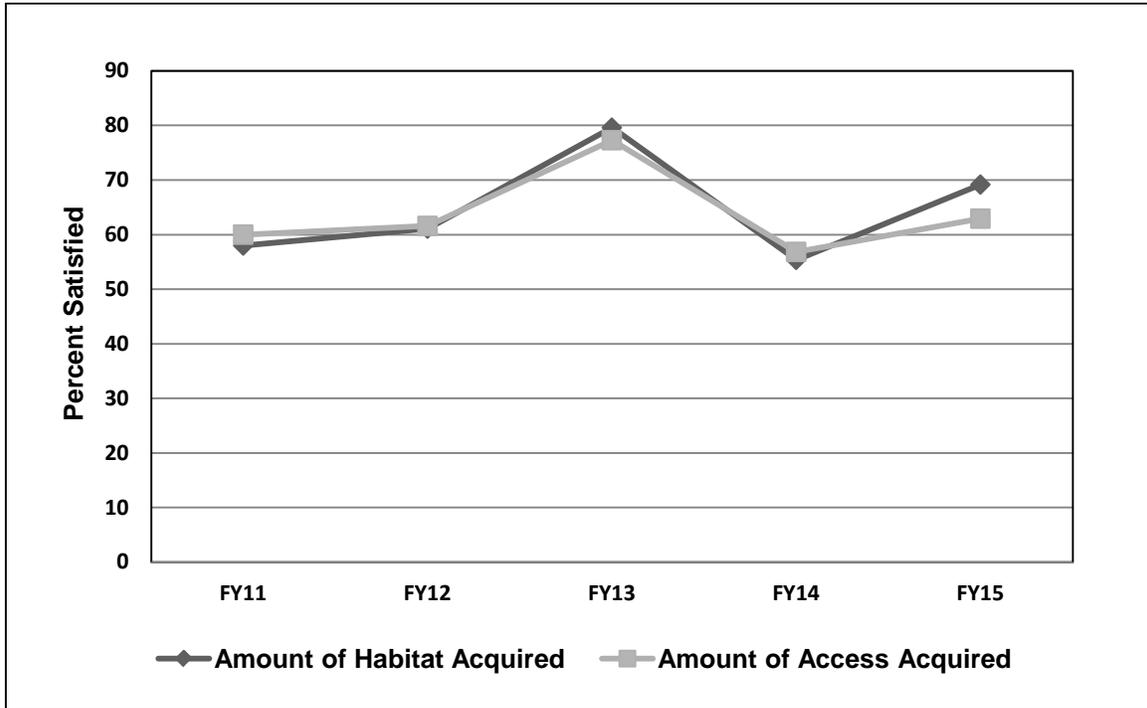
*** *Includes personnel, operations, and easement payments.*

The Property Rights Administration Program is located in Services Division and is based out of the Department's Headquarters in Cheyenne. The Private Lands Public Wildlife Access (PLPW) sub-program is located in the Wildlife Division and is based out of the Casper Regional Office.

Primary Functions of the Property Rights Management Program:

- **Administer Commission property rights** by providing support and technical expertise to Staff and Commission members on all real property rights management issues as well as addressing requests for assistance and information. The program also provides assurance that all real property rights issues follow state and federal laws, rules, guidelines, and policies.
- **Monitor Commission property rights** by annual physical inspections to evaluate possible encroachments and to provide recommendations for Commission action.
- **Acquire property rights to restore and conserve habitat** by assisting in the implementation of the Strategic Habitat Plan to identify wildlife habitats where habitat quality should be preserved through fee title acquisitions, conservation easements, leases, and agreements; by acquiring public access and public recreations rights; and by seeking funding partners.
- **Acquire property rights which provide public access and public recreation** by maintaining and enhancing public hunting and fishing access on private and public lands through Hunter Management and Walk-in Areas.

Performance Measure #1: Percentage of the general public satisfied with the amount of critical habitat acquired in the state and the percentage of the general public satisfied with the amount of public and recreation access acquired in the state (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 45 percent of the public are satisfied with the amount of both habitat and access acquired by the Department).



Story behind the performance:

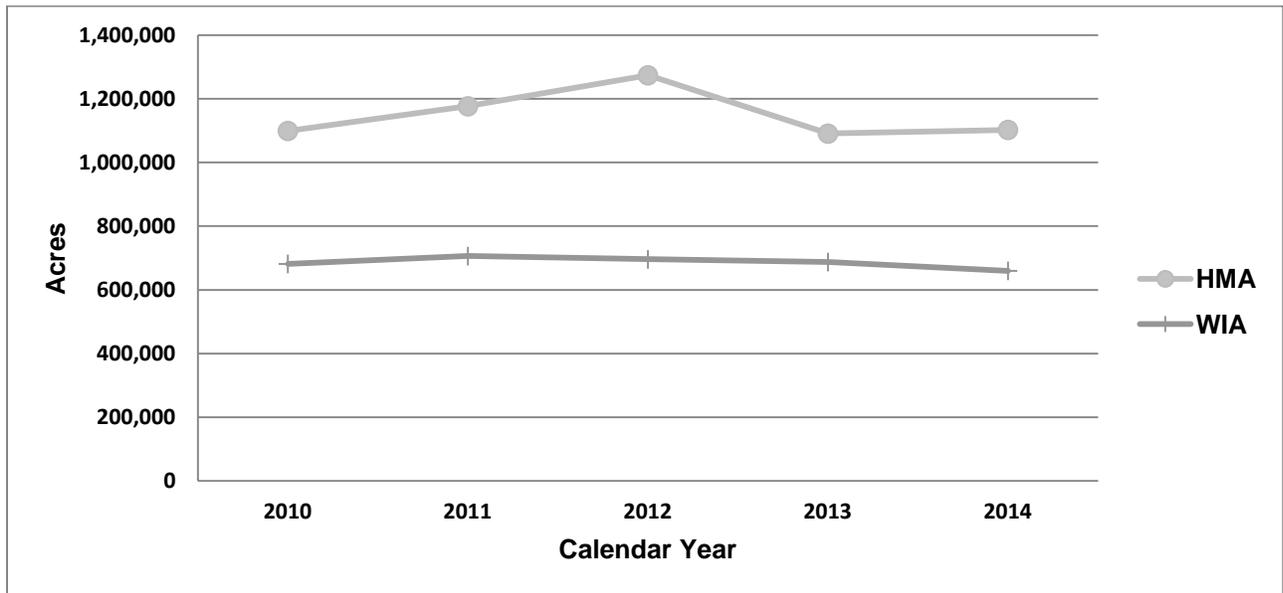
The Commission owns 166,435 acres and administers another 254,792 acres of federal, state, and private lands, which conserve and sustain wildlife populations and provides public access and recreation. In addition, the Commission has acquired permanent public access to over 128 miles of streams and rivers around the state. The performance measure evaluates public’s attitude about the amount of habitat available for wildlife and the amount of public access in the state. This information is collected in an annual survey that is distributed randomly to residents and nonresidents who purchased hunting and fishing licenses in the previous year.

With respects to the kind and amount of habitat acquired, 69.17 percent of the sampled public was satisfied. With respect to the amount of access acquired, 62.93 percent of the public was satisfied. To determine the familiarity of the general public with the Property Rights (Lands) Management Program and the importance of acquiring habitat and access, additional questions were surveyed with the following results:

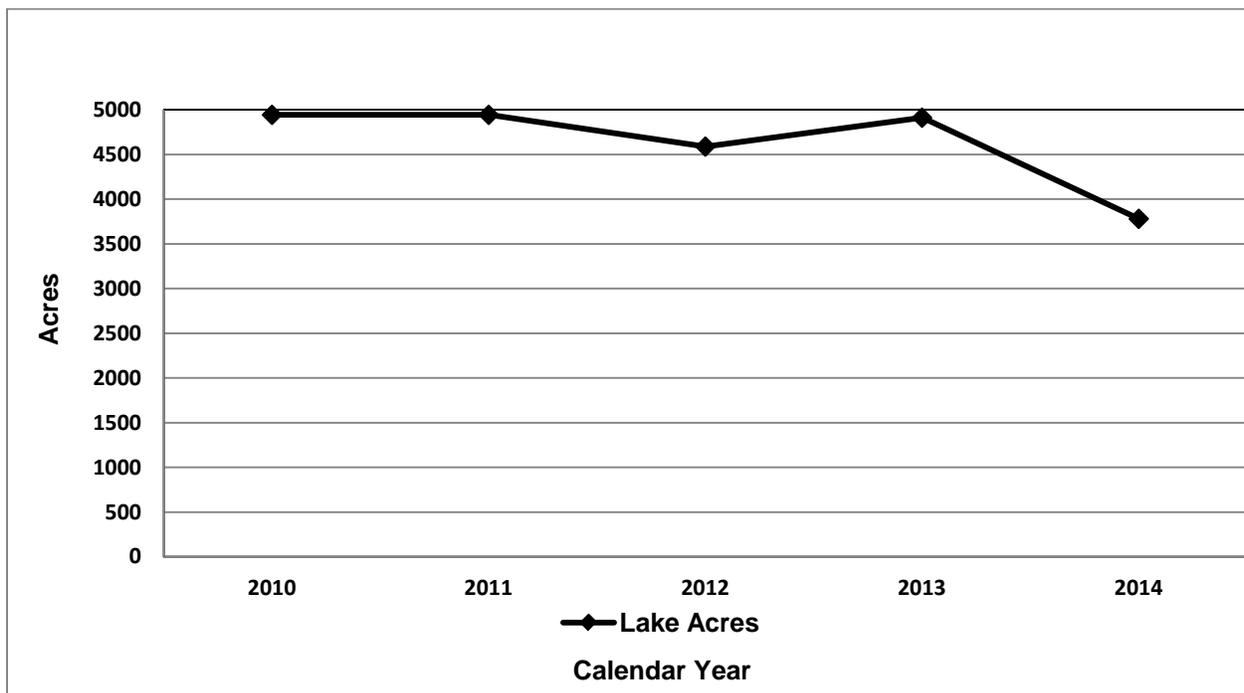
- 31.31 percent of those surveyed were familiar with the Lands Management Program;
- 96.70 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire and conserve wildlife habitat in Wyoming; and
- 94.16 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire public access for recreation in Wyoming.

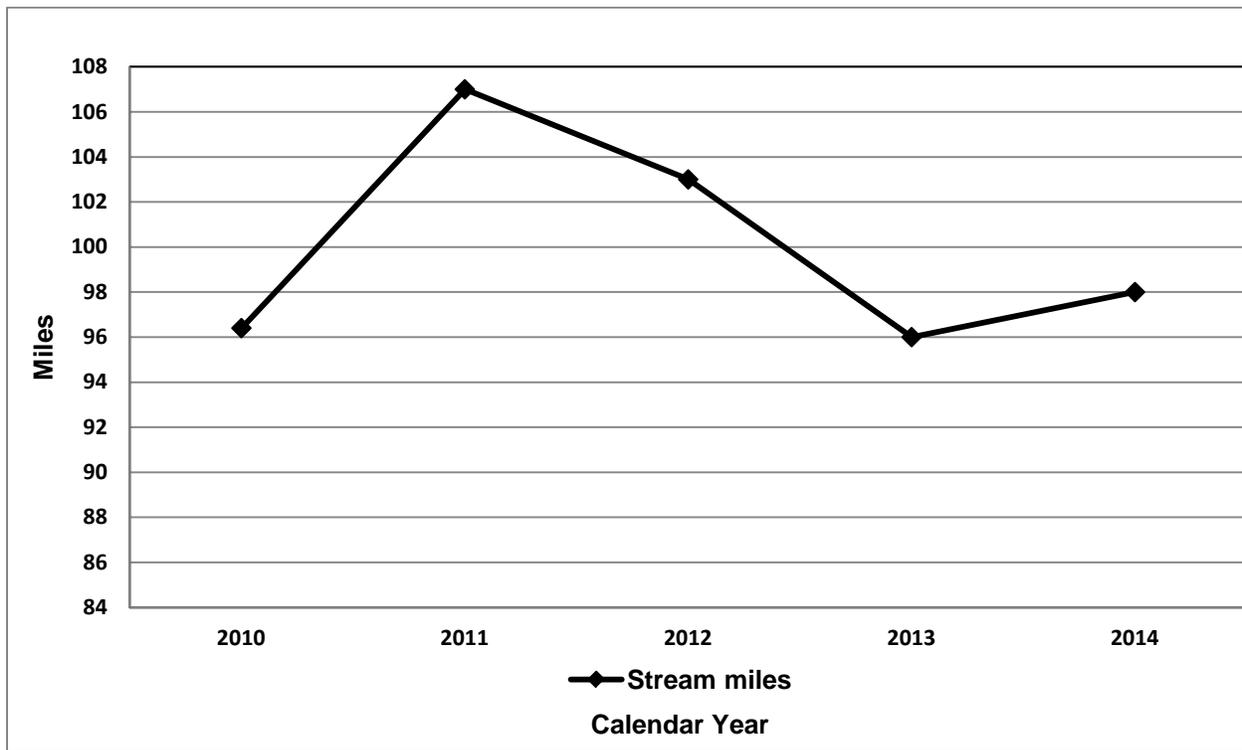
Performance Measure #2: Hunting and fishing access to private and public land (Personnel in this program will work to maintain public hunting access to at least 1.25 million acres of private land, public fishing access to at least 273 lake acres, and public fishing access to at least 100 stream miles.)

Number of Private Hunting Acres in Hunter Management and Walk-in Areas



Number of Fishing Acres and Stream Miles in Walk-in Fishing Areas





Story behind the performance:

In 2001, the Commission adopted PLPW as a permanent program in the Department. PLPW staff work with private landowners to maintain and to enhance hunter and angler access onto private and landlocked public lands. With the assistance of field biologists and wardens, PLPW continues to provide extensive areas to hunt and fish.

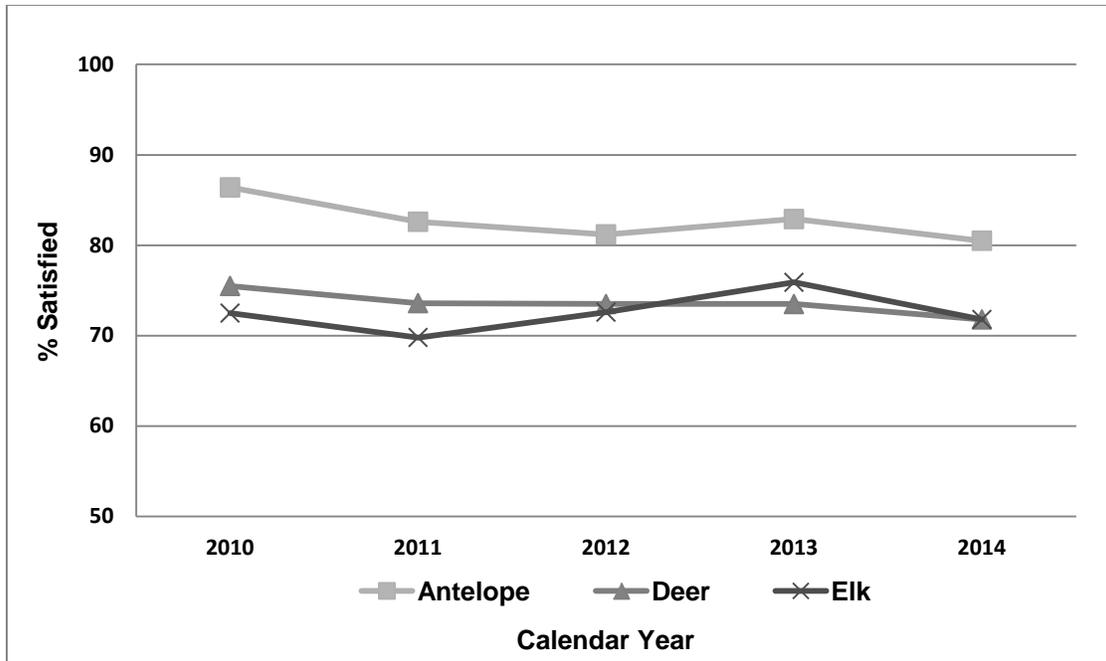
In addition to providing recreational access, PLPW assists with increasing cooperation between the Department, landowners, and the public for population management of wildlife and decreasing agriculture damage through harvest.

What has been accomplished:

The enrollment in each program for 2014 was: Hunter Management Areas (HMA), 1,102,370 acres; Walk-in Areas (WIA) hunting, 659,972 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 3,781 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 98 miles. The average enrollment in each program from 2010-2014 was: HMAs, 1,148,466 acres; WIAs hunting, 686,296 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 4,634 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 100.1 miles. Enrollment in either WIAs or HMAs is dependent upon the amount of available Access Yes funds. During 2014, easement payments were slightly less than the Access Yes donations collected by the Department. The number of acres and stream miles should remain fairly constant as long as Access Yes funding levels are maintained.

Combined with public lands associated with the enrolled private lands, PLPW provided approximately 3.06 million acres of hunting access for the fall 2014/spring 2015 hunting seasons. Opportunities are continually sought for increased fishing access.

Performance Measure # 3: Percent of big game hunters satisfied with the hunting opportunity provided by the PLPW Walk-In Area and Hunter Management Area Programs. (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 75 percent of big game hunters are satisfied with the hunting opportunities provided by the PLPW Program.)



Story behind the performance:

This performance measure was first included in the 2006 hunter harvest surveys. Harvest surveys provide data on hunter satisfaction with PLPW. After eight years of data, the results show hunters have a positive view of the HMA and WIA Programs.

What has been accomplished:

The satisfaction with PLPW remains high. The 2014 harvest survey data satisfaction rates were: antelope, 80.5 percent (82.7 percent average since 2010); deer, 71.8 percent (73.6 percent average since 2010); and elk, 71.8 percent (72.5 percent average since 2010). Satisfaction with a hunting experience can mean a variety of things from harvesting a record-book animal to having a place to hunt. All three satisfaction rates are slightly lower than 2013, but remain very high.

The 2014 harvest surveys also indicated high levels of participation by hunters using PLPW access areas. When asked if hunters used a PLPW access area, 21.3 percent of antelope hunters, 14.5 percent of deer hunters, and 13.0 percent of elk hunters indicated they had used either a WIA or a HMA to hunt.

Program: Regional Information and Education Specialist

Division: Wildlife

Mission: Work cooperatively with Department personnel to increase understanding and appreciation of Wyoming's wildlife resources and the habitats upon which they depend. Provide media outreach and wildlife conservation education programs for students, teachers, and other citizens of Wyoming.

Program Facts: The Regional Information and Education Specialist Program consists of a single sub-program, listed below with staff numbers and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Information and Education	7.0	\$670,929

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

This program is located statewide. One Regional Information and Education Specialist (RIES) is assigned to seven of the eight Department regional offices. The Jackson position is assigned to both the Jackson and Pinedale regional offices. The RIES work unit was reorganized in July 2013 and incorporated into the Wildlife Division.

Primary Functions of the RIES Program:

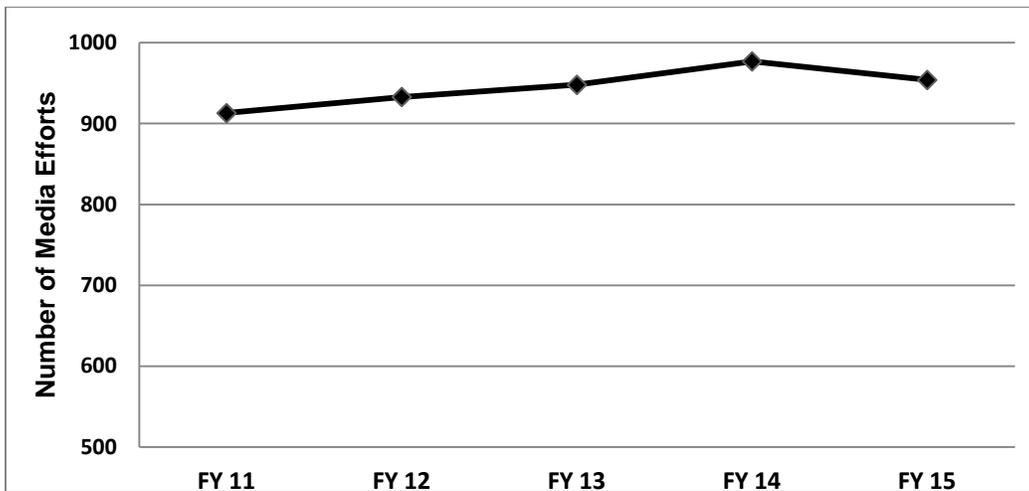
- **Work cooperatively with Department personnel to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of Wyoming's wildlife resources** by providing information and education support to other branches within the Wildlife Division and other divisions within the Department. The RIES Program supports the Department's Information Program by contributing to *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine* and the weekly Department news release packet. The RIES Program assists the Conservation Education Program through the instruction of traditional hunter education courses, internet field days, and the Hunter Education New Instructor Academy. It also assists with educator and youth conservation camps, youth fishing and hunting days, 4-H Shooting Sports state shoot, and Wyoming's Wildlife Worth the Watching interpretive projects.
- **Provide regional and statewide media outreach** by developing and distributing news releases, conducting media tours designed to provide the media and the public with detailed information on important issues facing wildlife, conducting radio programs, conducting radio and television interviews, as well as television and streaming video public service announcements.
- **Provide regional wildlife conservation education programs** through presentations and hands-on workshops to students, civic groups, conservation groups and others.

Clearly, the personnel actions stated above have affected the overall performance of the RIES work unit and the services provided.

Examples of cooperative work with Department personnel accomplished in FY 15:

- Assisted personnel in the development of the Department’s new website.
- Assisted regional personnel in public working group meetings via facilitation, planning, and record keeping.
- Continued to develop, along with regional personnel, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Historical Center at the Casper Regional Game and Fish Office.
- Coordinated with the media and regional personnel to achieve media attendance at a bighorn sheep capture.

Performance Measure #1: Number of media interviews, news releases, radio programs, radio interviews, and television public service announcements provided (personnel in this program will work to produce at least 800 interviews, news releases, radio programs and interviews, and television public service announcements each year).



Story behind the performance:

Many issues affect Wyoming’s wildlife. In upholding with the Department’s mission of serving people, it is important to keep the state’s citizens informed about these various issues. This is done through a variety of communication programs and activities.

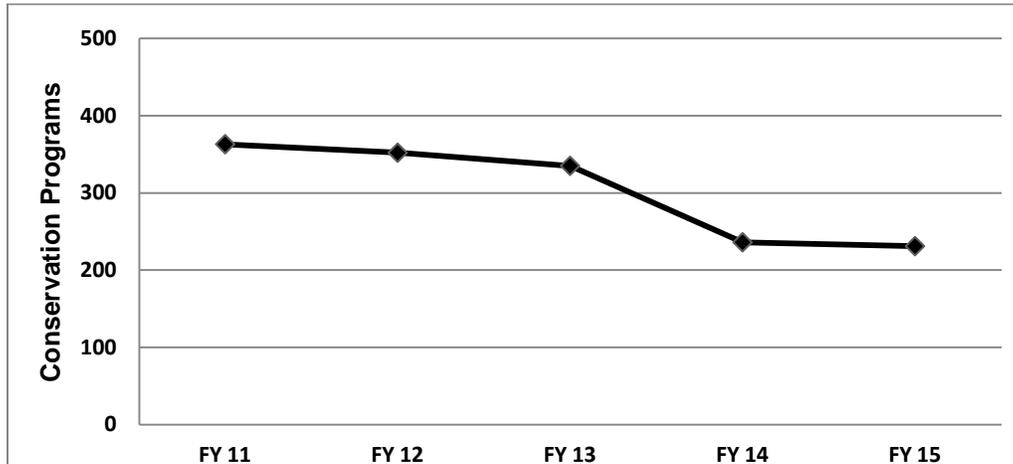
Utilizing formal work plans and RIES assignments, additional effort is put into the development of media outreach using common tools such as news releases, meeting announcements, public service announcements, interviews, and on-site media field trips. This effort is primarily focused on identified Department, division, and regional Information and Conservation Education Program priorities.

What has been accomplished:

REIS personnel continued to engage the media by utilizing a variety of methods. Some of these interactions included live “tweets” during a bighorn sheep capture, multiple on-site field trips to

a variety of Department projects, Facebook postings, and numerous radio shows, newsletters, and news releases.

Performance Measure #2: Number of wildlife conservation education programs (Personnel in this program will work to provide at least 100 education programs per year.)



Story behind the performance:

The RIESs work collaboratively with other Information and Conservation Education Program personnel to provide conservation education programs to the public. Those programs include traditional Hunter Education courses and Internet field days; New Hunter Instructor Academy; Project WILD workshops; Staying Safe in Bear, Lion, and Wolf Country seminars; Forever Wild Families; and 4-H Outdoor Skills Competition.

The RIESs provide outdoor skills training, field trips, tours of Department education centers, and conservation education programs to primary and secondary schools and colleges, civic clubs, and conservation groups within their respective regions.

GovDelivery is an outreach program that allows the Department to streamline and track its communication efforts. The RIESs have been sending out information through this program which allows the Department to better manage its email contact lists as well as measure how messages are being used including being opened, clicked, and shared.

What has been accomplished:

The REISs continued to provide Forever Wild Families assistance to the Conservation Education Program. Activities included: fishing, hunter education, outdoor skills, pheasant hunting, pronghorn hunting, elk hunting, turkey hunting, ice fishing, a class on applying for the draw, fly fishing, tracking, and a simulated big game hunt.

A popular owl education programs with the Department’s live great horned owl was provided to school groups, art classes, camps, and nursing homes throughout the year. Educational outreach exhibits included an annual “Elk Fest” celebration where several hundred people were contacted.

Program: Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management

Division: Wildlife

Mission Statement: Coordinate management of terrestrial wildlife and enforce laws and regulations to ensure the long-term health and viability of terrestrial wildlife for the people of Wyoming, while providing recreational opportunities and minimizing conflicts.

Program Facts: The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is made up of three major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration	13.9	\$ 2,298,515**
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists	28	\$ 3,749,444
Regional Game Wardens	52	\$ 6,699,950
TOTAL	93.9	\$ 12,747,909

* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

** Does not include federal cost share dollars (50 percent) that support eight game warden positions.

The sub-programs that comprise the Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program were previously part of the Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program (Strategic Plan FY 04 - FY 07, November 2003).

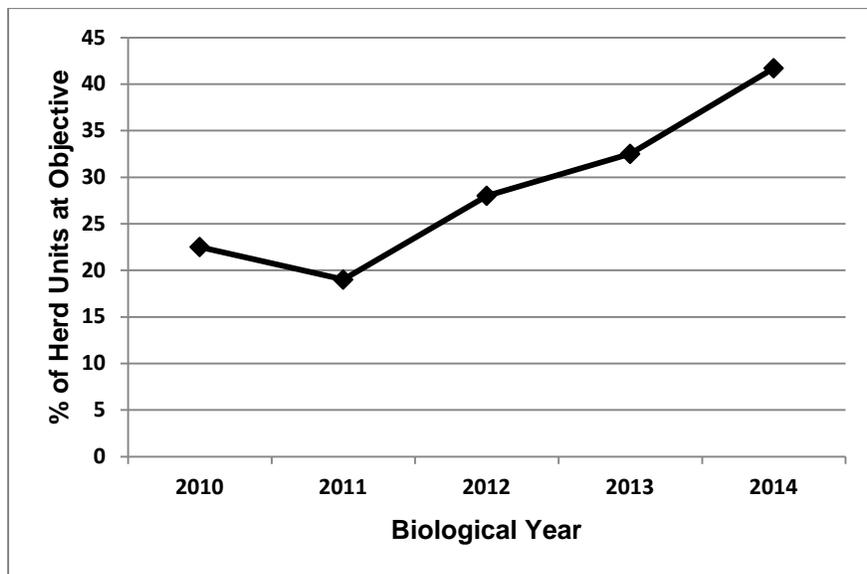
The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is located statewide.

Primary Functions of the Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program:

- **Coordinate management of terrestrial wildlife** to collect and analyze data; to ensure big game management strategies are designed to achieve population objectives; to review projects with the potential to impact wildlife and their habitats; to coordinate with other state and federal agencies; and to educate, inform, and seek public input on wildlife management issues. Support, training, and leadership are provided to ensure regional objectives and goals are met.
- **Enforce laws and regulations** to ensure viable wildlife populations and public safety; to inform and educate the public about wildlife laws, regulations, and their necessity; and to address wildlife damage and wildlife/human conflict complaints. Support, training, and leadership are provided to ensure the efficient enforcement of state laws and regulations, and to address wildlife damage and wildlife/human conflict complaints.

Performance Measure #1:

Percentage of big game herds at objective (personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 30 percent of big game herds are at objective). For FY 15, there were five objective types, post-hunt population, post-hunt trend count, landowner/hunter satisfaction, limited opportunity objective, and alternative objective. Three herds have no objective and are not included in this analysis. The standard for a herd being considered at the population or trend objective was changed in 2012 from $\pm 10\%$ to $\pm 20\%$. The satisfaction objective is met when 60% of landowners and hunters indicate they are satisfied. Limited opportunity and alternative objectives are for those moose (limited opportunity) and bighorn sheep (alternative) where low densities of animals make a population or trend count objective unrealistic. In these herds, management is driven by percent hunter success and percent mature males in the harvest. Biological years run from June 1 to May 31. Biological Year 2014 covers the period June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015.



Story behind the last year of performance:

While the Department is responsible for managing over 800 species of wildlife in Wyoming, many of our constituents are focused on the management of big game species (pronghorn antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and wild bison). In addition, most of the Department’s annual revenue is derived from sales of hunting licenses and special management permits for these species. Management of big game species and wild bison is the responsibility of regional terrestrial wildlife biologists, regional game wardens, and the regional terrestrial wildlife administration. Percentages reported above are based on objective evaluations for each species presented in the final big game Job Completion Reports (2010-2014).

Hunting seasons and harvest quotas developed by the Department are the primary tools for managing big game and wild bison. Seasons are designed to maintain herds at, or move herds

towards, their publically established objectives through hunter harvest. Seasons are also designed to manipulate male to female ratios within each herd's desired range.

