

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



2016

**Comprehensive Management System
Annual Report
for the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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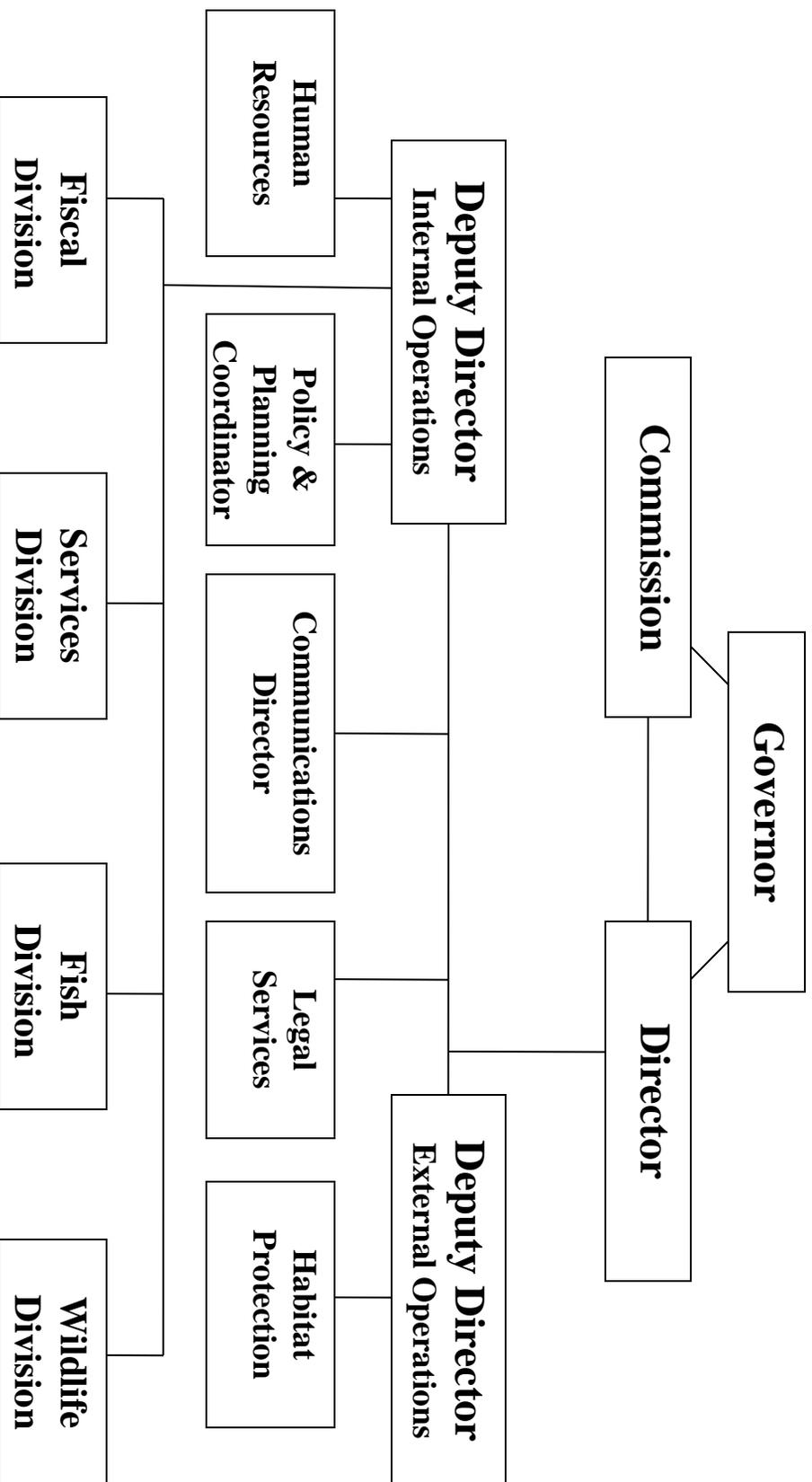
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Wyoming Game and Fish Department Organization Chart



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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>FY 16 Annual Budget</u>
Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations	41.5	\$5,411,750
Regional Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	34.2	\$3,441,013
Aquatic Invasive Species**	16.0	\$1,341,023
Boating Access	0.0	\$1,691,344
Aquatic Nongame (CWCS)**	8.8	\$555,070
Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	5.5	\$526,869
Fish Spawning	2.2	\$163,377
Fish Distribution	0.0	\$130,974
TOTAL	110.2	\$13,261,420

* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

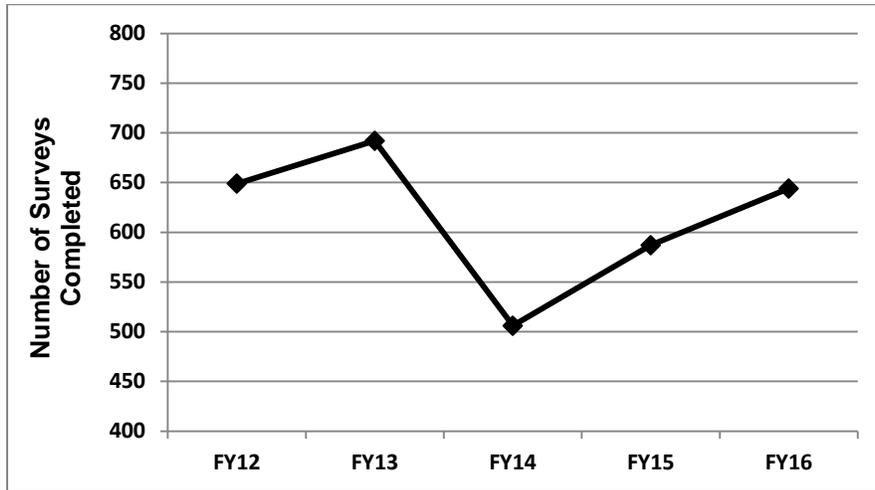
** Legislatively funded program.

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 2016, a total of 644 stream and lake surveys were completed (400 stream surveys and 244 lake surveys). This was an increase over 2014 and 2015, and was higher than the average of 608 stream and lake surveys conducted during the previous five years. The increase was due largely to a 67 percent increase in the number of lake surveys conducted in the Lander, Laramie, and Sheridan regions.

What has been accomplished:

The increase in lake surveys was due primarily to three alpine lake survey efforts. In the Lander Region, a survey of alpine lakes in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness in the upper Bull Lake Creek drainage was completed. Many of the lakes in this drainage are managed for golden trout, but had not been surveyed in the past. Laramie regional biologists completed surveys of alpine lakes in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Alpine lakes were also surveyed in the Cloud Peak Wilderness in the Sheridan region. Surveys in the Laramie and Sheridan Regions were periodic, standard monitoring efforts that resulted in an increase in the numbers of lakes surveyed in these regions when compared to 2014.

The number of stream surveys conducted in 2015 (400) was nearly identical to the number conducted in 2014 (404). Although the number of surveys conducted by four regional management crews declined significantly, these declines were offset by a significant increase in

the number of stream surveys conducted by the statewide Aquatic Assessment Crew. The Aquatic Assessment Crew completed 110 stream surveys in the Niobrara River, Lower Laramie River, Horse Creek and Lodgepole Creek drainages as part of an ongoing project to better understand the distribution of fish SGCN, map areas of flowing water and intermittency throughout the year to identify suitable habitat and refugia for native fishes, and map barriers to native fish passage. Nearly 45,000 individual fish, representing 39 different species were sampled in the four watersheds in 2015.

Fish Division biologists initiated a radio telemetry project to determine whether or not shovelnose sturgeon are naturally reproducing in the lower Bighorn River in 2015. Twenty-two days of sampling effort produced 50 sturgeon, 26 of which were implanted with radio transmitters. Radio telemetry will be used to track the movements of these fish and identify potential spawning locations. Management biologists also continued efforts statewide to document an increasing number of illegal fish introductions. Some examples include; 1) Sampling of the South Fork Powder downstream of Highway 20/26 to describe the distribution of brook stickleback. This aquatic invasive species was illegally stocked in the headwaters of this watershed by a live baitfish dealer. 2) Sampling of Centennial Pond #2, Ocean Lake, the Niobrara River, and Grayrocks Reservoir in an effort to verify reports of northern pike in these waters. 3) Extensive sampling of Seminoe Reservoir to attempt to verify reports of burbot, and 4) Efforts to describe the distribution and spawning habits of walleye in Buffalo Bill Reservoir.

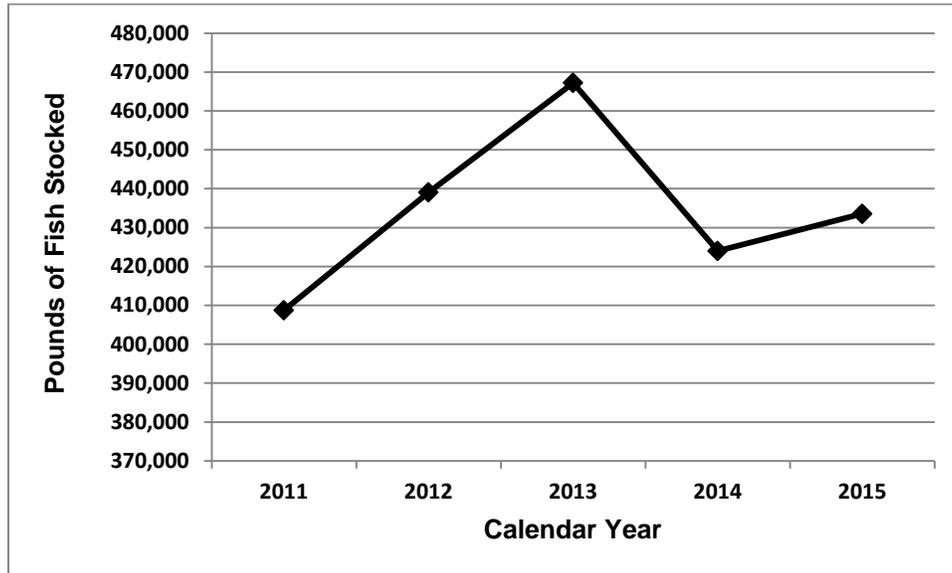
Division personnel also continued efforts to monitor sauger populations in the Wind River and to bolster populations through egg collections from wild sauger, hatchery rearing of eggs, and juvenile sauger stocking. This was a collaborative effort between the Department, the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 2015 adult sauger estimates indicated that the population was the highest it has been since 2002. Juvenile sauger surveys indicated that relatively large numbers of juvenile fish were also present in the river. Additional analyses will be conducted to determine if these fish were stocked or produced via natural reproduction. In addition to monitoring, approximately 156,500 sauger were produced from eggs collected in the wild and stocked into the drainage in 2015.

Other major accomplishments in FY16 include:

- Multiple sites were surveyed in the Niobrara River drainage to investigate the impacts of the June 2015 flood on the native fish community.
- A basin wide survey of the LaBonte Creek drainage south of Douglas was initiated to determine the current distribution and abundance of native and nonnative fishes and compare to results from historic sites. Eighteen stream surveys and two lake surveys were completed as part of the project.
- Surveys of South Beaver Creek and Chall Creek west of Pinedale were conducted to monitor populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout that were last surveyed in 2009 during an extended period of drought. Cutthroat populations at most sites were much higher in 2015 and have obviously benefitted from increases in runoff and improved stream flows.
- Thirty stream surveys were completed in tributaries to the Teton River to document trout distributions in the watershed and to prioritize future fisheries work. The sampling was

done in conjunction with Friends of the Teton River, a non-profit group dedicated to the conservation of the Teton River watershed.

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. This year we are changing the reporting timeframe to a calendar year reporting schedule to facilitate timely reporting and will report upon events in 2015.

In 2015, 4,714,249 trout, kokanee, and grayling totaling 433,544 pounds were stocked from 10 Wyoming facilities and the unmanned Flume Creek facility. The 2015 production denoted a increase of 9,545 pounds compared to 423,999 pounds in 2014. The five-year rolling average for fish production in Wyoming fish culture facilities is 435,948 pounds, an increase of 10,648 over the average last year.

All fish culture facilities were in full operation and met production goals under the stocking plan. The recent expansion at Speas Hatchery continues to be the main factor for the increased production since 2009 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.

Although 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, along with biosecurity measures, 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 16 budget.

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Bird Farms	5.4	\$662,856

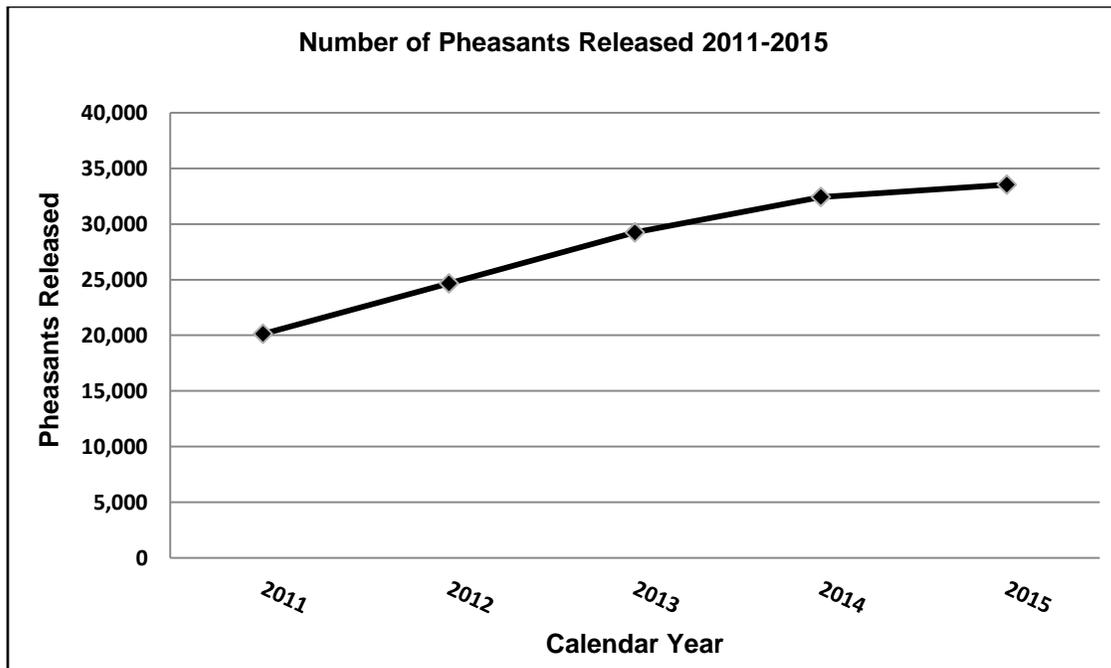
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 2011 and 2015, the number of pheasants released ranged from 20,137 to 33,539 with an average of 28,004. The number released in 2015 was 33,539.

What has been accomplished:

The Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor and the Downar Bird Farm Coordinator attended the 10th bi-annual pheasant management seminar in Janesville, Wisconsin. Present at the conference were pheasant breeders and game bird producers from Canada, France, the United Kingdom and nearly a dozen states including Hawaii. A wealth of information regarding bio-security, disease monitoring and prevention, feed, mycotoxins, and clean water issues were discussed. Meineke and Milner attended pheasant necropsy trainings, an egg candling workshop and networked with poultry veterinarians who oversee millions of game birds in a year. This weeklong conference proved to be of incredible value to the program. Several low-cost changes were made at both bird farms because of the seminars and they yielded gains in hatching and brooding success.

Personnel at the Sheridan Bird Farm finished repairs to assistant's residence and brooder buildings damaged by a flood in June 2015. Significant damage to a finished basement and landscaping around the residence was the result of seven inches of rain in two days at the Sheridan Bird Farm, and required assistance from local contractors. Personnel added a permanent redwood deck to the back of the house and grass was re-planted. Several inches of sand and mud were removed from outbuildings and service roads were repaired. Future flooding was addressed by changing how water will flow should a similar event occur. Modern cleaning and disinfection practices were initiated to better prevent disease and illness in the pheasants. Continued efforts were made to control weeds and west and south fields were planted into sanfoin and winter wheat. An aging west shelter belt was planted with 90 seedling trees and shrubs and irrigation water was piped to support early development. A new well cover was built for the "farm well" and stairs going into it were also upgraded for safety. Personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. Personnel conducted several facility tours to members of the public. Personnel provided assistance to other Department employees with different projects including working at check stations, fish population surveys, extension services, and assistance to local game wardens.

Personnel at the Downar Bird Farm installed new water fountains and initiated modern cleaning and disinfection practices to address potential disease concerns. Egg incubation and hatching equipment was upgraded with modern controls and electronics to run more efficiently. The propane lines and supplies servicing the brooder houses were replaced and upgraded to current code. Personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. Personnel conducted several facility tours to members of the public. Personnel provided assistance to other Department personnel with different projects including work on local wildlife habitat management areas, fish population surveys, extension services, and assistance to the local game warden.

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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Hunter Education	1.0	\$ 179,668
Conservation Education	2.0	330,456
TOTAL	3.0	\$ 510,124

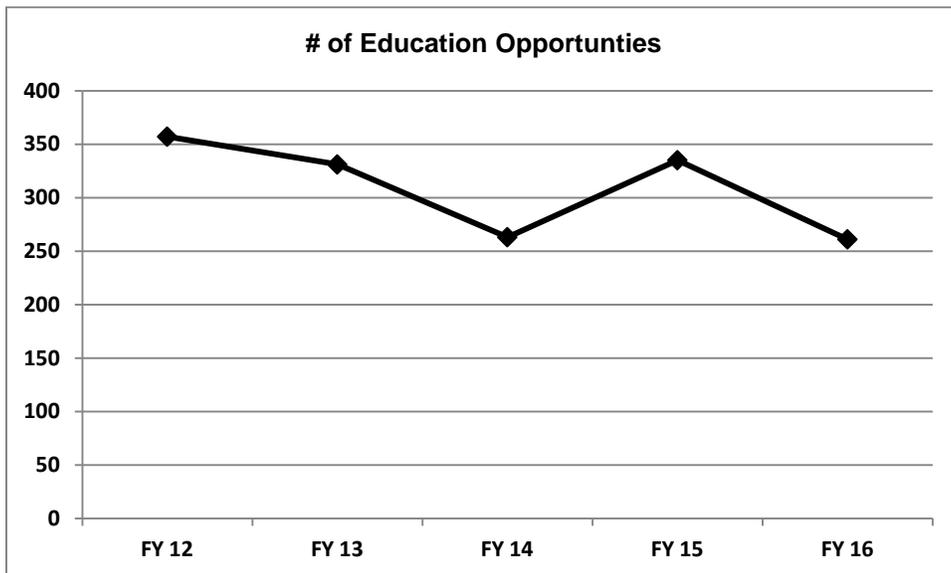
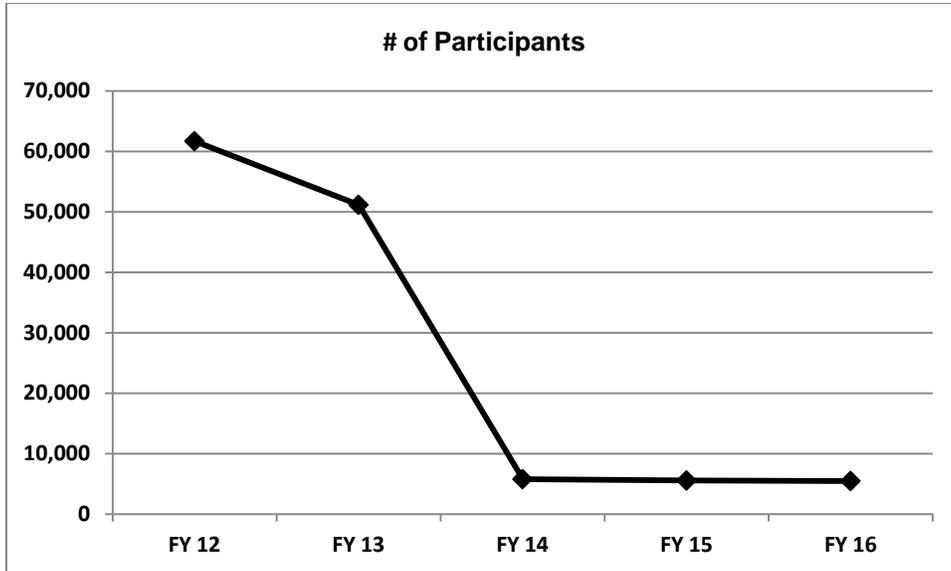
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants. These programs do require statewide responsibilities, travel, and assistance from regional personnel.*

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** among 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 by select Cheyenne education personnel (personnel from this program will work to provide at least 200 conservation education opportunities to 50,000 people).