Other factors beyond the Department's control, such as hunter access, weather extremes, wildlife disease outbreaks, wildfire, and predation affect the Department's ability to manage herds toward objective. Declining hunter access on private lands limits the Department's ability to obtain the harvest needed to move some herds toward objective in predominantly private land areas. This is one of the reasons alternative objectives such as hunter/landowner satisfaction were established. Many elk populations remain above objective despite increased cow harvest on public and private lands in recent years. Weather conditions such as drought and severe winters, can severely impact reproductive success as well as adult and juvenile survival over the winter. Consequently, many deer and pronghorn herds remain below objective. The Department intentionally manages some herds below objective in some years because drought, invasive species, and development have cumulatively decreased habitat available for wildlife. At best, it will likely take several consecutive years of normal to above normal precipitation before the remaining habitat can support objective levels and, at worst, some areas may never recover to their former productivity. The Department has continued efforts to implement landscape-scale habitat improvements that benefit big game and other wildlife. This effort is a long-term strategy designed to slow habitat loss by improving existing habitats in cooperation with partners such as the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC), private landowners, federal land management agencies, private conservation organizations, and many others.

Of the total 147 herds tracked for this report, 15 herds (10.2 percent) had incomplete data. Of the 132 herds with complete data, 55 herds (41.7 percent) were at objective, 22 (16.7 percent) were above objective, and 55 (41.7 percent) were below objective (Table 1).

What has been accomplished:

Revisions to the Strategic Habitat Plan (SHP) were adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in 2009. The 2009 SHP is currently being revised and updated. Personnel continue emphasizing the need for habitat management and monitoring in communications and outreach to federal land management agencies and to the public. The Department informs land management agencies and landowners about habitat improvement priority areas and, as resources become available, encourages joint collaboration on projects. Implementation of the SHP depends upon the cooperation of land management agencies and private landowners.

The Department employs terrestrial habitat biologists in all but the Green River Region. Habitat biologists focus on habitat monitoring and improvements on both public and private lands. There is also a Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Program supervisor and a Statewide Terrestrial Habitat biologist that provide support for regional habitat efforts. Most of the Department's habitat efforts pertain to big game, and funding from many sources is pooled to address priorities in the SHP. Wildlife Division personnel continued to apply for habitat project funding from a variety of sources including the WWNRT, the WGBGLC, many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and federal programs.

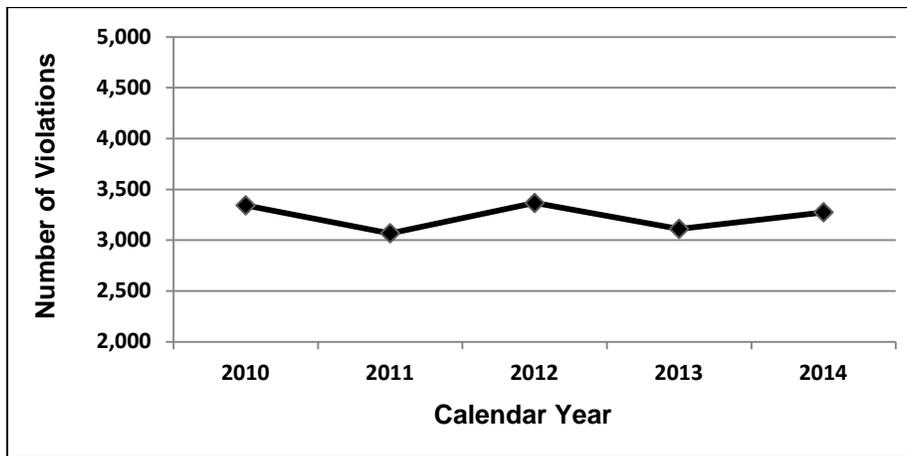
Big game disease surveillance and research continue to be a high priority. Surveillance efforts for brucellosis in northwest Wyoming and chronic wasting disease across the state continued in 2014-15. Additionally, an enhanced brucellosis surveillance program was initiated in the Bighorn Mountains to address the recent brucellosis positive elk identified in elk Hunt Area 40. The Department continued vaccinating elk on the state's feedgrounds to reduce the prevalence of brucellosis. The Wyoming Game and Fish Disease Laboratory initiated a statewide research effort to better understand the effect of respiratory disease on bighorn sheep populations in Wyoming. The Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille began a long-term Chronic Wasting Disease vaccine trial in 2013 and a Bighorn Sheep pneumonia study in early 2014.

Table 1. Management status of big game herds based on objective type.

POPULATION OBJECTIVE				
	At Objective	Below Objective	Above Objective	Incomplete Data/No Obj.
Bighorn Sheep	5	5	0	2
Elk	5	1	8	1
Mountain Goat	1	0	0	0
Moose	0	2	1	2
White-tailed Deer	0	0	1	1/2
Mule Deer	10	22	1	1
Pronghorn	19	10	5	2
TOTAL	40	40	16	10
TREND COUNT OBJECTIVE				
Bison	0	0	1	0
Elk	7	1	4	1
Mountain Goat	0	0	1	0
Moose	0	2	0	0
TOTAL	7	3	6	1
LANDOWNER/HUNTER SATISFACTION OBJECTIVE				
Pronghorn	4	2	NA	0
Elk	2	5	NA	0
Mule Deer	0	2	NA	0
White-tailed Deer	0	1	NA	0
TOTAL	6	10	NA	0
LIMITED OPPORTUNITY OBJECTIVE				
Moose	1	1	NA	1
TOTAL	1	1	NA	1
ALTERNATE OBJECTIVE				
Bighorn Sheep	1	1	NA	0
TOTAL	1	1	NA	0
NO OBJECTIVE				
White-tailed Deer	NA	NA	NA	1
Mule Deer	NA	NA	NA	1
Pronghorn	NA	NA	NA	1
TOTAL	NA	NA	NA	3
GRAND TOTALS				
Bighorn Sheep	6	6	0	2
Elk	14	7	12	2
Bison	0	0	1	0
Mountain Goat	1	0	1	0
Moose	1	5	1	3
White-tailed Deer	0	1	1	3
Mule Deer	10	24	1	2
Pronghorn	23	12	5	3
TOTALS	55	55	22	15
PERCENT¹	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%	

¹ There are 132 herds with complete data. Percentages presented for herds “At”, “Below”, and “Above” objective are based on herds with complete data.

Performance Measure #2: Number of law enforcement investigation reports (LEIRs). Personnel in this program will work to enter at least 4,250 reports into the case management system annually.



Story Behind the Performance:

Enforcing wildlife and watercraft safety statutes and regulations is an integral component of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife management. Formal case management and law enforcement reporting systems have been used by the Department since the late 1970s. Beginning in 1996, case records were entered into a computerized case management system (CMS). As technology evolved between 1996 and 2008, several CMS programs were developed and used. The current system, CMS Web, was developed in 2008 and rolled out in 2010. CMS Web does not require a synchronization process, data queries are more concise than prior systems, and there is less lag time between the entry of cases and statewide access to those cases.

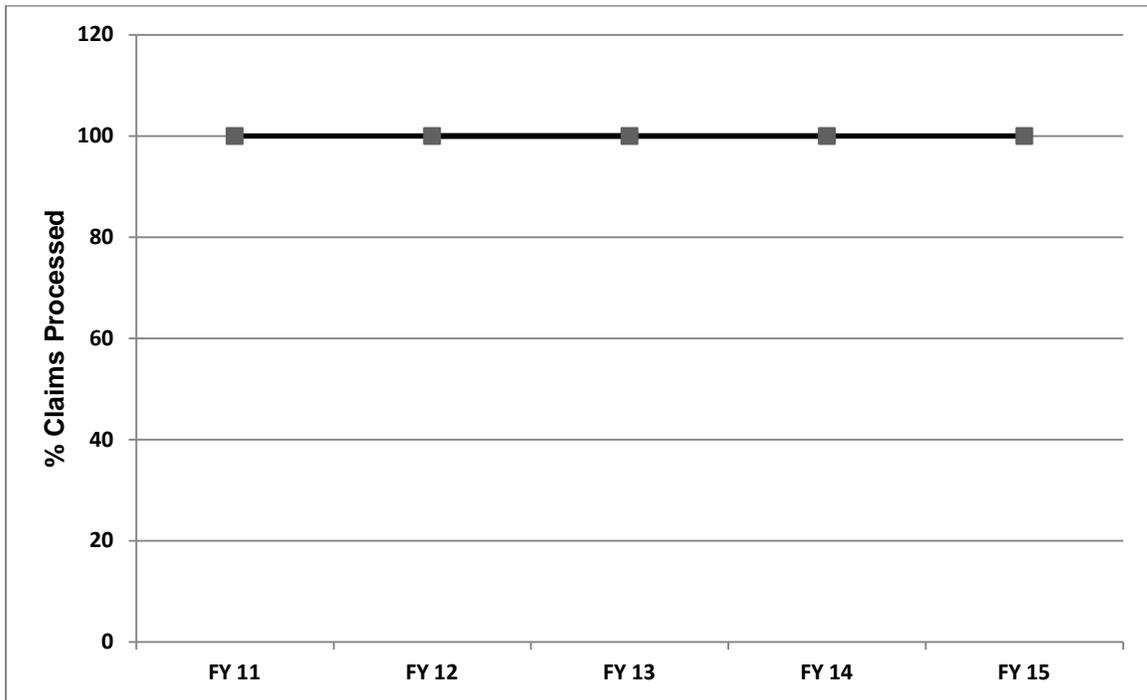
The ten most common violations for 2014 in order of prevalence are hunting/fishing/trapping/commercial operations without a license/stamp (859); failure to provide proper safety equipment aboard watercraft (342); violations of aquatic invasive species regulations (332); trespass to hunt or fish (276); violation of regulations/rules for Department/state lands (247); hunting after hours or in wrong/closed area (231); failure to tag/register a big/trophy game animal, wild turkey, or bobcat (203); wanton destruction/waste of a game animal (189); making a false statement to procure a hunting or fishing license (154); and take wrong sex of game animal (114). There were 13 instances of operating a watercraft under the influence. In 2014, law enforcement personnel discovered 4,529 violations. This is 31 more violations than the number discovered in 2013.

What has been accomplished:

- Multiple task forces were utilized in 2014 to address winter-range poaching of big game animals, boating safety issues on major reservoirs, chronic wildlife violations during hunting seasons, and other enforcement issues.
- Regional CMS coordinators worked to update cases in the database where suspects had failed to appear in court, but eventually paid their fines. Many of these cases had not been updated

in the CMS database. The system was upgraded to make it easier for CMS coordinators to quickly update these types of cases.

Performance Measure #3: The percentage of damage claims received/processed each year in accordance with Wyoming statutes and Commission regulations. (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that 100 percent of damage claims are processed accordingly.)



Story behind the performance:

Wyoming statute W.S. 23-1-901 requires that the Department address damages by big game, trophy game, and game birds. This work is conducted by regional terrestrial wildlife personnel. Addressing damage caused by big game, trophy game, and game birds is completed by several methods including providing damage prevention materials, moving or removing the offending animal(s), setting seasons to reduce the number of animals in an area, initiating habitat improvement projects, or investigating and paying monetary compensation for confirmed damages. Damage prevention and evaluation work by regional terrestrial wildlife personnel varies statewide, and is greatly influenced by the big game, trophy game, and game bird species present and environmental conditions.

Since FY 11, 100 percent of all damage claims received have been processed annually in accordance with Wyoming statutes and Commission regulations. Damage claim numbers fluctuate annually based on many factors including weather severity, drought, wildlife population levels, mitigation measures by the Department, and tolerance levels of those individuals suffering damages. In FY 15, the Department received 129 damage claims.

What has been accomplished:

Considerable efforts were made by Department personnel to prevent damage including a wide variety of hazing techniques, providing fencing materials to build stackyards for stored crops, relocating trophy game animals, increasing harvest, depredation hunting seasons, and as a last resort, lethal removal. Department personnel continue to work with landowners on damage prevention and mitigation, including the damage investigation and claim submission process.

Program: Specialized Statewide Law Enforcement

Division: Wildlife

Mission Statement: To provide support for Boating Safety and Stop Poaching Programs throughout the state. To provide for specialized wildlife law enforcement investigations, issuance of permits, and record keeping to all wildlife regions.

Program Facts: The Specialized Statewide Law Enforcement Program is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Law Enforcement Administration & Boating Safety	3.0	\$ 424,345**
Law Enforcement Investigative Unit	6.0	\$ 683,383
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 1,107,728

* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

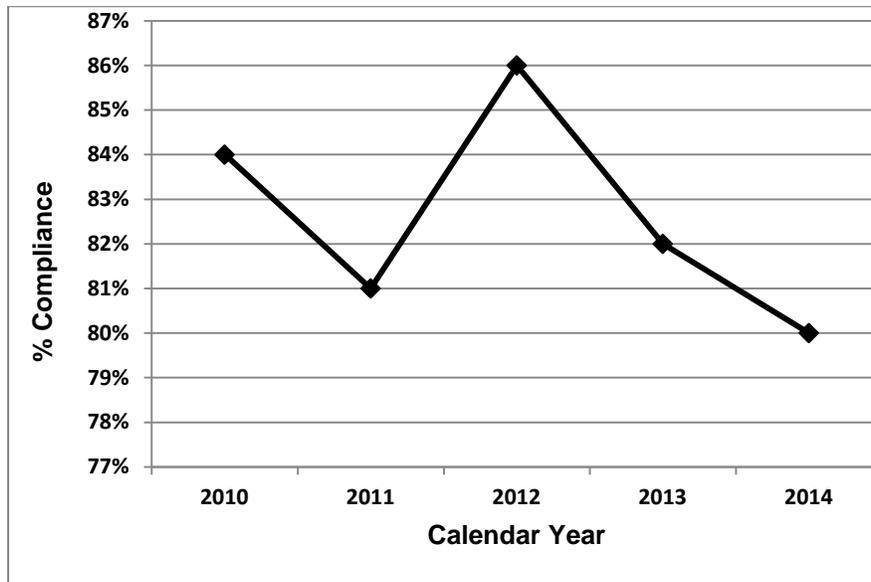
** Does not include federal cost share dollars.

The program is located statewide with personnel in Green River, Cody, Sheridan, Laramie, Lander, Casper, and Cheyenne. These positions coordinate all law enforcement programs and law enforcement reporting systems. This includes administration of the Boating Safety and Stop Poaching Programs for the Department.

Primary Functions of the Specialized Statewide Law Enforcement Program:

- **Provide support for boating safety, education, and enforcement** by providing boating safety courses for the public and by providing boating safety enforcement on the state's waterways.
- **Provide support for the Stop Poaching Program** by increasing public involvement in detecting and reporting wildlife violators and by providing rewards for information relating to crimes against wildlife.
- **Provide for specialized wildlife law enforcement investigations** through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of wildlife law violators via complex multi-suspect, multi-jurisdictional investigations.
- **Provide for overall law enforcement administration** by handling permits, law enforcement record keeping, and routine law enforcement administration.

Performance Measure #1: Watercraft safety compliance rate as documented by watercraft safety annual reports. (Personnel in this program will work to achieve an 80 percent compliance rate.)



Story behind the performance:

The Department is responsible for providing boating safety and education information to the public. Wyoming experiences boating fatalities nearly every year as a result of lack of life jacket use. Wyoming boaters are spread out among large reservoirs, rivers, small lakes, and ponds across the state, making it difficult to address all boating safety needs. Limitations on law enforcement personnel time, and sometimes location, create a unique situation in addressing boating safety and education on a statewide basis. Responsibility for educating the public about boating safety, and the enforcement of boating safety laws and regulations, lies with the game wardens, senior game wardens, and Wildlife Administration. Regional Information and Education Specialists assist with boating safety education through media outreach and public presentations.

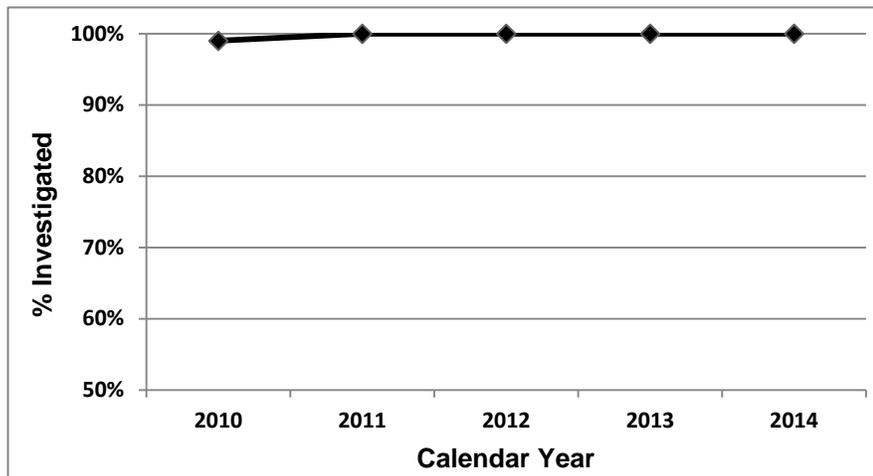
During 2014, three game wardens each spent approximately five man-months of time on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Three newly-hired game wardens each spent approximately two man-months of time on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Numerous senior game warden positions made up the remainder of Department efforts on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Funding is received annually from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to assist with this effort.

The highest compliance rate during the last five years was achieved in 2012 with an 86 percent compliance rate. The six watercraft regulations with the highest numbers of violations in 2014 were: failure to provide life jackets (161), failure to provide a fire extinguisher (86), failure to provide a throwable flotation device (82), operating an unnumbered boat (74), failure to operate watercraft in accordance with navigation rules (44), and operating a boat at night without lights (27).

What has been accomplished:

- Three game wardens were hired in 2014. They attended the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and the Department’s watercraft training session before being assigned to watercraft enforcement duties throughout the state.
- The Department continues to provide the Boating America correspondence course and the course has been updated to include regulation changes. The public also has the option to take boating safety courses online through two separate providers. These online courses include information specific to boating in Wyoming.
- Special permit authorization letters were issued for four watercraft events. The events included such things as regattas, parades, and portable ski courses. The boating safety of both the participants and the public was evaluated before granting a request.
- Department personnel spent a total of 12,115 hours on boating safety. Total hours include time spent on law enforcement and court preparation, safety and education programs, search and rescue events, accident investigation, and buoy maintenance.
- Officers responded to and investigated 14 separate accidents that involved 17 vessels and 47 people, resulting in nine injuries and two fatalities.
- Badly worn buoys were replaced with new buoys.

Performance Measure #2: The percentage of Stop Poaching tips, received through the hotline that are investigated. (Personnel in this program will work to investigate 100 percent of tips received through the hotline.)



Story behind the performance:

Wildlife crimes often go undetected due to the remote locations where they take place. Wildlife law enforcement officers conduct routine patrols for violators, but cannot be in every location to prevent all crimes. The wildlife of this state belongs to the people of Wyoming, and it is paramount the public assist Department officers in apprehending wildlife violators.

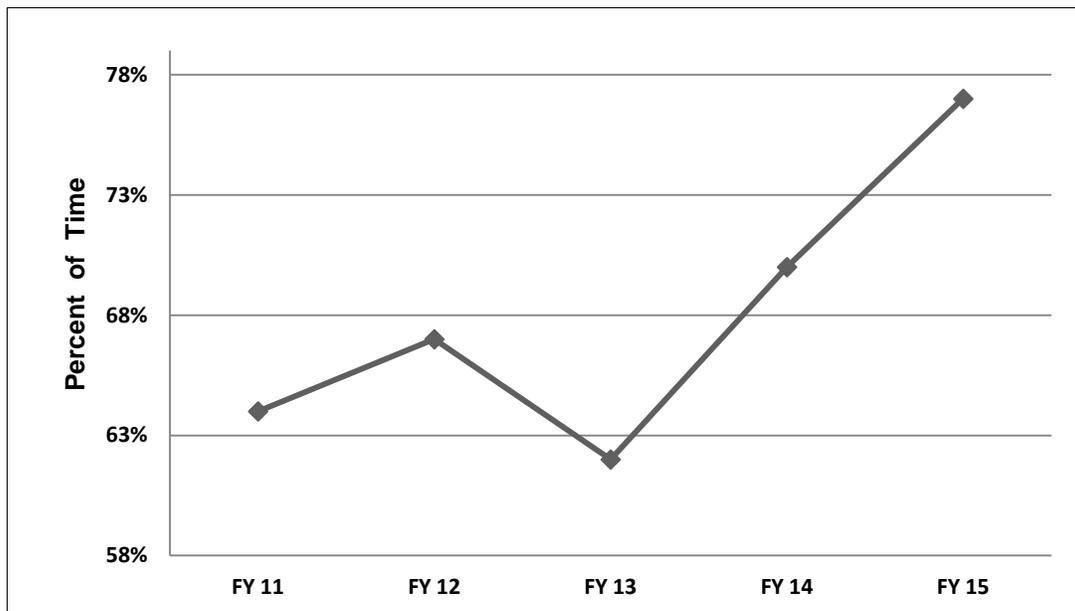
The Stop Poaching Program is based on a calendar year. The majority of these reports and subsequent cases are a direct result of the Department’s Stop Poaching Hotline. Some reports

are submitted by email from the Stop Poaching link on the Department’s webpage, by text message to “tip411”, or are submitted directly to law enforcement personnel. During 2014, there were a total of 480 Stop Poaching reports documented and all reports were investigated, although some reports remain under investigation. Of these reports, enforcement actions resulted in 463 closed cases. A total of \$100,232 in fines/restitutions was paid and \$13,200 was issued in rewards to informants during 2014. Stop Poaching Hotline calls are answered by statewide radio dispatch personnel.

What has been accomplished:

- A variety of promotional items were purchased and distributed to the public to promote awareness of the program.
- Through Citizenobserver.com, a text message violation reporting system has been developed and several reports were received via text message in 2014.
- The Department worked with Adbay, a local advertizing company in Casper, to develop an advertisement for the Stop Poaching Program that was shown at movie theaters throughout Wyoming during pre-movie slide shows.

Performance Measure #3: Percentage of time spent on law enforcement/case investigations by the Wildlife Investigative Unit (WIU). (Personnel in this program will work to spend 70 percent of their time working on investigations).



Story behind the performance:

The WIU is comprised of five full-time Wildlife Investigators stationed at regional offices in Sheridan, Cody, Laramie, Lander, and Green River. The WIU is supervised by one supervisor/investigator stationed at the Casper Regional Office. WIU members operate with unmarked vehicles and out of uniform. Personnel are equipped with modern evidence, surveillance, tracking, covert, and other equipment. WIU investigators are non-exempt law

enforcement officers. Therefore their time is tracked per 40-hour week. The more time they spend on investigations, the more productive they are in solving wildlife crimes.

The WIU initiates many cases, but the bulk of cases are referred from Senior Game Wardens and other sources. The WIU conducts investigations that are generally complex, long-term wildlife violation cases utilizing specialized methods and equipment and that require time commitments beyond what game wardens can devote. Cases may be overt or covert in nature and are selected based on established priorities.

In addition to Wyoming, WIU personnel also assist other jurisdictions including the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Most of these cases take a great deal of time and can be active for several years. Each case may contain many defendants and many charges/violations. The WIU also has a large number of cases that are not addressed due to time constraints and priorities.

Since FY 11, an average of 6,106 investigative hours were completed annually (69 percent). In FY 15, the WIU was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes and spent 8,288 hours investigating cases. Several large cases are currently in the prosecution phase. The WIU has initiated several new, major, covert, and overt investigations.

What has been accomplished:

- Five Wildlife Investigators and one Investigator Supervisor were able to spend 8,288 hours working to solve wildlife crime (77 percent).
- Many cases have progressed or concluded, including several covert cases.
- Investigators have received more training to accomplish their work assignments.

Program: Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management

Division: Wildlife

Mission: Lead specialized, statewide conservation and management of native terrestrial wildlife species, and assist with regional management of resident game species.

Program Facts: The Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is made up of six major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Mgt	5.0	\$920,604
Terrestrial Nongame (CWCS)**	9.9	1,203,122
Migratory Game Bird (Waterfowl)	1.0	142,126
Trophy Game Management	8.0	1,286,116
Wolf Management	2.0	735,264
Sage-grouse Conservation	2.0	932,104
Predator Management	0.0	100,000
TOTAL	27.9	\$5,319,336

* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

** Includes funding from the General Fund and State Wildlife Grants (SWG).

The Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Management sub-program (SWaHM) was previously referred to as the biological services sub-program. The name was changed because of internal reorganization resulting in the Statewide Terrestrial Habitat sub-program falling under this new umbrella and to better reflect the scope of duties for this diverse work unit. The sub-programs that comprise the new Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management program were previously part of the Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program (Strategic Plan FY 04 - FY 07, November 2003). The three personnel remaining in the Statewide Terrestrial Habitat sub-program are accounted for in the Habitat Report. Other sub-programs under the SWaHM umbrella include terrestrial nongame (CWCS, excluding the State Herpetologist), migratory game bird (waterfowl), and sage-grouse conservation. The Trophy Game Management sub-program is responsible for the statewide monitoring and management of mountain lions, black bears, grizzly bears, and wolves including conflict resolution and investigation.

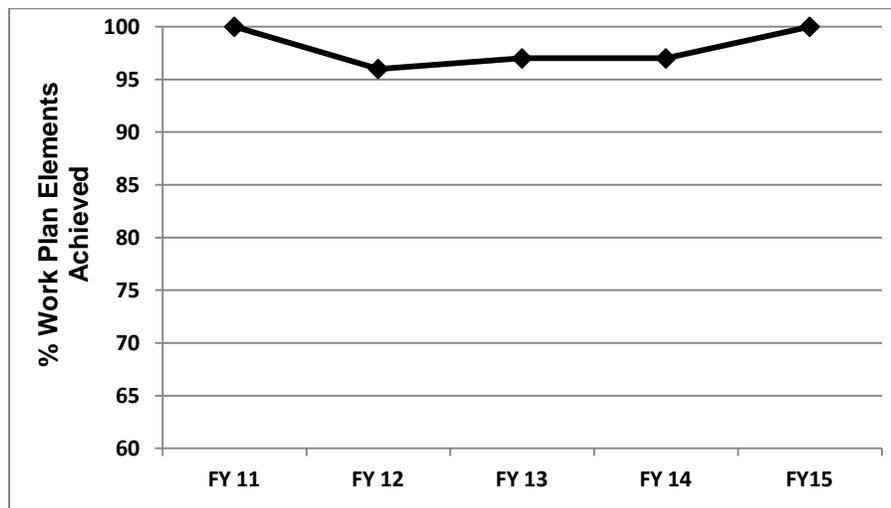
This program has statewide responsibilities with personnel based in various locations.

Primary Functions of the Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program:

- **Assist with recovery and conservation of species that are listed as threatened, endangered, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act or are identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need** in Wyoming's 2010 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by developing and implementing plans and strategies, providing technical and financial assistance, collecting data, coordinating with other agencies and organizations, and conducting research.

- **Participate in statewide terrestrial wildlife management** by providing policy recommendations, field or published data and environmental analyses, data collection, and trophy game conflict resolution; by compiling and administering statewide management data; and by representing the division or agency in multi-disciplinary and multi-organization conservation and management efforts.
- **Contribute to harvest management of game species** by conducting annual harvest surveys, compiling, and analyzing harvest information; making recommendations on harvest strategies; and interstate coordination.
- **Serve internal and external customers** by providing and interpreting data, disseminating information about wildlife and its management, and providing additional related services.

Performance Measure #1: Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Management - Major work plan elements achieved (Personnel in this sub-program will work to complete at least 95 percent of the major work elements which are planned for a single year.)



Story behind the performance:

The number of major work plan elements achieved continues to be the measure of SWaHM’s annual performance. These work elements are selected annually based on the importance of the particular products and services the statewide wildlife and habitat management sub-program provides to internal and external customers.

Over the past five years (FY 10-FY 14), SWaHM has completed an average of 98 percent (124 of 127) of its major work plan elements. In FY 15, 100 percent (37 of 37) of major work plan elements were completed (see bulleted list below).

While our record of completing major work plan elements is good, accomplishing them can be a challenge because the sub-program is often assigned a number of unplanned, urgent, and high

priority items each year by Wildlife Administration and/or the Director's Office. The sub-program's personnel include some latitude in their annual work schedules in anticipation of these unplanned assignments. All such assignments were completed in FY 15. Recognition that unplanned assignments are a critical function of the statewide wildlife and habitat management sub-program was done by including it as a major work plan element.

What has been accomplished:

Major work plan elements identified annually constitute a large percentage, but not all of the duties and tasks for which the statewide wildlife and habitat management sub-program is responsible. Each is important to someone, and in some cases, is significant to a broad range of internal and external customers. For FY 15, these elements were:

- Administer and supervise the SWaHM sub-program.
- Prepare and administer the SWaHM (6T50) budget.
- Participate with the Habitat and Technical Advisory Group and fulfilling duties such as Habitat Trust, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, State Wildlife Grant (SWG), and Worth the Watching project review and approval.
- Help plan, attend, and contribute to supervisors and coordinators meetings.
- Help plan and attend the 2015 Wildlife Division In-Service training session.
- Review, edit, and make recommendations on funding, study tracking, and follow-up for maintenance and operation research proposals.
- Review hunt area maps for big game, trophy game, small game, migratory game birds, upland game birds, and furbearers regulation development.
- Review regional recommendations and provide Wildlife Administration with comments on proposed hunting regulations.
- Complete unscheduled technical duties and fulfill data requests as assigned by the Director's Office or Wildlife Administration.
- Write the Bobcat Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species annual report.
- Respond to injured or nuisance wildlife calls.
- Coordinate with external providers for pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk harvest surveys.
- Conduct internally and publish harvest reports for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and wild bison.
- Conduct internally and publish harvest reports for black bears and mountain lions.
- Conduct internally and publish small game, upland game bird, migratory game bird, furbearer, sandhill crane, and Light Goose Conservation Order harvest surveys.
- Administer and manage the Wildlife Observation System (WOS).
- Work with IT on the Job Completion Report (JCR) database maintenance and upgrades, enter harvest survey data, and ultimately publish and post reports on the Department's Annual Big Game JCR website.
- Publish and post the Annual Migratory Game Bird and Nongame JCRs on the Department's website.
- Maintain and post on summary spreadsheets for big game, small game, upland game birds, and migratory game birds on the Department's intranet.
- Maintain and run black bear and mountain lion hotlines and provide daily updates.

- Chair Wyoming's Bird Habitat Partnership under the Intermountain West and Northern Great Plains Joint Ventures. Collaborate with conservation partners and facilitate efforts to secure conservation funding from the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act and other sources.
- Provide technical support to the Habitat Protection section for impact assessment and mitigation policies/recommendations.
- Lead technical review and editing for revisions and updates to the Department's Handbook of Biological Techniques.
- Provide technical support to Wildlife Division working groups including technical review and editing of management recommendations (e.g., mule deer initiative, mule deer energy guidelines, mule deer habitat management recommendations). Respond to internal and external requests for technical information as well as public information requests on a variety of topics.