Story behind the performance:

These tables display the output of only a fraction of conservation and hunter education offerings. Other opportunities from the public are run by regional Information and Education specialists and documented elsewhere in the report. The Department will work to improve reporting in the future to consolidate information. Regarding these numbers specifically, FY 16 was a year when there were vacancies in two out of the three positions in this unit. It was also a time for planning internally and the beginning of conversations with partners about the future of conservation

outreach programs delivered by the Department and its partners. This was partly in response to 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 focused on Hunter Education, Forever Wild Families, and the Volunteer Programs.

One vacant position was the Hunter and Angler Recruitment Coordinator. This meant that the Forever Wild Families Program was mostly run by regional information and education specialists. The program's goal is to introduce people to angling and hunting and to create lifelong hunters and anglers who understand and support the agency's work. There was work in FY 16 to finalize some reports on the program and it was realized that data entry is a big requirement to track progress and effectiveness of this and any other recruitment program.

What has been accomplished:

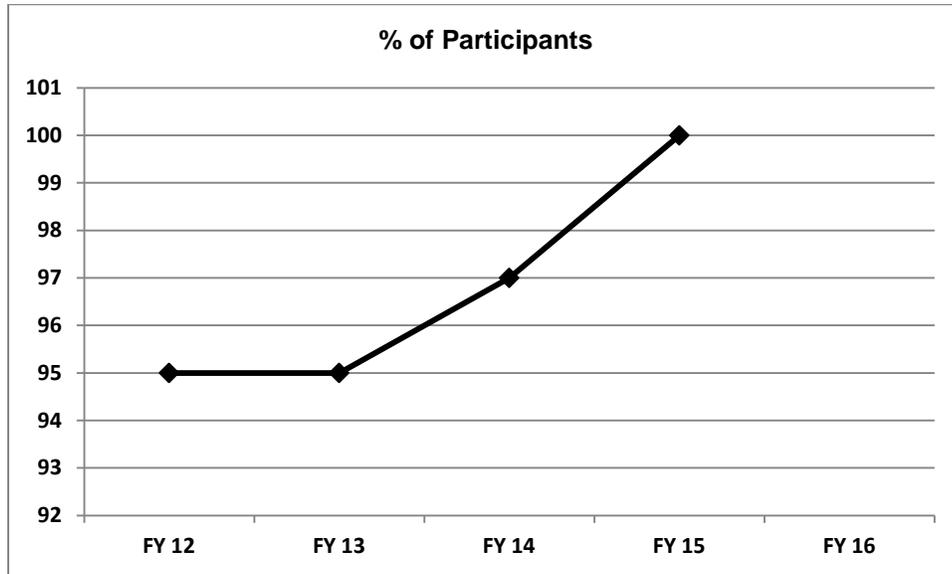
In July 2016, the Commission reviewed and approved an outreach plan to guide future conservation education and outreach programming. This plan was put together by a group of employees from different divisions and regions. Its goals are:

- Increasing engagement and awareness of wildlife and the Department
- Continuing to build trust in the work, reputation, and expertise of the Department
- Increasing participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife enjoyment
- Continue to foster external partnerships and increase active recreation

The Commission approved additional funding for this plan and also directed the Department to hire staff to implement the plan and to apply for an AmeriCorps program to jointly hire volunteers to work on conservation education in Wyoming.

Hunter education continues to serve a large volume of students year-around throughout the state with education delivered through a network of volunteers. Evaluations of instructors and students are now being conducted to seek feedback on the program and its content. There were a number of regional meetings with volunteers to look at the program and provide recommendations.

Performance Measure #3: 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 are only starting to conduct surveys. In FY 16, the position running this program was vacant and so reporting was not possible.

What has been accomplished:

The Hunter Education Program is developing a set of measurable objectives to help evaluate the program as it relates to students, parents, and volunteer. Those surveys are being turned in and compiled for FY 17.

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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Conservation Engineering	5.0	\$ 731,752

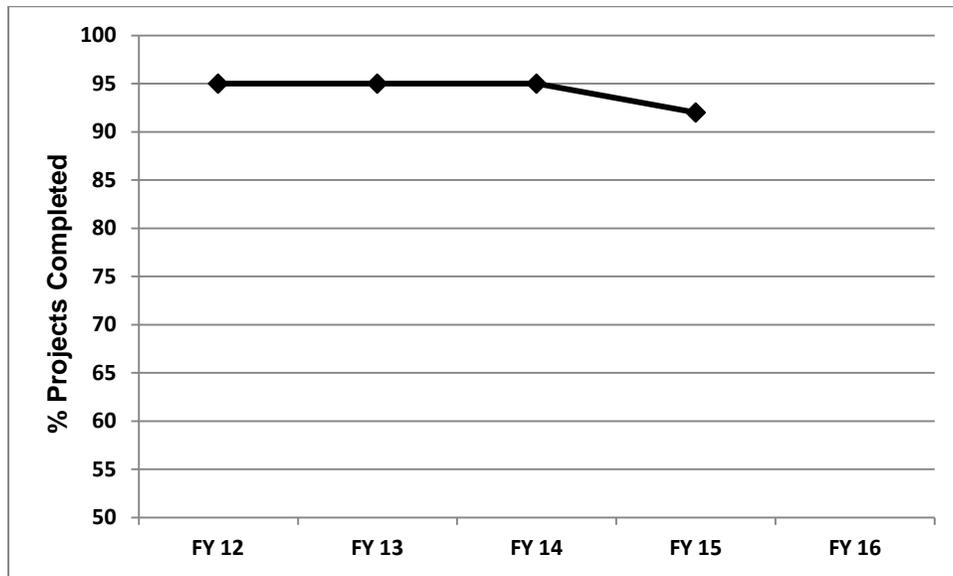
** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 Access Yes (Private Lands Public Wildlife) 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 a heavy workload that included providing oversight for the design and bidding of the new Laramie Regional Office and Forensics Lab, and also the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation and reconstruction project. Design and survey services were provided for the Heward Ditch Pipeline Project. In addition, routine projects including boating access, stream restoration, and feedground hay sheds have been tended to. Consisting of a small core of specialists, performance is greatly affected by the number of personnel and workload. In FY16, Conservation Engineering has not had a full complement of employees. However, Conservation Engineering is still able to provide adequate customer service, albeit at a slightly slower pace. Performance measure metrics were not tracked in FY16 due to unfilled positions, including the Chief Engineer position being vacant between December 2015 and June 2016. Systems are being implemented to again report on this performance measure for FY 17.

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 16 budget. Customer Services is broken into three sections: Telephone Information Center, telecommunications services, and alternative enterprises.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Customer Services	3.0	\$ 143,121
Mailroom	1.0	594,126
TOTAL	4.0	\$ 737,247

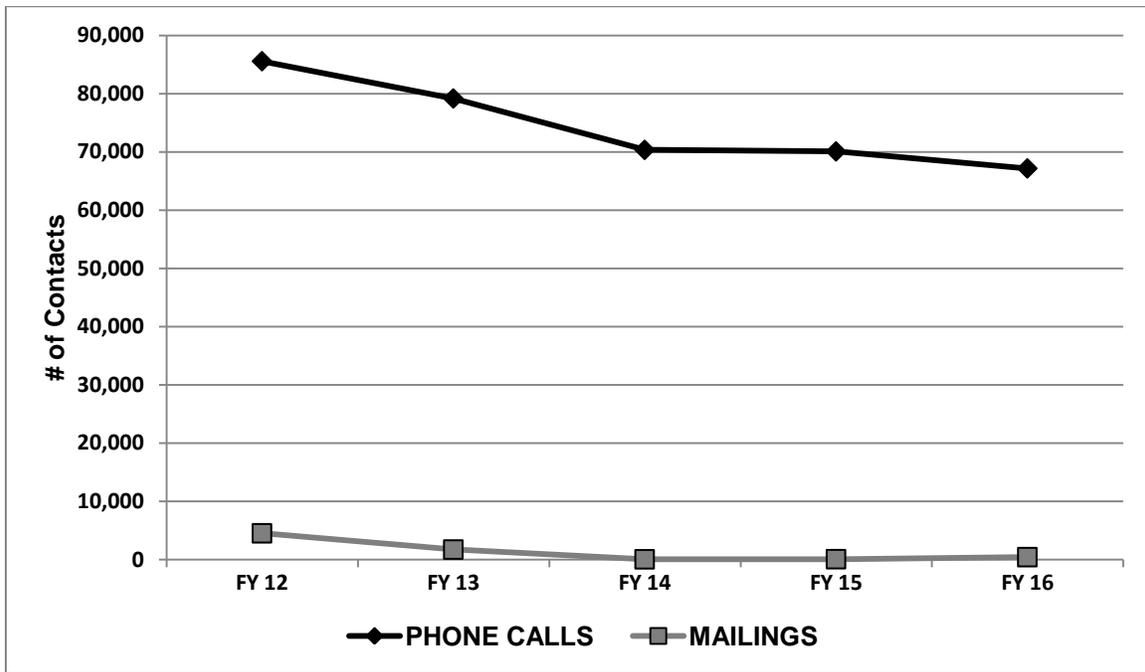
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

The Customer Services Program is located in the Department 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 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 16, 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, 67,168 calls were answered of the 75,414 total calls directed to the telephone

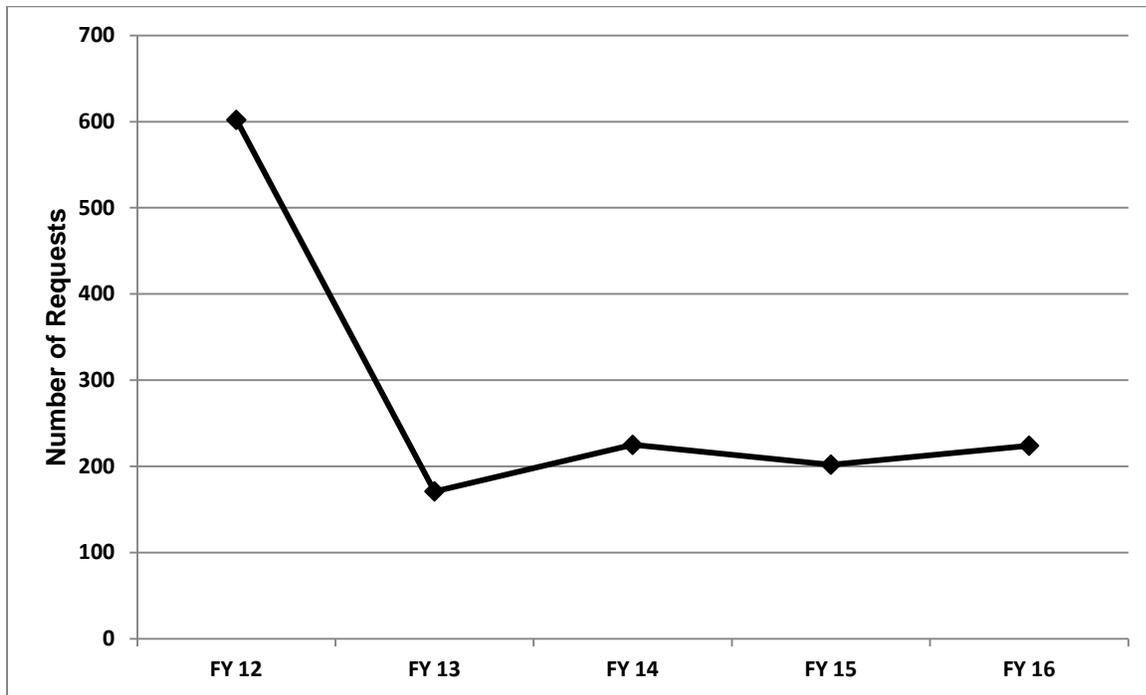
information center. The calls that were not answered were abandoned calls (8,130) where the caller hung up before the customer service representative concluded the preceding call. This represents a level of service of 89 percent (the same level as FY 15). All front counter staff assisted in the telephone information center throughout the year and especially 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. Access Yes (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 74,473 and the average number of mailings has been 1,368. In FY 16, the telephone information center staff answered 67,168 incoming calls and processed 432 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 FY13.

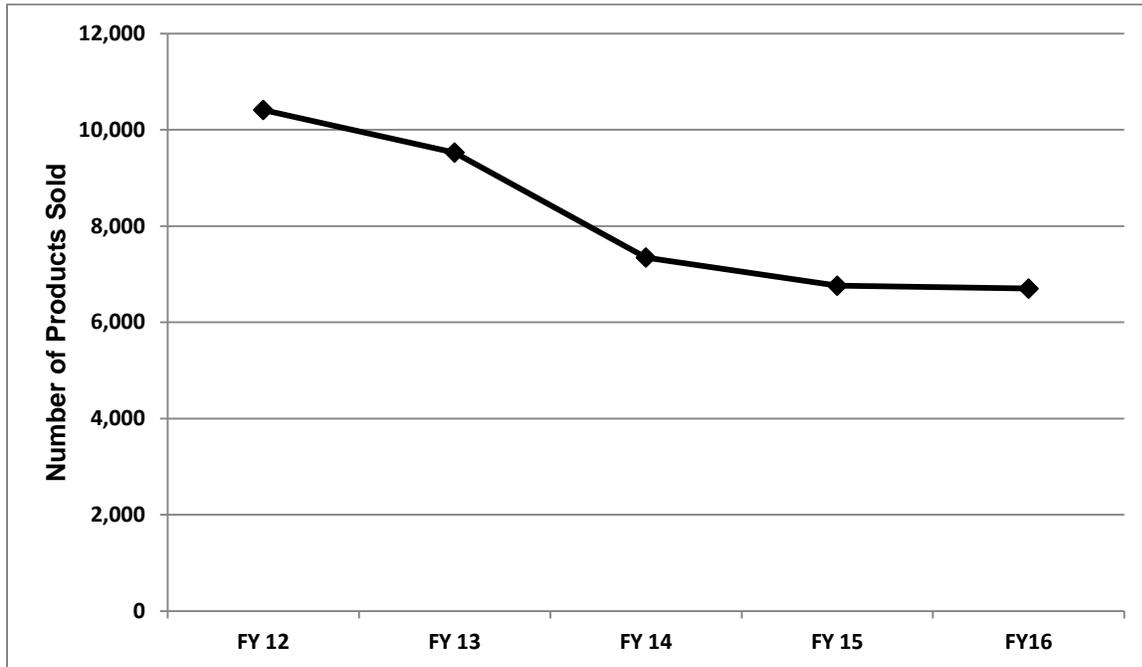
As the Telecommunications Liaison, this employee serves as the point of contact for Department employees with State Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and private vendors for all telecommunication related issues. Telecommunications is growing due to the rapid pace of the cellular environment and this 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 FY15, the FY16 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).

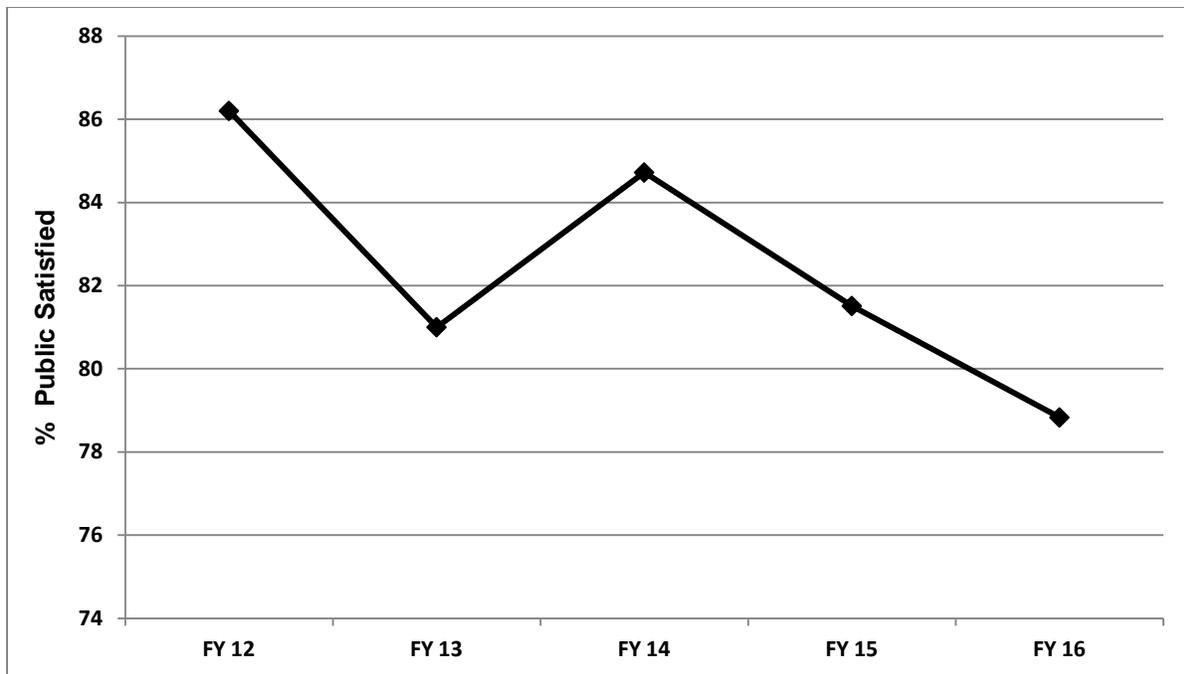


Story behind the performance:

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 it provides an opportunity for all persons, including non-consumptive users, to financially contribute to the Department's conservation efforts.

In FY 15, the number of products sold was 6,759. In FY 16, the number of products was similar at 6,699. 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 getting public recognition and promoting the Department. 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. The goal is to make sure customers and constituents continue to have a positive experience with the store, and with 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% 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 16, 601 individuals were surveyed which included 302 residents and 299 nonresidents. The survey provides the opportunity for the public to evaluate the customer service provided by the Department. Since FY 12, an average of 82.45 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 555 survey participants that responded to the specific survey question on contacting the Telephone Information Center during FY 16, only 107 used the Telephone Information Center for assistance.