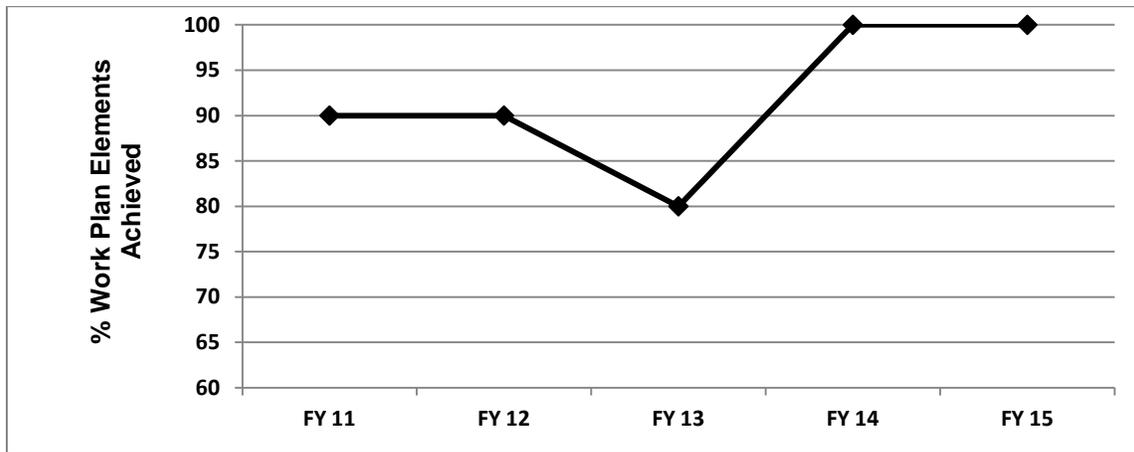
Sage-grouse

- Prepare and administer the biennium budget (program legislatively funded).
- Participate in multi-state sage-grouse conservation efforts.
- Implement Governor Mead's Executive Order (Greater Sage-grouse Core Area Protection) and other in-state duties including interacting with the Governor's Sage-grouse Implementation Team (SGIT).
- Assist the eight Local Sage-grouse Working Groups (LWG) in implementing their conservation plans by facilitating LWG meetings and administering the \$1.2 million biennium legislative appropriation to local sage-grouse conservation projects.
- Assist the Habitat Protection Program with responding to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data call regarding the federal court stipulated agreement requiring the USFWS to determine, by 9/30/2015, the Threatened and Endangered Species Act status of greater sage-grouse.
- Coordinate statewide sage-grouse data collection with the regions, oversee data entry into the sage-grouse database, and provide access to internal users of the data for use in preparing annual JCRs and to external users such as industry, other agencies, and researchers.
- Provide sage-grouse related GIS services including assisting with the Density Disturbance Calculation Tool.

Migratory game bird duties conducted by SWaHM personnel

- Administer and supervise the statewide waterfowl sub-program.
- Prepare and administer the 6T80 budget.
- Coordinate with the Pacific Flyway Study Committee regarding management plans and regulatory decisions that pertain to the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming.
- Work with regional personnel and the USFWS to develop early and late migratory game bird hunting seasons.
- Complete a migratory game bird biologist desk manual.
- Hire a new migratory game bird biologist (Nate Huck) to replace the retiring biologist (Larry Roberts).

Performance Measure #2: Migratory Game Bird - Major work plan elements achieved (Personnel in this sub-program will work to complete at least 75 percent of the major work elements which are planned for a single year).



Story behind the performance:

This sub-program was formerly called “Waterfowl Management.” Major annual work plan elements for the Migratory Game Bird sub-program include: updating the desk manual, organizing files, entering migratory game bird survey data into the WOS, conducting population and harvest surveys, making hunting season recommendations, fulfilling Central Flyway Technical Committee functions and responsibilities, conducting mourning dove banding, and completing annual completion reports.

Annual work plan elements are identified by sub-program personnel prior to the fiscal year. The number of major work plan elements achieved has been the sole measure of the sub-program’s performance. Work plan elements primarily reflect the duties within the scope and mission of the sub-program, and are vital to managing migratory game birds at the state and interstate scales. Since FY 10, the migratory game bird management sub-program completed an average of 88 percent of its annual major work plan elements. In FY 15, 100 percent (eight of eight) of the major annual work plan elements were completed.

In FY 12, mourning dove banding was added to the list of priority work plan elements. In addition, the migratory game bird sub-program is providing financial support through the Central Flyway Council to help fund a pre-season duck banding effort being carried out in the Central Flyway.

The migratory game bird sub-program participates in cooperative annual surveys to estimate waterfowl populations and provides information necessary for setting waterfowl seasons. Surveys include the March and September crane, mid-winter waterfowl, winter Canada goose classification, and April Canada goose breeding surveys. This sub-program remains strongly committed to migratory game bird management through the national flyway system. The sub-program’s involvement includes developing and revising management plans for various migratory game bird populations, providing input on policy decisions, setting annual hunting

seasons, and producing annual JCRs for hunted populations in both the Central and Pacific Flyways. These processes require representatives from Wyoming to participate in Flyway Technical Committee meetings held annually in December/January, March, and July. Due to austerity cutbacks including elimination of the Pacific Flyway biologist position, Wyoming has assumed inactive status in the Pacific Flyway as of October, 2012. However, the statewide migratory game bird biologist continues to coordinate with the Pacific Flyway Technical Committee regarding issues that potentially impact Wyoming. Commencing fall, 2015, the USFWS is converting to a single annual regulatory schedule that will also require rescheduling of the flyway meetings. Final migratory game bird hunting frameworks will now be published in the federal register in December for the subsequent fall-winter hunting season.

What has been accomplished:

The migratory game bird biologist coordinated surveys to collect waterfowl and sandhill crane harvest and population data, analyzed the data, prepared hunting season recommendations, and represented the Department at Central Flyway meetings.

The migratory game bird sub-program participated in several cooperative surveys coordinated annually by the USFWS to estimate migratory game bird populations and provide information necessary for setting hunting seasons. These surveys included March and September crane, spring Canada goose population, and mid-winter waterfowl surveys, as well as participating in the national mourning dove banding program. In FY 15, 231 doves were banded.

The annual budget was prepared and included funding to support for the Central Flyway pre-season duck banding effort. Crews again banded ducks in North Dakota during FY 15.

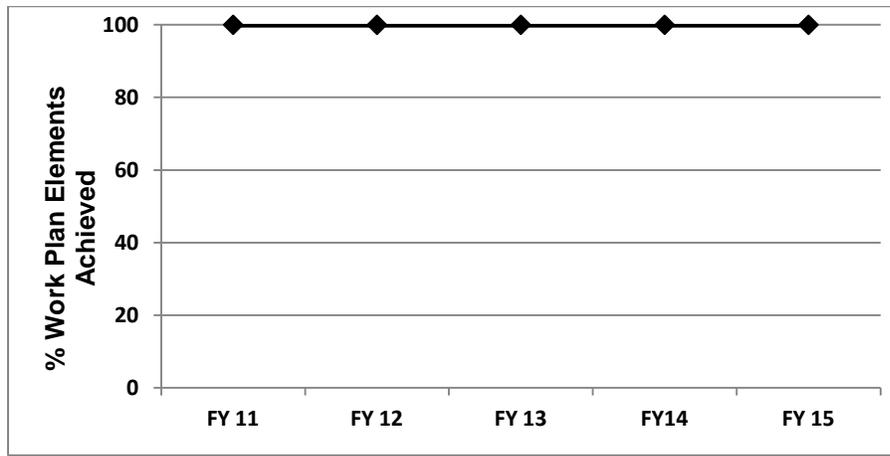
Another spring light goose hunting season was held in the Central Flyway portion of the state in accordance with the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act.

The sub-program pursued conservation of migratory game bird habitat through its involvement in the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership.

Data development agenda:

The number of work elements achieved annually may not be an ideal measure of success, but seems to provide the most practical approach given the diversity of duties within the sub-program. An alternative would be the annual number of (hunter) recreation days supported by the migratory game bird sub-program. However, many factors outside the influence of migratory game bird sub-program personnel can affect this metric, for example, bird production and survival in other parts of the continent, weather during the migration period, changes in the federal hunting season frameworks, and changing cultural values that affect hunter participation. As well, the number of recreation days is only one of the outputs that might be important to external customers of this sub-program. Personnel will continue to investigate alternative performance measures for the sub-program.

Performance Measure #3: Nongame Bird and Mammal – Major work plan elements achieved (Personnel in this sub-program will work to complete at least 95 percent of the major work elements which are planned for a single year.)



Story behind the performance:

This sub-program is responsible for the monitoring, management, and dissemination of information on over 300 species of birds and 100 species of mammals.

Major work plan elements include planning and strategy administration; monitoring abundance trends of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, common loons, long-billed curlews, American bitterns, colonial nesting waterbirds; coordinating with Partners in Flight and the Wyoming Bird Records Committees; monitoring black-footed ferrets; inventorying bats and associated habitats; surveying raptor nests; completing SWG projects; and reporting and disseminating information. During the FY 15 reporting cycle, the sub-program collected survey data on 20 of 46 mammal and 42 of 56 bird SGCN listed in Wyoming’s 2010 SWAP. These data will be used during the upcoming the SWAP revision.

A limited number of elements can be reasonably 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 the number of species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and the need to work on many of these before listing, has greatly increased workloads. State funding from the general fund and the Governor’s budget, along with federal appropriations, such as State Wildlife Grants (SWG), have been extremely helpful for initiating new projects through grants and contracts. However, the long-term effectiveness of additional funding is limited by restrictions on additional permanent personnel and the short-term or inconsistent nature of funding. During the FY15 reporting period there were two changes in personnel for this sub-program. Martin Greiner, statewide nongame mammal biologist, resigned from the Department and was replaced by Nichole Cudworth. Zachary Walker was hired to replace Bob Oakleaf (retired) as the Nongame Bird and Mammal Program Supervisor.

What Has Been Accomplished:

During FY 15, the terrestrial nongame sub-program continued collecting information on population trends of SGCNs such as trumpeter swan, common loon, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, ferruginous hawk, mountain plover, upland sandpiper, burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, black-footed ferret, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and bats. The nongame sub-program has utilized seven sources of funding such as SWG, Governor's endangered species (ESA) funds, and Wyoming legislative appropriations. The sub-program has worked with a number of collaborators such as nongovernment organizations, the University of Wyoming, particularly the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit) and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD), other state agencies, and federal partners to accomplish nongame goals and objectives within the state. The sub-program completed several projects in FY 15 that were initiated in prior reporting cycles that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCN. These projects include:

- A project to determine the status of water vole in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming was completed. Overall captures were fairly low as water voles were captured at only four of 22 survey sites. An additional survey effort was funded for FY 16 and will continue to increase records of occurrence and evaluate distribution, genetics, and habitat requirements. The project is funded by SWG.
- A research project was completed that studied habitat use and movements of great gray owls in the Jackson region through use of satellite radio tracking in partnership with the Craighead Beringia South Research Institute. This proved to be an excellent nesting season with over 30 nesting territories documented in spring 2015 and over 20 fledglings were banded. The Teton Raptor Center plans to continue work on the nesting population in the Jackson area in future years. A final report including habitat assessment/models will be submitted fall 2015. The project was funded by SWG.
- A project is completed which utilized satellite telemetry to track resident bald eagles in the anticline project area south of Pinedale in partnership with the Craighead Beringia South Research Institute. The project is funded through the Pinedale Anticline Project Office.
- A three-year project to improve Department understanding of the distribution, abundance, and response to fire of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in southeastern Wyoming was completed. In 2014, the Department surveyed eight sites and documented Preble's at three of the sites, one of which had burned in the fires in 2012. The project was funded entirely by the Governor's ESA fund.
- The Department also participated on the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Recovery Team and completed the first draft of the recovery plan, expected to be finalized in the fall of 2015.
- The Department completed two projects to evaluate distribution, occupancy, and habitat requirements of northern flying squirrels. Flying squirrels were detected on seven of 12 sites in Teton County, with habitat differing between sites where squirrels were and were not detected. This project was funded by the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. The Department also detected flying squirrels at 20 of 23 survey sites in the Wyoming portion of the Black Hills, with the number of logs and distance to saplings influencing the occupancy of squirrels. This project was funded by SWG.

- Five-year post delisting monitoring for peregrine falcon was completed. Seventeen sites were surveyed during FY 15. This project was funded by SWG.

The sub-program continued several projects in FY 15 that were initiated in prior reporting cycles that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- In cooperation with the Coop Unit, a project examining the impacts of energy development on songbirds is ongoing. The SGCN focal species are sagebrush obligates - Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, and sage thrasher. The project uses nest monitoring, remote cameras, predator count monitoring, and habitat metrics to evaluate nest site selection, nesting success, and predation on these SGCN. This project is funded by SWG.
- In cooperation with the Coop Unit, a research project is on-going to determine the impacts of invasive species on small mammal communities associated with grasslands in eastern Wyoming. The project is funded by SWG.
- In cooperation with the Coop Unit, a research project is ongoing to evaluate the utility of using sage-grouse core areas for protecting other SGCN associated with sagebrush (sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, pygmy rabbit, sagebrush vole, and greater short-horned lizard). The analysis was expanded to include 52 SGCN which are listed in the 2010 SWAP under habitats used by sage-grouse (sagebrush shrublands, desert shrublands, foothill shrublands, and prairie grasslands) and assessing whether core areas contain better habitat for these species than would randomly selected areas within the extent of big sagebrush habitat within the state. This project was funded by SWG.
- In cooperation with the Coop Unit, a research project is ongoing to examine the degree to which behavioral plasticity may allow climate-sensitive wildlife to persist in changing conditions, using the American pika as a model. Results will provide a statewide vulnerability assessment for pikas and an example of how to incorporate species resilience into climate change vulnerability assessments. This project is funded by SWG.
- A specialized survey to detect secretive marsh birds has been ongoing in the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in cooperation with the USFWS, and was expanded to include additional SGCN (e.g., Virginia rail). This project was funded by Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations and the Department.
- The nongame ornithologist continued coordination of the annual Breeding Bird Survey Roadside Monitoring program in Wyoming, which provides distribution and population trend information for landbirds, including 10 SGCN. This project is funded by Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations, Governor's ESA funds, and cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USFWS, and Bureau of Reclamation.
- The nongame sub-program participated in ferret conservation and coordination meetings with federal, state, and nongovernment organizations. The Department, in collaboration with the USFWS, drafted a statewide 10(j) rule that would allow all ferrets in Wyoming to be designated as experimental, non-essential. This designation would allow incidental take of ferrets while performing an otherwise legal activity. Public meetings were held throughout the state to address questions and obtain public support. In addition to public meetings, the

Department met with all identified stakeholders to discuss the proposed rule. The proposed rule was published in April of 2015. Recovery efforts for the black-footed ferret continued using USFWS Section 6 funds and Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations.

- A project to inventory and improve the understanding of bats classified as SGCN associated with cliff and canyon habitats in eastern Wyoming continued. The Department documented nearly 4,000 individual bats through acoustic and live-capture methods, representing 11 different species. The Department also continued efforts to monitor known bat hibernacula throughout the state. The project is funded by SWG.
- A project to model the risks of white nose syndrome in hibernating bats is ongoing. Model variables have been identified and temperature loggers have been deployed into known bat hibernacula. Resulting temperature data will help determine if caves are suitable for harboring the fungus causing white nose. This project was funded by SWG.
- The sub-program participated in field evaluations of a sylvatic plague oral vaccine for prairie dogs to benefit the recovery of black-footed ferrets. The Department participated in the final season of the sylvatic plague vaccine trial in Meeteetse, Wyoming. During FY 15, the Department captured and marked 446 prairie dogs over four 16.2-ha. plots. Data from the FY 15 surveys suggest an even greater prairie dog population than previous surveys. In addition to marking prairie dogs and collecting biological samples to evaluate titer levels and vaccine consumption, the Department also continued efforts to map and monitor white-tailed prairie dog colonies at the study site. This project is funded by a multi-state SWG grant.
- A project, initiated in 2005, to establish shallow water wetland habitat for the growing population of resident trumpeter swans was continued. The project also provided habitat for up to 20 other SGCN species including ducks, waterbirds, raptors, and moose in the Green River Basin. The newest pond constructed in the New Fork River drainage was filled in fall 2014 and is functioning well. Swans nested on two other project ponds in the same drainage in spring 2015. Projects have been funded mainly through the BLM Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, with additional funding from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Original planning effort to initiate this work was funded through a SWG grant. Over 50 acres of new wetland habitat has been completed. The swan population in the Green River basin now exceeds that in the core Snake River area and is continuing to expand in both numbers and distribution. The Common Loon Monitoring and Research Project, started in 2013 in partnership with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), is continuing. The annual Wyoming Loon Working Group meeting was hosted by the Department in Jackson in May to review last year's achievements and on-going work for the 2015 nesting season. In 2014, BRI documented 16 territorial pairs, 14 nested and hatched 20 chicks of which 18 survived. Monitoring of all known and potential nesting habitat continued in spring/summer 2015. In summer 2015, the first geolocator was recovered from an adult loon which indicated this bird wintered in the southern end of the Gulf of California providing the first data from Wyoming on wintering sites. The purpose of this project is to assess the population status of common loons nesting in Wyoming, develop site-specific management plans, and develop a long-term monitoring plan in coordination with Yellowstone National Park. This project was initially funded through a grant from the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Current work is funded through the

Ricketts Conservation Fund. Surveys of grassland birds including mountain plover, burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, and upland sandpiper are on-going. Surveys occurred throughout the range of these species in Wyoming and utilized a number of regional Department personnel. This project was partially funded by Wyoming Partners in Flight funds from the BLM.

- The majority of an ongoing project to investigate the population status of ferruginous hawks and to quantify the effects of energy development on habitat and key prey species has been completed. Additional funding is being sought to allow existing funds to be used for additional radio transmitters and to hire technicians to assist in collecting prey data and fully evaluating and reporting on the massive amount of information that has been collected. Modeling for this project has been completed and a draft for species monitoring is being developed. The cooperative study was initiated in 2010 with additional funding from the U.S. Forest Service, USFWS, and BLM.
- Long-term monitoring efforts under the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program continued with key Wyoming Partners in Flight participants. The IMBCR program in Wyoming includes 191 sampling grids, each containing 16 point-count stations at which all avian species detected by sight and sound are recorded. A total of 2,455 point counts were conducted on 190 cells. Population trends were determined for 25 avian SGCNs, abundance estimated for 18 SGCNs, and distribution upgraded for 15 SGCNs. The project was funded by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cooperative agreement, Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations, SWG, and the U.S. Forest Service.

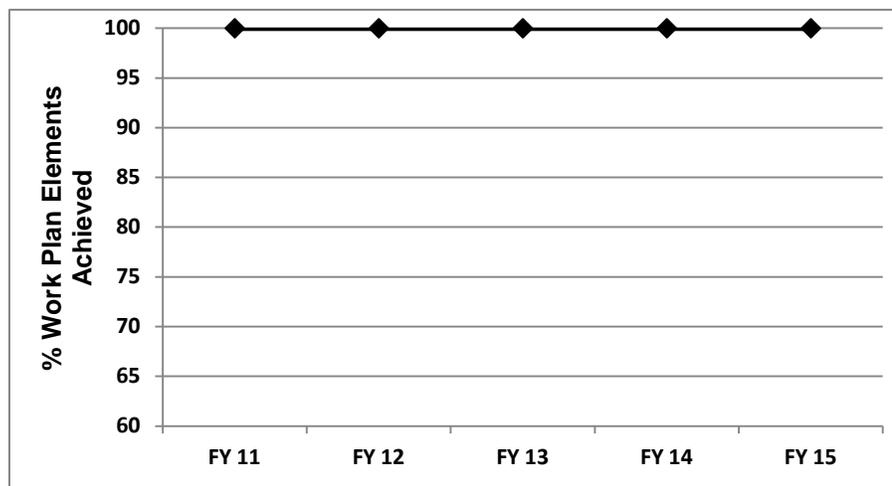
The nongame sub-program initiated several projects in FY 15 that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- A study examining distribution and movements of long-billed curlew. The first curlew ever tagged in Wyoming was tagged with a satellite transmitter in 2014 and wintered 100 miles south of Mazatlan, Mexico. This work, by the Intermountain Bird Observatory (IBO) in partnership with the Department, was funded by the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. An additional seven curlews were tagged in spring 2015: two in Jackson, two in Cody, and three in the Pinedale area through funding provided by the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Raynes Wildlife Fund, and BLM national office as part of a multi-state regional study. IBO also began work on a demographic study in the Daniel/Pinedale area and the Cody area that was funded through Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations and a grant from BLM. The work in the Pinedale area is a repeat of a graduate study completed by the Department in the 1980s, allowing a comparison of current population status to the 1980s baseline.
- To assist with the 2017 revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) a Species Account Coordinator was hired by providing funds to WYNDD. The individual has begun coordinating revisions to SWAP species accounts and assisting with information transfer between the Department and the WYNDD. Funding was provided through Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations
- Examining the distribution of female wolverines in Wyoming. Baseline surveys for female wolverines were conducted in the western mountains of Wyoming. Wolverine were found

at five camera stations. This work was used to determine occupied range, and to provide an initial field season to test survey protocols. Additional work will be conducted for this species in FY 16 as part of a larger coordinated effort between the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Washington to survey wolverine occupancy throughout the known range of this species in the lower 48. Work for this project is funded through Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations.

- Performing black-tailed prairie dog range inventory. Work for this project has been contracted out to WEST consulting. WEST has analyzed aerial imagery to delimitate black-tailed prairie dog colonies throughout their range in Wyoming. A subset of identified colonies will be ground-truthed to provide an estimate of model accuracy. This project was funded through Governor’s ESA funds.
- Examining spotted skunk distribution and genetics. This species has been petitioned for listing under ESA and the USFWS issued a positive 90-day finding on December 4, 2014. During the winter of FY15, a combination of camera stations, track plates, and live-trapping were employed to survey 160 locations throughout the eastern two-thirds of Wyoming. In total, spotted skunks were detected at 16 locations within central Wyoming, including the Laramie, Shirley, and Pedro Mountains, as well as the Sweetwater Rocks area. This project was funded through the Governor’s ESA funds.
- Evaluating the efficacy of using dorsal guard hairs to determine species identification of shrews. Currently, shrews can only be identified to species through dental examination, which requires dead specimens. Identification through hair samples may provide a non-invasive technique to evaluate distribution of species. This project is funded through SWG.
- Examining the range and distribution of the black-backed woodpecker in Wyoming. A total of 1,232 count blocks were surveyed resulting in 300 black-backed woodpeckers observed in the black-hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. This project is contracted to the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and funded through Governor’s ESA funds.

Performance Measure #4: Trophy Game Management and Research – Major work plan elements achieved (Personnel in this sub-program will work to complete at least 95 percent of the major work elements which are planned for a single year.)



Story behind the performance:

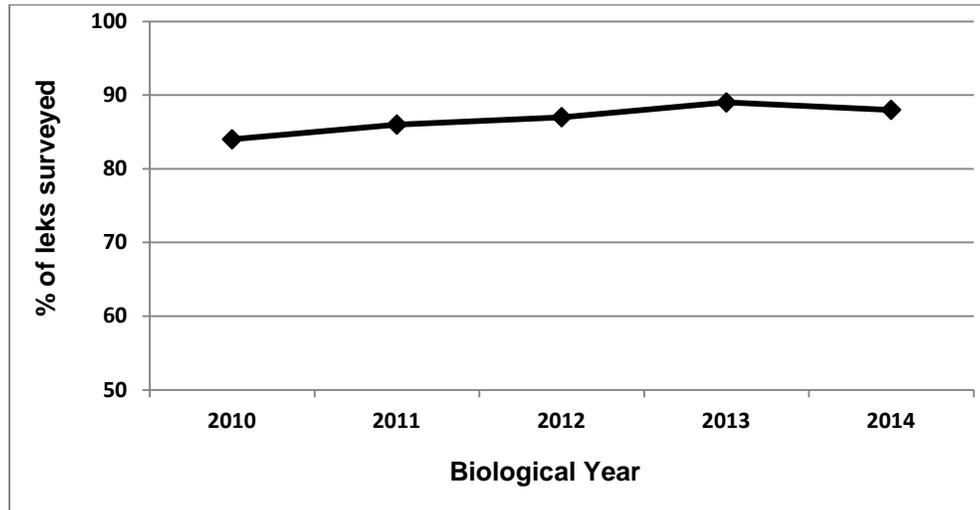
The primary measure of this sub-program's performance has been the number of major work plan elements achieved annually. These work plan elements include: continuing annual grizzly bear observation surveys, aerial monitoring radio collared bears, capture and marking of bears for monitoring, continuing implementation of alternative methods of grizzly bear population monitoring, managing multiple databases for large carnivores, analyzing annual black bear and mountain lion harvest data, evaluating new methodologies to evaluate population status of black bears and mountain lions, conducting public meetings addressing large carnivore management practices, participating in meetings with regional Department personnel to address harvest, analyzing findings and developing dialogue relative to the season setting processes, participating on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST), fulfilling information requests, preparing various annual reports, implementing new monitoring techniques, and providing educational presentations to the public. All (100 percent) of the annual work plan elements have been met each year. As is typical, unanticipated situations arise related to large carnivore management, resulting in several additional work elements being completed this fiscal year that were not initially identified. This sub-program responds to numerous unplanned, higher priority assignments from the administration. There is typically little latitude to adjust sub-program personnel assignments. While personnel do anticipate several unplanned events annually, the frequency and timing cannot be predicted.

What has been accomplished:

- Conducted trapping of grizzly and black bears for monitoring purposes in the Timber Creek and Dick Creek areas west of Meeteetse.
- Conducted trapping of grizzly and black bears for monitoring purposes in Squirrel Meadows in the Caribou Targhee National Forest.
- Conducted backcountry trapping of grizzly and black bears for monitoring purposes in the Fox Park area south of Yellowstone National Park.
- Conducted aerial monitoring of radio-collared grizzly bears.
- Coordinated and conducted observation flights as well as additional moth-site only flights to evaluate a new mark/resight method to estimate population abundance.
- Managed a database for telemetry flights.
- Managed grizzly bear location and capture databases for grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions.
- Conducted trapping of black bears for monitoring purposes in the Greys River region in the Wyoming Range.
- Coordinated and conducted capture and collaring of gray wolves to effectively monitor Wyoming's gray wolf population.
- Continued work to evaluate wolf predation on ungulates in the Jackson region, this was suspended due to changes in the federal status of gray wolves.
- Assembled and analyzed gray wolf harvest and mortality data and produced the interim report. All regulated hunting of wolves was suspended on September 23, 2014.
- Conducted public education and information gathering meetings for proposed changes to gray wolf hunting regulations. Also, presented gray wolf harvest summary and proposed changes for the 2014 season to the Commission.
- Conducted numerous information and education programs relative to bear, mountain lion, and wolf ecology, management, and human safety/awareness.

- Managed wolf, black bear, and mountain lion harvest databases.
- Analyzed black bear harvest data from the previous season and produced the annual harvest report.
- Represented the Department at the Commission meeting to develop quotas and harvest management for black bears throughout Wyoming.
- Continued work with the Teton Cougar Project on a cooperative effort to develop non-invasive techniques for monitoring mountain lions as well as evaluating predation on ungulates. Coordinated publication of previous results from the study looking at population demographics of mountain lions north of Jackson.
- Assisted personnel from South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks with mountain lion monitoring techniques in the Black Hills.
- Analyzed mountain lion harvest data for harvest year 2014 and provided results to the regions and the public.
- Conducted several meetings with sportsmen and outfitters related to management strategies and harvest of black bears, wolves, and mountain lions.
- Met with the Wyoming Houndsmen Association to provide information as to mountain lion and furbearer management.
- Assisted with several Mule Deer Initiative meetings across the state, providing information relative to impacts of predators on ungulates.
- Assisted with the prevention, management, and mitigation of numerous conflicts between large carnivores, people, property, and livestock.
- Worked with IGBST on grizzly bear location data and verification of all 2014 grizzly bear data.
- Worked with members of the IGBST to analyze data and prepared multiple manuscripts meant to update the current status of grizzly bear demographics in the Greater Yellowstone Area as well as a synthesis of material on whitebark pine.
- Participated in the IGBST, Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee, and Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.
- Served on multiple graduate committees evaluating mountain lion ecology and management in areas within and bordering Wyoming.
- Published manuscripts in popular and peer-reviewed literature related to large carnivore ecology and management.
- Prepared grizzly bear moth-site use and hunter numbers chapters for IGBST Annual Report.
- Obtained additional funding through the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to assist with data collection, conflict management, and information and education efforts.
- Completed all reporting requirements for USFWS Section 6 and Conservation Strategy funding.
- Provided comments on manuscripts, management plans, and research proposals for large carnivore species throughout North America.
- Represented the sub-program, division, and Department at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sanctioned Black Bear Workshop.
- Initiated work to evaluate the efficacy of using thermal imagery to estimate abundance of large carnivores.

Performance Measure #5: Percentage of occupied leks surveyed. (Personnel in this sub-program will work to survey at least 80 percent of the occupied sage-grouse leks.)



Story behind the performance:

As of the spring of 2015 (end of biological year 2014), there were 1,833 known occupied sage-grouse leks in Wyoming. Department personnel, together with personnel from other agencies, volunteers, and consultants, surveyed 88 percent of these leks at least once. The proportion of leks checked in the previous 10 years (biological years 2004-2013) averaged 86 percent. In the spring of 2015, 1,196 leks were confirmed active, 269 confirmed inactive, and 144 unknown or unchecked.

The Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (2003) established an objective of a minimum of 1,650 known occupied leks. Monitoring sage-grouse population trends requires knowledge of the location of all or most leks along with the average number of males attending the leks each year. While it is presumed the location of most leks is known, new leks are discovered each year. The effort to monitor sage-grouse population trends has increased dramatically since 1998 and therefore, the number of known occupied leks, as well as the proportion of leks surveyed, has increased. However, the numbers of inactive and unoccupied leks has increased due to continued habitat disturbance and fragmentation primarily associated with increasing human infrastructure (subdivisions, roads, power lines, gas wells, compressor stations, etc.) and the associated activity. These impacts continue to be documented and quantified by research in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (2003) also established an objective of an average “count” of 28 males/lek, not to fall below 10 males/lek during cyclical lows. The average number of male sage-grouse observed on leks also indicates population trend if the number of leks is stable. From biological years 1999-2003, the number of known occupied leks increased due to increased monitoring effort. At the same time, the average number of males observed decreased, believed to be in large part due to drought, but also due to increasing disturbance and fragmentation associated with natural gas development. In biological years 2004-2005, the average number of males/lek increased, at least in part, because of timely spring

precipitation that resulted in a large hatch and high survival of chicks. Most of the increase occurred in habitats relatively undeveloped with human infrastructure. The return of drought conditions in most years after 2006 contributed to declining sage-grouse numbers for the next seven years. In the spring of 2015, the average number of males on “count” leks was 34/active lek, 62 percent greater than the 21/active lek observed in the spring of 2014, suggesting a population increase. While 34/active lek is well below the recent high of 53/active lek in the spring of 2006, it remains substantially higher than the low of 13/active lek reported in 1995 and the bottom threshold of 10/active lek. Monitoring and research suggests sage-grouse populations cycle, similar to rabbits. This research and past history also suggests the statewide population was at the low point in the most recent cycle in the 2013 bio-year. The specific relationship between climatic conditions and population cycles has not been determined, but drought conditions are generally unfavorable for sage-grouse.

In March 2010, the USFWS issued a “warranted but precluded” decision for listing greater sage-grouse as threatened or endangered under the ESA. This means greater sage-grouse have become a “candidate” for listing, but are precluded from immediate listing due to higher priorities. This status is reviewed annually by the USFWS. In its decision document, the USFWS specifically cited Wyoming’s Core Area Strategy (described below) as a mechanism that, if implemented as envisioned, should ensure conservation of sage-grouse in Wyoming and therefore help preclude a future listing. A federal court stipulated agreement requires the USFWS to determine the Threatened and ESA status of greater sage-grouse by September 30, 2015.

The Department and Commission maintain management authority over candidate species and management emphasis will continue to focus on implementation of Wyoming’s Core Area Strategy.

What has been accomplished:

- Governor Matthew Mead issued an Executive Order on June 2, 2011 (2011-4) which reiterated and clarified the intent of Wyoming’s Core Area Strategy originally developed under former Governor Freudenthal’s administration with assistance from the Sage-grouse Implementation Team (SGIT) and LWGs. In January 2015, the Governor tasked the SGIT with providing him with recommendations for updating the executive order and core area map. Through an extensive series of SGIT and LWG meetings held around the state, the SGIT fulfilled its task on May 28, 2015. The Sage-grouse Program Coordinator chaired the SGIT sub-committee that developed the core area map revisions. The Sage-grouse GIS Analyst provided critical technical support to this effort. The Habitat Protection Program Supervisor chaired the other SGIT sub-committee that reviewed the provisions of the executive order. The Governor issued Executive Order 2015-4 on July 29, 2015 (FY16) that replaced 2011-4.
- Implementation of the Executive Order and the core area management concept has resulted in state and federal agency policy and stipulation changes, modifications of projects being implemented by the oil and gas industry, and curtailment or modification of some wind energy developments. These changes and modifications are reported by the habitat protection program.

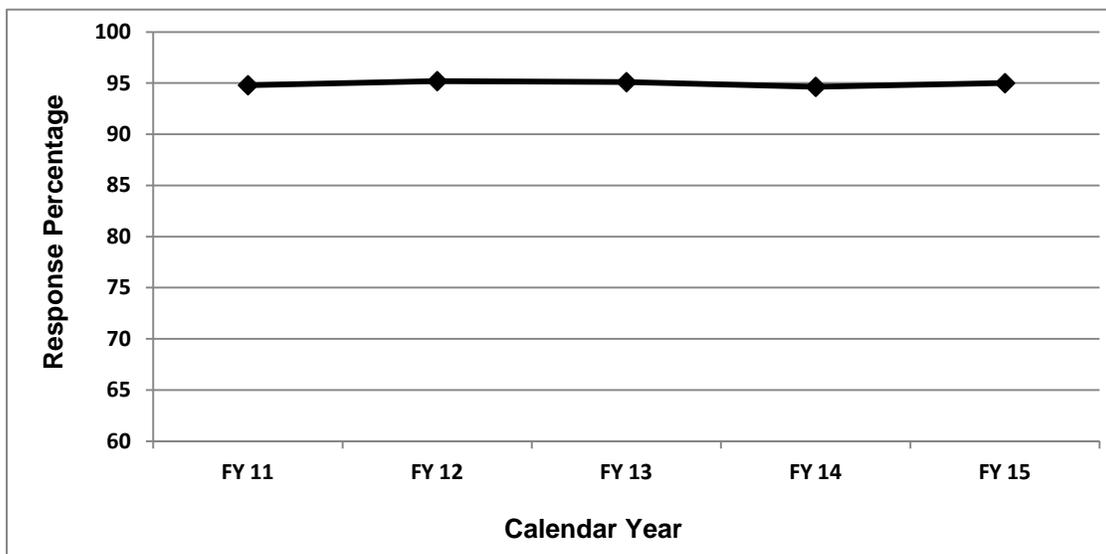
- The 8 LWGs, established in 2004, completed revisions of their respective conservation plans in 2014. The plans are currently being implemented utilizing Wyoming general fund appropriations (\$5.2 million to date) together with other public and private funding sources. Presently, approximately 190 individual projects have been implemented to benefit sage-grouse ranging from on-the-ground habitat improvements, applied research, monitoring, and public outreach. While recent sage-grouse population trends cannot be attributed to these projects, long-term monitoring will ultimately measure their effectiveness.
- Annual JCRs for sage-grouse were prepared. These reports provide sage-grouse population status and management updates from the eight conservation planning areas along with a statewide analysis. These documents aid in the analysis, interpretation, and distribution of sage-grouse population and management information in Wyoming.

Data development agenda:

While the number of occupied leks and average males/lek provides sage-grouse population trend information, it does not provide a statistically defensible population estimate. Efforts are underway within the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sage-grouse Technical Committee and the Rangewide Interagency Sage-grouse Conservation Team to develop better population estimation techniques.

Almost all of the performance of this sub-program is dependent on entities outside the supervision of this sub-program. These entities include a cadre of volunteers, Department employees outside the chain-of-command of this sub-program, other state and federal agencies and branches of government, corporations, and the weather.

Performance Measure #6: Large Carnivore Conflict Management – Conflict response rate (Personnel in this sub-program will respond to 95 percent of trophy game/human conflicts.)



Story behind the performance:

The measure of this sub-program's performance has been the response rate to the number of reported conflicts between trophy game animals and humans. Actions involved in responding to trophy game conflicts vary by incident type and severity, but may include proactive measures, electric fencing, aversive conditioning, capture and relocation, removal, additional preventative measures, education, monitoring, investigation, or no action. During the five-year period 2010-2014, the large carnivore sub-program (formerly the trophy game conflict management branch) has responded to a minimum of 95 percent of the conflicts reported by the public to sub-program personnel. (It should be noted, that the organization of the sub-program changed from two separate branches to one cohesive unit in 2011.) Some conflicts are reported well beyond the time when a response is appropriate and are only logged into the database, where a report is filed nonetheless. Because the sub-program spends a great deal of time responding to conflicts, the number and nature of which are difficult to predict, personnel allow for a certain amount of uncommitted time in their annual work schedules, especially during the black and grizzly bear non-denning period. The number of conflicts managed annually constitutes a large percentage, but not all of the duties and tasks for which the sub-program is responsible. With increasing large carnivore populations (primarily grizzly bears and wolves), the Department has documented an increase in the distribution of conflicts as well as the propensity for conflicts between humans and large carnivores. This requires personnel from the section to be vigilant and on-call for the majority of the year in order to promptly respond to reports of conflicts and provide on the ground resolution in an efficacious manner.

What has been accomplished:

The sub-program responded to > 95 percent of reported conflicts between humans and black bears, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and mountain lions during the reporting period. The sub-program investigated, managed, or mitigated all conflicts where a response was appropriate. Some conflicts are reported long after the incident, making a site response unnecessary. Accomplishments include:

- Provided an annual report of grizzly bear conflicts and relocations.
- Supplied an annual report of grizzly bear management activities for the IGBST annual report including capture, conflict, and relocation information.
- Wrote weekly updates related to grizzly bear management activities.
- The sub-program provides monthly updates relative to all large carnivore management activities.
- Conducted annual Living in Large Carnivore Country Safety Workshops throughout the state.
- Provided grizzly bear conflict and Bear Wise updates at the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee meetings in Bozeman, Montana and Cody, Wyoming.
- Continued to increase the presence of the Bearwise Program toward a Bearwise Wyoming, conducting multiple safety presentations, workshops, and symposia.
- Continued to evaluate new techniques to increase efficiencies and reduce human/carnivore conflicts.
- Provided training to regional Department personnel on capture and conflict resolution for large carnivores.
- Represented the Department at several national and international meetings related to large carnivore conflicts.

- Conducted meetings with landowners and residents throughout northwest Wyoming to decrease conflicts and damage with bears, primarily grizzly bears.
- Participated in multiple media interviews and panel discussions related to large carnivore management and conflict resolution on a state, national, and international level.
- Attended multiple local celebrations and gatherings where personnel were able to reach hundreds, if not thousands, of Wyomingites about large carnivore safety and conflict reduction.
- Conducted immobilization training specific to large carnivores at the Department's immobilization class at the Sybille Research Facility.
- Assisted with the investigation and results of a human fatality that was the result of a bear encounter; personnel were part of the process from initial investigation to meeting with the family and final Board of Review.
- Provided annual report of large carnivore conflicts at the Commission meeting as well as several informational talks as to the "Damage Claim and Verification Process".
- Created a "Bear Wise Wyoming" page for the Department's new website in order to educate the public.
- Secured funding for the Bear Wise Program to maintain the carcass removal program in Park County, as well as provided handouts, public service announcements, magnets and other informational material to thousands of Wyoming residents and visitors.

Data development agenda:

The trend in number and types of conflicts will be documented as an index to response rate. The conflict management sub-program will determine its effectiveness by calculating the percentage of reported conflict situations responded to by sub-program personnel.

Program: Strategic Management

Division: Office of the Director

Mission Statement: Facilitate the Department’s ability to make informed wildlife conservation decisions and serve its publics through improved planning efforts and management effectiveness.

Program Facts: The Strategic Management Program is made up of one major sub-program, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Strategic Management**	2.0	\$ 256,876

** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

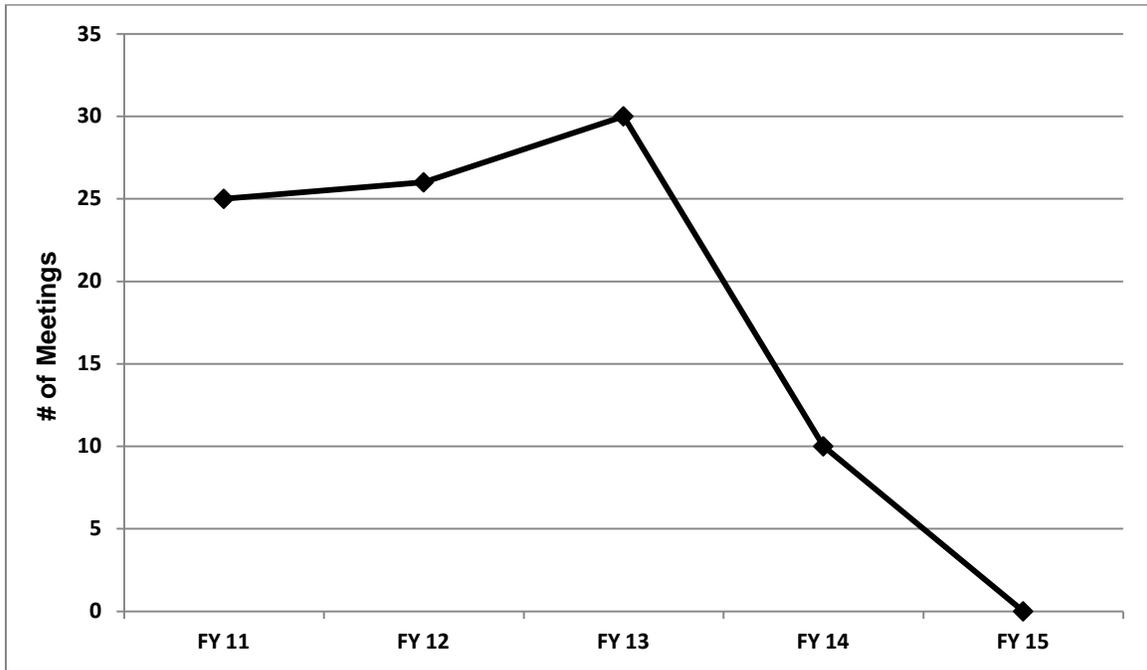
*** The Strategic Management Program and Planning Coordinator have been combined into one program. Budget numbers are also reported in the Department Administration Program Report.*

This program is located in the Department’s Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Strategic Management Program:

- **Facilitate the Department’s ability to make informed wildlife conservation decisions** through improved future planning efforts, and by working inter-divisionally to identify and plan social science needs to better include public input in management decisions.
- **Facilitate the Department’s ability to make informed wildlife conservation decisions** through improved management effectiveness. By applying social sciences to natural resource-related issues, the Department’s ability to identify and understand a diverse group of stakeholders is enhanced, thus leading to more informed and publicly supported management decisions.

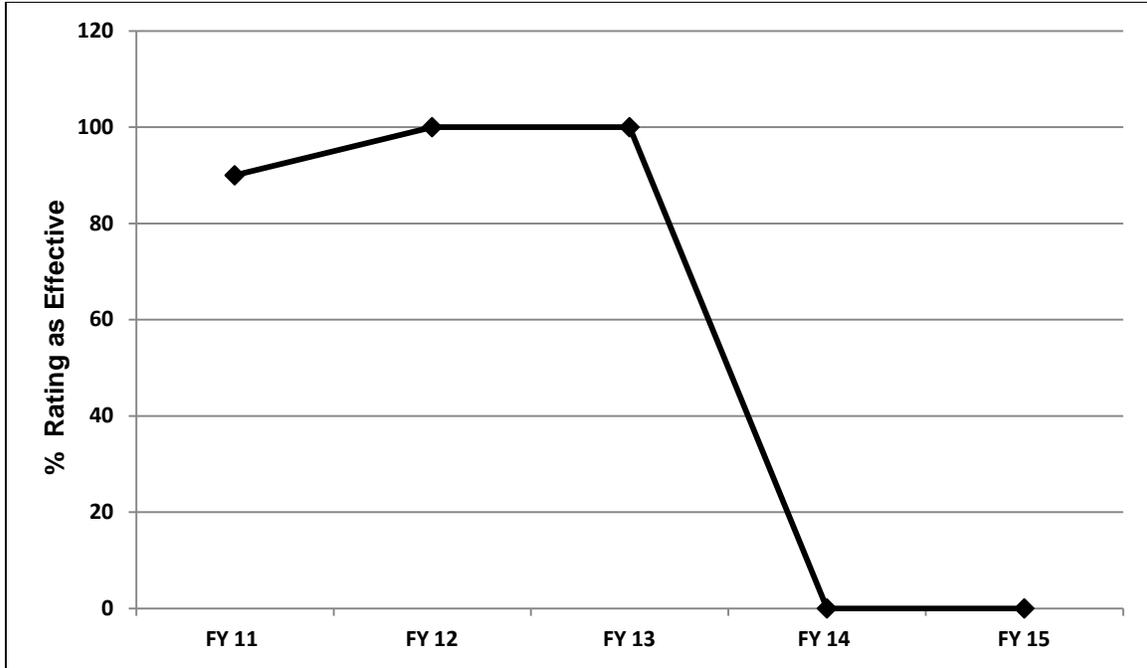
Performance Measure #1: Quarterly meetings held with divisions to determine data needs (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 20 meetings are held each year).



Story behind the performance:

In FY 14, the Human Dimensions Coordinator (HDC) switched much of her focus to helping support Department messaging efforts to increase public trust and support. As a result, no new public surveys were conducted and the subsequent number of meetings with divisions was reduced. The HDC resigned from her position in June 2014. Presently, it is uncertain if this position will be filled.

Performance Measure #2: Data gathered and analyzed from surveys is used by the divisions to help strategic management decisions. Feedback received from divisions will be used to determine the effectiveness of the data gathered (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that divisions rate 90 percent of gathered data as effective).



Story behind the performance:

No new surveys were completed in FY 14 and FY 15. The HDC resigned from her position in June 2014. Presently, it is uncertain if this position will be filled.

Program: Support Facilities and Personnel

Division: Fiscal and Services Division

Mission: Provide adequate administrative support services and workspace for Cheyenne headquarters and regional office personnel in Department facilities.

Program Facts: The Support Facilities and Personnel Program is listed below with number of staff and 2015 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Office Management	21.5	\$ 1,504,154
Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings	2.5	1,274,171
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,778,325

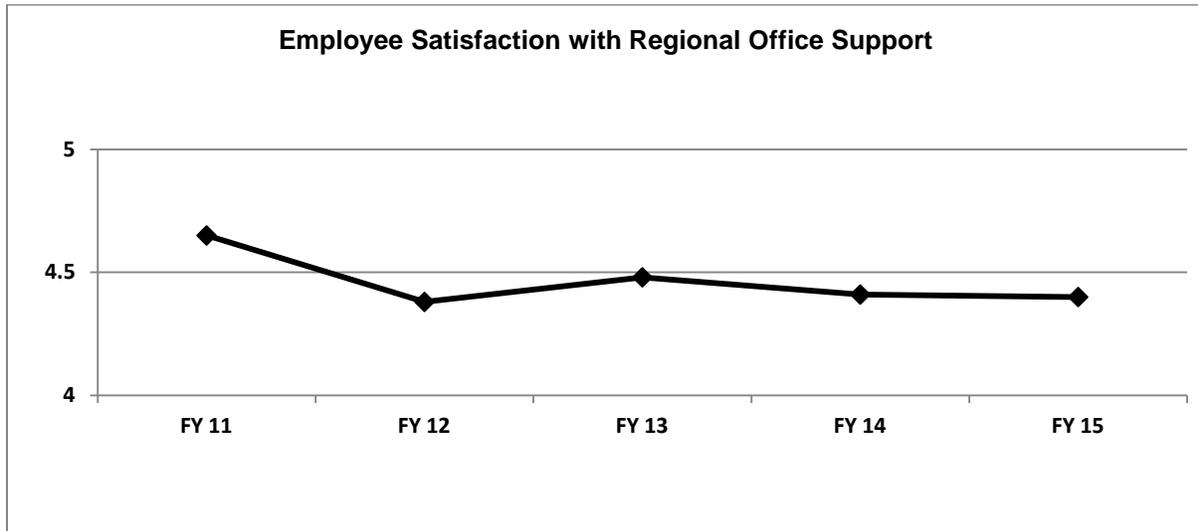
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

This program is located in eight regional office locations statewide plus the Department's Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

Primary Functions of the Support Facilities and Personnel Program:

- **Ensure administrative support levels at regional facilities** to provide adequate clerical, logistical, and financial services for field personnel so that their primary functions can be satisfactorily completed.
- **Ensure that office environments are adequate** for Department employees by making certain routine maintenance is performed and adequate office space is provided so employees can accomplish their primary job functions.

Performance Measure #1: Employee satisfaction with level of regional office management support.



Story behind the performance:

Regional office managers continued to play an integral role in providing support to all Department employees located within each regional office. Regional team meetings are held on a regular basis to assist with the coordination of completing work products and for providing services requested from regional office managers to meet the needs within each regional office. Regional office manager positions experienced some turnover again during FY 15, but even with vacancies and new personnel, overall employee satisfaction with regional office management performance remained relatively constant.

Annually, the Internal Client Satisfaction Survey is distributed to all Department permanent personnel. The survey provides the opportunity for employees to measure the overall support they receive within each regional office from the regional office managers.

Overall, in FY 15, the regional offices received a score of 4.40 on a scale of 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor) based on employee satisfaction with the level of regional office management support, the same level as last year. Based on these survey results, the majority of regional office personnel are highly satisfied with the service levels provided by administrative personnel in their offices.

Performance Measure #2: Employee satisfaction with the workspace provided by the facility in which employees are housed.



Story behind the performance:

During FY 15, the Casper Regional Office continues to show its age and requires continual unseen repairs to the heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical operations. The office finally became certified under state fire code for the first time since the Department moved into the building in the early 1990s. Funding was made available to install a fire alarm system in the entire building. Funding was also made available to install an electronic gate to enter the shop facility. The office continues to see an increase in meetings held in the building by Department employees along with many state, federal, and local agencies and groups. On numerous occasions, there will be five different meetings held in the building at one time. Office space is also more crowded, especially in the summer months with contract employees associated with the Aquatic Invasive Species Program (AIS) and with state wildlife programs.

The Cody Regional Office benefited from improvements to address security issues. A hardwired panic button alarm system was installed that can be triggered by the Regional Office Managers in the event of a disturbance in the front lobby. The back lot was fenced and gated to provide additional security to Department damage supplies and equipment. In addition to the security improvements at the Cody Regional Office, other improvements were made to the facility. New carpeting was installed throughout the main building, and landscaping and a flagpole was installed in front of the building. These improvements help to provide a sense of pride in the workplace.

The Lander Regional Office continued to work on security and office access issues in FY 15. An automated gate was installed to allow access to the office storage area and two exterior doors are being upgraded with proximity card readers. The panic alarm system was upgraded and tested to ensure regional personnel knew what to do in the event of a disturbance at the front counter. The evidence freezer and disease sampling/bighorn sheep registration area was also cleaned and re-organized to provide a more functional work area.

The Laramie Regional Office has completed additional grading and gravel in the new north storage area. An additional door with keyless entry was installed on the south entry door. The mail center was upgraded for more efficient work space to assist all employees. The outside lighting was upgraded to new LED fixtures for more efficiency and costs savings. In addition, a new light fixture was installed above the fish storage area in the shop.

There were no improvements made at the Jackson Regional Office during FY 15 due to budget constraints. Office space was available to provide for an adequate work space for all employees.

At the Pinedale Regional Office, several areas are being addressed for improvements to increase overall energy efficiency and security. Budget approval has been received to run electrical lines to the quonset building located next to the shop. Currently, there is no electrical service in this structure. The building is used by habitat, fish, trophy game, and brucellosis-feedground-habitat crews. Included in the cost will be the extension of water lines in the main shop building for use by fish, spawning and AIS crews. Outside lights at the office have been repaired and are now in working order. The office also installed a front desk alarm. When activated, the system will automatically contact other local authorities for assistance

Program: Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services

Divisions: Services and Wildlife

Mission: Use advanced technology and laboratory procedures to enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources.

Program Facts: The Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program are made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 15 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2015 Annual Budget</u>
Laboratory Services	7.0	\$ 1,845,544
Veterinary Services	15.0	\$ 1,902,748
TOTAL	22.0	\$ 3,748,282

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 15 budget.*

The Laboratory Services sub-program was previously referred to as the Game and Fish Laboratory sub-program (Strategic Plan FY 04-FY 07, November 2003).

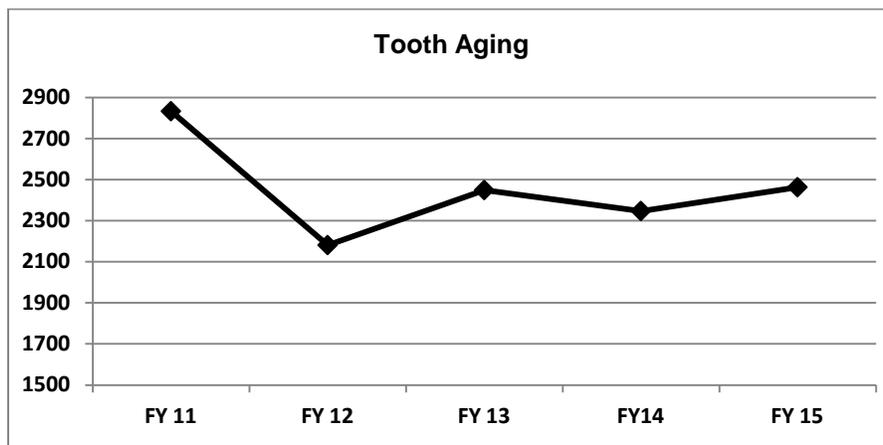
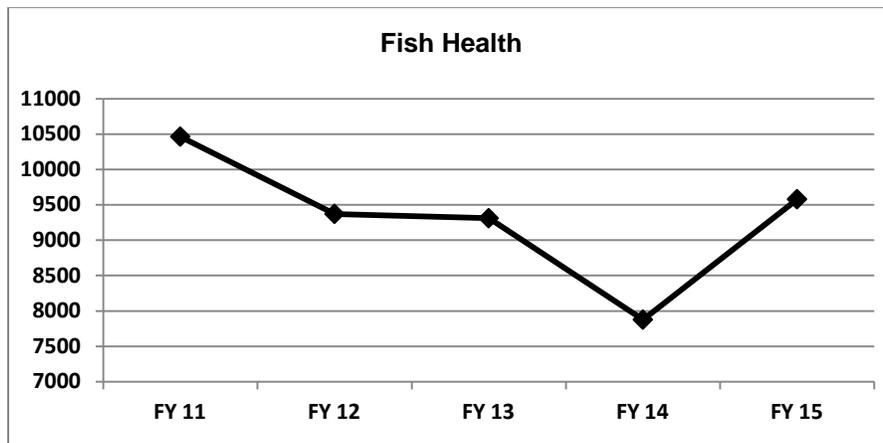
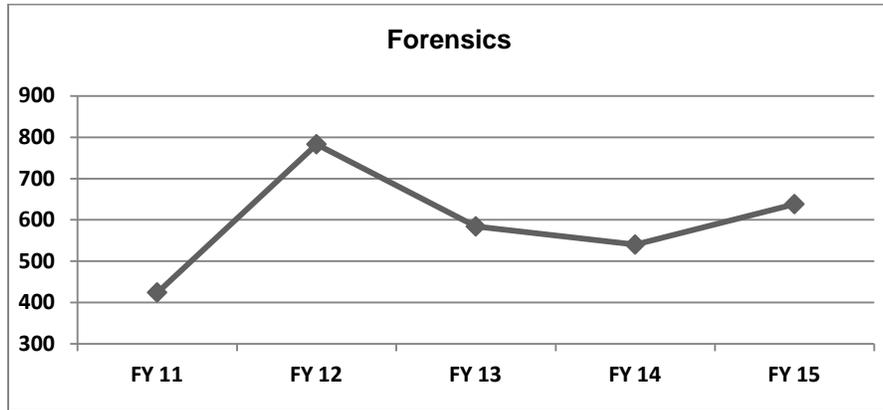
Laboratory Services is located on the University of Wyoming campus. Veterinary Services spans three locations: The wildlife disease laboratory is located at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, the research unit is located at the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Unit at Sybille, and numerous brucellosis biologists are located in Pinedale and Jackson.

Primary Functions of the Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program:

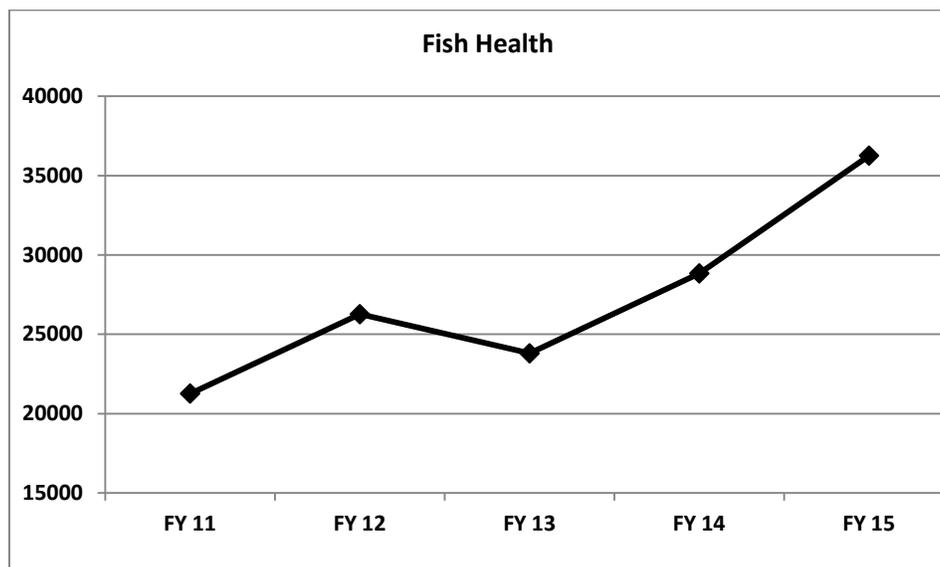
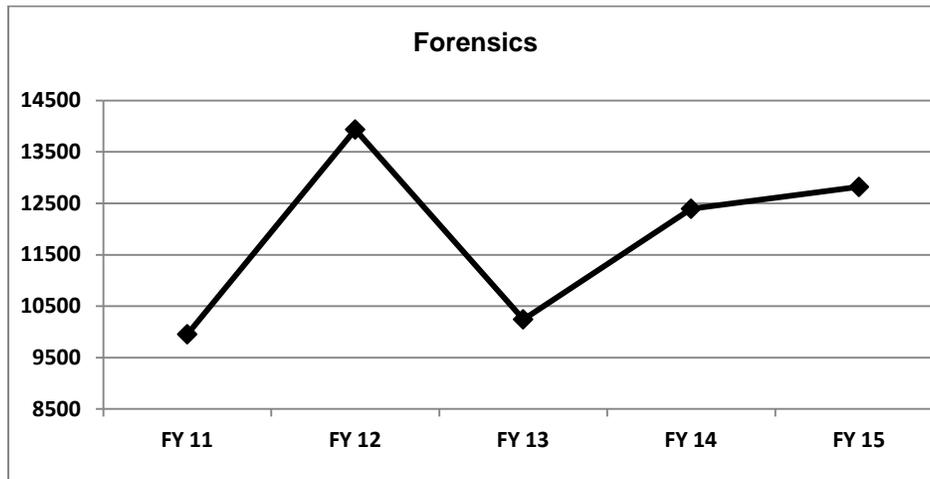
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting on diseases and implementing disease control measures for wildlife and fish species for which the Department has statutory authority to regulate.
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** through laboratory research, propagation, confinement, and confiscation facilities.
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by providing timely and accurate information and essential laboratory and technological support in the areas of tooth aging, fish health, and wildlife forensics.