Additionally, the survey indicated that 21% 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:

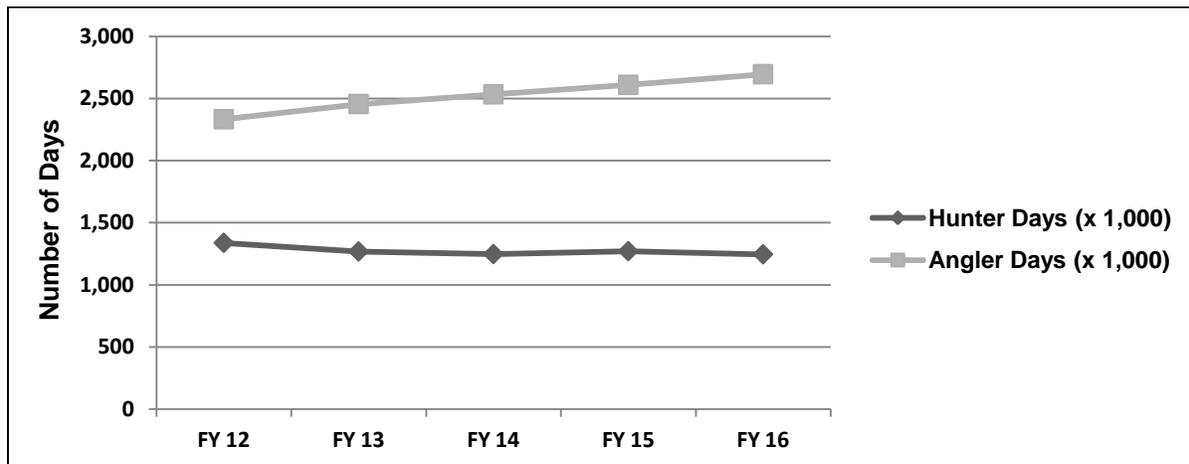
The Department Administration Program is made up of four major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Administration	23.0	\$ 4,185,420
WGFD Vehicle Fleet	0.0	1,697,457
Commission	.8	127,635
TOTAL	23.8	\$ 6,010,512

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 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:

For the period FY 12 - FY 16, Wyoming residents and nonresidents have expended an average of 1,273,561 hunter days and 2,527,082 angler days. In FY 16, 1,245,295 hunter recreation days and 2,695,080 angler recreation days were provided. Values reflect lifetime license holders included in the estimate of hunter and angler recreation days. Hunter days in FY 16 were 13.2

percent above the target of 1.1 million hunter days. Angling days in FY 16 were 14.7 percent above the target of 2.3 million angler days.

Hunter days declined approximately 1.9 percent between FY 15 and FY 16. Upland game (+12,534), small game (+12,393), and trophy game (+1,321) days increased while, furbearers (-25,866), big game (-17,961 days), and migratory game bird (-7,307) days all decreased. The decline in big game days results from decreased license availability. The decline in furbearer days results from the way days were calculated, not the number of individuals holding a trapping license. The number of furbearer license holders was virtually the same during the 2014/15 season (FY 15, 2,397) as it was during the 2015/16 season (FY 16, 2,257). In FY 15, the number of nights each trap and snare was in the field was added to the number of days hunters were in the field and presented as furbearer days. In FY 16 a new question was added to the harvest survey to assess how many days each trapper was in the field to check snares and traps. This number of actual trapper days in the field was added to the number of days hunters were in the field and presented as furbearer days for FY 16. Since each trapper can have multiple traps and snares in the field and since these devices are not checked daily, FY 16 reported days declined. 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 16 up again. Good fishing conditions and improved economic conditions likely account for this trend. The increase in fishing in 2015 was due largely 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 5.6 percent overall, while total revenue from fishing license sales increased by about 6.0 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.

What has been accomplished:

The Access Yes Program, formerly known as the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Access Program, enhances and/or maintains public hunting and fishing access onto Wyoming's 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 Access Yes 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 2015, the Access Yes Program experienced many successes, including, but not limited to:

- Providing access to 2,809,153 acres (1,769,789 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 1,039,364 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 193,803 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of WIHAs and HMAs which would not have been accessible without the Access Yes Program.
- Providing fishing access to 3,919 lake acres and 94 stream miles through the WIFA Program.
- Providing landowners participating in the program increases in monetary payments made for allowing access. The most recent previous increase in payment was in 2005.
- Issuing 25,761 online permission slips to 14,610 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 117 e-mails received through the Access Yes website regarding hunting, fishing, or the Access Yes Program. The majority of these e-mails (79 percent) were responded to within one day 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 license sales.

Hunters surveyed during the 2015 hunting season for harvest results indicated 20 percent of antelope hunters (23 percent of nonresidents, 16 percent of residents), 15 percent of deer hunters (13 percent of nonresidents, 16 percent of residents), and 14 percent of elk hunters (12 percent of nonresidents, 14 percent of residents) used either a WIHA or HMA for hunting. This would equate to an estimated 8,188 antelope, 9,462 deer, and 8,989 elk hunters having used either a WIHA or HMA. Hunters surveyed during the 2015 hunting season, who indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity provided through the WIHA or HMA Programs, were 84 percent for antelope, 74 percent for deer, and 70 percent for elk.

In 2015, the Access Yes Program conducted a survey of landowners enrolled in the Walk-in Area (hunting and fishing) or Hunter Management Area programs. Survey questions were similar to those presented to landowners in 2005 and 2010. Surveys were distributed to all landowners by the regional access coordinators, and the survey received a 49.2 percent response rate. Below is a summary of the landowner responses from Hunter Management Areas, Walk-in Fishing Areas, Walk-in Hunting Areas, and Walk-in Fishing and Hunting Combined Areas:

- 90.4 percent of the landowners agree that the Hunting Walk-in Area or Hunter Management Area on their property met the expectations they had identified. Sixty-four percent of the landowners agree that the Fishing Walk-in Area on their property met their expectations.
- 78.5 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the behavior of the hunters using their property, 71.4 percent were satisfied with the behavior of anglers using their property.

- 77.5 percent were satisfied with the Department's presence on their property during the open season.
- 71.6 percent of landowners felt that their relationship with the Department has improved.
- 87.2 percent are satisfied with the landowner incentives.
- 82.1 percent of the landowners felt that the programs had made it more convenient to provide access to hunters and anglers.
- Overall, 91.7 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the program.

The Access Yes Program is funded by Department funds and Access Yes donations. 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. A portion of the sale of these stamps is deposited into the Access Yes account (\$2.50 per annual stamp and half of each lifetime stamp). These two sources generate the majority of the funds each year, and in FY 15, they generated \$614,644.

Donations to Access Yes provide another valuable source of funds. During FY 15, direct donations from conservation groups and organizations totaled \$19,909, indicating the importance these groups place on access. Hunters and anglers can also make donations to Access Yes when applying for or purchasing licenses, either in person at a license selling agent, or when purchasing a license through the internet. These sportsmen contributed a total of \$137,104 in FY 15, a three percent increase from 2014 donations. Additionally, several private individuals made personal contributions. Overall, during FY 15, the Access Yes Program received \$895,524 in donations, which is an decrease of \$64,790 from 2014.

Easement payments made to landowners are funded through the Access Yes Program. Authorized by state statute, funds collected through Access Yes donations may only be utilized for acquiring easements from landowners. In 2015, every dollar spent provided approximately 3.5 acres of access.

Program: External Research

Division: Office of the Director

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

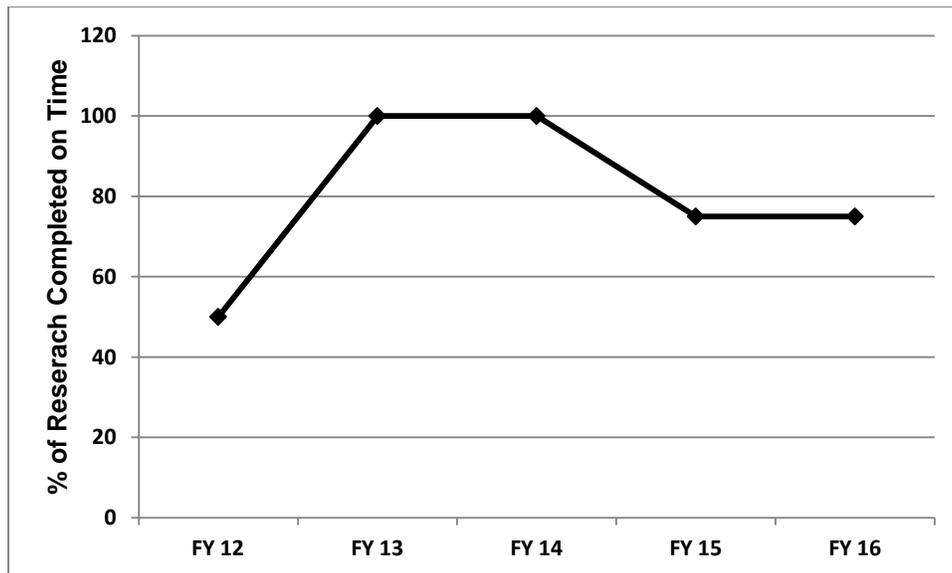
Program Facts: Scientific investigations are typically conducted by researchers associated with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit), universities, and independent researchers. The External Research Program funds no Department personnel, but by agreement, \$40,000 per year is used to help fund administration of the Coop Unit. Listed below is the FY 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
External Research	0	\$ 798,296

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 specifically 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 and large carnivore 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, because research is often led by students, there are times when factors such as employment or writing abilities limit timeliness. Overall, the Coop Unit continues to improve their research workflow. The Coop Unit has 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 through 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, seven maintenance and operation research projects were scheduled to close during FY 16 (Wyoming Range Mule Deer, Ungulate Migrations, Using Stable Isotopes to Identify Ungulate Migrations Routes, Platte Valley Mule Deer, Photo Monitoring, Sierra Madre Elk, Snowy Range Moose). All seven projects were extended through FY 17. In most 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 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 user's manual and training Department biologists on the new method. More recently, the Wildlife Division has relied heavily upon Coop Unit data and research in developing a statewide definition for big game migration corridors. 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 Wyoming Range Mule Deer Project is a recent example of research collaboration, including in its inception, development, operations, and funding. This project is a large-scale, interagency, collaborative project aimed at addressing fundamental questions about mule deer ecology and management, within what may arguably be the most highly prized deer herd in Wyoming, but one that also has been embroiled in controversy over its management. The Wyoming Range Mule Deer Project is not only increasing understanding of the factors regulating this deer herd, but also fostering communications with the general public and stakeholders about these factors. This has enabled more synergistic conversations between land managers and the public.

The Department continues to work with the Coop Unit and other university researchers to meet aquatic research needs. Ten Fish Division research projects were underway or initiated in FY 16. Two of these projects were scheduled for completion in FY 16 and both were completed on time. One new aquatic project was initiated with the Coop Unit in FY 16 by the Fish Division.

At the end of FY 16, eight aquatic research projects were ongoing (five new and three continuing). Projects initiated in FY 16 include: 1) A project conducted by a Coop Unit masters student will describe movement and survival of Colorado River cutthroat trout stocked for restoration in LaBarge Creek; 2) A project conducted by a Montana State University Coop Unit masters student will determine the feasibility of suppressing illegally introduced walleye in Buffalo Bill Reservoir; 3) A project conducted by a Coop Unit masters student will describe habitat needs of hornyhead chub and potential sites for translocation; 4) A project conducted by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) will inventory aquatic snails in the Green and Snake River drainages, and 5) A project conducted by WYNDD will examine how geology influences differences in amphibian distribution and abundance in western Wyoming. Continuing projects in FY 16 include: 1) A project conducted by a Coop Unit masters student that is using stable isotopes from trout otoliths to determine where recruitment of important sport fish occurs in the upper North Platte River watershed; 2) A project conducted by Coop Unit masters student is determining what relationship there may be between livestock grazing, chytrid fungus, and boreal toads survival in the upper Green River drainage; and 3) A project being conducted by WYNDD is furthering a statewide inventory of native freshwater mussels.

Aquatic projects completed in FY 16 include: 1) A project conducted by the Coop Unit that investigated habitat use, movement, and distribution of relict Columbia Spotted Frog populations in the Bighorn Mountains. The project found that frogs were very reliant on wet meadow habitats, but would travel across drier habitats in search of these wet areas. Further, the study found no immigration or emigration between known existing populations. 2) A Coop Unit project used recent inventories of native fish in warm waters streams of Wyoming in the Missouri River drainage basin along with landscape level attributes to provide a model to prioritize stream segments for native fish conservation.

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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Feedgrounds	2.0	\$3,127,751

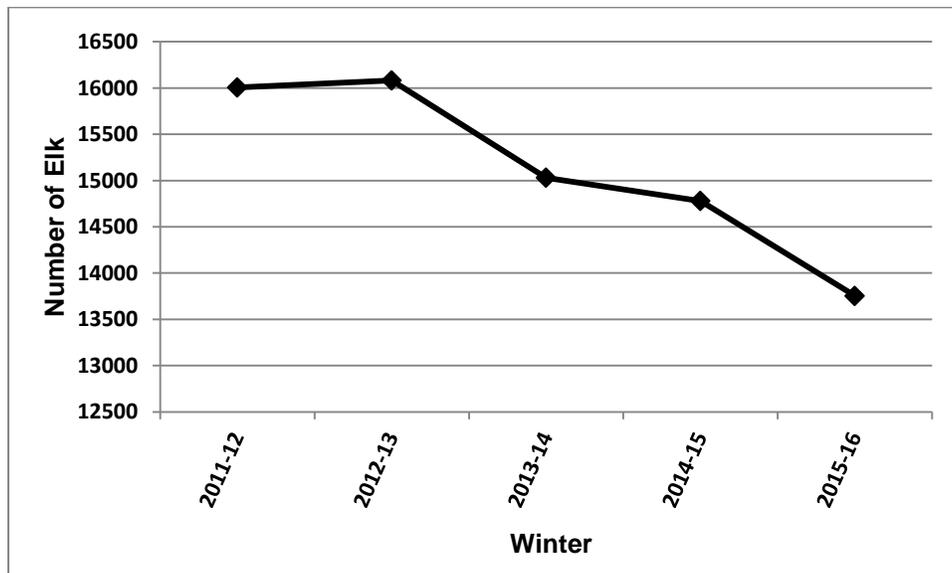
This program is uniquely organized in that it is statewide, but located in the Pinedale Region. Personnel are assigned in Pinedale and Etna. The program is supervised by the Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisor.

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 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 13,753 elk were fed during the winter of 2015-2016. This is 92 more than the 41-year average. In 2015-2016, most winter feeding operations were started by January and finished by April 1. A less than average amount of hay was fed at 4,588 tons. The 41-year average is 6,707 tons. During the last five winters, the number of elk attending the feedgrounds has ranged between 13,753 elk (winter 2015-2016) and 16,082 elk (winter 2012-2013). 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 2015-2016 were mild to moderate. Overall, the feeding season was 101 days, 3 days longer than the previous season of 98 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. Four of seven elk herd units (Jackson, Afton, Fall Creek, and Piney) had elk numbers below their individual objectives. On average, 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 2015-2016 was .9 percent, equal to 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 reduce conflict with private landowners. During winter 2015-2016, no elk were vaccinated. This was the first year that vaccination activities have not taken place (For further details, see Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program).

What has been accomplished:

- The overall average feeding season was 101 days.
- 4,588 tons of hay was fed.
- Elk mortality was .9 percent.

- Wolves caused elk mortality at twelve of 22 feedgrounds. There were 106 elk documented by elk feeders that were killed by wolves (73 of these elk were killed on McNeel feedground). The number of wolf-caused elk mortalities on feedgrounds increased by 58 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Revenue Collection & Licensing**	16.5	\$ 1,721,933
Asset Management	3.5	\$ 665,488
Disbursements**	3.0	\$246,777
TOTAL	23.0	\$ 2,634,198

* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

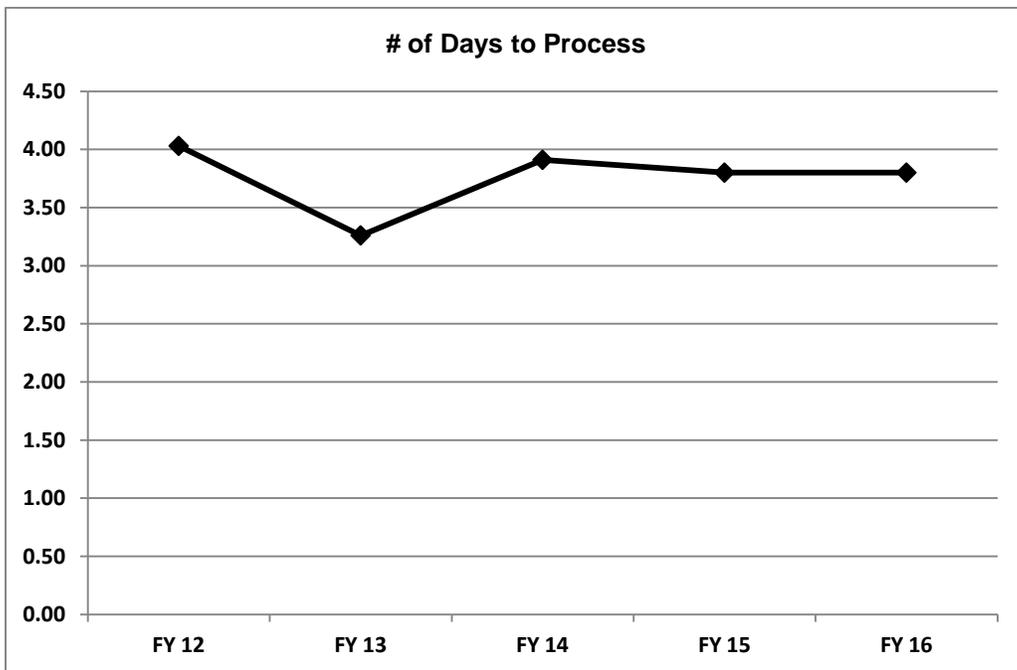
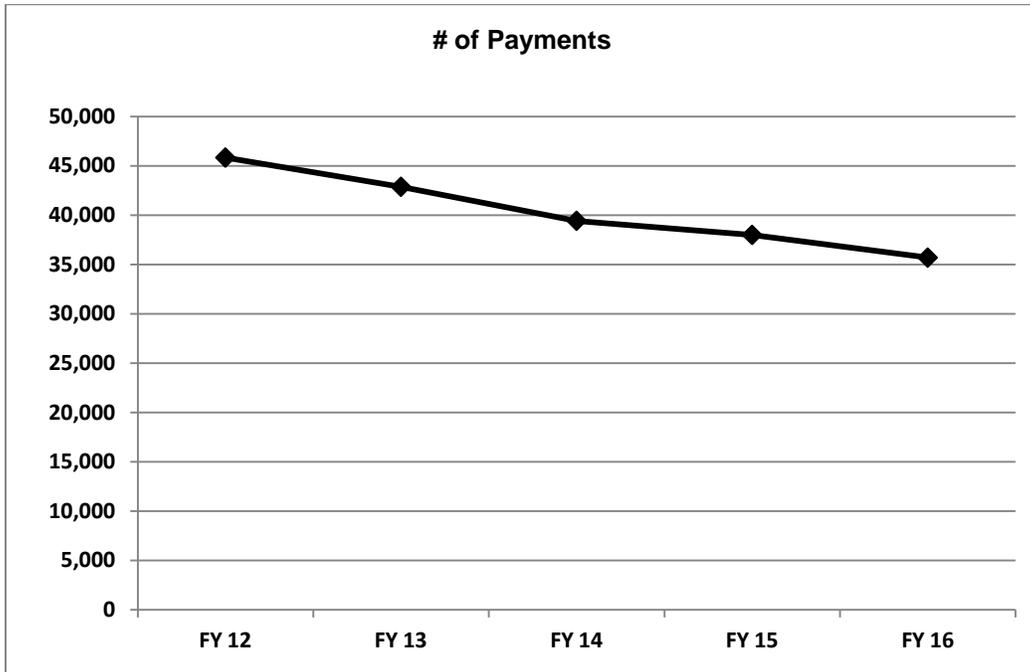
** Includes one 1/2 fiscal specialist position.

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 \$65 million annually. In addition, slightly less than 36,000 payment transactions were initiated, reviewed, and processed 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.

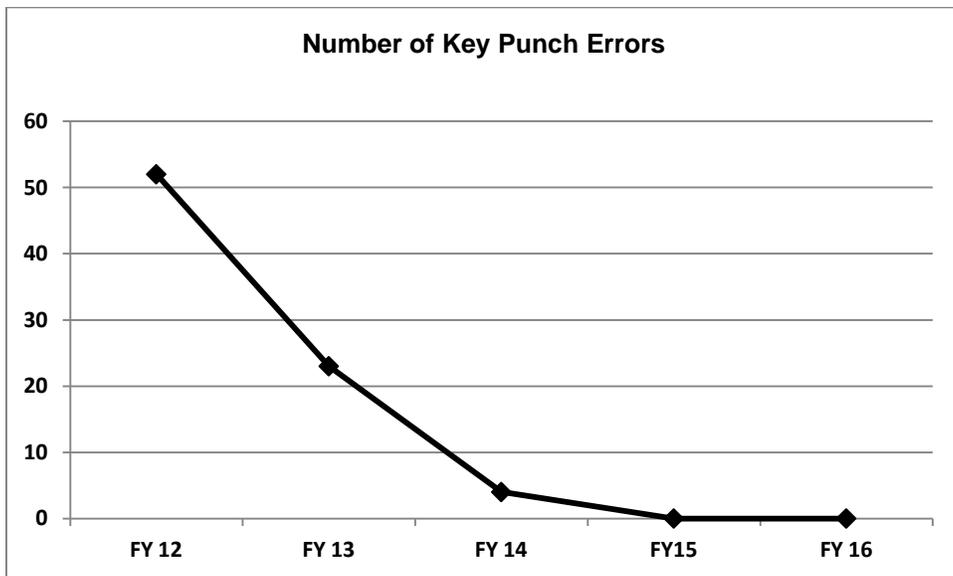
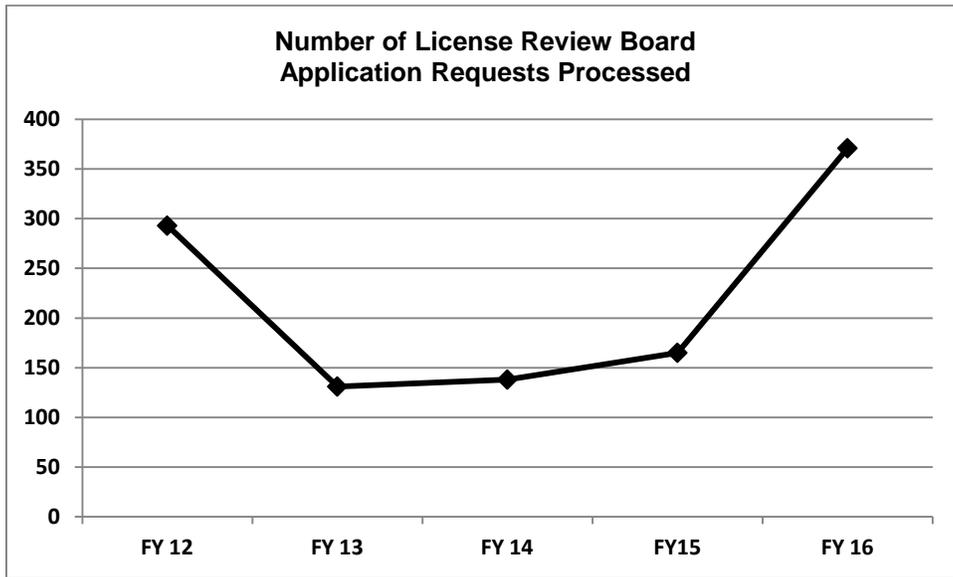
Performance Measure #1: Timeliness of processing payment transactions. (Personnel with the program will work to ensure payments are processed within four working days and receipts are processed within 10 working days).



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 16 by approximately 9 percent to slightly less than 36,000 annual transactions. With the increase use of the State Visa Card, further reductions in payment transactions are anticipated. The processing turn-around time has remained constant at 3.8 days.

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



Story behind the performance:

During the 2015 calendar year license application period, 364,179 applications were submitted for limited quota drawings and preference point purchases. All applications are required to be submitted online except landowner applications. During this 2015 application period, 361,080 applications were submitted online with 3,099 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 this 2015 application period, the Department did not have to correct licenses or issue refunds for key punch errors. The Department had to issue refunds for sixteen 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Terrestrial Habitat Management	10.0	\$ 1,507,044
Aquatic Habitat Management	10.2	1,505,493
Fish Passage	2.0	295,278
Water Management	2.4	263,361
Wyoming Landscape Cons. Initiative	1.0	114,901
TOTAL	23.6	\$ 3,686,077

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

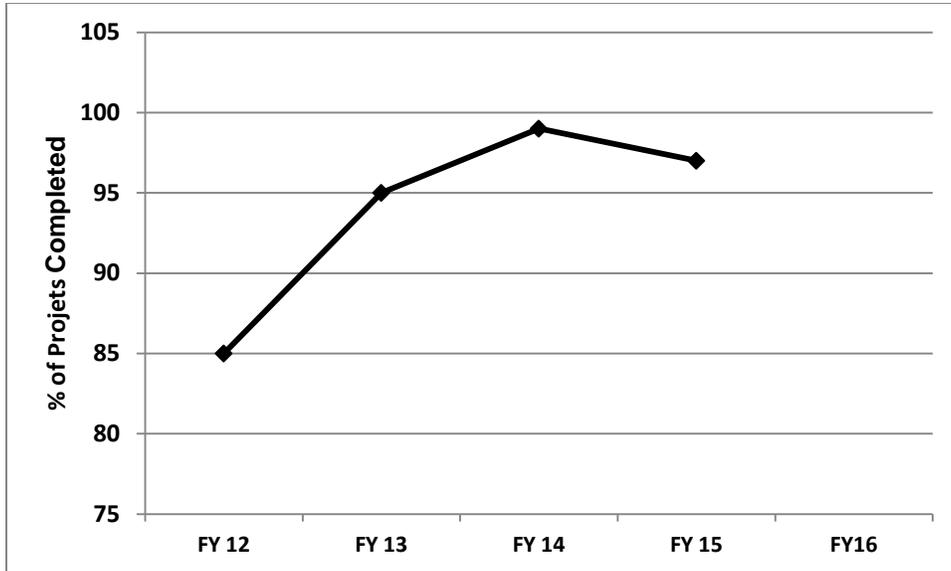
The Habitat Program has incorporated the Water Management and Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) Programs (formerly sub-programs in the Aquatic Wildlife Management Program).

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).

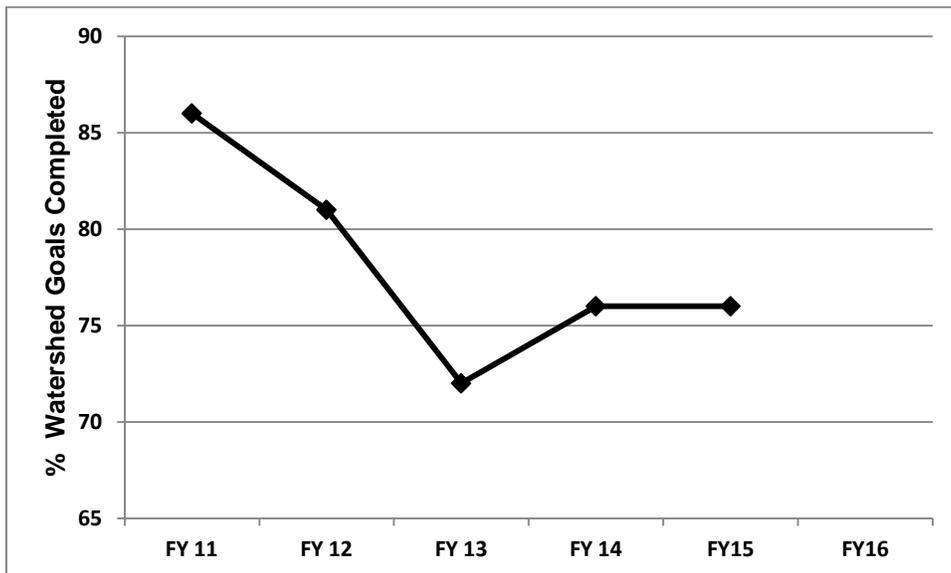
Primary Functions of the Habitat Program:

- **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).

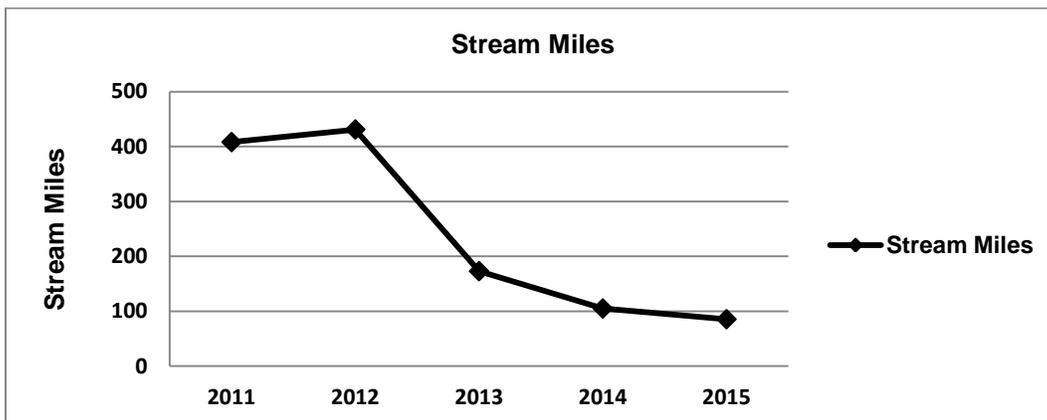
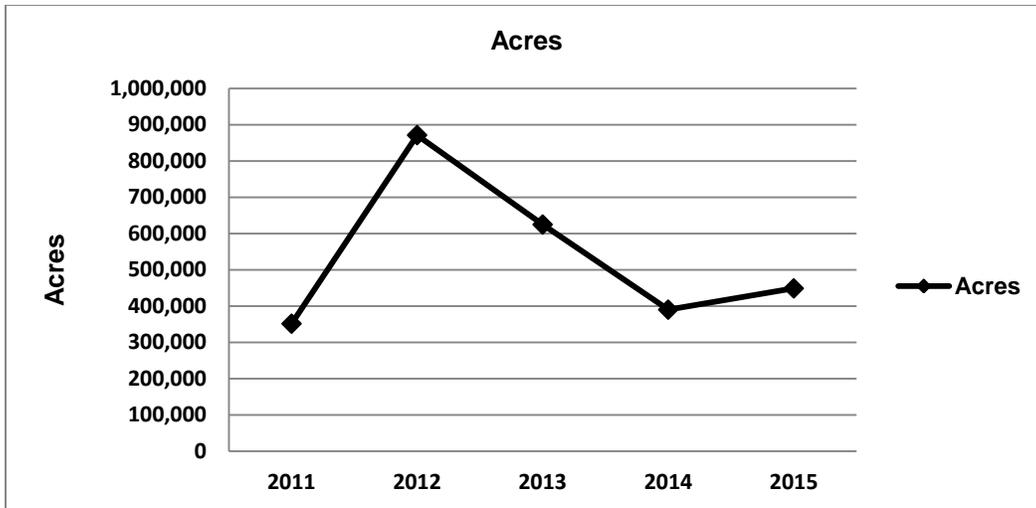


Performance Measure #2: Aquatic Habitat - Percentage of watershed restoration and habitat enhancement activities accomplished annually. (Personnel in this program will implement at least 75 percent of planned activities).



Story behind the performance:

Performance measures 1 and 2 for the Habitat Program have been combined and changed to acres of habitat conserved, enhanced and restored annually and stream miles restored, enhanced, or protected annually. The new performance measures more accurately reflect the goals, objectives, strategies, and actions in the Department’s Strategic Habitat Plan (SHP), approved September 2015. Along with the new performance measures, the reporting period was changed from fiscal year to calendar year. Personnel in this program strive to conserve, enhance, and restore 500,000 acres of habitat annually and protect, enhance, or restore 100 stream miles annually.



Changes to these new performance measures provided the following advantages:

1. The same performance measures are determined to track implementation of the SHP. Aligning these performance measures for reporting on the SHP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s CMS Annual Report, and Wyoming Governor’s Annual Report greatly reduces time and duplication in reporting for both field and administrative personnel.
2. Miles and acres best reflects the work and successes of the Habitat Program in a manner that is understandable to wildlife managers, legislators, and the public. These are the most

frequently used metrics in the habitat conservation field and are currently being used by other governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

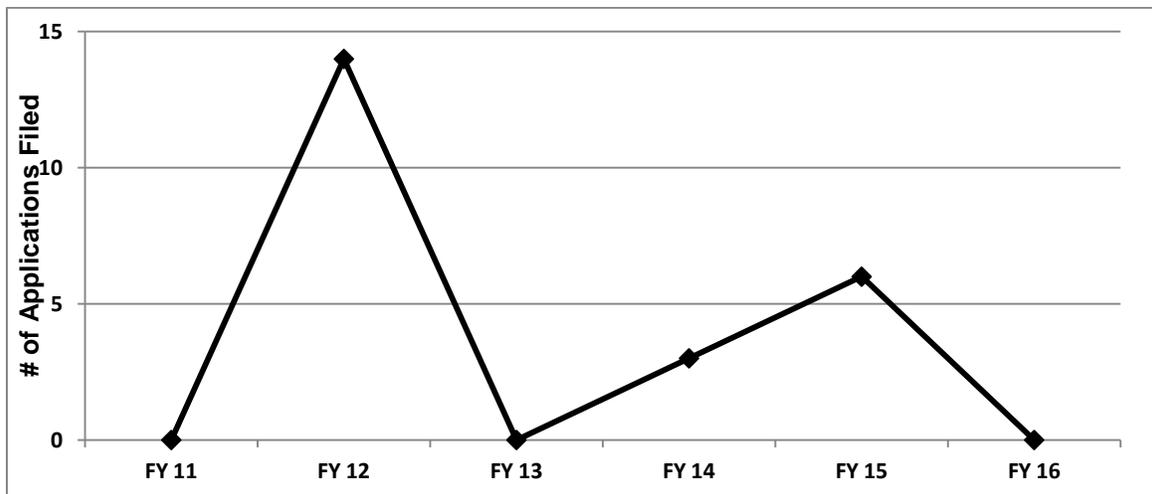
3. These metrics are equally suitable for all subprograms within the Habitat Program (Terrestrial Habitat, Aquatic Habitat, Water Management, Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative).
4. A calendar year reporting period is currently used for other programs. Applying this schedule to Habitat Programs and ultimately habitat projects better displays individual habitat project successes, especially to the public, since the field season is bisected by fiscal years.

Acres annually conserved, enhanced, and restored and stream miles annually protected, enhanced, or restored will be the performance measures reported on in subsequent reports.

What has been accomplished:

- 30 stream restorations or bank enhancements on 4.5 stream miles
- 48,213 trees or shrubs planted
- 83 stream structures installed
- 3,984 acres of mowing, chopping, or Lawson aeration
- Watershed stream assessments on 18.6 stream miles
- 6,920 acres of prescribed burns
- 3 instream flow segments on 10 stream miles
- 11 beaver transplanted

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 the primary reason 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.

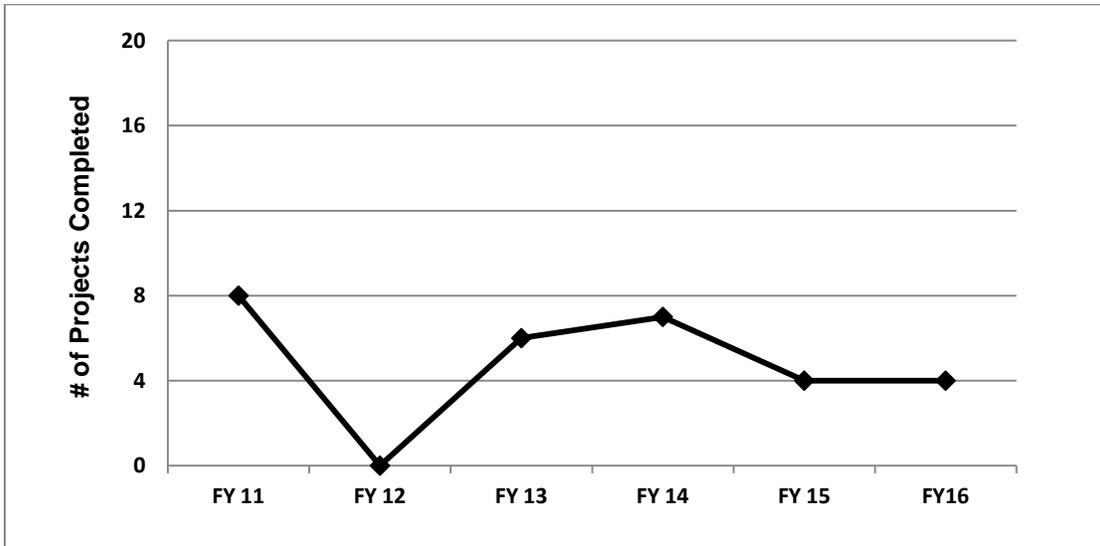
This measure shows the number of instream flow water rights applications filed with the State Engineers Office. The high number of filings submitted to the State Engineer in FY 12 included some studies that were begun in FY 11. However, four of the filings in FY 12 were made in late June 2012 and three more filings were submitted to the State Engineer's Office in late July 2013. Though no filings were made in FY 16, three stream segments are in the process of being finalized and submitted. 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 sub-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 139 instream flow filings that have been submitted to date provide a significant measure of protection for all species of trout in 639 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 featured in *Wyoming Wildlife Magazine*. The IT section developed a comprehensive story map and posted it on the Department's website with a link displayed prominently on the home page. The site received over 1,200 views in the first 60 days after posting. 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 50 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 six new projects and 17 continuing projects in FY 16. With this said, there are an additional 11 projects that have received funding in previous years and did not receive funding in FY 16, either because the proponent did not need additional funding, or there were unforeseen circumstances that were delaying the project. 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 15, there were nine new projects and 10 continuing projects. The difference between years is a function of

the number of projects being proposed by Local Project Development Teams (LPDT) and the level of federal funding for WLCI. Of the 23 projects funded in FY 16, 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, or other unexpected circumstances. One other item of note, is that the Local Project Development Teams, in the face of shrinking budgets, have realized that they can develop large projects, with many agencies, rather than competing against one another for limited project dollars.

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 16, the Coordination Team held an All LPDT meeting to discuss numerous issues with the LPDTs. One of which was allowing the LPDTs more control on spending project dollars within their areas. The WLCI, in coordination with The Wildlife Society – Wyoming Chapter, held its science workshop in Lander, Wyoming. With the aid of the Bureau of Land Management (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.