Performance Measure #1: Laboratory Productivity (Personnel in this program will maintain the capacity to receive and process at least 650 forensic samples, 11,500 fish health samples, and 800 tooth aging samples).

Number of samples received:



Number of tests performed:



Story behind the performance:

The number of samples submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory is slightly correlated to the efficiency and effectiveness of the laboratory. As the number and types of procedures and protocols increases and as the laboratory becomes more efficient, it is hoped it can be of service to a larger number and more varied personnel/sections within the Department; however, it should be noted the laboratory has no control over the type or number of cases submitted. Fish hatchery inspections are set by regulation and thus have remained relatively constant over the last 10 years due to the limited number of water sources in Wyoming.

Law enforcement personnel submit the majority of samples received in the forensic section. Samples come in the form of evidence, including, but not limited to: antlers, carcasses, hides, horns, clothing, arrows, bows, cans, or knives in suspected poaching cases. There was a

decrease in the number of items and cases submitted in FY 15 when compared with FY 14. The laboratory continues to train new game wardens and explain the laboratory's capabilities. It should be noted that the laboratory is unbiased and neutral and this is the reason that Wildlife Forensics is in Services Division.

The majority of fish health samples submitted to the laboratory come from inspections conducted by fish health section personnel at state and private aquaculture facilities; as well as fish from federal spawning operations. These samples most often consist of kidney, spleen, ovarian, or seminal samples, as well as fish heads. The frequency of regulatory fish health inspections is set by the Commission's Chapter 10 regulations, and the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) recommends sample sizes. The number of hatchery inspections in Wyoming continues to remain relatively constant due to the limited availability of water sources for state aquaculture facilities and the restrictive commercial market for private hatcheries. However, this year, we did see an increase of over 1,700 more samples from annual fish health inspections and thus there has been an increase in the number of tests being performed in this area. As part of the disease prevention program, Department regulations require all hatcheries have a certificate of disease free status prior to receiving approval for public or private stocking. This disease prevention program is essential to maintaining healthy fish populations in the state.

A number of fish are also submitted for necropsies or diagnostic analysis following die-offs or when fish become sick in a culture situation. The number of diagnostic cases has dropped significantly to 28 from three years of pretty consistent numbers (FY 14 had 44 cases, FY 13 was 45, and FY 12 was 53). This most likely has to do with many of the facilities utilizing ultraviolet water treatment and hatchery managers utilizing good husbandry techniques to manage for disease.

It should be noted, that numerous tests are performed on each sample in both the Fish Health Section and the Forensic Section. The number of tests performed, is dependent upon the sample type and upon the requested analysis by the submitting officer or biologist. This flexibility in analysis accounts for the variability in the number of tests performed annually.

The number of samples submitted to the Tooth Aging Section of the laboratory is equal to the number of test performed; therefore, the first figure comprises both statistics. Hunters and Department biologists submit these samples. Only critical herd units/species are still being analyzed in the laboratory.

What has been accomplished:

Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic Laboratory personnel continue to work with the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (SWFS) to further the discipline of Wildlife Forensics. The Laboratory Director is no longer the President of SWFS but is the treasurer, the Forensic Analyst is serving as the 2nd Vice President, and the Forensic Program Manager is the Certification Director for the next four years.

In the fall of 2010, SWFS put together a Scientific Working Group for Wildlife Forensics (SWGWILD). The group is working closely with SWFS on meeting new federal mandates that are anticipated to become law within the next three to five years. During FY 13, SWGWILD

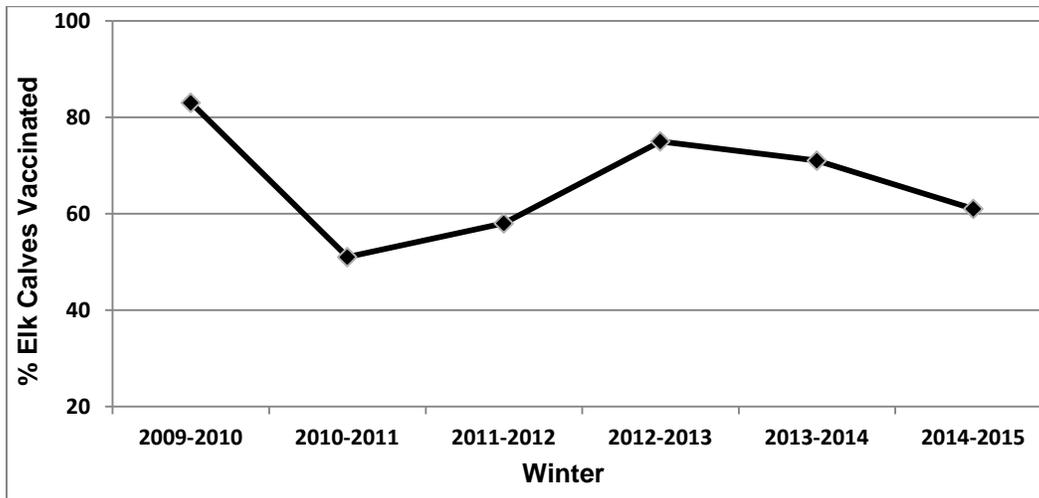
completed and SWFS approved an international relevant consensus-approved standards and guidelines document for genetics and morphology as well as a certification scheme. The Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic Laboratory has three of the first 11 certified scientists in the world. The Forensic Analyst is one of the assessors for the certification scheme as well as the record keeper and the Forensic Program Manager is running the program as the Certification Chair of SWFS.

In response to the recent study that found forensics in the United States severely lacking, the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) created a new organization that is dedicated to identifying, developing, and adopting standards and guidelines for the nation's forensic science community. The new board includes five members who represent the research community, five members who chair the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC), six members who represent national forensic science professional organizations, and one ex officio member. The scientific area committees consist of: IT/Multimedia, Crime Scene/Death Investigation, Biology/DNA, Physics/Pattern, and Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis. Due in a large part to the efforts of SWGWILD, wildlife forensics has its very own subcommittee under Biology/DNA. At this time, all three forensic personnel in the laboratory are part of this federal task force. The Forensic Program Manager is the Executive Secretary for the Wildlife Forensic sub-committee and the Forensic Analyst is a member of the forensic sub-committee as well as the liaison to the Human Factors resource committee. The Laboratory Director is the Executive secretary for the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee (see chart below for the structure of the OSAC). For most scientific working groups dealing with human forensics, the OSAC will be replacing the scientific working group organizations. SWGWILD will continue to operate but will be changing its scope and this is work in progress. The OSAC is working through the SWGWILD Standards and Guidelines utilizing the OSAC process to get them on the Federal Registry.

The Fish Health Section continues to study the AFS Blue Book requirements and continuously changes and improves the protocols of the fish health laboratory to bring it up to this standard. While this has significantly increased the workload in this section, it will serve to increase the credibility of the laboratory. The Aquatic Animal Health inspector continues to train and receive the formal education requirements and has applied with AFS to become a certified Aquatic Animal Health Inspector. He will take the test in the fall of 2015. The Fish Health Program Coordinator continues to work toward certification as an AFS Fish Health Pathologist.

All three sections continue to work on updating all protocols into International Organization for Standardization 17025 format. This is a very time consuming process.

Performance Measure #2: Percent of elk calves ballistically vaccinated with Strain 19 on 18 of 23 elk feedgrounds in western Wyoming (Personnel in this program will work to vaccinate at least 95 percent of elk calves that attend feedgrounds).



Story behind the performance:

The Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat (BFH) Program was created in 1989 as an integrated approach to control brucellosis in free-ranging elk associated with feedgrounds. This approach combines four ongoing Department programs (Feedground Vaccination, Feedground Management, Habitat Enhancement, and Elk/Cattle Separation) with the goal of minimizing brucellosis in elk and maintaining spatial and temporal separation of elk and cattle during potential brucellosis transmission periods.

In controlled studies, vaccination with *Brucella abortus* strain 19 was shown to reduce abortion rates in elk. Ballistic strain 19 vaccination in elk was initiated in 1985 at the Greys River Feedground, and was expanded over the next 17 years to 22 of 23 feedgrounds, which include state operated feedgrounds and the National Elk Refuge. Elk attending Dell Creek Feedground have never been vaccinated, as this population serves as a control to measure efficacy (via brucellosis seroprevalence) of the strain 19 vaccination program. Elk attending the three feedgrounds within the Pinedale elk herd unit (Fall, Scab, and Muddy Creek Feedgrounds) have not been vaccinated since 2006 to eliminate the possibility that vaccine reactions could skew blood test results and subsequent evaluations of efficacy during and after a pilot test and slaughter project that was conducted on those sites. Additionally, elk no longer attend the North Piney Feedground and move down drainage to the Bench Corral Feedground. This performance measure examines vaccination efforts in 18 distinct areas.

During the height of elk feedground attendance each winter (typically early February), elk are classified by age and sex (calves/juveniles, cows, spike bulls, branch-antler bulls). Vaccination supplies are distributed to each feedground based upon the number of juveniles counted, and a maximum number of juvenile elk are targeted for vaccination on 18 of 23 feedgrounds each winter. Biodegradable bullets composed of hydroxypropylcellulose and calcium carbonate and loaded with lyophilized strain 19 vaccine are ballistically implanted into the large muscle mass

of the hindquarter and dissolve within several hours. The percentages displayed in the graph above are based on the number of calves classified. Approximately 91,145 elk calves have been vaccinated to date.

Vaccination efforts have resulted in a cumulative 65 percent calf coverage over the past five years (11,393 vaccinated of 17,435 classified). Some feedgrounds, such as Soda Lake, Bench Corral, and those in the Gros Ventre drainage have poor elk attendance during light to moderate severity winters due to the availability of native foraging opportunities. Elk must be concentrated on feed lines for the vaccination program to be effective, and deep snow conditions typically enhance the tolerance of elk to disturbances associated with vaccination activities. Additionally, during winter 2010-2011, the laboratory at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory, where strain 19 is grown and loaded into biobullets, experienced a hood failure, resulting in an inability to produce biobullets for vaccination. As a result, only those feedgrounds with a high risk of elk-cattle commingling were vaccinated and only 51 percent of elk juveniles classified were inoculated. Recent year's vaccination coverage should be considered the maximum and increased effort will not increase percent of calves vaccinated.

What has been accomplished:

During winter 2014-2015, snow arrived later than usual (late December) and snowpack melted earlier than average (early February), resulting in a narrow window of opportunity for vaccine delivery; 61 percent of all elk calves attending the 18 targeted feedgrounds were vaccinated. Several feedgrounds reported over 100 percent coverage, which suggests yearling females were boosted. Vaccination was not conducted in the Gros Ventre drainage this winter due to poor and sporadic feedground attendance by elk. Another relatively large elk mortality event, comprised mostly of calves, occurred on the Soda Lake feedground this winter, with ~ 60 documented mortalities which were likely due to a collection of disease-related issues including parasitism and *Fusobacterium necrophorum* for the second year in a row. A preponderance of calf elk in poor condition due to disease issues precluded vaccination efforts on Soda Lake feedground. Vaccination on the NER was again conducted this winter, with 501 of 1073 calves classified receiving a dose of strain 19. A total of 1,942 calves were vaccinated on 18 feedgrounds during winter 2014-2015.

Data development agenda:

The percent of elk calves vaccinated of those classified on feedgrounds is important information in documenting the success of the strain 19 vaccination program delivery method. However, the successful delivery of the vaccine does not ensure the program is efficacious in reducing the occurrence of brucellosis in elk, specifically brucellosis transmission among elk and from elk to cattle. A comparison of serologic results from vaccinated and unvaccinated feedground populations reveals no difference in seroprevalence between the groups. Additionally, research using vaginal implant transmitters in elk captured from vaccinated and non-vaccinated feedgrounds indicates no difference in abortion rates. This observed lack of efficacy, combined with the inability to obtain biobullets (the sole manufacturer of Biobullets has closed its ballistic division and there are no other producers) will likely result in the cessation of the Brucella strain 19 ballistic elk vaccination program.

APPENDIX A:

**INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMS**

BIG GAME

Bighorn Sheep

Bison

Elk

Moose

Mule Deer

Pronghorn

Rocky Mountain Goat

White-tailed Deer

BIGHORN SHEEP

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 6,180^a
Population Objective: 7,550^b
Harvest: 168
Hunters: 210
Success Rate 80%
Recreation Days: 1,848
Days/Animal: 11
Licenses Sold: 208

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$68,454
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$1,542,949
Total Program Revenue: \$1,611,403
Program Costs: \$2,782,695

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 10 herds with population models, and field personnel estimates of two herds with an alternate objective, and two herds with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 12 herds with a post hunt population objective.

The estimated statewide population of bighorn sheep decreased slightly from 2013. Most larger herds maintained or slightly increased population size while some smaller populations continued to struggle. Bighorn sheep are highly susceptible to unpredictable weather events and disease outbreaks. Poor habitat conditions predispose bighorn sheep to these mortality factors and limit most populations' ability to increase.

The 2014 bighorn sheep harvest decreased from 2013, and was below the five-year average (193). Sheep hunter totals can fluctuate each year due to several factors: licenses can be deferred for individuals from one year to the next due to medical necessity, or the hunters for an entire hunt area can be given the option to defer if fires or other natural events are deemed sufficiently severe that they affect hunter opportunity. Hunter success decreased from 2013, but equaled the five-year average. Hunter effort increased in 2014 and was above the five-year average (9.9 days/animal harvested).

The Department will continue to set conservative bighorn sheep hunting seasons. It will continue to monitor disease, evaluate habitat conditions, and implement habitat improvement projects; as well as conduct supplementary transplants as the need and opportunity arises.

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	211	1,867	80%	8.8	267	2011	81,624	1,788,348
2011	181	2,029	73%	11.2	260	2012	58,855	1,823,835
2012	219	2,218	78%	10.1	256	2013	65,791	1,495,349
2013	187	1,609	88%	8.6	223	2014	174,481	2,211,924
2014	168	1,848	80%	11	208	2015	68,454	2,782,695

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$392,428), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

BISON

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 690
Population Objective: 500
Harvest: 299
Hunters: 321
Success Rate: 93%
Recreation Days: 908
Days/Animal: 3.0
Licenses Sold: 319

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$141,708
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$41,103
Total Program Revenue: \$182,811
Program Costs: \$177,968

The one wild bison population remains above the trend count objective. From 2000 to 2006, the population increased 89 percent. However, the population declined slightly but steadily in recent years due to the ability to increase harvests. The population varies based on harvest and other factors, and has decreased slightly from 2013. The Department shares management responsibility of the Jackson Herd with the National Elk Refuge (NER), Grand Teton National Park, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. These bison spend summers in and around Grand Teton National Park and most spend winters on the NER, so it has been difficult to obtain an adequate harvest until recent improvements in hunting limitations. Hunting opportunity and the potential for a larger annual harvest increased considerably in 2007 with the inclusion of a significant portion of the NER where bison hunting is now allowed. The participation rate has increased over the last few years. With improved notification and public awareness about better success due to improved hunting access, it is hoped to have participation rates closer to 90 percent (350 hunters) in future years and to have harvests that will help decrease the population to its objective.

Conditions were very favorable for bison hunting in 2014. Bison harvest increased 28 percent from 2013, and is the highest in the last five years. Hunter success in 2014 increased greatly, and was above the five-year average (83 percent). Hunter effort was 3.0 days/bison harvested, well below the 2013 effort, and is below the five-year average (7.3 days/bison harvested).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's bison program.

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

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	178	998	91%	5.6	195	2011	109,412	174,431
2011	194	1542	86%	7.9	227	2012	130,722	300,643
2012	200	2,024	76%	10.1	265	2013	146,386	199,643
2013	234	2,363	71%	10.1	326	2014	361,379	200,479
2014	299	908	93%	3.0	319	2015	141,708	177,968

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$7,518), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ELK

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 114,600^a
Population Objective: 79,525^b
Harvest: 25,905
Hunters: 58,266
Success Rate: 45%
Recreation Days: 496,771
Days/Animal: 19.2
Licenses Sold: 71,890

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$10,127,403
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$9,276,454
Total Program Revenue: \$19,403,857
Program Costs: \$16,748,041

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 14 herds with population models, 12 herds based on trend counts, and field personnel estimates of 7 herds with landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives and two herds with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 15 herds with a post hunt population objective and the 13 herds with a trend count objective.

Overall, the Department continues management strategies to reduce Wyoming elk numbers. For example, since 2013, under certain circumstances a hunter could obtain up to three elk licenses per year. However, conditions are such that elk numbers remain steady or are increasing. At present, 7 of 34 elk herds with complete data are below objective, the rest are at or above objective.

Harvest decreased slightly to 25,905 elk in 2014, and was above the five-year average harvest of 25,447. Hunter success remained at 45 percent, basically the same as the five-year average (44 percent). Hunter effort (days/animal) increased in 2014 to 19.2 days, above the five-year average (17.9 days/animal). Recreation days increased and are the highest on record.

Management strategies will continue to focus on decreasing elk statewide, except in the herds at objective. Seasons have been extended for the antlerless and cow/calf licenses to try to increase harvest. Access continues to impede obtaining adequate harvest in many herds. The Department will continue to work to improve hunter access and to find other ways to promote greater harvests.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's elk program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	25,672	429,413	48%	16.7	63,730	2011	8,870,293	13,483,854
2011	23,189	441,737	42%	19	65,532	2012	9,040,835	16,493,854
2012	26,503	453,648	42%	17	69,188	2013	9,344,078	14,699,616
2013	25,968	461,213	45%	17.8	71,014	2014	9,859,210	14,759,617
2014	25,905	496,771	45%	19.2	71,890	2015	10,127,403	16,748,041

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$1,261,353), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MOOSE

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 4,650^a
Population Objective: 7,945^b
Harvest: 415
Hunters: 461
Success Rate: 90%
Recreation Days: 3,849
Days/Animal: 9.3
Licenses Sold: 460

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$81,558
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$884,836
Total Program Revenue: \$966,394
Program Costs: \$994,976

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from three herds with population models, two herds with a trend count objective, and field personnel estimates of two herds with a limited opportunity objective, and three herd with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the five herds with a post hunt population objective and two herds with a trend count objective.

Although Wyoming's largest moose populations are in the west and northwest of the state, moose occur in the Bighorn Mountains and have expanded into the mountain ranges of south central Wyoming from an introduced population in northern Colorado.

Management strategies for moose in Wyoming are conservative and as a result, success rates have traditionally been excellent for those hunters fortunate enough to draw a license. The restriction against harvesting a cow moose accompanied by a calf was in effect again during the 2014 hunting season, continuing a trend that is now over a decade old. This restriction has improved calf survival, which has the potential to increase moose populations and ultimately hunting opportunity. However, recent declines in moose numbers in northwest Wyoming for reasons that have yet to be fully understood have resulted in significant license quota reductions over the past several years. Harvest declined slightly in 2014, hunter success decreased, and hunter effort (days per animal) increased. The 2014 hunter success was above the five-year average (89 percent), and hunter effort was above the average (8.6 days/animal).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Moose program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	485	4,148	89%	8.6	560	2011	133,877	1,588,023
2011	460	4,120	87%	9.0	539	2012	122,258	982,685
2012	433	3,318	89%	7.7	491	2013	121,418	1,359,772
2013	430	3,563	92%	8.3	487	2014	216,255	784,133
2014	415	3,849	90%	9.3	460	2015	81,558	994,976

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$22,288), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MULE DEER

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 374,800^a
Population Objective: 495,400^b
Harvest: 26,086
Hunters: 48,426
Success Rate: 54%
Recreation Days: 255,215
Days/Animal: 9.8
Licenses Sold: 66,102

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$7,089,588
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$6,983,518
Total Program Revenue: \$14,073,106
Program Costs: \$7,688,862

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 33 herds with population models, and field personnel estimates of two herds with landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives and one herd with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 34 herds with a post hunt population objective.

Wyoming's estimated mule deer population remains at approximately 66 percent of the statewide objective. A variety of factors combined to reduce deer numbers below objective. As a result, the Department worked with the public and developed a statewide Mule Deer Initiative. Implementation of this initiative is well underway, beginning with the Wyoming Range and Platte Valley herds, and now expanding to herds in each region. Plans have been created with public input to try to reverse the downward population trend of mule deer through a variety of management actions and habitat projects.

Harvest increased for the first time in four years in 2014, but remained below the five-year average of 28,327. Hunter success increased to 54 percent, and rose above the five-year average of 52 percent. Hunter effort increased in 2014 and was above the five-year average (9.6 days/animal). The Department has been working to address access and habitat issues through its Private Lands Public Wildlife Access 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 favorable 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.

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	34,469	305,734	56%	8.9	88,731	2011	9,756,395	8,121,724
2011	27,951	295,268	50%	10.6	76,571	2012	9,175,770	8,341,097
2012	27,718	255,621	49%	9.2	69,017	2013	7,798,735	7,679,283
2013	25,410	241,600	52%	9.5	66,816	2014	7,434,801	6,745,783
2014	26,086	255,215	54%	9.8	66,102	2015	7,089,588	7,688,862

¹ Includes mule deer only. Figures included mule and white-tailed deer prior to 2011

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$126,907), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

PRONGHORN

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	386,600^a	License Revenue:	\$4,824,949
Population Objective:	439,200^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$5,269,151
Harvest:	35,464	Total Program Revenue:	\$10,094,100
Hunters:	38,346	Program Costs:	\$2,998,057
Success Rate:	93%		
Recreation Days:	138,801		
Days/Animal:	3.9		
Licenses Sold:	49,037		

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 34 herds with population models, and field personnel estimates of six herds with landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives and two herds with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 34 herds with a post-hunt population objective.

In 2014, Wyoming's total estimated statewide pronghorn population was 386,600 animals compared to the objective of 439,200. The estimated state population increased in 2014, and is now about 12 percent below the state-wide objective. Much of the state had improved precipitation and habitat conditions in 2014. Many of the herds above objective have hunter access limitations, and the Department is unable to sell sufficient licenses to obtain harvests that will control the species in these areas. Wide swings in winter and spring precipitation make it difficult to predict the condition of seasonal ranges, herd survival, and productivity. Poor range quality 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 objective.

The Department decreased license quotas in 2014 after populations were reduced through hunting and declined further because of poor habitat conditions; however, access continues to be the primary impediment to attaining adequate harvest for private land herds. The Department continues to work to improve hunter access through efforts such as the Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program. The 2014 harvest of 35,464 animals was the lowest of the last five years. Hunter effort decreased slightly to 3.9 days per animal harvested, which is still above the five-year average (3.8 days/animal), while the success rate rebounded to equal the average.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pronghorn program.

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

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	58,863	210,198	96%	3.6	75,972	2011	7,127,010	4,057,197
2011	55,525	207,237	94%	3.7	73,982	2012	6,996,438	3,958,296
2012	49,841	191,624	92%	3.8	68,066	2013	6,384,903	3,933,317
2013	41,064	162,689	88%	4.0	59,044	2014	5,627,605	3,458,135
2014	35,464	138,801	93%	3.9	49,037	2015	4,824,949	2,998,057

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$8,635), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Calendar Year 2014

Population: 390^a
Population Objective: 250^b
Harvest: 28
Hunters: 29
Success Rate: 97%
Recreation Days: 155
Days/Animal: 5.5
Licenses Sold: 30

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$39,334
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$52,477
Total Program Revenue: \$91,811
Program Costs: \$160,227

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from one herd with a population model, and one herd with a trend count estimate.

^b The statewide population objective is based on the same two herds.

Mountain goats inhabit some of the most rugged and remote areas in northwest Wyoming. Successful transplant operations in Montana and Idaho years ago resulted in mountain goat populations that extend into Wyoming. The Department manages these populations as the Beartooth (northwest of Cody) and Palisades (southwest of Jackson) Herds. The Palisades herd continues to find new areas that are favorable to inhabit.

Prior to 1999, only the Beartooth Herd was hunted. The Palisades population increased to a point where it has been able to sustain a limited annual harvest since that year. The Department will continue to closely monitor both populations and will continue to set a hunting season these small populations can support. License quotas are conservative, and hunters continue to enjoy high success rates for these once-in-a-lifetime licenses.

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	19	112	95%	5.9	20	2011	(9,373)	89,638
2011	20	89	95%	4.5	23	2012	(11,895)	56,123
2012	21	97	88%	4.6	24	2013	(6,435)	133,456
2013	24	177	86%	7.4	28	2014	43,984	86,367
2014	28	155	97%	5.5	30	2015	39,334	160,227

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$15,736) and interest earned on Department cash balances.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	78,500^a	License Revenue:	\$380,285
Population Objective:	44,000^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$8,234
Harvest:	13,828	Total Program Revenue:	\$388,519
Hunters:	23,264	Program Costs:	\$399,531
Success Rate:	59%		
Recreation Days:	115,714		
Days/Animal:	8.4		
Licenses Sold:	9,737		

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from one herd with a population model, and field personnel estimates of one herd with a landowner/hunter satisfaction objective and three herds with incomplete data.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the two herds with a post hunt population objective.

It is difficult to collect data on Wyoming's white-tailed deer populations because of the habitats in which the species lives and its secretive behavior. As a result, determining population characteristics and trends is generally not possible with current budget and personnel levels. Most white-tailed deer inhabit private lands in eastern Wyoming and the riparian areas of major watercourses in other parts of the state. In both cases, access for hunting has become difficult to obtain and expensive. Management throughout the state is primarily dictated by local perceptions of deer numbers and by landowner tolerances. For some in Wyoming, tolerance for white-tailed deer is lower than for mule deer due to crop damage issues and the perception that they displace mule deer. However, in some cases, these attitudes are changing.

The 2014 white-tailed deer harvest was essentially the same as the 2013 harvest, and was below the five-year average (14,566). Hunter numbers decreased slightly from 2013. Hunter success increased in 2014 and equals the five-year average of 59 percent. Hunter statistics were mixed, but seem to indicate a population beginning to rebound from habitat and disease issues over the last few years.

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue ¹	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	14,650	111,307	58%	7.6	88,731	2011	9,756,395	502,003
2011	15,415	124,718	61%	8.1	8,486	2012	9,175,770	674,624
2012	15,085	123,218	61%	8.2	10,828	2013	419,852	726,710
2013	13,850	117,845	57%	8.5	10,892	2014	416,662	420,029
2014	13,828	115,714	59%	8.4	9,737	2015	380,285	399,531

¹ Includes white-tailed deer only. Figures included mule and white-tailed deer prior to calendar year 2011 and FY 12

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$812), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

TROPHY GAME

Black Bear
Grizzly Bear
Mountain Lion
Gray Wolf

BLACK BEAR

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$466,622
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$294,760
Harvest:	399	Total Program Revenue:	\$761,382
Hunters:	3,223	Program Costs:	\$682,209
Success Rate:	12.4%		
Recreation Days	22,990		
Days/Animal:	57.6		
Licenses Sold:	4,392		

Black bears occupy all major mountain ranges of the state with some expansion occurring in areas of the southwest and northeast. Most black bears occur in northwestern Wyoming, the Bighorn Mountains, and south central/southeast Wyoming.

Black bears are hunted in Wyoming during the spring and fall. Successful bear hunters are required to report harvested bears to a Department game warden, wildlife biologist, or regional office within three days of harvest.

The 2014 harvest was similar to 2013, and remained above the five-year average (387). The Department documented an increase in male harvest and a slight decrease in female harvest. Mortality limits were increased in recent years to allow additional hunting opportunity for an abundant resource. The 2014 hunter success rate was slightly higher than the previous year and remained below the five-year average (14 percent). Hunter effort decreased and was slightly below the five-year average (59.6 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	427	21,528	18%	50.4	3,396	2011	233,595	760,785
2011	401	24,459	16%	61.0	3,709	2012	307,243	864,833
2012	392	25,728	10%	65.6	4,121	2013	316,470	764,177
2013	394	23,394	11%	59.4	4,133	2014	318,040	706,665
2014	399	22,990	12.4%	57.6	4,392	2015	466,622	682,209

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$2,369), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

GRIZZLY BEAR

OBJECTIVES:

To meet those parameters identified in the Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Yellowstone Area.

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

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

The distribution of grizzly bears includes much of northwest Wyoming, including Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Caribou-Targhee, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests. The Department has documented a greater than 40% increase in distribution of grizzly bears since 2004. Grizzlies in Wyoming were removed from 'threatened' status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2007, and were managed according to state management plans developed by Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho and approved by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A petition to relist this population was filed in 2007. This population was relisted as "threatened" in September 2009. As a result, grizzly bear management returned to the federal government under authority of the ESA. The Yellowstone Ecosystem Sub-committee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee will continue to act as management lead for this population. The Department will continue to participate in all aspects of management for grizzly bears, including monitoring, conflict resolution, and damage compensation. In 2014, the grizzly bear population was conservatively estimated at 757 individuals in the ecosystem.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's grizzly bear program.	
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)
2011	1,927,556
2012	1,694,477
2013	1,940,610
2014	1,793,556
2015	2,278,218

The grizzly bear program does not generate revenue from license sales. However, the program receives grant funding to assist in the management of the species. For FY 2015, the total revenue received from grant funding was \$527,779.

MOUNTAIN LION

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$259,398
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$157,052
Harvest:	266	Total Program Revenue:	\$416,450
Hunters:	1308	Program Costs:	\$525,015
Success Rate:	19.9%		
Recreation Days:	10,408		
Days/Animal:	39.1		
Licenses Sold:	2,481		

Mountain lions are distributed throughout all of Wyoming and have been managed as a trophy game species since 1974. Mountain lions are obligate carnivores that are very adaptable and are found throughout the state of Wyoming. Preferable mountain lion habitat is associated with rugged terrain with stalking cover and available ungulate prey.

Lions are managed through annual mortality limits. When a hunt area mortality limit is reached, the area is closed for the remainder of the season. The Department’s mountain lion management plan, approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in 2007, established a ‘sink/stable/source’ strategy which provides guidance for setting annual mortality quotas. Lion hunters must report harvest to Department personnel within a specified time period.

The 2014 mountain lion harvest was slightly down from 2013, and below the five-year average (288). Mountain lion harvest has increased overall throughout Wyoming, due to increasing mortality limits and increased densities of mountain lions, primarily in the Northeast Mountain Lion Management Unit. Mortality limits were increased in multiple areas based on public input, mountain lion trends, and decreased mule deer numbers. In 2012, an annual internal harvest survey was initiated to provide Department personnel with estimated hunter numbers, hunter success, hunter effort, and the number of animals harvested. The Large Carnivore Section has initiated efforts to evaluate harvest criteria and further understand mountain lion population dynamics in relation to the Department’s management plan.