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. Habitat and Access manages Commission lands to be the benchmark for wildlife habitat while providing public access. 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat and Access	25.6	\$ 4,680,961

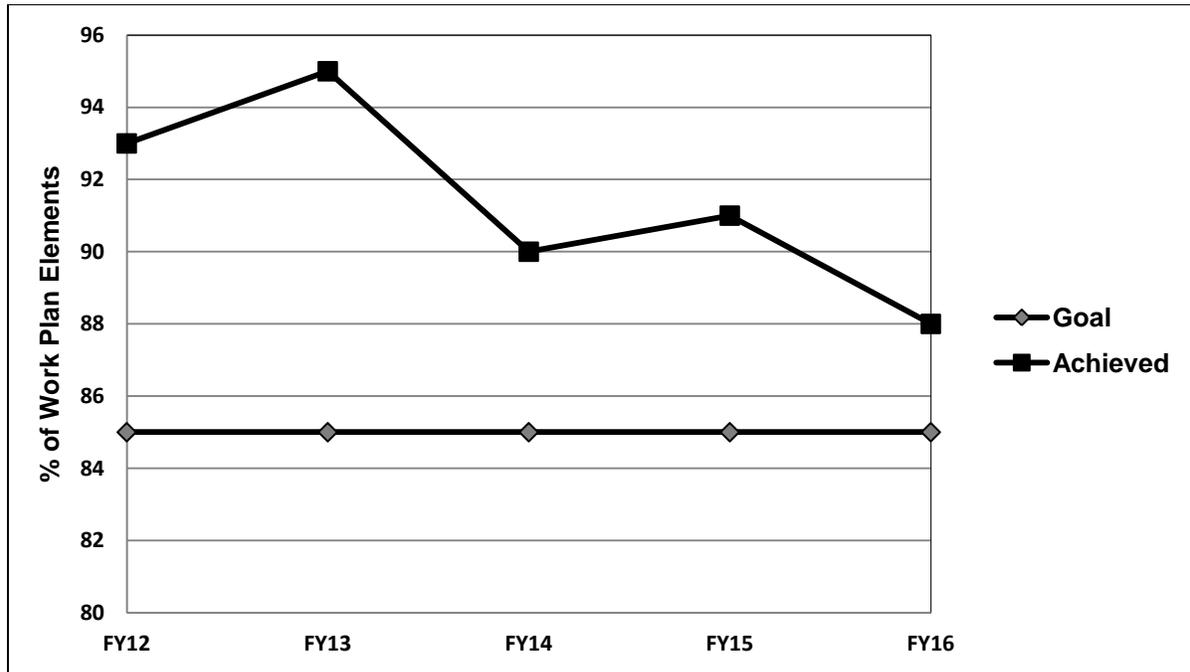
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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:

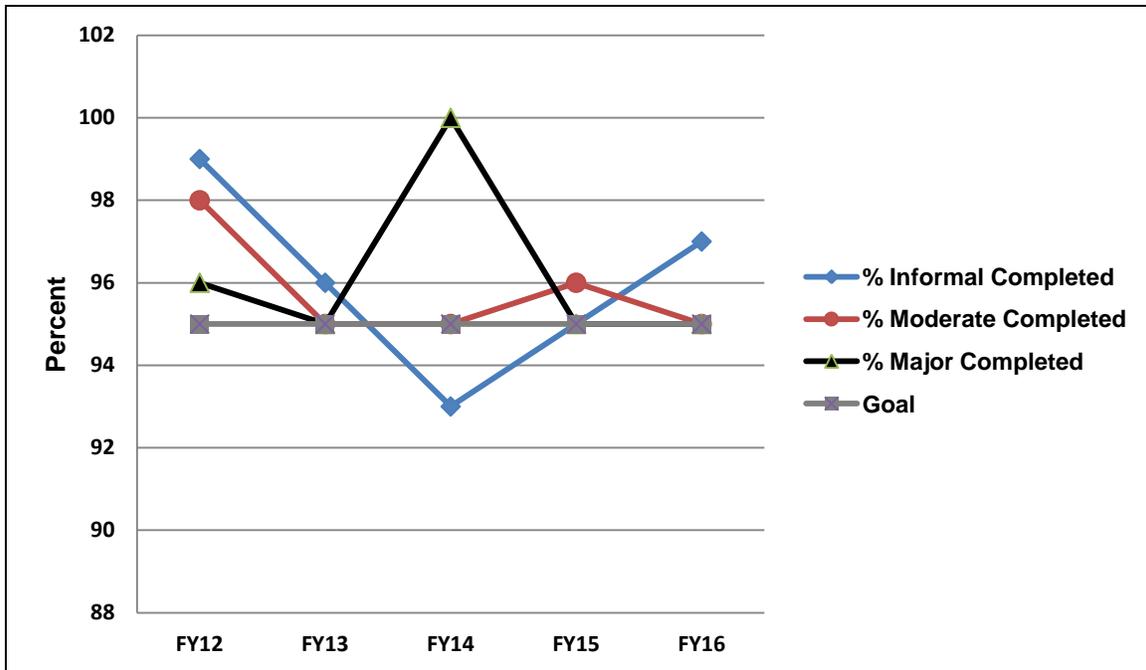
The program is responsible for administering and managing 37 unique WHMAs and 198 Public Access Areas (PAAs). The WHMAs and PAAs are managed according to the Managed Land and Access Summary (MLAS) developed for each individual area. The work plans are developed prior to each fiscal year in an attempt 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 16, caused by a reduction in employees. Still, 88 percent of the work plan was achieved 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, 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 16, 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 FY16: farming on Yellowtail, Ocean Lake, Horse Creek, Springer, and South Park WHMAs and Spence and Moriarity Wildlife Management Area; converting open ditches to gated pipe; conversion of two open irrigation systems to two center pivots, maintaining over 600 miles of

fence; irrigating 4,700 acres; monitoring grazing on 44,000 acres; developing three new PAAs; developing springs and wells; rebuilding fences; haying 500 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 490,000 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.

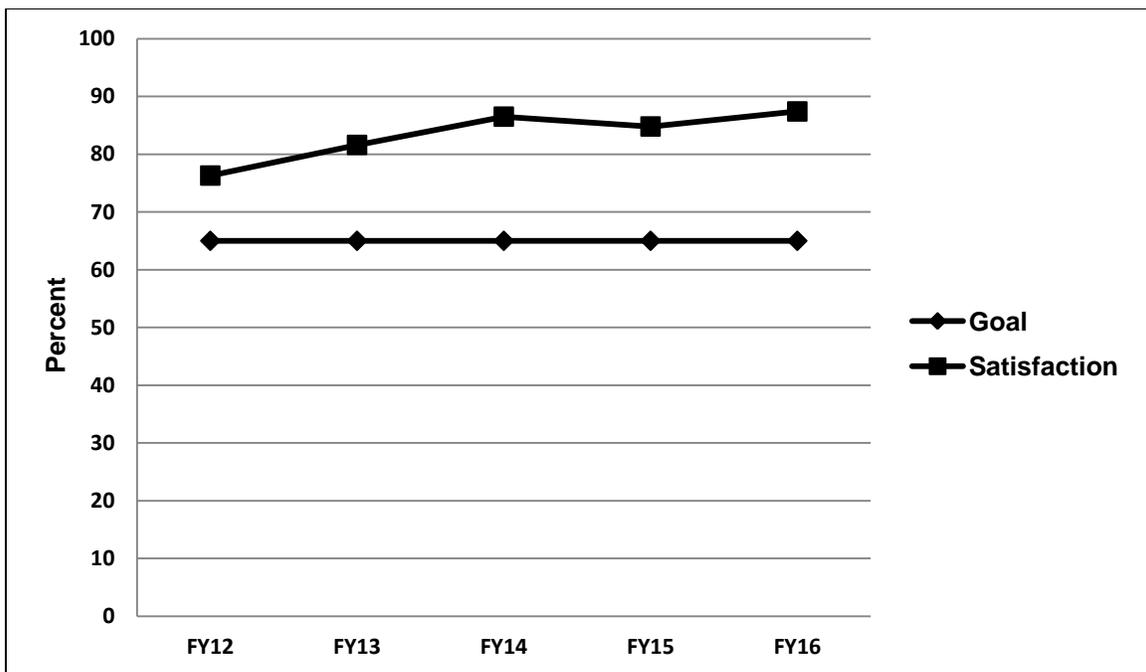
The percent of project requests completed has been excellent within the constraints of employee availability and budget capacity. The percent of project requests completed has been consistent between 2011 and 2016 with an average of 96 percent of informal, 96 percent of moderate, and 67 percent of major project requests being completed. Results for 2016 varied minimally from

this average with 97 percent of informal, 95 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 16, the Habitat and Access Program completed 95 percent of project requests. One of the major projects was habitat treatments for the Sublette Mule Deer herd. Over 3,500 acres were treated with mowing, seeding, and dixie harrowing. The Platte Valley Habitat Mule Deer Initiative was also supported with mowing, seeding, and spring exclosures. 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 spring of 2017.

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 87.4 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 87.4 percent in FY 16. 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 16, 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 Access Yes (Private Lands Public Wildlife Program). This goal 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 2015-4.

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

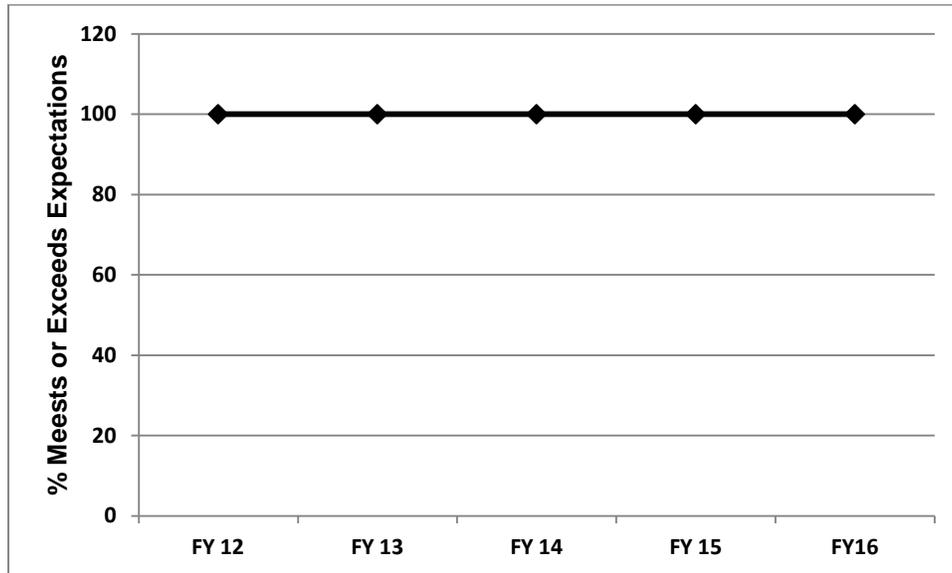
	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>FY 16 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat Protection Program	7.0	\$ 701,123

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 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.
- **Implement the Wyoming Sage-grouse Executive Order** which includes review of all federal and state permitted projects within Sage-grouse Core 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Information	6.0	\$ 564,784
Publications	1.0	489,686
TOTAL	7.0	\$ 1,054,470

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

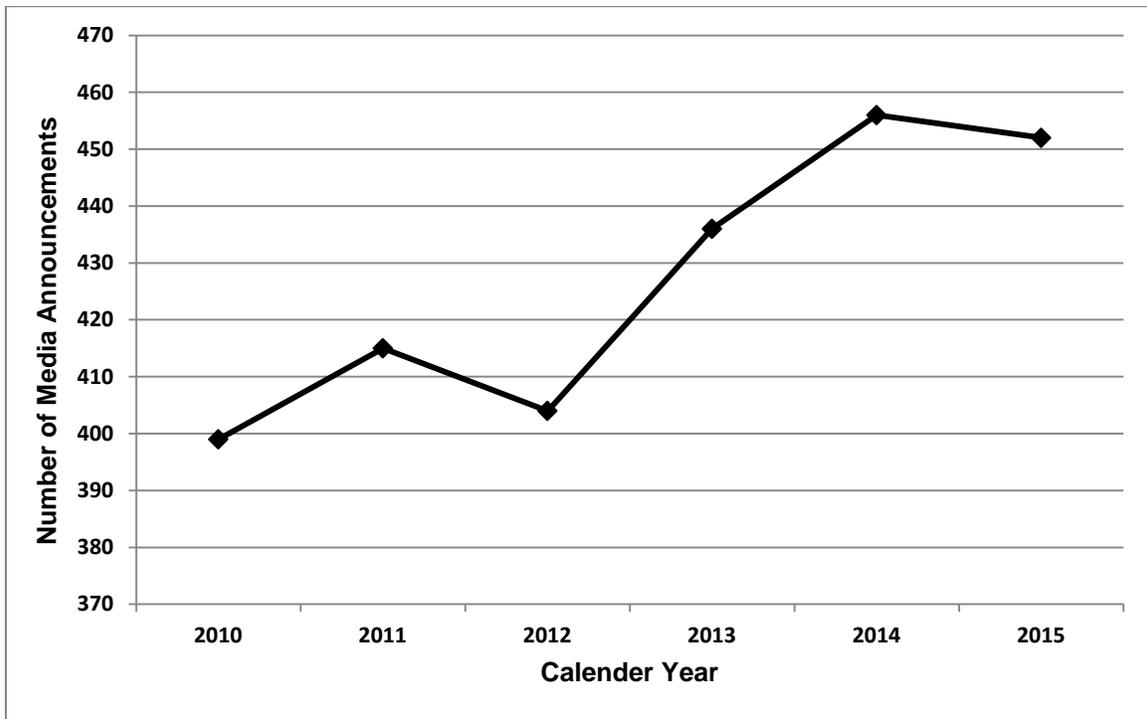
The Information Program includes the information and publications sub-programs. This program was moved from the Services Division to the Office of the Director in July 2013.

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, online, social 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 with the Department’s management programs** through proactive outreach strategies, including external publications that encourage interest in wildlife and wildlife habitat, and provide information on current Department management practices. These publications facilitate the development of informed support for Department programs.
- **Serve people** by providing wildlife, hunting, and fishing related information through the news media and through direct outreach via email, social media and the Department’s website.

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).



(Data for this graph comes from GovDelivery and the number of releases sent to the news release list and to the radio list, as well as the 52 weekly TV reports sent.)

Story behind the performance:

The information sub-program produces and distributes print, radio, and television news. The news releases drive most of this content by sending breaking news, weekly updates, and monthly e-newsletters. The weekly radio program includes a 10-minute, 3-minute, and 30-second program. 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, social media, and the Department’s website. Where appropriate, the video news stories are cross-referenced with print news stories, providing exposure in this expanding area. The stories are also aired on at least two Wyoming TV stations reaching thousands of people each week.

The news packets are prepared and distributed weekly and at other times if necessary via an e-mail distribution list. This reaches radio and TV stations, online news publications, individuals who sign up for news updates, and to each of Wyoming’s 43 local newspapers, representing 175,000 Wyoming households. 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 2015, the number of news, radio interviews, and public service announcements distributed was 452. 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 digital, audio, print, or video form. As of September 2016, approximately 20,000 people “Like” and follow the Department’s Facebook page. In FY 15, the Department’s YouTube channel had gained 1,400 dedicated followers with thousands of views of Department videos. As of September 2016, approximately 2,800 people “Follow” the Department’s Twitter page. The Department also launched an Instagram page on social media in FY 15. There are already 1,600 followers. GovDelivery, the Department’s email outreach software, has more than 187,000 subscribers as of August 2016. Total impressions via GovDelivery is over two million in the past year ending in August. The engagement rate is 72.4%, which is a high number for the industry.

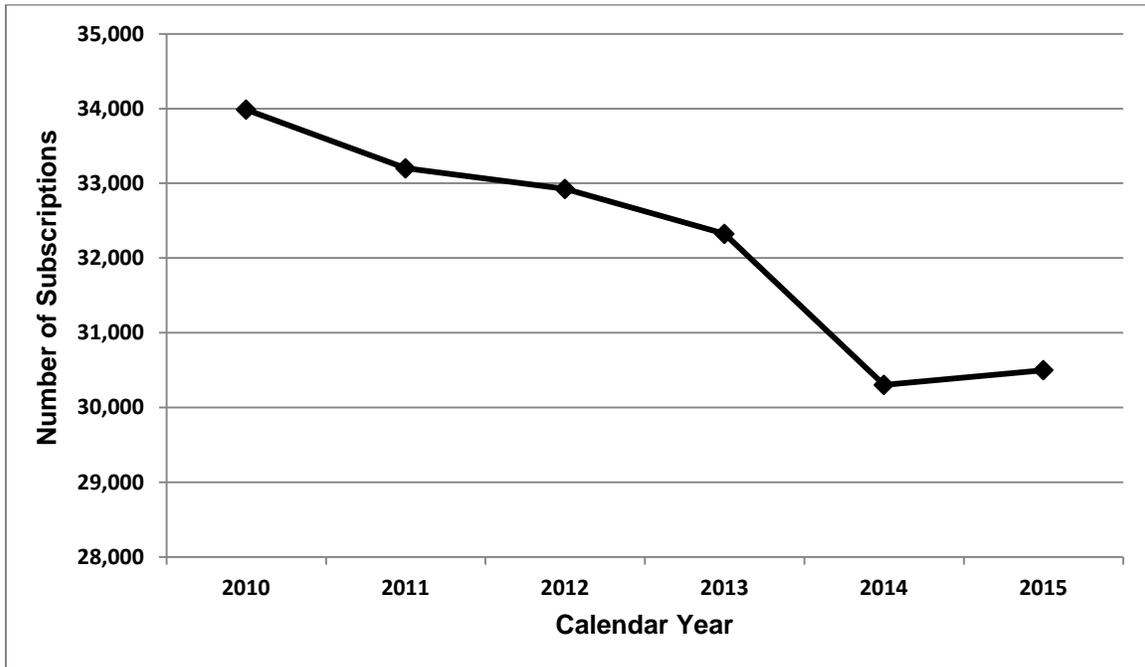
Digital and social media impact and following expands on a daily basis and is expected to continue to grow with new opportunities and challenges.

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 delivering information to the public. This is also done by regional information and education specialists. They send hundreds of updates to the public and the media each year as well. This group works closely with the Cheyenne information section.

What has been accomplished:

Weekly meetings are held with regional staff to ensure news releases from the Department are strategically disseminated and make sense for regional audiences. Social media interaction has grown significantly and the information section also added e-newsletters to hunters and anglers each month. These reach over 150,000 email addresses monthly and provide valuable service to Department customers while also telling the Department’s story to them.

Performance Measure #2: Paid subscriptions of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine (personnel in this program will work to maintain at least 30,000 active subscriptions to this publication).



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 paid subscribers for the magazine was 30,500. *Wyoming Wildlife* 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.

In the future subscribers to the discontinued *Wyoming Wildlife News* should not be counted. That publication targeted anglers, hunters, and trappers inside the state. This has been replaced by the monthly e-newsletter.

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 31,850. The decrease in the graphs is attributed to the loss of subscribers to *Wyoming Wildlife News*. Using the magazine industry’s multiplier of four readers for every subscription, it is estimated *Wyoming Wildlife* 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, mostly through a reduction in staffing. There are ongoing efforts to understand the true costs of the magazine and potentially increasing prices for subscribers and newsstand purchases. The magazine hired a new editor in 2016 and looks forward to expanding its audience and continuing to put out high quality articles about hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife conservation.

The Facebook page for *Wyoming Wildlife* has also grown in popularity. It now has 3,755 likes.

Program: Information Technology

Division: Services

Mission: Provide high quality, secure technology solutions, services, and support to the Department and to 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Information Technology	22.0	\$ 3,254,534

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget as well as eight positions that were transferred to the State Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) as a part of the statewide Information Technology (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.*

Payroll for one Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst position was funded in the 601A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy 16-17 General Fund budget. One additional contract position was continued with previous funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and now from 4Y10 Maintenance and Operations budget. Both positions remain as GIS support positions within the GIS section of the IT/GIS Program. One GIS Support Specialist position was transferred from the Engineering Branch to the GIS section of the IT/GIS Program, largely to support development of the Plan Your Hunt Web application and various other new GIS technologies. One ETS Application Support position was vacated with the retirement of the employee. An agreement was made with ETS that this position would be transferred back to the Department during FY 17. In the meantime, a position was added to the application development sub-section as a Business Analyst from the pool of vacant Department positions (which will be backfilled once this position has been transferred back from ETS.)

The current program is made up of administration and three sections: Application Development, IT Operations, and GIS.

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

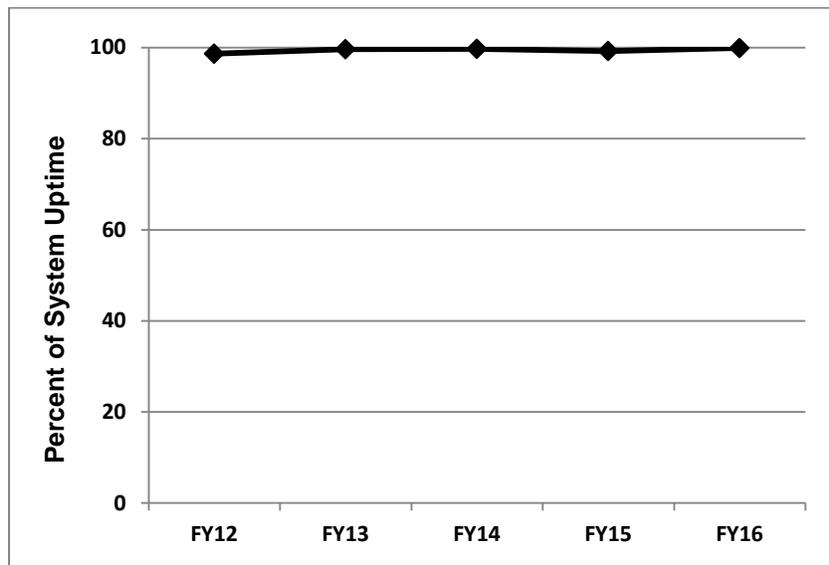
Primary Functions of the Information Technology Program:

- **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.*

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 (IT Operations, 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 295 Internet Point-of-Sale (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 75 layers of statewide GIS data, additional derived data layers, and a total of 18 GIS mapping applications such as the black bear bait location reservation application and the Wyoming Hunt Planner. 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 16 was 99.9 percent, up from 99.254 percent in FY 15 and 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 (1,239,461 items totaling \$77,987,656 were processed through these systems in calendar year 2015). 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 initially when the Department opened its Leftover Big Game License Sales on July 6 and then again with Reduced Price Big Game License Sales on July 13, when a new credit card payment vendor system was unable to handle the volume of transactions for these respective days. 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 these occurrences.

As part of the effort to meet PCI (Payment Card Industry) standards, a new vendor was contracted after going through the RFP (request for proposal) process. The integration of the processor proceeded through steps that started with small online sales processes (AIS and boats) and proceeded into the draw application process. The new processor worked extensively with the Department to incorporate many functionalities unique to the Department. Other than minor glitches, integration worked well and enhanced processes were in place for leftover sales on July 6 and July 13.

The one area of concern for leftover days was the significant volume of transactions that would be sent to the processor in a short period of time. The number of transactions that had been processed in prior years are provided by the minute and compared that to the heaviest volumes processed during the draw application period. The vendor assured the Department that their system was ready to go.

Unfortunately, the vendor's system experienced issues during the first hour of both days. While many transactions were able to complete, over half either timed out or accessed to the vendor's server was denied. Many customers made multiple attempts to purchase licenses before being successful or giving up to try again later. This failure by the vendor required days of work on the part of Department personnel to contact customers and resolve issues.

The failure on July 13, 2016 was due to the same circumstances as the July 6 failure. This was due to the vendor having misunderstood the true nature of the first failure and not mitigating the issue before the second leftover day. After July 13, the vendor conducted an extensive review of their servers and implemented a new platform. In an effort to improve customer experience and make the system again usable, members of the Department helped design a test to simulate

conditions of 500 concurrent users accessing the system. The new system seems to have fixed the issues that plagued the original two days of leftover sales.

Even with the issues, the overall sales volume for 2016 was relatively flat from previous years for the full-price leftover day (July 6, 2016), but significantly down for the reduced price leftover day (July 13, 2016). The number of leftover licenses available for sale remained near the lowest levels of the past nine years. Total licenses available have decreased 47 percent from 2013 levels (73,080 to 38,817). The reduced price leftover day was down 25 percent from the previous year (7,658 to 5,736). Though card processor issues shifted timing of sales and caused frustrations, the primary drop in reduced price sales was directly correlated to the drop in available cow/calf elk licenses which dropped from 10,224 in 2015 to 8,342 in 2016. This drop of 1,882 in availability almost matched the drop in sales (1,851) for the first day of sales.

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 as noted above.

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 that 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 295 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, undoubtedly continues to impact 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 17.

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 in FY15 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 and associated mapping applications including the Wyoming Hunt Planner, the Walk-In Hunting and Fishing applications, and story maps (black-footed ferret and in-stream flow) which are all directed to Department constituents.

At the same time, Department-wide demand for GIS work has continued to rise. Examples of these demands include ongoing assignments to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) technical leads sub-group 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. Mobile GIS applications are being developed to aid field data collection efforts, including a mobile Wildlife Observation System (WOS) data collector and three rapid habitat assessment data collectors. 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 nearing completion. Finally, 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 the Department's Esri ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS Online environments; this position was initially filled for three months but has been vacant for nearly that same amount of time and the section is beginning to feel the effects.

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 2016 (FY 16) budget:

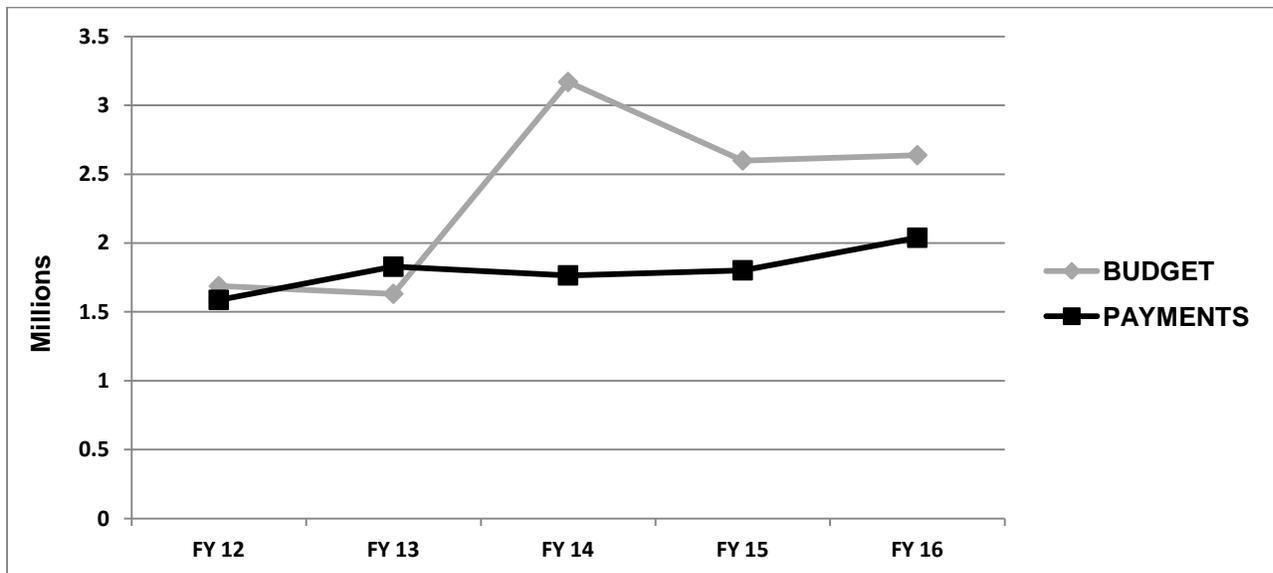
<u>Sub-Program</u>	<u>#FTE's</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Damage Claims	0	\$1,200,000
Landowner Coupons	0	725,000
Retiree Assessment	0	57,600
State Agency Law Enforcement System (SALEC)		220,000
Cost Allocation	0	435,000
TOTAL		\$ 2,637,600

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 through FY 16, only the Enterprise Technology Service's portions of the assessments have been required for reimbursement.

In FY 16, the damage claim budget was \$1,200,000, which is \$700,000 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 16 was less than \$930,000 which explains about half of the difference between the budget and the expenditures for the Legislative Mandated Expenditures Program for this reporting period. The other half could be primarily attributed to the difference between the landowner coupon budget of \$723,000 and the actual FY16 expenditures of \$500,000.

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 16 budget:

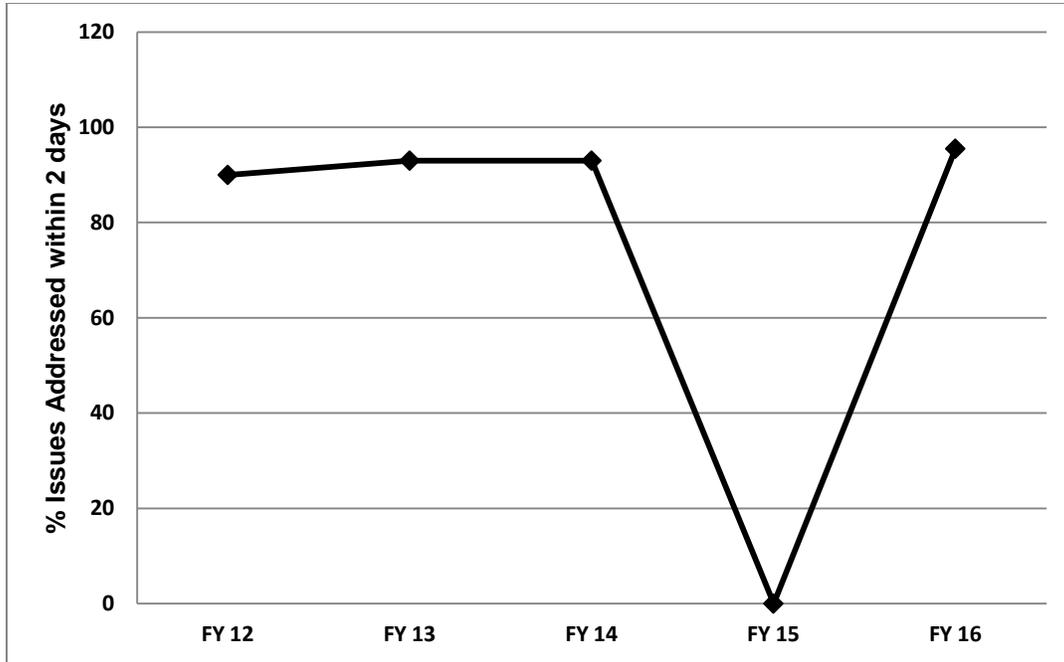
<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Personnel Management	3	\$508,548

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).



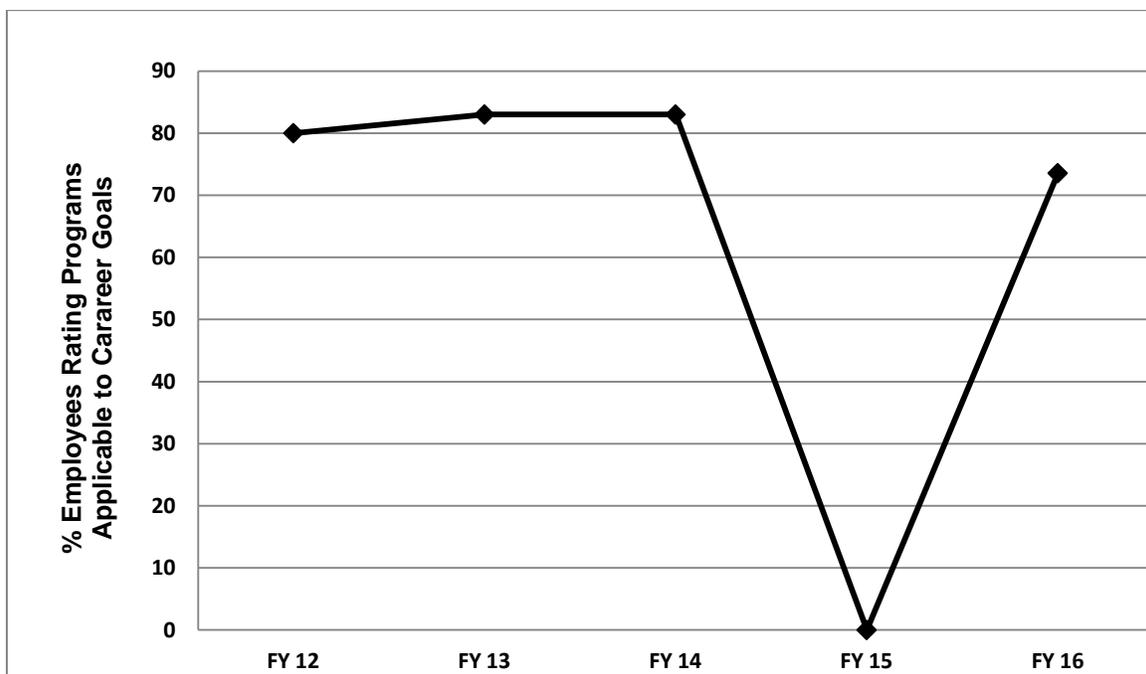
Story behind the performance:

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 strive 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 was “zero” in FY 15 because an internal survey of employees to determine the timeliness by which questions and requests were addressed by Human Resources was not completed. Over the last five years, on average, 92.9 percent of questions and requests were addressed within two days if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 16, 95.5 percent of questions and requests were handled within two days.

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 five 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 was “zero” in FY 15 because the internal survey of employees to determine satisfaction levels with programs offered by Human Resources was not completed.

Over the last five years, on average, 79.9 percent of employees felt that programs were applicable to their career goals if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 16, 73.6 percent of employees felt programs were applicable to their career goals.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 15, the Department 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 third 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 16 budgets:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Property Rights (Lands) Admin. **	4.0	\$ 760,161
Access Yes	5.0	1,673,437 ***
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 2,433,598

* *Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 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.*

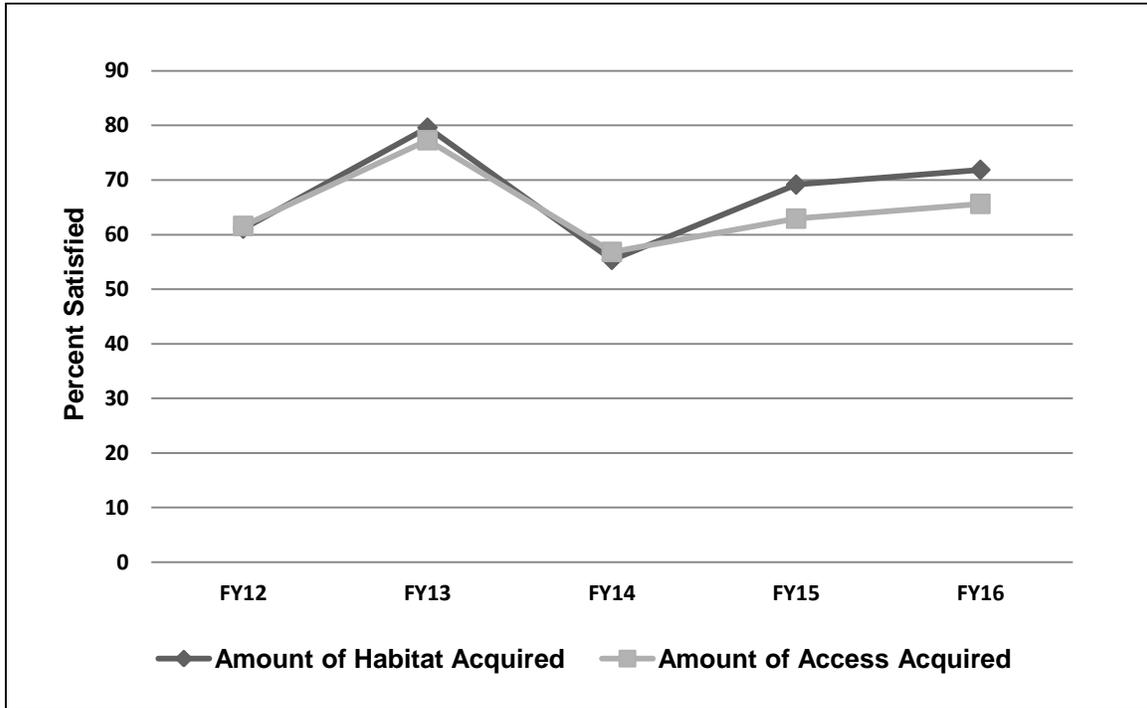
*** *Includes personnel, operations, and easement payments.*

The Property Rights Administration Program is located in Services Division and is based out of the Department's Headquarters in Cheyenne. The Access Yes (Private Lands Public Wildlife) 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:

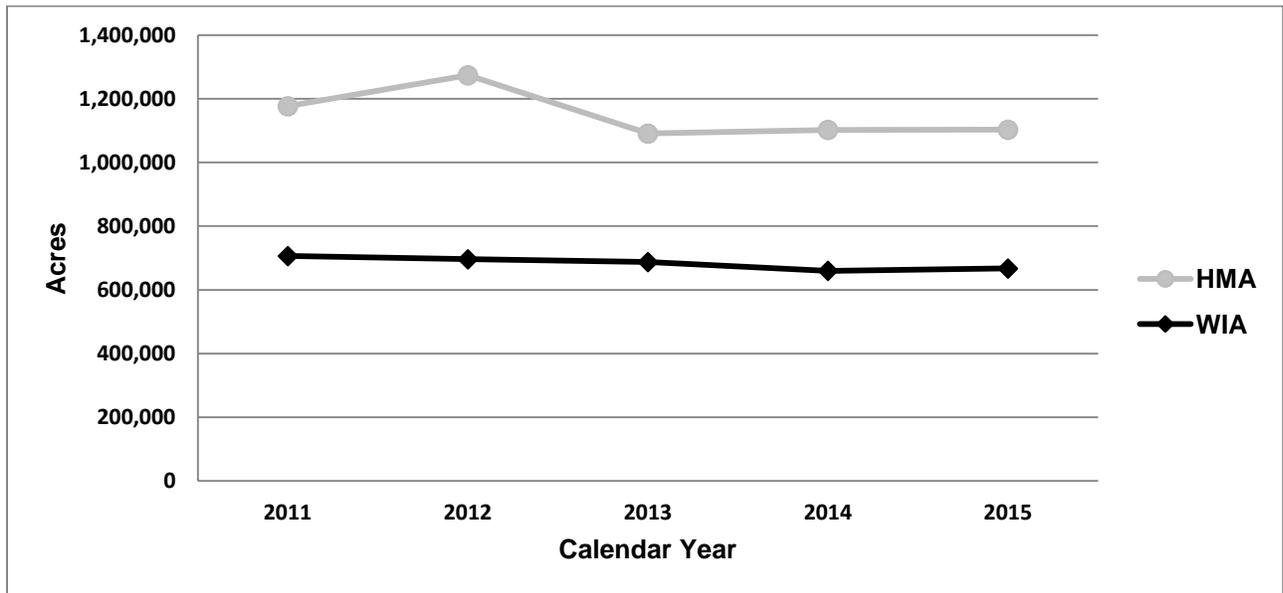
The Commission owns 166,435 acres and administers another 254,792 acres of federal, state, and private lands, which conserve and sustain wildlife populations and provides public access and recreation. In addition, the Commission has acquired permanent public access to over 128 miles of streams and rivers around the state. The performance measure evaluates the 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, 71.88 percent of the sampled public was satisfied. With respect to the amount of access acquired, 65.63 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:

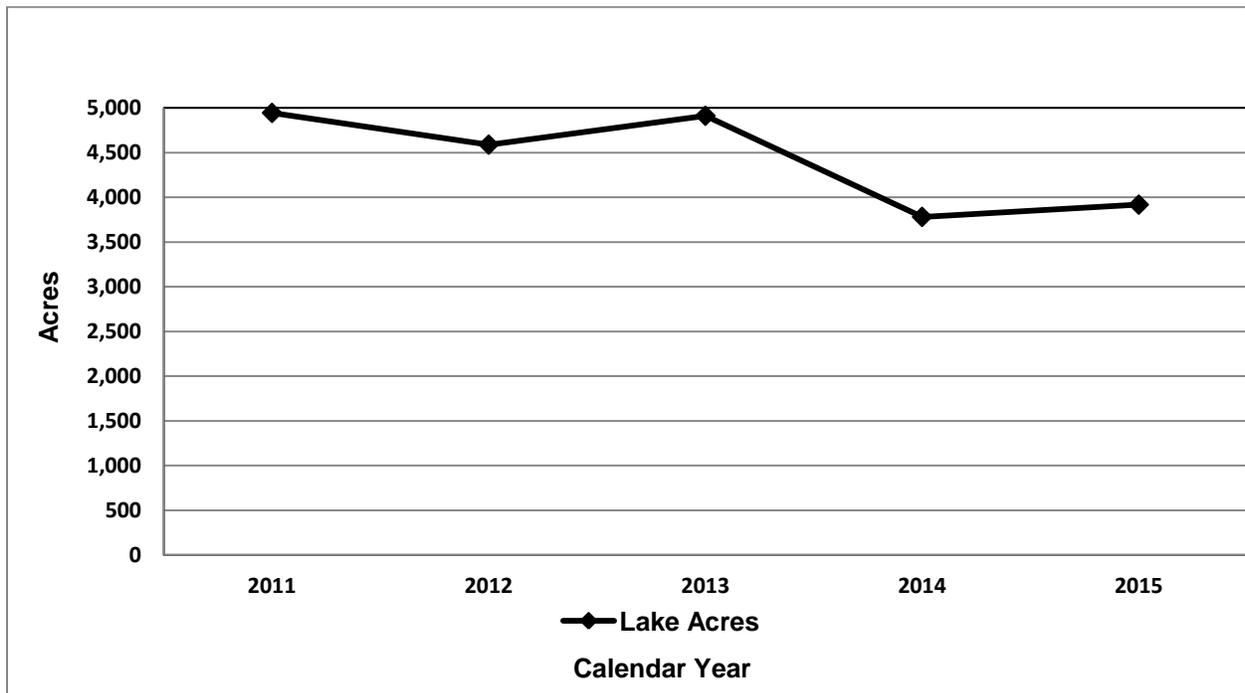
- 34.76 percent of those surveyed were familiar with the Lands Management Program;
- 96.57 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire and conserve wildlife habitat in Wyoming; and
- 94.96 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire public access for recreation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