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010**	286	863	---	3.0	2,156	2011	128,373	574,596
2011**	278	711	---	3.0	2,196	2012	128,188	692,596
2012	305	17,537	10%	57.5	2,387	2013	143,906	641,403
2013	305	11,803	23.3%	38.7	2,481	2014	147,006	489,861
2014	266	10,408	19.9%	39.1	2,481	2015	259,398	525,015
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$2,501), and interest earned on Department cash balances.								
** No harvest survey conducted due to budgetary constraints; numbers derived from reported harvest.								

GRAY WOLF

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	219*	License Revenue:	\$0
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue**:	\$372,073
Harvest:	N/A	Total Program Revenue:	\$372,073
Hunters:	N/A	Program Costs:	\$882,375
Success Rate:	N/A		
Recreation Days:	N/A		
Days/Animal:	N/A		
Licenses Sold:	N/A		

The gray wolf was reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995, and increased rapidly in numbers and land area occupied. After many delays, 2012 was the first regulated hunting season for gray wolves in Wyoming. On September 23, 2014 a federal judge revoked state management of wolves and placed Wyoming wolves back on the Endangered Species list under federal protection. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has management authority for wolves in Wyoming. The Department continues to pay for verified livestock losses in the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area.

In 2012 and 2013, the gray wolf was managed similar to other trophy species in the state using individual hunt area mortality quotas. When the quota for a hunt area was reached, the area was closed to further hunting for the remainder of that year. If the quota was not reached, the season closed December 31. Wolves were classified as trophy game in northwest Wyoming and predatory animals in the rest of the state. Wolves inhabiting the predatory animal zone could be taken by anyone at any time of year without a license. The two zones were established to maintain a viable population of free-ranging wolves in the trophy area and to minimize human and livestock conflict in the remainder of Wyoming.

Many of the hunting licenses purchased were bought by big game hunters in gray wolf trophy game areas in the event they encountered a wolf. This resulted in high license sales, low success rates, and high days/animal harvest statistics for wolves. Surveys indicated hunters were satisfied with their wolf hunting opportunity. In 2013, the trophy hunt area quotas were reduced by half (26) based on population monitoring. It also appears that the novelty of having a wolf hunting license in 2013 decreased, resulting in a much lower number of hunters.

*219 wolves in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation; including all jurisdictions in Wyoming: 333 wolves total.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's gray wolf program.

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

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010						2011		
2011						2012		
2012	42	25,169	1%	599.3	4,492	2013	108,669	1,469,018
2013	24	11,470	2%	477.9	2,153	2014	65,650	1,134,343
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	616*	2015	N/A	882,375

*Licenses sold prior to wolves being relisted and the license holders that did not request a refund for their license.

**Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$337,919), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

SMALL GAME

Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
Squirrel

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	35,910	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	5,118	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	7.0		
Recreation Days:	16,657		
Days/Animal:	0.5		
Licenses Sold:	**		

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 low to mid elevations. The cottontail population cannot be accurately estimated. Hunter success and harvest are directly associated with the cyclic nature of this species' abundance.

The 2014 harvest statistics, and general observations of cottontail abundance over the past year, indicate the population has rebounded from the recent low. Harvest increased in 2014 for the third year in a row, and was well above the five-year average (18,773). Hunter numbers and recreation days both increased from 2013. The number of animals harvested per hunter increased from 2013, and rose above the five-year average (4.5 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal decreased in 2014 and is below the five-year average (0.8 days/animal).

The Department will continue to maintain the current hunting season structure and bag limits since hunting has little effect on cottontail populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's cottontail rabbit program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal /Hunter	Days/ Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	16,712	13,805	4.4	0.8	3,807	2011	**	**
2011	11,802	13,318	3.4	1.1	3,485	2012	**	**
2012	13,025 ¹	11,750 ¹	3.7 ¹	0.9 ¹	3,561 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	16,416	13,831	4.0	0.8	4,149	2014	**	**
2014	35,910	16,657	7.0	0.5	5,118	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

SNOWSHOE HARE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	416	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	343	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	1.2	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	1,502		
Days/Animal:	3.6		
Licenses Sold:	**		

The snowshoe hare is distributed throughout most of the mountain conifer forests of the state. 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 hare harvest increased from 2013, and remained above the five-year average (244 animals). The number of hunters increased, and was higher than the five-year average (315). Recreation days decreased from 2013 as hares were easier to find, but remained higher than the five-year average of 1,343. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2014 was above the five-year average (0.7 animals/hunter), and the 2014 effort rate was below average (6.0 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal /Hunter	Days/ Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	123	965	0.5	7.8	263	2011	**	**
2011	205	1,476	0.6	7.2	361	2012	**	**
2012	193 ¹	811 ¹	0.4 ¹	4.2 ¹	314 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	282	1,962	1.0	7.0	296	2014	**	**
2014	416	1,502	1.2	3.6	343	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
* ¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

SQUIRREL

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	1,069	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	445	Program Costs:	\$	**
Animals/Hunter:	2.4			
Recreation Days:	1,644			
Days/Animal:	1.5			
Licenses Sold:	**			

Red squirrels occupy mountain conifer forests at mid to upper elevations throughout the state and provide almost all the squirrel hunting opportunity in Wyoming. Eastern fox squirrels and eastern gray squirrels occupy low elevation deciduous forests, cottonwood-riparian areas, agricultural, and urban areas.

Squirrel hunter numbers decreased slightly in 2014, but the harvest and recreation days increased slightly. The 2014 harvest survey indicated that the number of hunters was higher than the five-year average (411), but the harvest was lower than the average (1,279), as were the recreation days (1,763). Hunter success in 2014 was lower than the five-year average (3.2 animals/hunter). Hunters spent more time to get each animal than the five-year average (1.4 days/animals).

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.

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.

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	1,595	2,311	4.5	1.4	352	2011	**	**
2011	1,186	1,615	3.2	1.4	368	2012	**	**
2012	1,532 ¹	1,685 ¹	3.5 ¹	1.1 ¹	437 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	1,011	1,560	2.2	1.5	451	2014	**	**
2014	1,069	1,644	2.4	1.5	445	2015	**	**

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

¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.

UPLAND GAME

Pheasant
Gray Partridge
Chukar
Sage-Grouse
Sharp-Tailed Grouse
Blue Grouse
Ruffed Grouse
Mourning Dove
Turkey

PHEASANT

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$696,784
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,889,888
Harvest:	38,322	Total Program Revenue:	\$2,586,672
Hunters:	10,271	Program Costs:	\$3,412,860
Birds/Hunter:	3.7		
Recreation Days:	33,542		
Days/Bird:	0.9		
Licenses Sold:	26,003		

Pheasants are not as abundant in Wyoming as in neighboring states, but there are many opportunities to hunt this popular upland game bird in eastern and north central Wyoming. Weather and habitat conditions are the primary influences on most of the state's pheasant populations. Pheasant hunting has improved considerably with the implementation and expansion of Wyoming's Walk-In Access Program, which has opened thousands of acres of private lands to hunting since its inception. The majority of Wyoming's pheasant hunting occurs in Goshen County, but there are other opportunities near Riverton, in the Bighorn Basin, and the Sheridan area. Established pheasant populations are supplemented by releases from the Department's Downard and Sheridan Bird Farms, which tend to stabilize the number of pheasants available each year, along with hunter numbers and success rates.

The 2014 pheasant season had a harvest that was above the preceding three years and above the five-year average (33,884). The number of days hunters spent afield increased and was slightly above the five-year average (33,122). The number of pheasant hunters was the highest of the last five years. Hunter effort equaled that in 2013 and was below the five-year average (1.0 days/bird). Hunter success decreased in 2014 and was lower than the five-year average (4.0 birds/hunter).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's pheasant program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	40,480	39,939	4.6	1.0	8,885	2011	615,844	3,525,360
2011	29,463	33,793	3.6	1.1	8,244	2012	584,537	1,693,459
2012	29,405 ¹	29,625 ¹	3.7 ¹	1.0 ¹	7,876 ¹	2013	698,853	2,748,262
2013	31,752	28,713	4.4	0.9	7,281	2014	670,072	2,794,645
2014	38,322	33,542	3.7	0.9	10,271	2015	696,784	3,412,860
**All small game, 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.								
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$52,950), and interest earned on Department cash balances.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

GRAY PARTRIDGE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	2,461	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	943	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	2.6			
Recreation Days:	3,107			
Days/Bird:	1.3			
Licenses Sold:	**			

The gray partridge, a native of eastern Europe and central and southwest Asia, is most abundant in Sheridan County and the Bighorn Basin; but it 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 Wyoming sportsmen.

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 percent, hunter numbers declined 82 percent, and recreation days declined 86 percent. Harvest and hunter numbers then increased in 2003, 2004, and 2005. From 2005 to 2007, harvest and hunter numbers declined again (74 percent and 65 percent, respectively). The 2014 season was a slight improvement over the year before, but harvest, recreation days, and hunter numbers remained well below the five-year averages (4,249 harvest, 6,145 recreation days, and 1,279 hunters).

Because the gray partridge is very sensitive to drought, severe winters, and wet nesting and brood rearing periods, weather conditions can dictate its abundance and, in turn, hunter activity. This is consistent with the harvest statistics for the past five 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	5,245	7,465	3.5	1.4	1,513	2011	**	**
2011	6,019	8,148	4.1	1.4	1,474	2012	**	**
2012	5,779 ¹	7,459 ¹	3.9 ¹	1.3 ²	1,484 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	1,741	4,546	1.8	2.6	982	2014	**	**
2014	2,461	3,107	2.6	1.3	943	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

CHUKAR

Calendar Year 2014

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 6,223
Hunters: 1,682
Birds/Hunter: 3.7
Recreation Days: 6,161
Days/Bird: 1.0
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$ **
All Other Agency Revenue: \$ **
Total Program Revenue: \$ **
Program Costs: \$ **

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.

All numbers for hunting chukars in 2014 improved from 2013. The 2014 season was above the five-year average for harvest (5,251), but lower than the average for hunters (1,731), and recreation days (6,659). Hunter success and effort figures show that Chukar hunting improved in 2014 compared to previous years.

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	6,744	7,804	3.3	1.2	2,074	2011	**	**
2011	4,658	7,451	2.7	1.6	1,736	2012	**	**
2012	5,429 ¹	6,781 ¹	3.0 ¹	1.2 ¹	1,824 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	3,199	5,100	2.4	1.6	1,337	2014	**	**
2014	6,223	6,161	3.7	1.0	1,682	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses. ¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

SAGE-GROUSE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,450,702
Harvest:	7,094	Total Program Revenue:	\$1,450,702
Hunters:	3,526	Program Costs:	\$2,534,741
Birds/Hunter:	2.0		
Recreation Days:	8,642		
Days/Bird:	1.2		
Licenses Sold:	**		

Wyoming's sage-grouse populations are considered to be below historic levels, although the last two years have seen improvements in habitat conditions and lek attendance numbers. Beginning in 1995, sage-grouse seasons were shortened and opened later in the year to protect hens with broods. Hunting seasons have been closed in parts of the state since 2000 to protect small populations in isolated habitats and in the Powder River Basin where West Nile Virus caused significant declines in sage-grouse numbers. With the timing of Wyoming's sage-grouse seasons and low total harvest, take by hunters has little effect on sage-grouse populations, particularly when compared to the influence of habitat condition. Sage-grouse seasons were again conservative in 2014.

In 2014, harvest numbers showed a slight rebound from 2013, but were still below previous years' numbers. Harvest, recreation days, and hunters increased but were still below the five-year averages (8,773 harvest, 9,984 recreation days, and 4,163 hunters). The 2014 harvest rate remained slightly below the five-year average (2.1 birds/hunter), and hunter effort was slightly above average (1.1 days/bird).

The Department is involved in extensive intrastate and interstate sage-grouse conservation efforts. It will continue to monitor sage-grouse populations, press for minimization and mitigation of environmental impacts in sagebrush habitats, and 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	11,057	11,434	2.3	1.0	4,732	2011	**	2,414,403
2011	10,120	10,829	2.3	1.1	4,474	2012	**	3,258,052
2012	9,869 ¹	11,342 ¹	2.1 ¹	1.1 ¹	4,700 ¹	2013	**	3,156,876
2013	5,726	7,672	1.7	1.3	3,383	2014	**	2,532,519
2014	7,094	8,642	2.0	1.2	3,526	2015	**	2,534,741
<p>**All small game, 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>*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$955,261), and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p> <p>¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.</p>								

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	1,535	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	844	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	1.8			
Recreation Days:	2,852			
Days/Bird:	1.9			
Licenses Sold:	**			

Sharp-tailed grouse occur primarily in eastern Wyoming. Thousands of acres of marginal farmlands in the state were converted to wildlife habitat that benefit sharp-tailed grouse beginning in the mid 1980s as part of the Conservation Reserve Program. The Department's Walk-In Access Program, begun in 1998, has greatly improved sharp-tailed grouse hunting opportunities. The decrease in CRP acreage is a significant threat to sharp-tailed grouse in Wyoming.

Sharp-tailed grouse harvest numbers showed improvements in 2014 in all but the bird/hunter category (which remained the same as in 2013). Harvest, recreation days, and the number of hunters remained below the five-year averages. The five-year average for harvest is 2,130, for recreation days 3,966, and for the number of hunters 955. The 2014 season had a decrease in hunter effort (days/bird).

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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	2,428	4,511	2.3	1.9	1,071	2011	**	**
2011	3,315	5,251	2.5	1.6	1,323	2012	**	**
2012	2,192 ¹	4,768 ¹	2.5 ¹	2.2 ¹	884 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	1,182	2,450	1.8	2.1	652	2014	**	**
2014	1,535	2,852	1.8	1.9	844	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

BLUE GROUSE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	9,419	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	3,694	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	2.5			
Recreation Days:	15,502			
Days/Bird:	1.6			
Licenses Sold:	**			

Blue grouse occupy most of Wyoming's mountain conifer habitats, except for the Black Hills in the northeast corner of the state. They winter high among conifers and migrate to lower elevations 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, land management practices. The extensive conifer beetle outbreaks occurring throughout the state are expected to have a significant effect on blue grouse in the future.

There was an increase in harvest, recreation days, and numbers of hunters in 2014, placing all of these measures just above the five-year averages of 8,897 blue grouse harvested, 15,260 recreation days, and 3,677 hunters. The 2014 harvest rate and effort figures were essentially unchanged from 2013 and very close to the most recent five-year average (2.4 birds/hunter, 1.7 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	7,818	15,836	2.0	2.0	3,844	2011	**	**
2011	7,669	14,277	2.3	1.9	3,309	2012	**	**
2012	10,837 ¹	17,268 ¹	2.7 ¹	1.6 ¹	4,080 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	8,741	13,417	2.5	1.5	3,456	2014	**	**
2014	9,419	15,502	2.5	1.6	3,694	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

RUFFED GROUSE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue	\$	**
Harvest:	6,623	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	1,977	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	3.4			
Recreation Days:	10,674			
Days/Bird:	1.6			
Licenses Sold:	**			

The ruffed grouse occupies the western and northern forests of Wyoming, including the Black Hills and the Uinta Range. It inhabits dense, brushy habitats within mixed conifer and deciduous tree stands, usually in and along creek bottoms. The Wyoming Range and the mountainous areas around Jackson offer some of the best ruffed grouse habitat and provide the best hunting opportunities in Wyoming.

Ruffed grouse harvest in 2014 increased from 2013, and was higher than the five-year average (5,007). Hunter numbers and recreation days had the exact same pattern (five-year average of 1,812 hunters and 9,364 recreation days). The success rate, measured in birds per day, increased and was higher than the five-year average (2.7). Hunter effort decreased slightly and dropped further below average (2.0 days/bird).

Like blue grouse, ruffed grouse populations appear to be affected by weather and land management 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	3,540	8,885	2.0	2.5	1,741	2011	**	**
2011	3,140	7,579	2.0	2.4	1,574	2012	**	**
2012	7,259 ¹	11,412 ¹	3.6 ¹	1.6 ¹	2,001 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	4,472	8,272	2.5	1.8	1,770	2014	**	**
2014	6,623	10,674	3.4	1.6	1,977	2015	**	**
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

MOURNING DOVE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	27,791	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	2,235	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	12.4			
Recreation Days:	6,857			
Days/Bird:	0.2			
Licenses Sold:	**			

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.

Mourning dove harvest and recreation days increased in 2014. Harvest rose above the five-year average (26,438) while recreation days remained below the average (7,136 days). The number of hunters decreased slightly, though, and was below average (2,325). The success rate increased and was higher than the five-year average (11.4). Hunter effort (days/bird) actually declined from the average of 0.3. Mourning dove harvest in Wyoming can be sharply curtailed during those years when early cold fronts in late August and early September push much of the local population out of the state.

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 Act. Concern over the decline in mourning dove populations based on annual surveys has prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate efforts with the states throughout the Flyway system to develop a Mourning Dove Strategic Harvest Management Plan. The plan will establish hunting season frameworks based on different population levels as determined through annual population surveys. To date, seasons have generally been liberal since harvest was thought to have little impact on dove populations. Changes in habitat are thought to have the most impact on dove populations.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's mourning dove program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	28,906	8,096	11.4	0.3	2,528	2011	**	**
2011	23,607	6,735	10.3	0.3	2,291	2012	**	**
2012	28,402 ¹	7,260 ¹	12.6 ¹	0.3 ¹	2,263 ¹	2013	**	**
2013	23,485	6,730	10.2	0.3	2,310	2014	**	**
2014	27,791	6,857	12.4	0.2	2,235	2015		
**All small game, small game/game bird, and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.								
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.								

TURKEY

Calendar Year 2014

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 2,958
Hunters: 7,379
Birds/Hunter: .4
Recreation Days: 20,405
Days/Bird: 6.9
Licenses Sold: 6,967

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$177,565
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$419,061
Total Program Revenue: \$596,626
Program Costs: \$155,879

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. Those first birds were released near Laramie Peak. The Merriam's has been the predominant subspecies in the state. Turkeys are found primarily in the southeastern, northeastern, and north-central portions of Wyoming in riparian habitats, on private land, and in low elevation conifer habitats. 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.

Prior to 2010, turkey data were reported by calendar year, i.e. spring and fall harvest for the same year. In 2010; however, it was decided to bring turkey data reporting in line with the rest of the species' data reported in this document, by biological year which begins June 1 and ends the next year just before most young are born on May 31. Therefore, the reported 2010 data includes the 2010 Fall and 2011 Spring seasons. However, to ensure the 2010 spring data were captured they were also included in the 2010 report. In 2014, the success rate equaled that of 2013 and is below the five-year average (0.5 birds per hunter) and the number of days to harvest a turkey increased to the highest measure in the last five years.

As turkey management has progressed in Wyoming, hunters have seen an increase in the number of general license hunt areas and a reduction in limited quota hunts. Additionally, starting in 2010 in some hunt areas, a hunter was allowed to receive up to two wild turkey licenses in a season, provided certain restrictions were met. In 2013, the license limit for one hunter per season was raised again to three. In 2014, hunt areas were consolidated down to five but the total area of the state open to turkey hunting expanded. As a result, hunter opportunity has 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.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	7,343	41,726	0.6	5.7	13,114	2011	244,862	330,420
2011	3,575	20,417	0.5	5.7	6,671	2012	193,267	175,429
2012	3,035	19,483	0.5	6.4	6,449	2013	188,075	151,614
2013	2,778	18,055	0.4	6.5	6,831	2014	169,772	174,284
2014	2,958	20,405	0.4	6.9	7,379	2015	177,565	155,879

*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

Calendar Year 2014

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 46,989
Hunters: 6,275
Bird/Hunter: 7.5
Recreation Days: 30,456
Days/Bird: 0.6
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$ **
All Other Agency Revenue: \$ **
Total Program Revenue: \$ **
Program Costs: \$ **
Cost Dept. Per Bird: \$ Not Available

A variety of duck species migrate through the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Wyoming during spring and fall. Wyoming is considered a production state, as significant numbers of ducks remain here to nest. Breeding and migrating waterfowl occupy most habitats where water is present in good quantity and quality. However, duck populations are low during winter months when frozen conditions prevail on most lakes and streams.

During 2014, with a few minor exceptions habitat conditions across the traditional survey area in the United States and Canada were characterized mostly as improved or similar to the previous year, with a mild winter and a delayed spring. The breeding duck population was approximately 8 percent above the prior year, and 43 percent above the long-term average.

In Wyoming, the 2013-2014 winter was wetter than average, followed by a normal spring. Water conditions and breeding habitat were improved. Hunter numbers and harvest both decreased slightly; however, they were still near or above the five-year average. The harvest rate in 2014 was the lowest seen in the last 5 years (7.5 birds/hunter) and effort equaled the average (0.6 days/bird).

The Department remains concerned about the degradation and loss of wetlands, other waterfowl habitats, and the associated status of some duck species. The Department will continue to work with private landowners, other government agencies, and organizations to conserve waterfowl habitat and to increase the amount and quality of habitat available.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's duck program.							
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.							
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Birds/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt.Costs (\$)
2010	44,451	30,125	8.0	0.7	5,583	**	**
2011	47,387	31,155	7.8	0.7	6,069	**	**
2012	50,233 ¹	31,131 ¹	8.3 ¹	0.6 ¹	6,064 ¹	**	**
2013	53,296	30,386	8.2	0.6	6,483	**	**
2014	46,989	30,456	7.5	0.6	6,275	**	**
**All small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses. ¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.							

GOOSE

Calendar Year 2014

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 29,181
Hunters: 5,691
Bird/Hunter: 5.1
Recreation Days: 25,929
Days/Bird: 0.9
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$ **
All Other Agency Revenue: \$ **
Total Program Revenue: \$ **
Program Costs: \$ **
Cost Dept. Per Bird: \$ Not Available

Goose hunting in Wyoming has remained good since 2000 despite a series of drought years, and has been excellent the past couple wet years. Opportunities to harvest migratory populations of Canada geese often depend upon winter weather patterns, which can affect the timing and extent of the migration and the number of birds available to hunters. The vast majority of Wyoming's goose harvest is comprised of Canada geese, but the increasing lesser snow goose population and liberalization of hunting opportunities have provided additional recreation opportunities, especially in late winter and early spring, during the Light Goose Conservation Order.

Goose harvest has fluctuated over the past five years, ranging from a high of 41,024 in 2010 to a low of 21,732 in 2011. From 2013 to 2014 harvest decreased, and was lower than the five-year average (29,818). Recreation days also decreased, and were the lowest in the last five years. Hunter numbers decreased, and were nearly equal to the average (5,675). Liberal season lengths and bag limits designed to lower goose populations continue to afford hunters with abundant harvest opportunities. Liberal seasons will continue, especially the late season conservation order for snow and Ross' geese, as the flyway councils attempt to reduce overabundant populations to protect sensitive arctic nesting habitat from overuse.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's goose program.							
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.							
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Birds / Hunter	Days / Bird	Number Hunters	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	41,024	33,766	6.5	0.8	6,350	**	**
2011	21,732	26,787	4.2	1.2	5,202	**	**
2012	31,993 ¹	29,875 ¹	5.9 ¹	0.9 ¹	5,419 ¹	**	**
2013	30,861	26,125	5.4	0.8	5,744	**	**
2014	29,181	25,929	5.1	0.9	5,691	**	**
**All small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.							
¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.							

SANDHILL CRANE

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest: ¹	101	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters: ¹	144	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter: ¹	0.7	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days: ¹	276		
Days/Bird: ¹	2.7		
Licenses Sold:	**		

Two populations of sandhill crane are found in Wyoming: the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Greater Sandhill Cranes and the Mid-Continent Population (MCP). The RMP is managed in cooperation with several other western states and the federal government. Most of Wyoming's crane harvest consists of RMP greater sandhill cranes hunted in central and western portions of the State. Above average recruitment has enabled the RMP to increase over the past few years. Allowable harvest is derived from a formula based on population counts on fall staging areas and an estimate of annual recruitment (proportion of chicks) from an independent survey in the San Luis Valley, Colorado. Permit quotas are set annually to achieve the allowable harvest. The MCP of Sandhill Cranes has been relatively stable since the early 1980s, but increased slightly over the past four years. Peripheral segments of this population migrate annually through central and eastern Wyoming. Harvest is largely opportunistic and only a handful of MCP cranes are taken each year in Wyoming.

In the 2014 season, harvest increased 37 percent from the previous year. Recreation days saw a 20 percent decrease and hunter numbers were nearly identical. The success rate increased to a five-year high (0.7 birds per hunter). Hunter effort in 2014 was at a five year low (2.7 days/bird harvested).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes program. ¹							
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.							
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird/Hunter	Days/Bird	Number Hunters	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
2010	182	695	0.6	3.8	328	**	**
2011	161	709	0.5	4.4	297	**	**
2012	134	521	0.6	3.9	216	**	**
2013	74	342	0.5	4.6	147	**	**
2014	101	276	0.7	2.7	144	**	**

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

¹ Data are from the Rocky Mountain Population of greater sandhill cranes. Wyoming harvest statistics for the Mid-Continent Population of sandhill cranes are published in the Central Flyway Harvest and Population Survey Data Book available at: <http://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications/flyway-data-books.php>.

RAIL, SNIPE, AND COOT

Calendar Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	400	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	250	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	1.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	650		
Days/Bird:	1.6		
Licenses Sold:	**		

Snipe, rail, and coot are harvested in both the Central and Pacific Flyways in Wyoming. Since coots are not a highly valued game species or food source, demand is low. Although snipe and rail can be found in marshy habitats throughout the state, opportunities to harvest them are underutilized. Generally, these species are harvested incidentally by persons hunting other migratory and upland game birds. Data presented in this table was taken from the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Report.

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.							
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Birds / Hunter	Days / Bird	Number Hunters	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt.Costs (\$)
2010	1,800	850	2.8	0.5	650	**	**
2011	500	700	1.7	1.4	300	**	**
2012	3800	2450	5.1	0.6	750	**	**
2013	750	450	3.8	0.6	200	**	**
2014	400	650	1.6	1.6	250	**	**
** 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.							
** Because program costs were negligible, they are included with other waterfowl management costs.							

FISHERIES

Sport Fisheries
Commercial Fisheries

SPORT FISHERIES

Calendar 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Recreation Day Objectives:	2,778,000	License Revenue:	\$6,096,645
Recreation Days:¹	2,608,955	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$8,987,518
Fish/Day:	2.5	Total Program Revenue:	\$15,084,163
Licenses Sold:	332,245	Program Costs:	\$20,133,253
Economic Return Per Day:	\$74.00		

In 2014, nearly 2.6 million angler days of sport fishing recreation were estimated. Overall license sales were up one percent from the previous year. Considering the tough economic times and the impact on especially our non-resident anglers, this may be a fairly positive result. For angler participation expenditures, the Department consulted the recently published report, *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. The estimate for angler participation rate was kept constant at 19 days/year even though the 2011 report said days fishing by anglers increased since 2001 (when our estimate was derived)¹². The Department anticipates being able to better estimate annual participation rate each year in the future. Historically, distribution of angling in the state has been 45 percent for flowing waters and 55 percent for standing waters. With improved reservoir conditions, the Department expects that trend to remain unchanged. Costs do not include general fund capital construction dollars for hatchery renovations³.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sport fisheries program.						
Calendar Year	Rec. Days ¹	Fish/Day	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2010	2,331,446	2.5	317,097	2011	\$5,011,096	20,265,111 ³
2011	2,223,600	2.5	291,065	2012	\$5,442,153	\$21,474,956 ³
2012	2,454,789	2.5	321,795	2013	\$5,750,220	\$21,940,359
2013	2,574,407	2.5	329,640	2014	6,157,667	19,787,933
2014	2,608,955	2.5	332,245	2015	6,096,645	20,133,253

¹ Estimates of average daily expenditures for FY08-12 are based on figures found in the *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation* for FY06 but adjusted for inflation. ³Costs do not include general fund capital construction dollars for hatchery renovations.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Calendar 2014

Fiscal Year 2015

Licenses Sold: 944

Licenses Sold: \$28,986
All Other Agency revenue: \$3,100
Total Program Revenue:** **\$32,086**
Program Costs: **\$30,441**

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

Live baitfish and seining permits continue to show a very gradual upward trend over the last few years; other license types are trending upward also, with the exception private hatchery permits, which have been stable. Overall, interest in seining and dealing in live baitfish was stable this year, but since the last decade, sales of seining and trapping permits have increased over 180 percent.

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

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.				
Calendar Year	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2010	903	2011	\$16,876	\$17,734
2011	869	2012	\$14,115	\$19,745
2012	965	2013	\$27,361	\$35,935
2013	922	2014	\$27,846	\$15,179
2014	944	2015	\$28,986	\$30,441

FURBEARERS

Bobcat
Other Furbearers

OTHER FURBEARERS

Calendar 2014

Furbearer Harvest: 14,950
Furbearer Trappers¹: 647
Furbearers per Trapper: 23.1
Recreation Days: NA
Days/Animal: NA
Licenses Sold ²: 2,404

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$98,472
Other Agency Revenue*: \$134,942
Total Program Revenue: \$233,415
Program Costs: \$505,545

Besides bobcat, there are a variety of other furbearing species in Wyoming. Badger, beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, and weasel are defined as furbearers by Wyoming statute. Harvest of these furbearers is determined by fur prices and by species abundance. These factors, combined with harvest quotas (where used), ensure trapping has little impact on furbearer populations.

The harvest survey was simplified in 2005 and again in 2010. In 2010, predatory animals (coyote, red fox, raccoon, and striped skunk) were removed from the survey because these animals can be harvested without a furbearer license and harvest is legal 365 days/year. Consequently, previous harvest surveys only reported a subset of the harvest on these species, the harvest taken by those with a furbearer license during the regulated trapping season. In addition, the number of trapping areas was reduced from 44 to 6, further simplifying the survey while still allowing data to be collected at a level useful to managers. One final change was made in 2010- days spent trapping, snaring, and hunting were collected. The difference is that the 2010 data was collected irrespective of species, simply asking how many days was a licensed trapper in the field trapping, whereas before that date, the Department tried to parse out days by species.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Furbearer Program.							
Other Furbearer Statistics					Entire Furbearer Program		
Calendar Year	Reported Harvest ⁴	Furbearers/Trapper	Number Trappers ¹	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2010	9,195	30.5	301	1,880	2011	92,862	271,214
2011	10,929	23.1	474	1,948	2012	96,205	189,976
2012	10,505	12.5	842	2,340	2013	114,652	249,328
2013	12,828	18.0	711	2,560	2014	111,042	200,312
2014	14,950	23.1	647	2,404	2015	98,472	505,545

¹ Does not include bobcat-only trappers. This number is derived from Question 1 of the Furbearer/Trapper Hunter Survey. The percent of trappers and hunters that responded "Yes" was applied toward the total licenses sold to get the estimated total number of trappers and hunters pursuing furbearers other than bobcats. The trapper number has been corrected from those given in past reports. These corrections also change the furbearers/trapper number for each year.