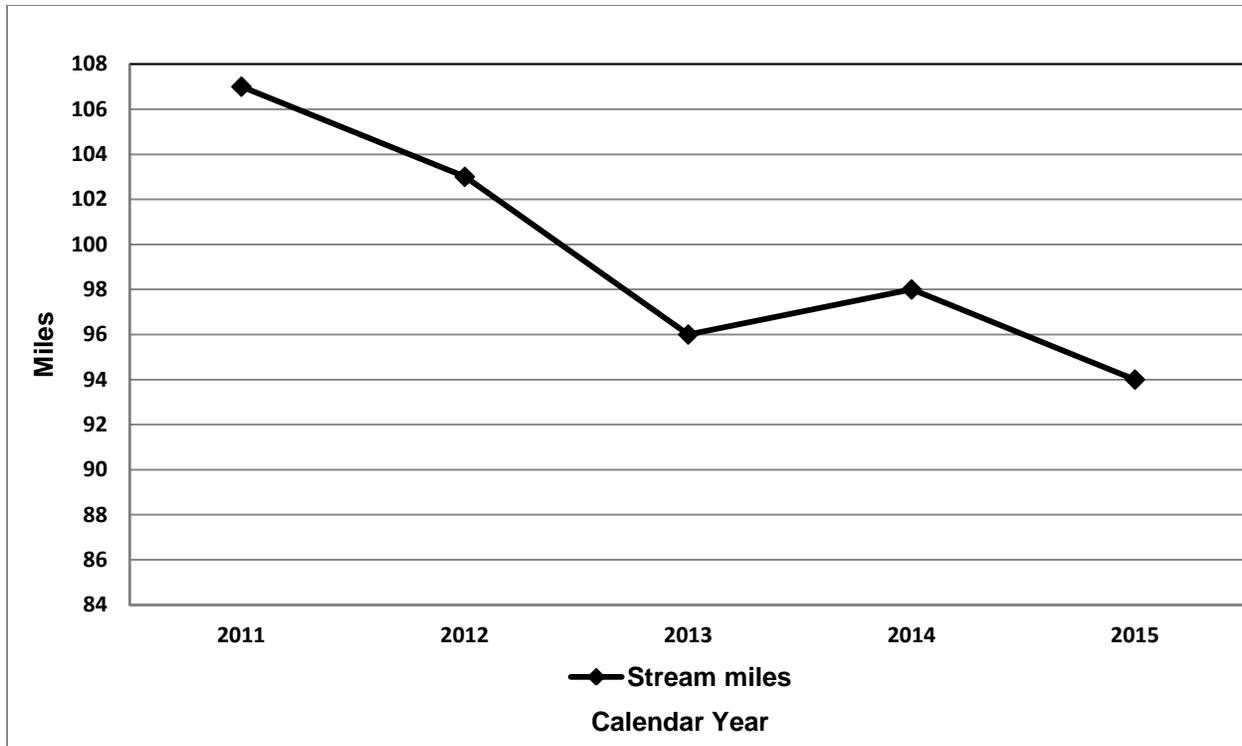
Performance Measure #2: Hunting and fishing access to private and public land. (Personnel in this program will work to maintain public hunting access to at least 1.25 million acres of private land, public fishing access to at least 273 lake acres, and public fishing access to at least 100 stream miles.)

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



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





Story behind the performance:

In 2001, the Commission adopted Access Yes (Private Lands Public Wildlife) Access as a permanent program in the Department. Access Yes 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, Access Yes continues to provide extensive areas to hunt and fish.

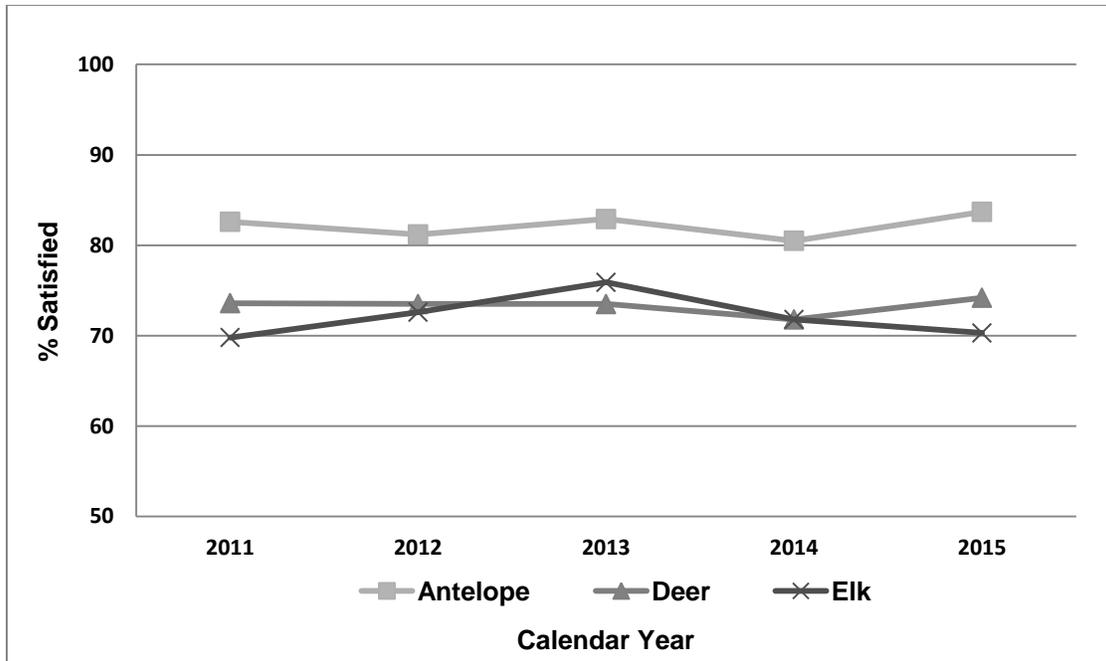
In addition to providing recreational access, Access Yes assists with increasing cooperation between the Department, landowners, and the public for population management of wildlife and decreasing agriculture damage through harvest.

What has been accomplished:

The enrollment in each program for 2015 was: Hunter Management Areas (HMA), 1,102,709 acres; Walk-in Areas (WIA) hunting, 667,080 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 3,918 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 94 miles. The average enrollment in each program from 2011-2015 was: HMAs, 1,149,183 acres; WIAs hunting, 683,376 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 4,429 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 99.6 miles. Enrollment in either WIAs or HMAs is dependent upon the amount of available Access Yes funds. During 2015, 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, Access Yes provided approximately 3.0 million acres of hunting access for the fall 2015/spring 2016 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 Access Yes 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 Access Yes 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 Access Yes. After nine years of data, the results show hunters have a positive view of the HMA and WIA Programs.

What has been accomplished:

The satisfaction with Access Yes remains high. The 2015 harvest survey data satisfaction rates were: antelope, 83.7 percent (82.2 percent average since 2011); deer, 74.2 percent (73.3 percent average since 2011); and elk, 70.3 percent (72.1 percent average since 2011). Satisfaction with a hunting experience can mean a variety of things from harvesting a record-book animal to having a place to hunt. Antelope and deer satisfaction increased in 2015 to the highest level since 2010. Elk satisfaction decreased slightly from 2014, but remains high.

The 2015 harvest surveys also indicated high levels of participation by hunters using Access Yes access areas. When asked if hunters used an Access Yes access area, 19.9 percent of antelope

hunters, 15.0 percent of deer hunters, and 13.6 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Information and Education	7.0	\$696,220

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 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:

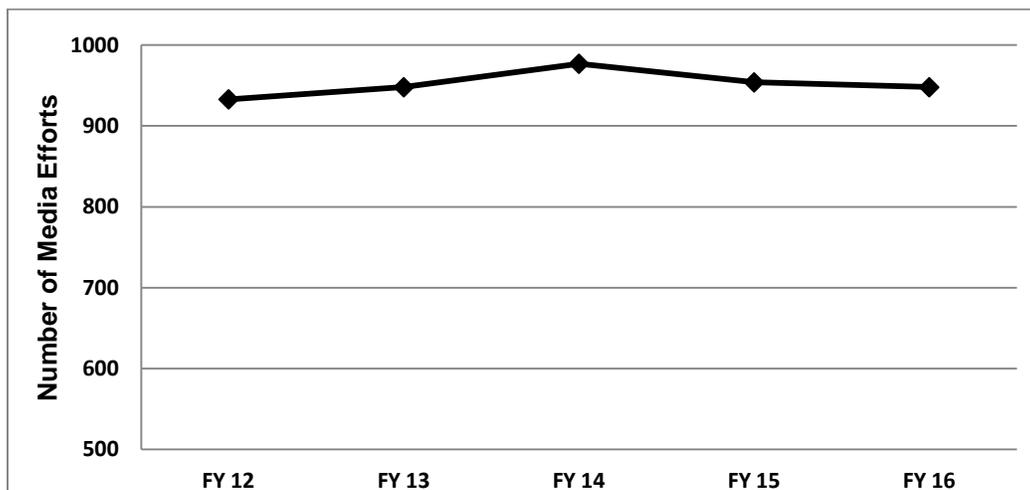
- **Work cooperatively with Department personnel to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of Wyoming's wildlife resources** by providing information and education support to other branches within the Wildlife Division and other divisions within the Department. The RIES Program supports 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 16:

- Worked with a regional and statewide team to develop and implement a fundraising initiative for the renovation of the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp. Assisted regional personnel in public working group meetings via facilitation, planning, and record keeping.
- Completed, along with regional personnel, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Historical Center at the Department’s Casper Regional Office.
- Coordinated with the media, a local high school biology class, and regional personnel to undertake 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:

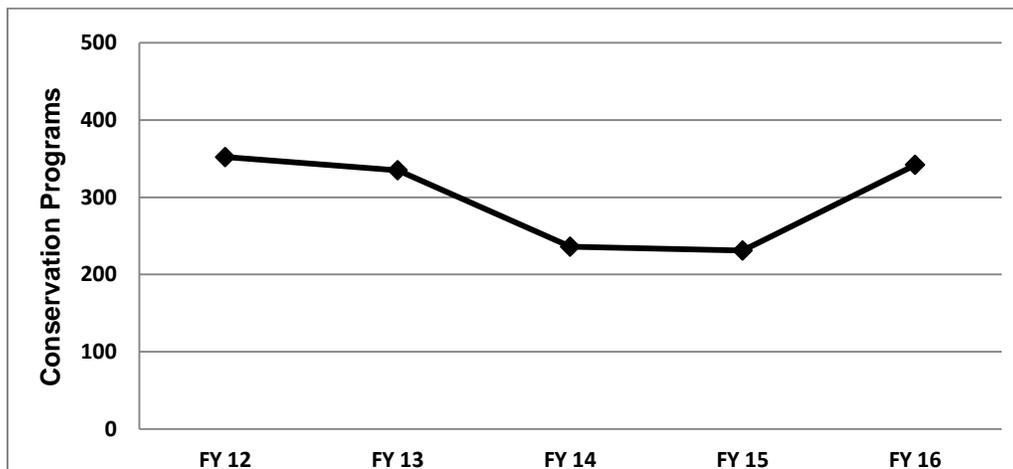
Many issues affect Wyoming’s wildlife. In upholding with the Department’s mission of serving people, it is important to keep the state’s citizens informed about these various issues. This is done through a variety of communication programs and activities.

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:

RIES personnel continued to engage the media by utilizing a variety of methods. Some of these interactions included live “tweets” during a mule deer capture, YouTube videos, numerous Facebook postings, radio shows, newsletters, and news releases. RIESs arranged for local journalists to attend/assist at AIS check stations, mountain goat darting and collaring efforts, and pheasant and fishing stocking projects.

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 RIESs 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.

Some of the educational program interactions included hosting informational booths at local outdoor shows, leading a variety of interpretative tours and field trips related to wildlife and habitat for various community and youth groups, and coordinating fish stocking in local ponds by elementary school groups. RIESs continue to promote and inform the public on the Wyoming Mule Deer Initiatives located in every Department region. All RIESs assisted in developing a statewide education plan and budget request to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

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 16 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration	13.9	\$ 2,260,409**
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists	28	\$ 3,911,490
Regional Game Wardens	52	\$ 7,068,475
TOTAL	93.9	\$ 13,240,374

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 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).

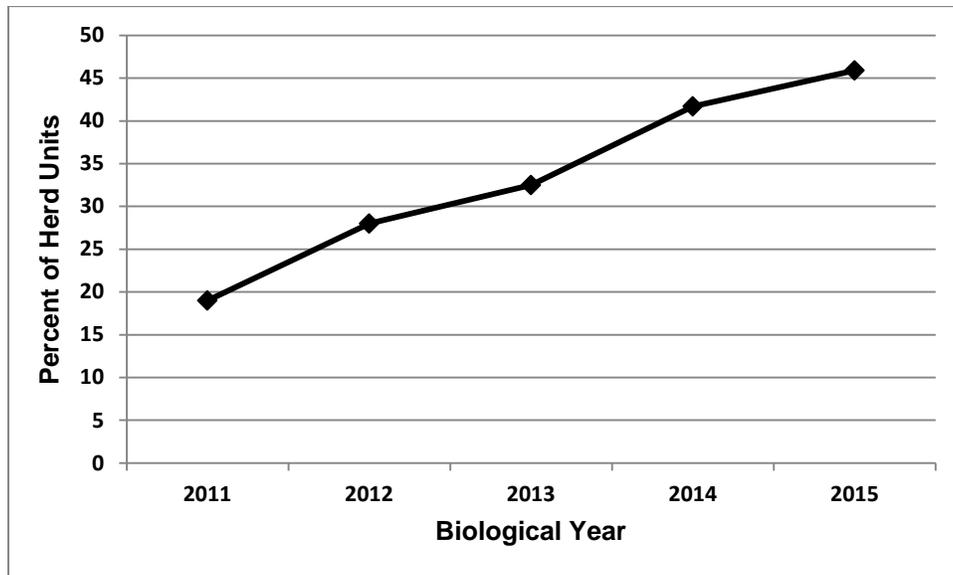
The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is located statewide.

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 16, 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) herds 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 2015 covers the period June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016.



Story behind the last year of performance:

While the Department is responsible for managing over 800 species of wildlife in Wyoming, many of its 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 (2011-2015).

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 recent increased cow harvest on public and private lands. 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.

What has been accomplished:

A total of 35 herds had objectives reviewed in 2015. Of those, 23 herds had objective changes proposed and accepted. Population objective reviews were conducted by local wildlife biologists and wardens by analyzing pertinent data. Recommendations were forwarded to regional and statewide Wildlife Division administrations for review. These administrations either suggested changes or gave approval for progressing to the next step. Objective recommendations were then presented to the public for review and comment. These comments were then considered by regional personnel who then modified objective recommendations as appropriate. Final recommendations were again submitted to Wildlife Administration for final internal approval. Once this step was completed, the final step was review and approval by the Commission.

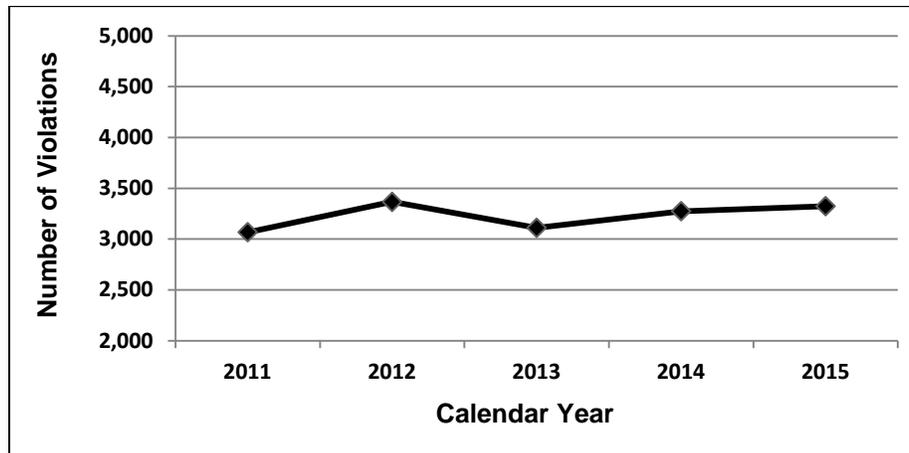
Of the total 145 herds tracked for this report, 12 herds (8.3 percent) had incomplete data including four herds with no established objective. Of the 133 herds with complete data, 61 herds (45.9 percent) were at objective (for herds with a population or trend count objective, at objective means the estimate is +/- 20 percent of the objective number), 26 (19.5 percent) were above objective, and 46 (34.6 percent) were below objective.

Table 1. Breakdown of herd units “At”, “Below”, or “Above” objective by species and objective category

Population Objective				
	At Objective	Below Objective	Above Objective	Incomplete Data
Bighorn Sheep	3	2	1	4
Elk	3	0	10	1
Mountain Goat	0	0	1	0
Moose	0	1	0	1
White-tailed Deer	1	0	0	2
Mule Deer	14	18	1	1
Pronghorn	20	7	7	1
TOTAL	41	28	20	10
Trend Count Objective				
Bighorn Sheep	1	1	0	0
Bison	0	0	1	0
Elk	7	1	4	2
Mountain Goat	0	0	1	0
Moose	1	3	0	0
TOTAL	9	5	6	2
Landowner/Hunter Satisfaction Objective				
Pronghorn	3	3	NA	0
Elk	2	5	NA	0
Mule Deer	0	3	NA	0
White-tailed Deer	1	1	NA	0
TOTAL	6	12	NA	0
Limited Opportunity Objective				
Moose	3	1	NA	0
Bighorn Sheep	2	0	NA	0
TOTAL	5	1	NA	0
Grand Totals				
Bighorn Sheep	6	3	1	4
Elk	12	6	14	3
Bison	0	0	1	0
Mountain Goat	0	0	2	0
Moose	4	5	0	1
White-tailed Deer	2	1	0	2
Mule Deer	14	21	1	1
Pronghorn	23	10	7	1
TOTALS	61	46	26	12
PERCENT¹	45.9%	34.6%	19.5%	

¹ There are 133 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.