² The total number of furbearer licenses sold.

⁴ Predatory species (i.e., coyote, red fox, raccoon, and striped skunk) were removed from the survey in 2010.

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$226), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

RAPTORS

RAPTORS

Calendar Year 2014

Captures: 11
Licenses Sold: 27

Fiscal Year 2015

License Revenue: \$5,049
All Other Agency Revenue: \$34,086
Total Program Revenue: \$39,135
Program Costs: \$252,746

The objectives of the Raptor Program are to provide for the capture of raptors annually for falconry use and to maintain a sustainable falconry program within the state.

There are approximately 31 species of raptors known or thought to occur within Wyoming. The Raptor Program includes the management of hawks, falcons, owls, eagles, and vultures, although capture permits are only issued for the take of hawks, falcons, and eagles. Some species are present only seasonally and densities vary with climatic conditions and prey abundance.

In calendar year 2014, 19 resident licenses were issued and seven birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 37 percent. Eight nonresident licenses were issued and four birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 50 percent. In total, 11 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry for an overall success rate of 41 percent.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Raptor Program						
Harvest, recreation and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.						
Calendar Year	Captures	Success ¹	Licenses Sold ²	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$) ³
2010	5	26%	19	2011	4,044	712,094
2011	15	50%	29	2012	5,984	800,265
2012	20	49%	42	2013	6,386	866,854
2013	10	30%	33	2014	3,560	537,201
2014	11	41%	27	2015	5,049	252,746

¹Based on capture licenses sold.

²Includes only licenses to capture falcons; 78 licenses to hunt with falcons were issued in 2014. General fund revenue received was \$34,976.

³Includes program costs for raptors, bald eagle, predatory birds, and peregrine falcon.

**NONGAME PROGRAMS
AND
NON-LICENSED USES**

NONGAME PROGRAMS AND NON-LICENSED USES OF WILDLIFE

The Terrestrial Nongame Bird and Mammal Program includes activities such as inventory and monitoring, statewide and regional planning, information and education, and environmental commenting. The program is staffed by four permanent personnel; a statewide coordinator, a statewide bird lead, a statewide mammal lead, and a nongame biologist working in the Jackson and Pinedale Regions. Contract employees are hired using specific project funds. With a limited staff and responsibility for nearly 100 mammal and 400 bird species, project prioritization is essential. Terrestrial nongame personnel have been, and will continue to be, intensively involved in the implementation of [Wyoming's 2010 State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (SWAP). Priorities and Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in Wyoming's SWAP direct the section's inventory monitoring and survey activities.

Wyoming legislative general funds supported the work of the Terrestrial Nongame Program in the amount of \$1.73 million for the FY 15/16 biennium. These funds are primarily used for personnel, maintenance, and operations costs. During the FY 15/16 biennium, the legislature also provided \$620,000 for inventorying, monitoring, or research grants. These funds were divided among the terrestrial and aquatic nongame programs. The Governor's Endangered Species Account provided \$1.35 million which was used to fund seven priorities for the biennium. These priorities were developed in cooperation with representatives from the energy industry in order to address wildlife issues that have the potential to impact the development of energy resources in Wyoming. One of the priorities, totaling \$47,490, was undertaken by the Terrestrial Nongame Program. These funds were in addition to federal State Wildlife Grant funds the Department receives annually. These three funding sources allow the Nongame Program to conduct needed surveys and research on aquatic and terrestrial Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Project reports can be found on the Department's web site at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Job-Completion-Reports>.

The nongame section participates in and coordinates the monitoring of many species as part of regional and national conservation efforts. Examples include: the Breeding Bird Survey, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival Survey, periodic harlequin duck surveys, peregrine falcon and bald eagle nesting and productivity surveys, black-footed ferret surveys, and many others. Nongame personnel also participate on nationwide and regional committees and working groups that coordinate interstate and intrastate planning and implementation efforts to maintain wildlife diversity.

In 2011, non-consumptive users spent approximately \$350,256,000 in Wyoming based on the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. The Department's "Wyoming's Wildlife – Worth the Watching" Program has provided economic support for nongame, 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 signs at highway rest areas as well as cooperative Department/U.S. Forest Service signing, exhibits, and nature trails on Department lands. 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. Beginning in 2003, a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of big game licenses the Governor donates to conservation groups for fundraising are being made available through the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition for nongame projects

within the state. During FY 15, the Terrestrial Nongame Program was granted \$14,552 to be applied towards survey and monitoring programs.

APPENDIX B:

**BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARIES**

Summary of Game and Fish Fiscal Year 2016 Budget										
Approved Budget										
Approved Budget										
Budget	Name	FY 2016			FY 2015			Budget	%	
		Total	M&O	Personnel	Total	M&O	Personnel	\$\$\$ change	change	
Director	0A10	Director Office Administration	1,300,314	183,342	1,116,972	1,106,459	175,008	931,451	193,854	17.52%
	0A10	Director Office-Contingency	100,000	100,000	-	100,000	100,000			
	0J11	Public Information Administration	400,543	64,303	336,240	262,537	24,942	237,595	138,006	52.57%
	0A20	WGFC Vehicle Fleet	1,697,457	1,697,457	-	724,736	724,736		972,721	134.22%
	0A30	Commission	127,635	96,135	31,500	120,551	90,671	29,880	7,083	5.88%
	0E10	Conservation Education-Forever Wild	161,609	79,278	82,331	149,641	71,045	78,596	11,967	8.00%
	0E11	Conservation Education-Volunteers	107,947	26,328	81,619	97,340	19,315	78,024	10,607	10.90%
	0E20	Hunter Education	179,668	84,570	95,098	174,655	84,300	90,355	5,013	2.87%
	0J10	Media/Customer Outreach	564,784	50,664	514,120	545,248	70,287	474,961	19,536	3.58%
	0J20	Publications	489,686	391,982	97,705	391,395	296,415	94,980	98,292	25.11%
	0P10	Personnel	508,548	218,875	289,673	347,856	71,112	276,744	160,691	46.19%
	0S10	Strategic Planning	162,970	75,026	87,944	256,876	78,040	178,836	(93,906)	-36.56%
	0U10	Cooperative Research	740,000	740,000	-	286,079	286,079		453,921	158.67%
0W10	Statewide Habitat Protection	701,123	38,125	662,997	708,540	35,647	672,894	(7,417)	-1.05%	
Director's Office Total		7,242,282	3,846,084	3,396,198	5,271,915	2,127,597	3,144,318	1,970,368	37.37%	
Fiscal	2A10	Fiscal Administration	585,483	23,974	561,509	490,943	22,899	468,044	94,540	19.26%
	2F11	Cashier	72,583	1,237	71,346	70,699	1,510	69,189	1,884	2.66%
	2F12	Licensing	1,094,942	195,495	899,447	974,406	191,870	782,536	120,536	12.37%
	2F13	General Accounting	464,462	11,862	452,600	462,491	22,042	440,449	1,971	0.43%
	2F20	Accounts Payable	246,777	1,770	245,007	224,509	2,291	222,218	22,268	9.92%
	2F31	Asset Management	290,627	41,041	249,586	293,650	49,374	244,277	(3,024)	-1.03%
	2F32	Uniforms/Insurance	374,861	374,861	-	318,307	318,307		56,554	17.77%
	2V10	Customer Service	143,121	7,160	135,961	138,256	7,637	130,618	4,865	3.52%
	2J50	Mailroom	594,126	535,832	58,294	556,964	501,475	55,489	37,162	6.67%
	2Z1X	Regional Office Management	1,531,712	311,193	1,220,519	1,504,154	315,587	1,188,567	27,557	1.83%
	2X10	Legislated Expenses	2,637,600	2,580,000	57,600	2,599,364	2,540,000	59,364	38,236	1.47%
Fiscal Total		8,036,292	4,084,424	3,951,868	7,633,743	3,972,991	3,660,752	402,549	5.27%	
Services	4A11	Services Administration	263,427	28,479	234,948	246,452	21,534	224,918	16,975	6.89%
	4H10	Habitat Access/Maintenance	4,187,561	1,721,118	2,466,442	3,710,801	1,651,403	2,059,398	476,760	12.85%
	4H20	Property Rights Development	235,000	235,000	-	228,100	228,100		6,900	3.02%
	4K10	Conservation Engineering	731,752	159,151	572,601	747,804	111,043	636,761	(16,052)	-2.15%
	4L20	Game and Fish Lab	831,033	177,217	653,815	845,544	225,536	620,008	(14,512)	-1.72%
	4R01	Property Rights-Administration	760,161	410,387	349,774	735,873	370,980	364,893	24,288	3.30%
	4R1X	Property Rights-Acquisition	485,000	485,000	-	1,070,000	1,070,000		(585,000)	-54.67%
	4Y10	Information Technology	3,254,534	1,251,943	2,002,591	2,941,791	1,073,682	1,868,109	312,743	10.63%
	4ZXX	Support Facilities	1,434,842	1,310,684	124,158	1,274,171	1,155,661	118,510	160,671	12.61%
Services Total		12,183,310	5,778,979	6,404,330	11,800,536	5,907,938	5,892,598	382,774	3.24%	
Fish	5A10	Fish Administration	433,424	43,017	390,407	419,945	41,395	378,549	13,479	3.21%
	5H40	Habitat Coordinator (WLCI)	114,901	6,851	108,050	108,983	6,557	102,426	5,918	5.43%
	5C10	Hatchery & Rearing Stations	5,411,750	1,824,998	3,586,752	5,148,721	1,696,720	3,452,001	263,029	5.11%
	5C20	Fish Spawning	163,377	38,695	124,683	160,540	34,022	126,518	2,837	1.77%
	5C30	Fish Distribution	130,974	130,974	-	128,862	128,862		2,112	1.64%
	5H10	Regional Aquatic Habitat	1,062,293	108,653	953,640	995,273	101,509	893,764	67,021	6.73%
	5H20	Water Management	263,361	34,639	228,722	254,502	33,496	221,006	8,859	3.48%
	5H30	Fish Passage	295,278	135,690	159,589	303,959	148,219	155,740	(8,681)	-2.86%
	5Q10	Regional Aquatic Management	3,441,013	366,378	3,074,635	3,319,677	358,631	2,961,047	121,336	3.66%
	5Q30	Statewide Aquatic Management	526,869	73,489	453,380	518,296	70,871	447,424	8,573	1.65%
5Q40	Boating Access	1,691,344	1,691,344	-	796,448	796,448		894,896	112.36%	
Fish Total		13,534,585	4,454,727	9,079,857	12,155,204	3,416,730	8,738,474	1,379,380	11.35%	

Summary of Game and Fish Fiscal Year 2016 Budget										
Approved Budget										
Approved Budget										
Budget	Name	FY 2016			FY 2015			Budget	%	
		Total	M&O	Personnel	Total	M&O	Personnel	\$\$ change	change	
Wildlife	6A10	Wildlife Administration	1,192,177	306,184	885,993	1,303,757	305,287	998,470	(111,580)	-8.56%
	6B1X	Bird Farms	662,856	252,037	410,819	753,371	351,386	401,985	(90,515)	-12.01%
	6D10	Feedgrounds	3,127,751	2,907,611	220,140	2,814,068	2,600,969	213,099	313,683	11.15%
	6H10	Terrestrial Habitat Management	319,348	40,625	278,723	250,439	41,814	208,625	68,909	27.52%
	6H30	Terrestrial Regional Habitat	750,196	62,215	687,981	716,928	62,544	654,384	33,269	4.64%
	6N10	Special Enforcement-Investigators	709,143	59,460	649,683	683,383	60,533	622,850	25,760	3.77%
	6NX0	Special Enforcement-Boat Safety, Stop Poaching, Administration	423,511	112,526	310,985	424,344	113,786	310,558	(834)	-0.20%
	6R10	Property Rights-Statewide PLPW	105,015	21,875	83,140	105,090	24,145	80,945	(74)	-0.07%
	6R30	Property Rights-Regional PLPW	541,266	75,521	465,745	502,286	64,955	437,331	38,980	7.76%
	6R2X	Property Rights-PLPW Access (F06)	1,027,155	1,027,155		814,155	814,155		213,000	26.16%
	6T1X	Wildlife Biologists	3,911,490	1,039,012	2,872,478	3,749,444	1,019,008	2,730,436	162,046	4.32%
	6T2X	Wildlife Wardens	7,068,475	1,458,271	5,610,205	6,699,950	1,372,517	5,327,433	368,525	5.50%
	6T3X	Regional Wildlife Supervisors	2,260,409	523,892	1,736,517	2,298,515	522,882	1,775,633	(38,106)	-1.66%
	6T50	Biological Services	829,251	397,251	432,001	920,604	400,839	519,765	(91,353)	-9.92%
	6T71	Trophy Game and Conflict Resolution	1,388,940	351,068	1,037,872	1,286,116	287,681	998,435	102,825	7.99%
	6T80	Waterfowl	167,345	63,376	103,969	142,126	46,252	95,875	25,218	17.74%
6T90	Predator Management	100,000	100,000	-	100,000	100,000				
6G10	Regional Information & Education	696,220	53,828	642,392	670,929	51,488	619,441	25,291	3.77%	
Wildlife Total		25,280,549	8,851,906	16,428,642	24,235,504	8,240,240	15,995,264	1,045,045	4.31%	
Operations Subtotal		66,277,017	27,016,122	39,260,896	61,096,902	23,665,497	37,431,405	5,180,115	8.48%	
Wildlife Trust Fund Interest Total		1,200,000	1,200,000		1,623,600	1,623,600		(423,600)	-26.09%	
State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Total		800,000	379,944	420,056	800,000	447,284	352,716	0	0.00%	
Nonrecurring Projects Total					250,000	250,000		(250,000)	-100.00%	
Budget request before reimbursable grants		68,277,018	28,596,066	39,680,952	63,770,502	25,986,381	37,784,121	4,506,516	7.07%	
REIMBURSEABLE GRANTS:		7,100,000	6,770,868	329,132	7,100,000	6,578,046	521,954			
Total Non General Fund Budget		75,377,018	35,366,934	40,010,084	70,870,502	32,564,427	38,306,075	\$4,506,516	6.36%	
Personnel % (does not include reimbursable)				58.60%			60.07%			
General Fund		6,112,691	6,112,691		6,112,691	6,112,691				
TOTAL Budget		81,489,709	41,479,625	40,010,084	76,983,193	38,677,118	38,306,075	4,506,516	5.85%	
Items highlighted in yellow are restricted and cannot be distributed to other areas within the budget to cover other items.										
Property Rights Access Easements (F06) - Earmarked for Access easements only										
Legislative Expenses - Damage Claims, Game Warden Retirement, Cost Allocation, Landowner Coupons, Salecs										
Reimbursable Grants - All anticipated grant funds including federal, state, nongovernmental entities, etc.										
State Wildlife Grants (SWG) - USFWS grant funds for sensitive species with a state match requirement which is included in the totals										
Boating Access - USFWS funds										
PLPW - Private Lands, Public Wildlife										
SGCN - Species of Greatest Conservation Need										
CWCS - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy										
SWAP - State Wildlife Action Plan										

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**% CHNG
FY 12 to
FY 15**

	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2012	
ASSETS:					
PETTY CASH	\$ 17,450	\$ 17,050	\$ 17,250	\$ 17,250	1%
CASH - OPERATIONS	51,414,908	46,482,912	44,739,212	39,914,796	29%
CASH- WDLFE TRUST INTEREST	3,229,021	4,040,832	4,183,074	3,419,343	-6%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	1,965,771	1,868,060	1,704,276	1,409,627	39%
	<u>56,627,150</u>	<u>52,408,854</u>	<u>50,643,812</u>	<u>44,761,017</u>	27%
CASH - WDLFE TRUST CORPUS	27,069,276	26,179,914	25,285,520	24,406,299	11%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	5,251,819	4,785,472	4,645,359	4,294,679	22%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	32,813	50,000	46,598	54,801	-40%
CASH - APPS/UNDISTRIBD IN PROCESS	11,627,939	11,140,634	11,724,396	12,502,319	-7%
CASH-AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	444,795	444,795	444,795	444,795	0%
RETURNED CHECKS	541	57	794	717	-25%
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES					
TOTAL ASSETS	101,054,332	95,009,725	92,791,274	86,464,628	17%
LIABILITIES:					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	11,546	11,546	11,546	2,926	
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	500	400	207,626	57,626	-99%
APP/UNDIST PENDING DRAW	11,627,939	11,140,634	11,724,396	12,502,319	-7%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	4,165	4,684	46,554	28,644	
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAIN/LOSS	0	0	0	0	
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	144,928	3,417	83,250	208,433	-30%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,889,077	11,260,680	12,173,371	12,899,948	-8%
FUND BALANCE:					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBERANCES	7,792,419	5,269,506	6,976,391	8,587,998	-9%
WDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS (F08)	27,069,276	26,179,914	25,285,520	24,406,299	11%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST (F07)	2,860,318	3,647,648	3,882,184	2,822,680	1%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS (F06)	1,965,771	1,868,060	1,704,276	1,409,627	39%
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	444,795	444,795	444,795	444,795.55	
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND (F02)	5,251,819	4,785,472	4,645,359	4,294,679	22%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	32,813	50,000	46,598	54,801	-40%
UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND(F01)	43,748,043	41,503,650	37,632,781	31,543,800	39%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	89,165,255	83,749,045	80,617,903	73,564,680	21%
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	101,054,332	95,009,725	92,791,274	86,464,628	17%

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

EXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 15	FY 14	% Change from FY 14
REVENUE RECEIVED			
Hunting & Fish Lic	29,864,145	31,108,333	-4%
Conservation Stamps	813,495	796,714	2%
Boating Registration	415,960	320,825	30%
Other license revenue (pp points)	6,593,420	5,923,627	11%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,876,996	1,328,441	41%
Pooled Interest Trt (1)(2)	760,876	610,625	25%
Income from Inv&Land	80,806	46,465	74%
100% Reimbursable	4,762,634	4,476,340	6%
Application Fees	2,030,065	1,921,332	6%
Publication Sales	141,348	175,232	-19%
Access Yes donations/cstamp(3)	895,216	960,253	-7%
Federal Aid & Grants	17,882,530	11,874,681	51%
License Recoupment	844,510	872,934	-3%
General Funds	5,427,807	4,613,444	18%
Other Items	80,122	111,283	-28%
TTL REVENUE EARNED	72,469,930	65,140,529	11%

EXPENDITURES MADE(4)

Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	3,777,560	2,602,219	45%
Fiscal Division	4,861,862	3,757,757	29%
Services Division	10,368,354	10,819,398	-4%
Fish Division	13,006,988	11,753,614	11%
Wildlife Division	25,016,002	22,465,706	11%
TOTAL M&O EXPENSES	57,030,766	51,398,694	11%

Access Fund	797,487	792,316	1%
Wyoming wildlife trust (1)(2)	1,401,689	353,412	297%
Legislated Expenses	1,802,376	1,761,959	2%
Pr yr encmbrd m/o exp	2,541,458	2,739,361	-7%
TTL OPERATING EXP	63,573,776	57,045,742	11%

Reimbursable Contracts	2,957,607	3,986,422	-26%
Statewildlife Grants	541,631	441,013	23%
Property Rights			
Nonrecurring Projects	250,000		
Pr yr encmbrd other xp	1,071,881	1,577,655	-32%
TTL NONOP EXPENSES	4,821,119	6,005,090	-20%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	68,394,895	63,050,832	8%
DEFICIT OF REVENUE OVER EXP	4,075,034	2,089,697	

NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 15	FY 14	% Change from FY 14
Wildlife Conservation Trust & Lifetime License Fund(s)			
Corpus, July 1	30,965,386	29,930,879	3%
Prior year adj for increase in value of investments			
Current year adj for increase in value of investments	0	0	
Change in unrealized investments	0	0	
Interest earned	126,859	101,040	26%
Transfer from operations	0	(300,158)	-100%
Donations	3,757	30,895	-88%
Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses	339,488	339,231	0%
Lifetime conservation stamps	72,110	71,027	2%
Annual conserv stamp 37 1/2%	813,495	792,472	3%
Corpus, June 30	32,321,095	30,965,386	4%

Aquatic Invasive Species Decals(5)			
Corpus, July 1	444,795	444,795	0%
Resident motorized decals			
Resident nonmotorized decals			
NonResident motorized decals			
NonResident nonmotorized decals			
Credit card charges			
Corpus, June 30	444,795	444,795	0%

All Department revenue/expenditures is recognized above excepting:

- 1) \$466,347 in lifetime license sales & interest earned on those licenses (W.S. provides that the corpus of the lifetime license fund cannot be spent, but up to 6% of the corpus balance may be transferred annually to the Game and Fish Operating fund)
 - 2) \$ 1/2 or \$72,110 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp \$813,495 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 \$157,013 which are deposited into an access fund & are budgeted and spent in the year following receipt; they can only be used for purchasing nonfee title access easements;
 - 4) **-\$17,186** (net loss on a cash basis for revenue of \$122,057 & expenses of \$139,243) from sale of promotional products and publications
 - 5) \$444,794 collected in Aquatic Invasive Species decals prior to the 2011 supplemental budget redirecting this revenue to the general fund appropriation for this program.
- Effective with the 2011 Legislative session, AIS decal revenue is recorded in the general fund;
FY 15 AIS decal revenue = \$656,403

All Department expenditures are shown, excepting capital construction costs, included in a Legislative appropriation and paid directly by the Department of Administration and Information Construction Management Division.

**Schedule of Expenditures by Strategic Plan Program
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	Total WGFC Expenditures	General Fund (non capital construction) Expenditures	Total FY 2015 Expenditures	% of Total Expenditures
Aquatic Wildlife Management	\$ 5,439,254	1,456,668	6,895,922	10.1%
Bird Farms	627,691		627,691	0.9%
Cooperative Research	639,254		639,254	0.9%
Conservation Engineering	543,831		543,831	0.8%
CWCS (Sensitive Species)	762,770	839,291	1,602,061	2.3%
Department Administration	3,965,816		3,965,816	5.8%
Education	352,021		352,021	0.5%
Feedgrounds	2,426,576		2,426,576	3.5%
Financial Management	2,276,159		2,276,159	3.3%
Fish Culture	5,294,134		5,294,134	7.7%
Habitat	8,361,534		8,361,534	12.2%
Information	1,377,125		1,377,125	2.0%
Legislated Expenses	1,804,660		1,804,660	2.6%
Customer Services (includes Alternative Enterprises)	274,031		274,031	0.4%
Management Information Systems	2,676,706		2,676,706	3.9%
Personnel Management	343,061		343,061	0.5%
Property Rights	3,163,409		3,163,409	4.6%
Regional Information/Education	647,248		647,248	0.9%
Specialized Law Enforcement	1,297,199		1,297,199	1.9%
Human Dimensions/Strategic Management	103,109		103,109	0.2%
Support Facilities/Personnel	2,593,344		2,593,344	3.8%
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	15,247,132	1,314,506	16,561,638	24.2%
Wildlife Habitat Protection	832,904		832,904	1.2%
Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services	2,057,365	1,817,342	3,874,707	5.7%
Total Amount Expended	63,106,332	5,427,807	68,534,139	100%

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

LICENSES						
Antelope ¹³	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	138	126	93	197	202
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	46	30	23	58	58
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$20.00	214	284	270	155	146
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$18.00	59	88	83	47	40
Resident Antelope	\$33.00	18,523	18,087	17,029	15,839	14,644
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$33.00		0	4	8	8
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$33.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$22.00	7,416	6,980	6,518	5,840	5,186
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,703	2,700	2,583	2,342	2,271
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	718	760	644	571	546
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$15.00		0		1	
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00			1	1	1
Total Resident Antelope		29,817	29,055	27,248	25,059	23,102
Nonres Antelope	\$272.00	14,092	13,276	11,874	10,377	8,964
Nonres Antelope Commissioner	\$272.00				2	
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$272.00			76	72	71
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$272.00					1
NonRes Antelope w/Preference Point	\$272.00	2,753	2,953	2,438	2,490	2,225
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$272.00			8	19	39
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$272.00			1	1	1
Nonres Antelope Yth One Shot Hunt	\$110.00					1
NonRes Antelope Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	282	315	279	256	239
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$34.00	24,927	24,233	22,209	17,384	11,694
Nonres Special Antelope	\$512.00	519	570	648	555	515
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$512.00	973	1,038	939	970	867
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	1,023	937	851	678	584
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$110.00					5
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00			8		5
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00	1,586	1,605	1,487	1,181	724
Total Nonresident Antelope		46,155	44,927	40,818	33,985	25,935
Total Antelope Licenses		75,972	73,982	68,066	59,044	49,037
Archery	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonresident Archery	\$30.00	4,958	5,114	4,985	4,849	4,751
Nonresident Youth Archery	\$12.00	126	140	120	125	99
Resident Archery	\$16.00	13,559	13,249	14,041	14,062	14,852
Resident Youth Archery	\$6.00	974	1,074	1,162	1,169	1,256
Total Archery Licenses		19,617	19,577	20,308	20,205	20,958
Bighorn Sheep	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,252.00	71	64	57	52	50
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00		5	5	5	5
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$2,252.00					1
Nonresident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$240.00			5	2	1
Nonresident Yth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$100.00					
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$117.00	196	191	174	158	147
Resident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$117.00					1
Resident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$36.00			13	5	3
Resident Youth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$20.00			2	1	
Total Bighorn Sheep Licenses		267	260	256	223	208

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Black Bear	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonres Black Bear	\$362.00	295	347	401	417	436
Nonres Black Bear Super Tag	\$362.00					1
Resident Black Bear	\$45.00	3,101	3,362	3,720	3,716	3,955
Total Black Bear Licenses		3,396	3,709	4,121	4,133	4,392
Deer ¹³	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	251	223	175	354	398
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	40	38	33	88	79
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$23.00	396	462	492	284	348
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$18.00	57	93	76	53	49
Resident Deer	\$38.00	42,182	40,088	38,618	38,146	39,080
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$38.00				4	
Resident Deer Governor	\$0.00					1
Resident Deer Military Combat	\$0.00	4	3		2	
Resident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$38.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$22.00	8,083	8,544	8,143	7,768	6,718
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	5,647	5,536	5,553	5,671	5,984
Resident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00					1
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	797	814	764	772	659
Total Resident Deer		57,457	55,801	53,854	53,142	53,317
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$552.00	1,026	1,030	867	925	899
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$312.00	3,581	3,536	3,214	3,274	3,144
NonRes Deer Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	213	259	218	211	231
Nonresident Deer	\$312.00	17,284	15,826	13,736	12,740	11,440
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$312.00	20	14	11	5	
Nonresident Deer Governor	\$0.00	1	4	3	3	2
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$312.00	24	20	14	20	28
Nonresident Deer Super Tag	\$312.00					1
Nonresident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$312.00		1		2	1
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$34.00	6,953	6,578	6,137	5,651	5,020
Nonres Special Deer	\$552.00	1,005	871	781	800	945
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	802	742	647	604	523
Nonresident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	3	5	6	3	6
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00	362	370	357	328	282
Total Nonresident Deer		31,274	29,256	25,991	24,566	22,522
Total Deer Licenses		88,731	85,057	79,845	77,708	75,839
Elk ¹³	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	54	51	60	157	195
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	266	218	163	431	484
Pioneer Elk Commissioner	\$5.00				1	
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$27.00	131	174	236	161	163
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$32.00	510	609	658	392	430
Pioneer Heritage Elk Commissioner	\$32.00					
Res Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$52.00			1		
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$43.00	9,690	11,097	13,386	13,490	13,215
Resident Elk	\$52.00	37,894	37,260	37,714	38,554	39,058
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$52.00		16	9	12	8
Resident Elk Governor	\$0.00		4	4	3	4
Resident Elk Military Combat	\$0.00	2	3		1	
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$52.00					1
Resident Elk Youth Commissioner	\$25.00			2	1	1

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	3,671	3,742	3,812	4,002	4,047
Resident Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$25.00			1		1
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	736	927	1,073	1,118	1,107
Total Resident Elk		52,954	54,101	57,119	58,323	58,714
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$288.00	2,722	3,336	3,962	4,585	4,980
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$577.00	3,092	3,104	3,195	2,982	2,789
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$577.00		46	32	47	46
Nonres Elk & Fishing Governor	\$0.00		2	3	4	3
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$577.00			2	1	2
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,057.00	1,315	1,331	1,225	1,444	1,684
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$577.00	2,704	2,574	2,489	2,375	2,239
NonRes Elk Yth w/Preference Point	\$275.00	77	70	77	58	81
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,057.00	657	727	794	896	1,038
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00	136	158	204	223	236
Nonres Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$275.00		5	7	4	4
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	73	77	79	72	74
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing Commissioner	\$275.00		1			
Total Nonresident Elk		10,776	11,431	12,069	12,691	13,176
Total Elk Licenses		63,730	65,532	69,188	71,014	71,890
Fishing	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Resident Daily Fish	\$6.00	39,225	37,992	36,530	35,893	34,196
Resident Daily Fish Military Combat	\$0.00	17	21			
Resident Fishing Annual	\$24.00	75,381	72,197	79,082	79,888	79,735
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	6,377	6,128	6,725	7,295	7,493
Total Resident Fishing		121,000	116,338	122,337	123,076	121,424
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$14.00	180,050	160,453	182,434	187,986	191,241
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$92.00	12,609	11,419	13,603	14,991	15,803
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,438	2,855	3,421	3,587	3,777
Total Nonresident Fishing		196,097	174,727	199,458	206,564	210,821
Total Fishing Licenses		317,097	291,065	321,795	329,640	332,245
Furbearing/Trapping	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$242.00	36	40	37	46	50
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$44.00	1,691	1,793	2,132	2,308	2,189
Res Youth Furbearing Trapping	\$6.00	153	115	171	206	165
Total Furbearing/Trapping Licenses		1,880	1,948	2,340	2,560	2,404
Game Bird/Small Game	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$24.00	8,198	7,953	8,603	8,891	9,617
Res Bird/Small Game Military Combat	\$0.00	2	3			2
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$9.00	938	927	884	1,073	932
Resident Game Bird	\$16.00	7,727	7,430	7,596	6,945	6,792
Resident Small Game	\$16.00	1,600	1,533	1,393	1,653	1,735
Total Resident Game Bird/Small Game		18,465	17,846	18,476	18,562	19,078
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$72.00	1,777	1,738	1,893	1,898	2,110
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$20.00	4,937	4,977	4,925	4,186	4,687
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	118	115	146	100	128
Total Nonresident Game Bird/Small Game		6,832	6,830	6,964	6,184	6,925
Total Game Bird/Small Game Licenses		25,297	24,676	25,440	24,746	26,003
Gray Wolf ⁶	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$180.00			198	140	12
Resident Gray Wolf	\$18.00			4,294	2,013	604
Total Gray Wolf Licenses				4,492	2,153	616

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Lifetime	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$482.00	83	79	82	93	53
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$662.50	255	338	374	436	372
Bird/Small Game	\$302.00	13	17	32	10	15
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	3	8	11	6	9
Conservation Stamp	\$180.50	96	84	124	94	115
Fishing	\$302.00	62	62	59	79	73
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	195	209	218	314	263
Total Lifetime Licenses		707	797	900	1,032	900
Moose	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonresident Moose	\$1,402.00	100	92	91	85	84
Nonresident Moose Governor	\$0.00		4	5	2	5
Nonresident Moose Trifecta	\$1,402.00					1
Resident Moose	\$112.00	460	442	395	397	369
Resident Moose Governor	\$0.00		1		3	
Resident Moose Super Tag	\$112.00					1
Total Moose Licenses		560	539	491	487	460
Mountain Goat	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,152.00	5	6	6	6	7
Nonres Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$2,152.00					1
Resident Mountain Goat	\$122.00	15	17	18	22	21
Resident Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$122.00					1
Total Mountain Goat Licenses		20	23	24	28	30
Mountain Lion	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$362.00	182	213	179	222	224
Nonres Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$362.00					1
Nonres Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$92.00	4	11	7	9	4
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	1,943	1,923	2,149	2,154	2,169
Resident Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$20.00	27	49	52	96	83
Total Mountain Lion Licenses		2,156	2,196	2,387	2,481	2,481
Wild Bison ⁸	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$2,502.00	12	18	15	19	19
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$1,002.00	3	1	4	9	42
Nonres Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00				5	1
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$402.00	59	84	81	82	70
Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$252.00	121	124	165	211	183
Resident Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00					3
Resident Wild Bison Super Tag	\$402.00					1
Total Wild Bison Licenses		195	227	265	326	319
Wild Turkey ¹³	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Resident Fall Turkey	\$16.00	2,202	2,042	1,972	1,688	1,789
Resident Pio Heritage Fall Turkey	\$10.00			21	13	28
Resident Pio Heritage Spring Turkey	\$10.00			35	38	37
Resident Pioneer Fall Turkey	\$2.00			7	3	1
Resident Pioneer Spring Turkey	\$2.00			9	1	6
Resident Spring Turkey	\$16.00	4,960	4,503	3,886	3,854	3,829
TOTALS		7,162	6,545	5,930	5,597	5,690
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$72.00	280	276	240	219	183
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$72.00	1,870	1,847	1,281	1,256	1,094
TOTALS		2,150	2,123	1,521	1,475	1,277

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Total Wild Turkey Licenses		9,312	8,668	7,451	7,072	6,967
Other Licenses	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$182.00	12	12	10	9	9
Deal in Live Bait	\$67.00	64	67	61	57	62
Duplicate Commercial	\$5.00	5	4	13	6	12
Duplicate Lifetime	\$5.00	272	244	215	294	324
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$5.00	2,307	2,405	2,870	3,062	3,309
Duplicate with Coupon	\$5.00	2,270	2,320	3,919	2,907	2,866
Duplicate without Coupon	\$5.00	143	143	200	207	197
Fishing Preserve	\$132.00	46	55	54	45	46
Game Bird Farm	\$132.00	112	108	105	102	104
License to Capture Furbearing Animal	\$20.00	2	1	2	1	
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$16.00	87	77	79	72	77
Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$242.00	7	13	16	10	8
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$277.00	6	11	10	9	9
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$702.00	3	6	7	5	3
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$38.00	12	16	26	23	19
Resident Fur Dealer	\$52.00	15	13	15	15	13
Resident Taxidermist	\$67.00	190	187	176	171	184
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$20.00	781	735	840	811	827
Total Other Licenses		6,334	6,417	8,618	7,806	8,069

STAMPS, PERMITS, & TAGS

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Central Visual Acuity Permit ¹	\$0.00					10
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit ²	\$12.50	133	214	187	148	
Conservation Stamps	\$12.50	175,760	170,810	175,964	176,037	174,579
Disabled Veteran 100% Bird/Sm Game & Fish	\$0.00	41	56	51	41	50
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00	133	180	251	246	245
Disabled Hunter Permit	\$0.00	110	163	235	248	297
Disabled Veteran 50% Fishing	\$0.00	98	186	199	176	197
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$12.50	12,493	12,115	11,760	12,111	12,393
Harvest Information Permits (HIP)	\$0.00	9,348	10,161	8,823	8,616	8,039
Hunter Safety Exemption ³	\$0.00					108
Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities (SFV)	\$0.00	100	146	155	149	175
Interstate Game Tags	\$8.00	14,772	14,489	14,627	13,616	5,047
Nonres Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	50		45	58	56
Nonres Marten Permit	\$0.00	1		1		
Nonres Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	39	33	26	23	14
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	104	112	119	123	127
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	20	27	11	24	23
Nonresident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	1	1			
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50					49
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$12.50	5,578	4,867	5,015	5,141	5,283
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	8,111	7,588	7,991	9,523	8,525
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50					163
Res Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	145	127	150	139	137
Resident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	15	18	15	19	17
Resident Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	807		735	716	742
Resident Guide ⁴	\$0.00				453	523
Resident Marten Permit	\$0.00	3	5	4	5	5

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Pioneer Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$0.00	1,509	1,355	1,688	1,539	1,592
Resident Pioneer Veteran Bird/Fish/Sm Game	\$0.00	148	149	250	247	274
Resident Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	356	319	244	158	149
Resident Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	1,170	960	1,079	1,016	1,050
Sandhill Crane General Permit ¹⁴	\$0.00					334
Temporary Hunter With Disability (SFV) ⁵	\$0.00					49
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00	122	241	193	84	83
Total Stamps, Permits, & Tags		231,167	224,322	229,818	230,656	220,335

DONATIONS

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Access Yes	\$1.00	117,272	118,248	123,072	125,915	130,025
Search and Rescue	\$1.00	151,409	156,096	169,904	175,323	213,301
Total Donations		268,681	274,344	292,976	301,238	343,326

WATERCRAFT & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DECALS ⁹

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00					690
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00					5,346
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00					533
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00					1,186
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00					3,761
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00					687
Nonresident AIS Motorized Decal	\$30.00	5,755	5,254	5,771	6,538	6,911
Nonresident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$15.00	2,521	2,873	3,716	4,679	5,303
Resident AIS Motorized Decal	\$10.00	20,675	19,914	21,612	17,753	7,864
Resident AIS Motorized Decal Three-Year	\$30.00				4,861	
Resident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$5.00	6,505	6,733	8,360	8,942	9,980
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$5.00					112
Watercraft Dealer	\$15.00	90	15	29	62	38
Watercraft Duplicate	\$5.00		125	251	254	161
Watercraft Government Renewal Three-Year	\$0.00		14	67	32	40
Watercraft New One-Year	\$15.00	934	430	802	979	273
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$40.00	1,498	673	1,626	1,292	157
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$15.00	6,580	808	6,386	6,182	1,070
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$40.00	4,564	576	5,192	4,245	554
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$15.00	566	241	546	685	158
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$40.00	841	351	944	733	72
Total Watercraft & AIS		50,529	38,007	55,302	57,237	44,896

SUPER TAG & SUPER TAG TRIFECTA RAFFLE ⁷

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Antelope Super Tag	\$10.00					2,029
Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$10.00					10,572
Black Bear Super Tag	\$10.00					220
Deer Super Tag	\$10.00					4,216
Elk Super Tag	\$10.00					7,791
Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$10.00					529
Moose Super Tag	\$10.00					8,307
Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$10.00					4,312

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$10.00					214
Super Tag Trifecta	\$30.00					8,217
Wild Bison Super Tag	\$10.00					3,859
Total Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta						50,266

PREFERENCE POINTS

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nonresident Antelope	\$30.00	19,694	22,324	25,889	28,965	33,040
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$100.00	5,787	6,099	6,342	6,638	7,092
Nonresident Deer	\$40.00	21,751	23,915	25,713	28,225	32,503
Nonresident Elk	\$50.00	28,937	30,801	33,696	36,750	41,480
Nonresident Moose	\$75.00	7,098	7,417	7,529	7,784	8,194
Nonresident Youth Antelope	\$10.00	1,905	2,119	2,430	2,606	3,015
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$10.00	1,645	1,786	1,922	2,062	2,394
Nonresident Youth Elk	\$10.00	1,648	1,740	1,932	2,032	2,337
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	4,790	4,437	4,738	4,464	4,814
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Point Purchase	\$7.00	3,387	3,719	3,919	4,228	4,244
Resident Moose - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	9,576	8,808	9,267	8,787	9,435
Resident Moose - Point Purchase	\$7.00	4,616	5,158	5,327	5,643	5,672
Total Preference Points		110,834	118,323	128,704	138,184	154,220

DRAW APPLICATION FEES

	PRICE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bison Application Fee	\$6.00	5,087	4,960	5,083	5,468	3,430
Nonresident Application Fee	\$14.00	87,124	86,783	85,403	85,066	87,735
Resident Application Fee	\$5.00	114,880	113,783	117,451	119,435	122,580
Withdrawal Fee	\$5.00	816	1,071	1,173	1,059	1,085
Total Fees		207,907	206,597	209,110	211,028	214,830

		1,484,389	1,446,266	1,531,897	1,549,001	1,630,691
--	--	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

*WS 23-1-705(H) - Complimentary Antelope for Disabled Individuals

**WS 23-1-705(J) - Complimentary Licenses Designated for Youth with Life Threatening Illnesses

¹ During the 2013 Legislative Session, Central Visual Acuity provisions were added to W.S. 23-3-306. The Department adopted Chapter 64, Regulation for Central Visual Acuity Disability Permits on July 10, 2013 and permits were issued beginning in January 2014.

² Beginning in 2014, the Conservation Order Special Management Permit was issued based on residency.

³ During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Hunter Safety Exemption was added to W.S. 23-2-106 and permits were issued beginning in July 2014.

⁴ Prior to 2013, Resident Guide permits were manually issued in the field.

⁵ Beginning in 2014, Temporary Hunter with Qualifying Disability were issued through the Electronic Licensing System.

⁶ Gray Wolves were placed under federal protection in September of 2014 and gray wolf take is suspended.

⁷ During the 2013 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-302 (p) was added to allow the Department to issue licenses through a competitive raffle. Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta raffle chances were first offered beginning in 2014.

⁸ Beginning in 2014, Wild Bison was conducted as a limited quota draw. Prior to 2014, applicants were placed on a priority list.

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

⁹ Began issuing Combined Watercraft and AIS in 2014.

¹⁰ During the 2013 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-705 was changed to allow the Governor to issue up to five (5) Wild Bison Licenses and licenses were issued beginning in 2013.

¹¹ During the 2009 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-703 was modified to provide for the issuance of ewe/lamb bighorn sheep licenses. Licenses were issued beginning in 2012.

¹² During the 2011 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-705 (e) was changed to allow the Department to begin issuing pioneer heritage and pioneer turkey licenses and licenses were issued beginning in 2012.

¹³ Landowner licenses are not listed separately, but are included in the regular license counts.

¹⁴ Prior to 2014, General Sandhill Crane licenses were issued manually on forms provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 15

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$12,853,935		
BC	ANTELOPE (PRONGHORN)	\$2,428,142	\$569,916	\$2,998,057
BD	ELK	\$13,564,323	\$3,183,718	\$16,748,041
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$2,253,718	\$528,976	\$2,782,695
BF	MOOSE	\$805,837	\$189,140	\$994,976
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$129,769	\$30,458	\$160,227
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$425,212	\$99,803	\$525,015
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$552,525	\$129,685	\$682,209
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$1,845,140	\$433,078	\$2,278,218
BM	MULE DEER	\$6,227,248	\$1,461,614	\$7,688,862
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$323,582	\$75,949	\$399,531
BP	BISON	\$144,137	\$33,831	\$177,968
BW	WOLF	\$714,640	\$167,735	\$882,375
CA	SMALL GAME	\$23,866	\$5,602	\$29,468
CC	PHEASANTS	\$1,072,467	\$251,722	\$1,324,189
CF	TURKEY	\$126,247	\$29,632	\$155,879
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$1,753	\$411	\$2,164
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$7,147	\$1,678	\$8,825
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$2,052,899	\$481,841	\$2,534,741
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$25,537	\$5,994	\$31,531
DB	GEESE	\$845,151	\$198,367	\$1,043,518
DC	DUCKS	\$292,118	\$68,564	\$360,682
DD	SWANS	\$234,421	\$55,021	\$289,442
DE	DOVES	\$178,194	\$41,824	\$220,018
DF	CRANES	\$83,439	\$19,584	\$103,023

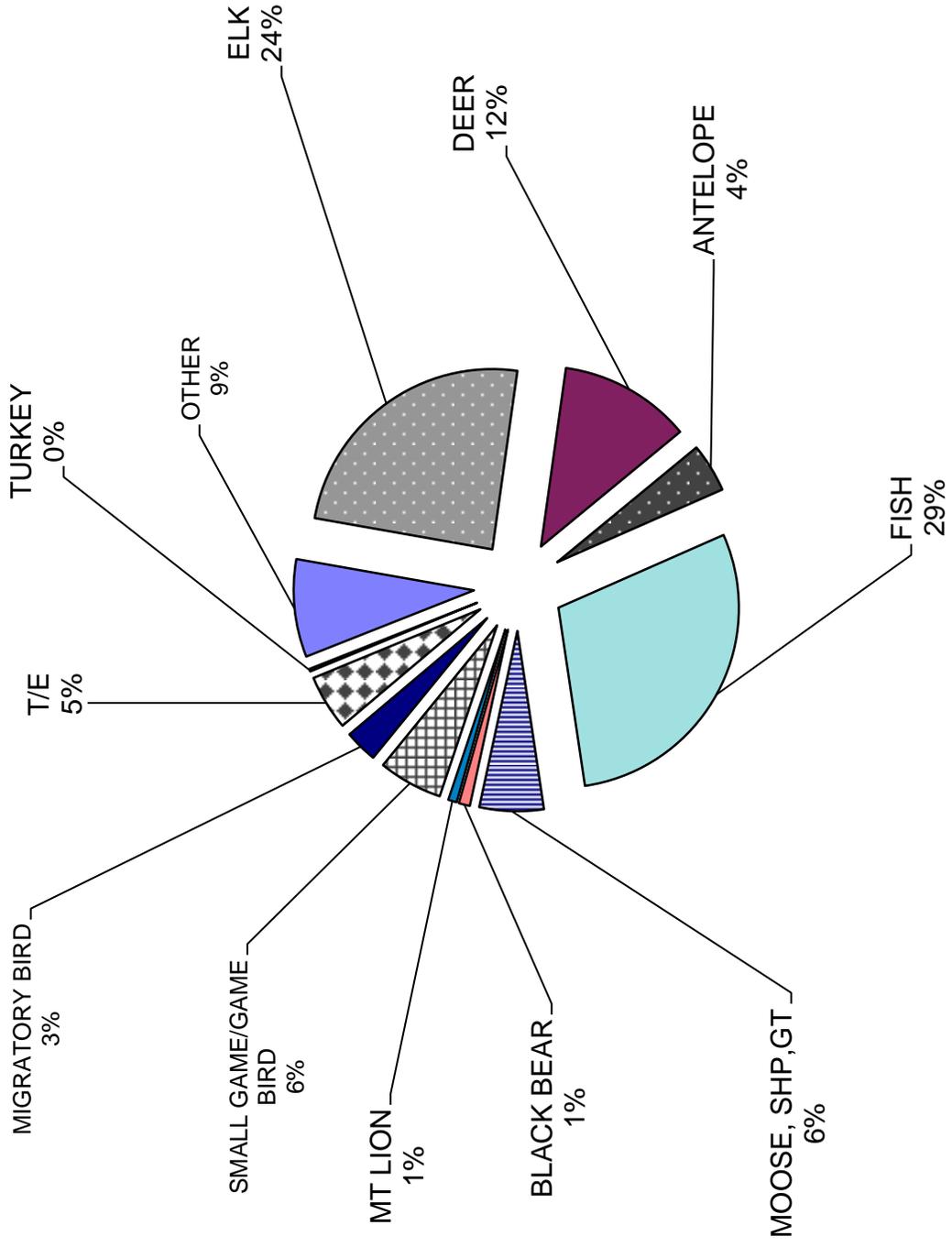
EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 15

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$16,306,023	\$3,827,229	\$20,133,253
HB	BOBCAT	\$214,020	\$50,233	\$264,253
HC	BEAVER	\$409,443	\$96,102	\$505,545
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$24,655	\$5,787	\$30,441
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$889,370	\$208,746	\$1,098,116
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$838,409	\$196,785	\$1,035,194
NC	RAPTORS	\$161,327	\$37,865	\$199,192
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$586,549	\$137,670	\$724,219
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$688,291	\$161,551	\$849,841
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$2,576	\$605	\$3,181
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$20,908	\$4,907	\$25,816
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$19,889	\$4,668	\$24,557
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$59,001	\$13,848	\$72,849
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$10,623	\$2,493	\$13,117
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$86,194	\$20,231	\$106,425
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$35,366	\$8,301	\$43,667
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$6,024	\$1,414	\$7,438
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$35,014	\$8,218	\$43,232
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$11,398	\$2,675	\$14,074
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$1,979	\$464	\$2,443
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$915,633		\$915,633
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$68,534,139	\$12,853,935	\$68,534,139

*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 associated on a percentage basis to specific department programs.

**Nonwildlife includes Alternative Enterprises (3V10).

WGF Expenditures by Species - FY 15 (includes general fund non capital construction)



REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 15

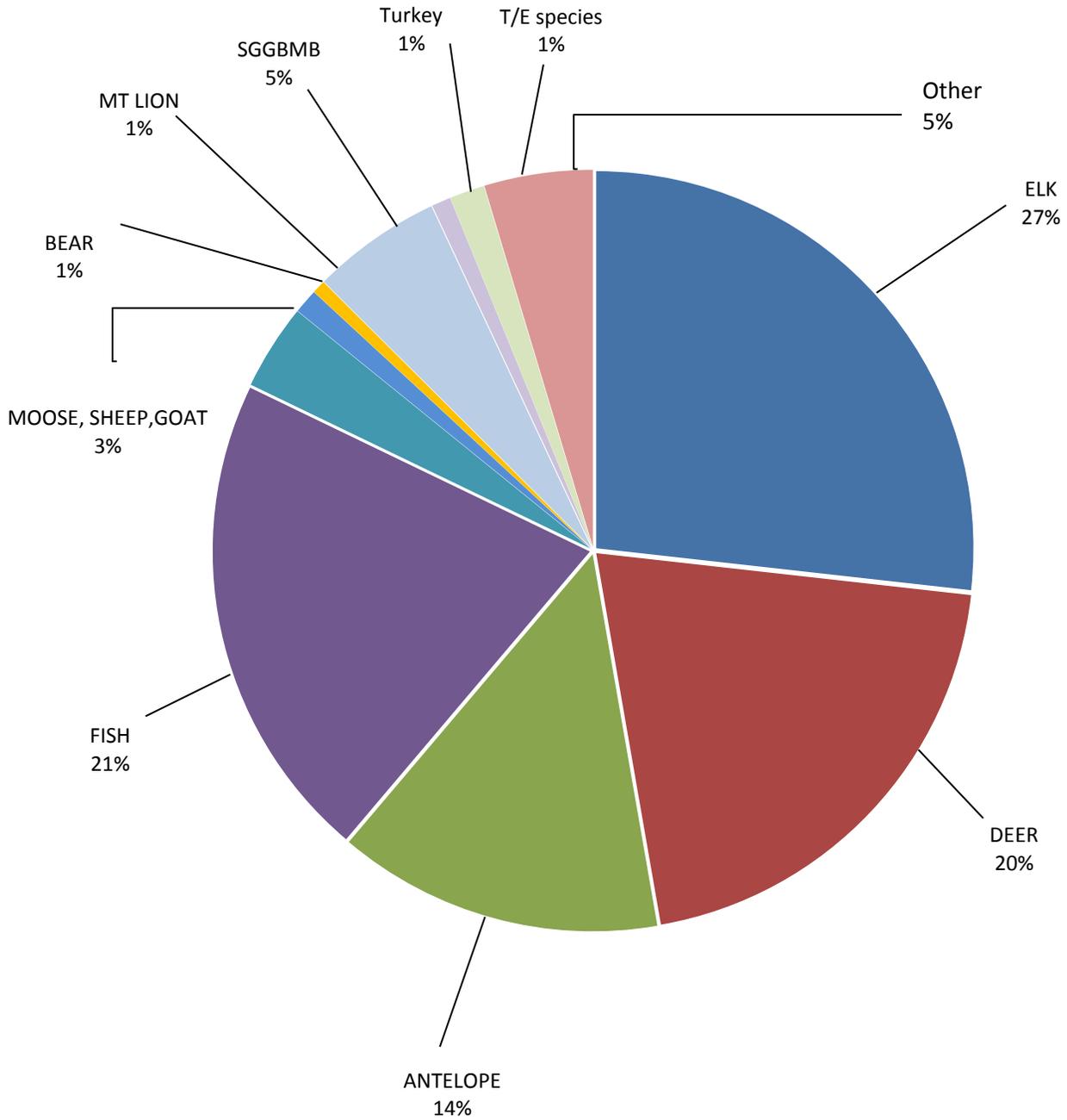
CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$1,370,250		
BC	ANTELOPE	\$9,901,262	\$192,838	\$10,094,100
BD	ELK	\$19,033,166	\$370,691	\$19,403,857
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,580,619	\$30,784	\$1,611,403
BF	MOOSE	\$947,932	\$18,462	\$966,394
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$90,057	\$1,754	\$91,811
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$408,494	\$7,956	\$416,450
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$746,836	\$14,545	\$761,382
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$517,696	\$10,083	\$527,779
BM	MULE DEER	\$14,177,274	\$276,117	\$14,453,391
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$381,097	\$7,422	\$388,519
BP	BISON	\$179,319	\$3,492	\$182,811
BW	WOLF	\$364,965	\$7,108	\$372,073
CA	SMALL GAME	\$2,329,031	\$45,360	\$2,374,392
CC	PHEASANTS	\$79,568	\$1,550	\$81,118
CF	TURKEY	\$585,228	\$11,398	\$596,626
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$151	\$3	\$154
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$1,422,988	\$27,714	\$1,450,702
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DB	GEESE	\$1,261	\$25	\$1,286
DC	DUCKS	\$0	\$0	\$0
DD	SWANS	\$126,348	\$2,461	\$128,809
DE	DOVES	\$776	\$15	\$791
DF	CRANES	\$120	\$2	\$122

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 15

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$14,795,995	\$288,168	\$15,084,163
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
HC	BEAVER	\$228,956	\$4,459	\$233,415
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$31,473	\$613	\$32,086
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$570,365	\$11,108	\$581,473
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$423,982	\$8,258	\$432,240
NC	RAPTORS	\$38,387	\$748	\$39,135
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$109,172	\$2,126	\$111,298
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$992,840	\$19,337	\$1,012,177
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$193	\$4	\$197
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$18,567	\$362	\$18,929
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$9,850	\$192	\$10,042
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$55,279	\$1,077	\$56,356
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$710	\$14	\$724
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$110,365	\$2,149	\$112,515
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$331	\$6	\$337
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$89,846	\$1,750	\$91,595
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$5,079	\$99	\$5,178
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$0	\$0	\$0
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$744,101		\$744,101
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$72,469,930	\$1,370,250	\$72,469,930

**Nonwildlife includes Alternative Enterprises (3V10).

WGF Revenue Collected by Species FY 15 (includes general fund noncapital construction)



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

PROGRAM	2011	%	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%
Antelope	4,057,197	6.21%	3,968,296	5.58%	3,933,317	5.72%	3,458,135	5.47%	2,998,057	4.37%
Elk	13,483,854	20.65%	16,493,854	23.26%	14,699,616	21.39%	14,759,617	23.36%	16,748,041	24.44%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	1,788,348	2.74%	1,823,835	2.57%	1,495,349	2.18%	2,211,924	3.50%	2,782,695	4.06%
Moose	1,588,023	2.43%	982,685	1.39%	1,359,572	1.98%	784,133	1.24%	994,976	1.45%
Rocky Mountain Goat	89,638	0.14%	56,123	0.08%	133,456	0.19%	86,367	0.14%	160,227	0.23%
Mountain Lion	574,596	0.88%	692,596	0.98%	633,200	0.92%	489,861	0.78%	525,015	0.77%
Black Bear	760,785	1.17%	864,833	1.22%	754,404	1.10%	706,665	1.12%	682,209	1.00%
Grizzly Bear	1,927,556	2.95%	1,694,477	2.39%	1,940,610	2.82%	1,793,556	2.84%	2,278,218	3.32%
Mule Deer	8,121,724	12.44%	8,341,097	11.76%	7,679,283	11.17%	6,745,783	10.68%	7,688,862	11.22%
White-tailed Deer	502,003	0.77%	674,624	0.95%	726,710	1.06%	420,029	0.66%	399,531	0.58%
Bison	174,431	0.27%	300,643	0.42%	199,643	0.29%	200,479	0.32%	177,968	0.26%
Wolf	308,087	0.47%	734,296	1.04%	1,450,231	2.11%	1,134,343	1.80%	882,375	1.29%
Small Game	42,347	0.06%	28,245	0.04%	34,584	0.05%	32,515	0.05%	29,468	0.04%
Game Birds	735	0.00%	163	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pheasants	1,343,098	2.06%	1,693,459	2.39%	1,176,016	1.71%	1,161,946	1.84%	1,324,189	1.93%
Turkey	330,420	0.51%	175,429	0.25%	151,614	0.22%	174,284	0.28%	155,879	0.23%
Partridge	8,438	0.01%	3,397	0.00%	1,819	0.00%	3,144	0.00%	2,164	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	7,468	0.01%	4,952	0.01%	13,779	0.02%	8,592	0.01%	8,825	0.01%
Sage Grouse	2,414,403	3.70%	3,258,052	4.59%	3,156,876	4.59%	2,532,519	4.01%	2,534,741	3.70%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	23,053	0.04%	23,219	0.03%	25,168	0.04%	21,775	0.03%	31,531	0.05%
Geese	1,577,790	2.42%	305,835	0.43%	822,432	1.20%	810,294	1.28%	1,043,518	1.52%
Ducks	41,640	0.06%	1,067,842	1.51%	173,716	0.25%	173,983	0.28%	360,682	0.53%

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

PROGRAM	2011	%	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%
Swans	258,155	0.40%	209,110	0.29%	73,396	0.11%	348,402	0.55%	289,442	0.42%
Doves	51,337	0.08%	131,663	0.19%	293,081	0.43%	104,996	0.17%	220,018	0.32%
Cranes	171,299	0.26%	108,639	0.15%	99,126	0.14%	128,998	0.20%	103,023	0.15%
Sport Fish	20,265,111	31.03%	21,474,956	30.28%	21,940,359	31.92%	19,787,933	31.32%	20,133,253	29.38%
Bobcat/Lynx	257,658	0.39%	480,931	0.68%	378,395	0.55%	309,848	0.49%	264,253	0.39%
Beaver	271,214	0.42%	189,976	0.27%	246,140	0.36%	200,312	0.32%	505,545	0.74%
Commercial Fisheries	17,734	0.03%	19,745	0.03%	35,935	0.05%	15,179	0.02%	30,441	0.04%
Nongame Mammals	711,679	1.09%	987,226	1.39%	1,063,778	1.55%	902,922	1.43%	1,098,116	1.60%
Nongame Birds	447,560	0.69%	827,377	1.17%	1,028,419	1.50%	790,310	1.25%	1,035,194	1.51%
Raptors	712,094	1.09%	653,433	0.92%	757,083	1.10%	472,082	0.75%	199,192	0.29%
Nongame Fish	1,377,514	2.11%	913,755	1.29%	332,394	0.48%	453,361	0.72%	724,219	1.06%
Amphibians/Reptiles	431,113	0.66%	409,590	0.58%	625,534	0.91%	659,918	1.04%	849,841	1.24%
Predatory Birds	6,767	0.01%	6,668	0.01%	5,833	0.01%	3,703	0.01%	3,181	0.00%
Peregrine Falcon	36,583	0.06%	55,694	0.08%	48,996	0.07%	31,853	0.05%	25,816	0.04%
Bald Eagle	17,686	0.03%	84,470	0.12%	43,855	0.06%	29,563	0.05%	24,557	0.04%
Black-Footed Ferret	178,179	0.27%	169,306	0.24%	79,184	0.12%	139,022	0.22%	72,849	0.11%
Canadian Lynx	18,172	0.03%	8,376	0.01%	6,246	0.01%	3,240	0.01%	13,117	0.02%
Piebles Jumping Mouse	34,694	0.05%	37,366	0.05%	84,140	0.12%	98,115	0.16%	106,425	0.16%
Predatory Mammals	23,647	0.04%	38,946	0.05%	44,980	0.07%	39,635	0.06%	43,667	0.06%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	739	0.00%	9,552	0.01%	1,050	0.00%	7,855	0.01%	7,438	0.01%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	116,423	0.18%	103,077	0.15%	125,557	0.18%	118,403	0.19%	43,232	0.06%

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

PROGRAM	2011	%	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%
Wyoming Toad	6,459	0.01%	14,844	0.02%	13,371	0.02%	7,317	0.01%	14,074	0.02%
Exotic Game	4,058	0.01%	7,184	0.01%	3,644	0.01%	306	0.00%	2,443	0.00%
Nonwildlife	717,863	1.10%	804,245	1.13%	838,165	1.22%	825,126	1.31%	915,633	1.34%
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	65,299,372	100.00%	70,924,085	100.00%	68,730,053	100.00%	63,188,338	100.00%	68,534,139	100.00%