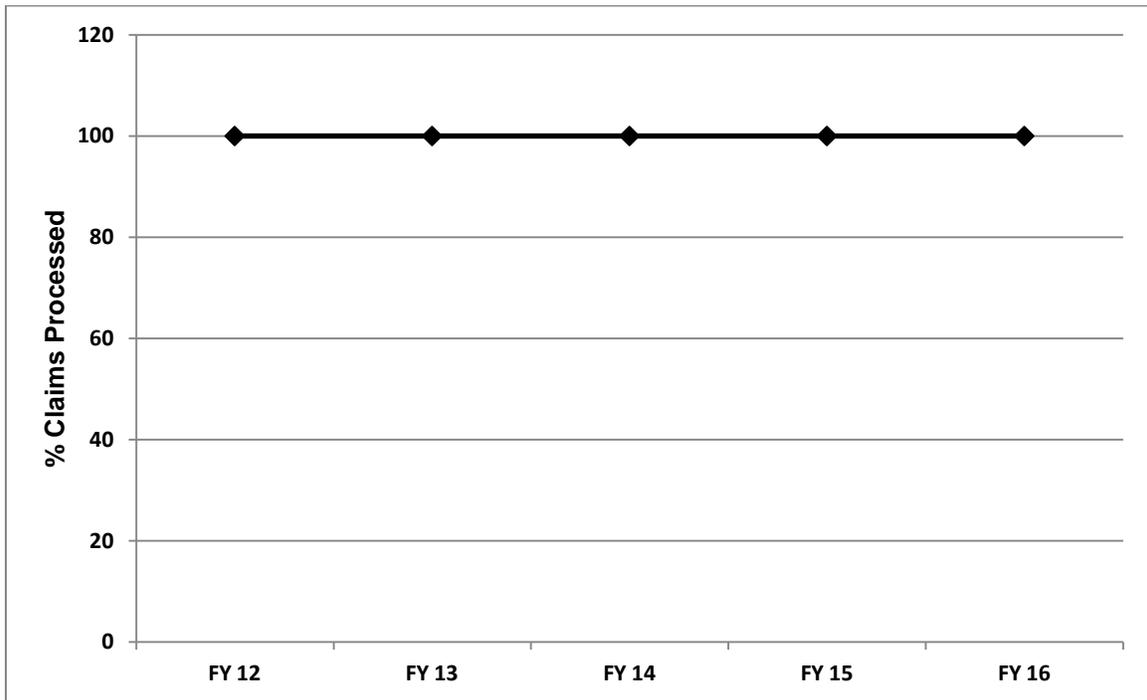
The ten most common violations for 2015 in order of prevalence are hunting/fishing/trapping/commercial operations without a license/stamp (829); failure to provide proper safety equipment aboard watercraft (376); violations of aquatic invasive species regulations (298); trespass to hunt or fish (259); wanton destruction/waste of a game animal (252); hunting after hours or in wrong/closed area (251); failure to tag/register a big/trophy game animal, wild turkey, or bobcat (231); violation of regulations/rules for Department/state lands (230); making a false statement to procure a hunting or fishing license (205); and take wrong sex of game animal (130). There were 18 instances of operating a watercraft under the influence. In 2015, law enforcement personnel discovered 4,854 violations as part of 3,324 LEIRs. This is 325 more violations than the number discovered in 2014.

What has been accomplished:

- Multiple task forces were utilized in 2015 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 12, 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 16, the Department received 150 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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Law Enforcement Administration & Boating Safety	3.0	\$ 423,511**
Law Enforcement Investigative Unit	6.0	\$ 709,143
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 1,132,654

* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

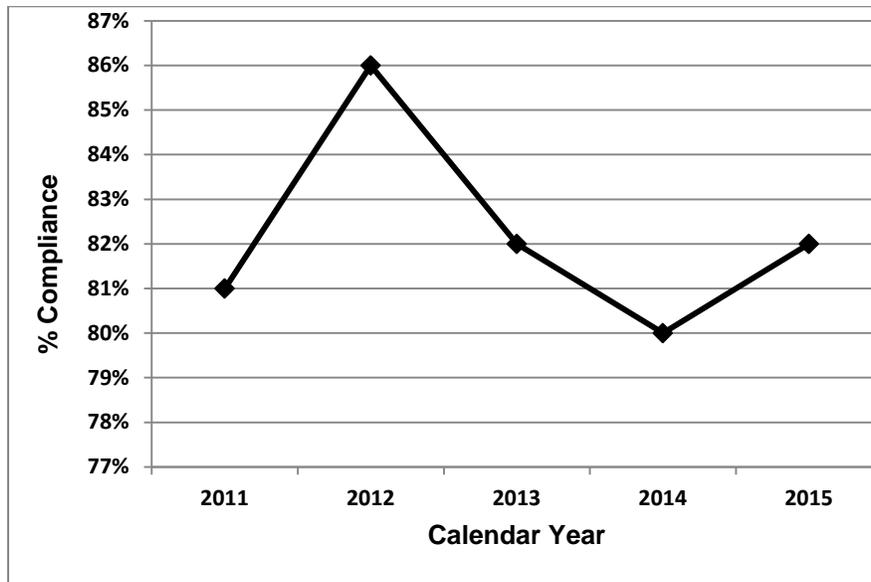
** Does not include federal cost share dollars.

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.

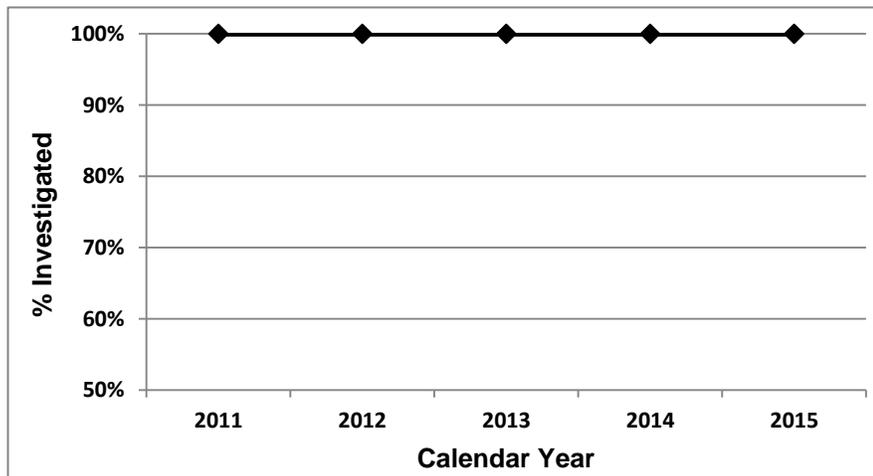
During 2015, seven game wardens each spent approximately five man-months of time on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Numerous senior game warden positions made up the remainder of Department efforts on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Funding is received annually from the Recreational Boating Safety Grant administered by 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 2015 were: failure to provide life jackets (185), failure to provide a throwable flotation device (99), operating an unnumbered boat (71), failure to provide a fire extinguisher (64), failure to operate watercraft in accordance with navigation rules (47), and operating a boat at night without lights (19).

What has been accomplished:

- Five game wardens were hired in 2015. 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 13 separate accidents that involved 19 vessels and 39 people, resulting in eight injuries and no 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 that the public assist Department officers in apprehending wildlife violators.

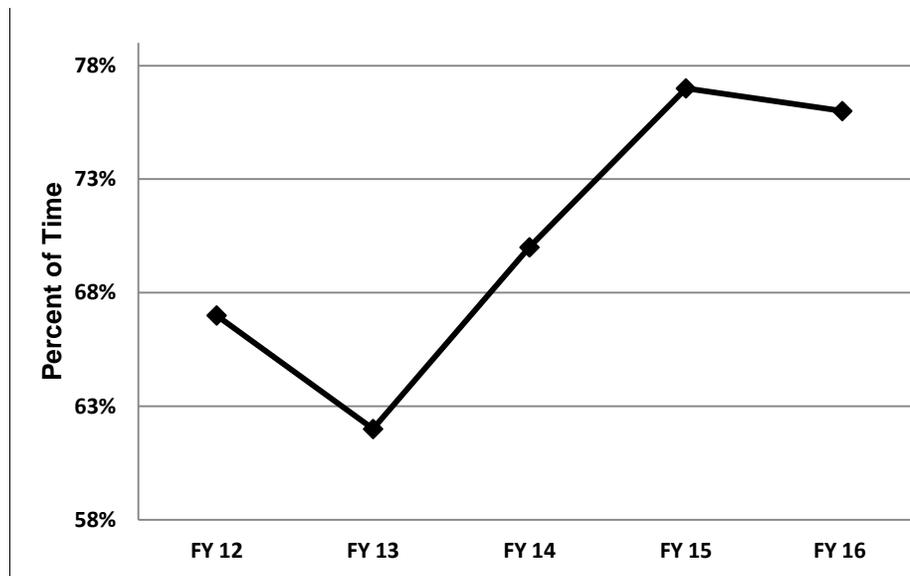
The Stop Poaching Program is based on a calendar year. The majority of these reports and subsequent cases are a direct result of the Department’s Stop Poaching Hotline. Some reports

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 2015, 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 2015. 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.
- An electronic Stop Poaching report tracking form was developed. Dispatchers relay information from a Stop Poaching call to the proper warden over the phone or email, fill out the report form, and email it to the warden. Once an investigation is complete, the warden completes the tracking form and sends it to law enforcement administration for tracking purposes. Previously, this process was done with a handwritten form through the mail. The electronic form has cut down on postage costs and improved the timeliness of receiving the completed reports from the field.

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 12, an average of 6,556 investigative hours were completed annually (69 percent). In FY 16, the WIU was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes and spent 8,358 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 8,358 hours working to solve wildlife crime (76 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 16 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Mgt	5.0	\$829,251
Terrestrial Nongame (CWCS)**	9.9	1,388,189
Migratory Game Bird (Waterfowl)	1.0	167,345
Trophy Game Management	8.0	1,388,940
Wolf Management	2.0	735,264
Sage-grouse Conservation	2.0	932,104
Predator Management	0.0	100,000
TOTAL	27.9	\$5,541,093

* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 16 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 (Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 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.

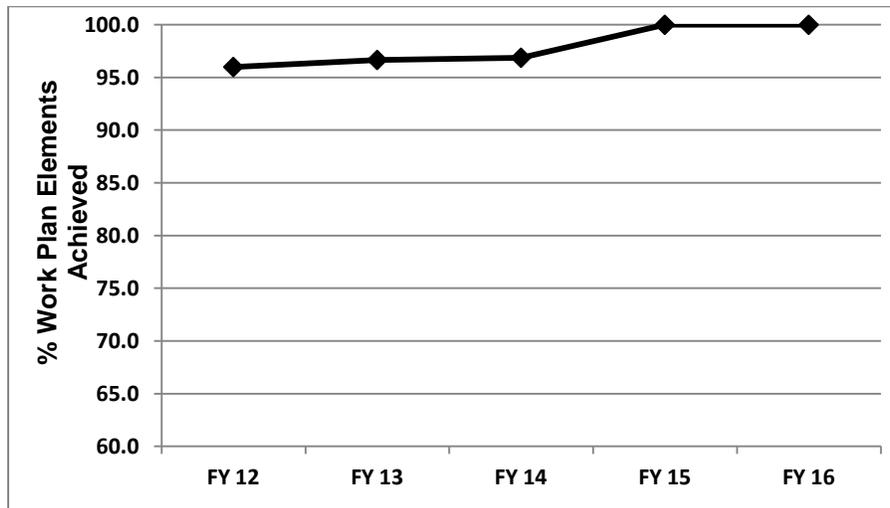
Primary Functions of the Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program:

- 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 12-FY 16), SWaHM has completed an average of 98 percent (167 of 170) of its major work plan elements. In FY 16, 100 percent (34 of 34) of major work plan elements were completed (see bulleted list below).

While the 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 16, these elements were:

SWaHM Work Unit

- 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, SWG, and Worth the Watching project review and approval.
- Help plan, attend, and contribute to supervisors and coordinators meetings.
- 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, Greater Sage-grouse, Big Game, 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.
- Provide technical support to Wildlife Division working groups including technical review and editing of management recommendations. Respond to internal and external requests for technical information as well as public information requests on a variety of topics.

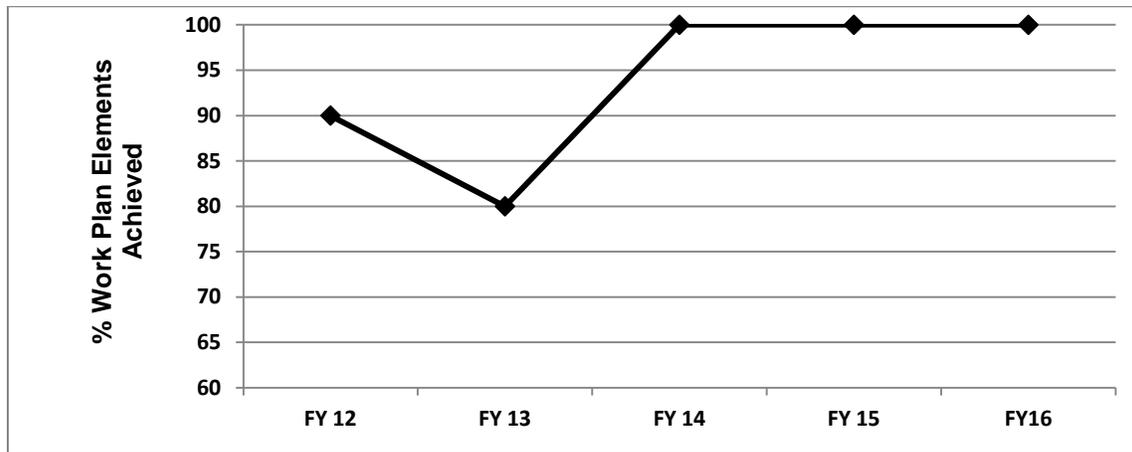
Sage-grouse

- 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 (ESA) 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.
- Run three mourning dove banding stations.

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: 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 12, the migratory game bird management sub-program completed an average of 94 percent of its annual major work plan elements. In FY 16, 100 percent (seven of seven) 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. In fall 2015, the USFWS converted to a single annual regulatory schedule. Final migratory game bird hunting frameworks are now published in the federal register in March 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, modified call-count survey for mourning doves, and mid-winter waterfowl surveys, as well as participating in the national mourning dove banding program. In FY 16, 231 doves were banded.

The annual budget was prepared and included funding to support the Central Flyway pre-season duck banding effort. Crews again banded ducks in North Dakota during FY 16.

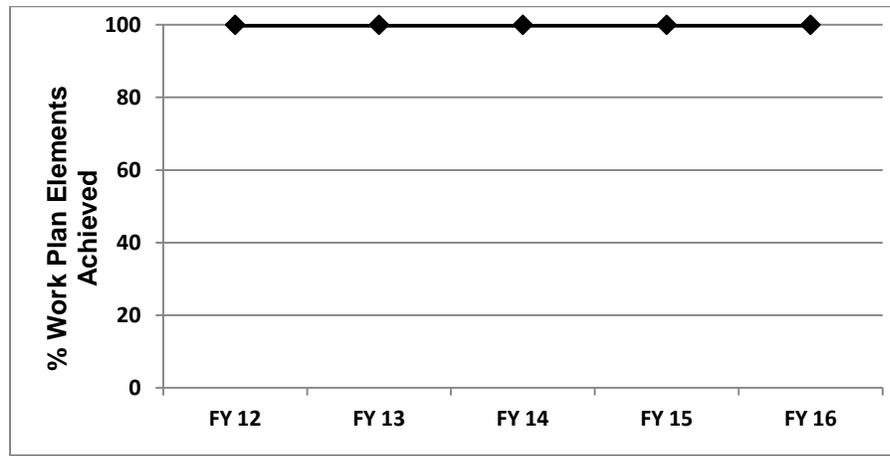
Another spring light goose hunting season was held in the Central Flyway portion of the state in accordance with the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act.

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, and 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 16 reporting cycle, the sub-program collected survey data on 29 of 46 mammal and 38 of 56 bird SGCN listed in Wyoming’s 2010 SWAP. These data will be used during the upcoming 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 ESA, 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 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 FY 16 there were no personnel changes in this sub-program.

What Has Been Accomplished:

During FY 16, 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 several sources of funding such as SWG, Governor's 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 (UW 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 16 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 demographic study of nesting long-billed curlews in Jackson was completed this fiscal year in partnership with the Intermountain Bird Observatory. Seven curlews were tagged and have been successfully tracked. An additional study was funded to continue this research in FY 17. The project was funded by legislatively allocated funds, Raynes Wildlife Fund, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funds, and the Wyoming Big Game License Coalition.
- Work on the Great Gray Owl SWG project was completed in June 2015, and a final report including habitat assessment/models was submitted fall 2015. Nesting surveys of known territories by the Teton Raptor Center (TRC) research unit continued in 2016, and a research proposal developed by the Department and TRC was submitted by the UW Coop Unit for SWG funding for a study to obtain additional fine-scale data on habitat use during the nesting season. This project was funded through SWG.
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) completed a statewide inventory of black-tailed prairie dogs in Wyoming. WEST analyzed 8,790 aerial photographs for presence of prairie dog colonies throughout the range of black-tailed prairie dogs in Wyoming. From this work, WEST estimated a total of 2,505 active colonies in Wyoming totaling 216,116 acres. Although different techniques were used for previous survey efforts, the number of occupied acres is similar to previous survey results. This project was funded by the Governor's ESA funds.
- The Department completed the final official season of the sylvatic plague vaccine trials in Meeteetse in 2015. During this survey, personnel captured and marked 1,069 prairie dogs over four 16.2-ha plots, for an estimated abundance of 15.0 to 26.7 prairie dogs per ha, which represents a fourfold increase in numbers from 2013. In addition to marking prairie dogs and collecting biological samples to evaluate titer levels and vaccine consumption, efforts to map and monitor white-tailed prairie dog colonies at the study site continued. The Department was subsequently asked to complete an additional season in 2016, which is on-going. Although prairie dog numbers have declined from 2015, and plague was positively documented on the landscape, prairie dog numbers outside the plots are still high, and preliminary observations suggest that the vaccine does temper the effects of plague compared to sites receiving a placebo. This project was funded through Competitive State Wildlife Grants.
- A research project funded to the University of Wyoming determining the impacts of invasive grass species on small mammal communities associated with grasslands in eastern Wyoming was completed in FY 16. High levels of cheatgrass cover tended to cause a shift in small

mammal communities, and species presence depended upon diet and patterns of locomotion. Cheatgrass also appeared to increase predation risk, causing shifts in foraging and behavior patterns for small mammals. This project was funded through SWG.

- A project designed to develop a model to evaluate the risk of bat roosts to White-nose Syndrome (WNS) was completed in FY 16. Personnel identified model variables and deployed temperature loggers into known bat hibernacula. The final model displays locations at varying risk of contracting WNS throughout the state and resulted in a GIS model and database that can be updated as new data are collected or Department knowledge of the importance of different variables improves. This project was funded through SWG.
- In FY 16, the Department completed the second year of a two year project to inventory and improve understanding of bats associated with cliff and canyon habitats in eastern Wyoming. During 2015, the Department captured over 200 individuals, which, with acoustic detections, represented eight different species. Efforts to monitor known hibernacula of bats throughout the state also continued. In the winter of 2015-2016, personnel surveyed 18 hibernacula, including five previously unknown hibernacula, and documented three species of hibernating bats. This project was funded through SWG.
- A project was completed that evaluated 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. Although the hope was that identification through hair samples could provide a non-invasive technique to evaluate the distribution of shrew species, results showed that only one species was identifiable through this technique. The Department developed a manual with photos and descriptions of all guard hairs for each species of shrew in Wyoming to use as a reference. This project was funded through SWG.
- 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 FY 15, 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.
- In cooperation with the UW 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 UW 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 UW 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.
- In addition to species-specific surveys that target SGCN, long-term monitoring efforts continue in Wyoming using the national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and the regional Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) programs. The BBS was initiated in 1968 in Wyoming, with 65 surveys completed in 2015 by volunteers from various state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the public. Observers detected 32,668 individual birds representing 191 species in the state, including SGCN. The IMBCR program covers all or part of 13 western states using a collaborative partnership of state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations to track populations of all regularly breeding birds within the study area. In Wyoming, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies oversees the program with funds provided by the Department, BLM, SWG, and United States Forest Service, with Wyoming Natural Diversity Database providing field survey assistance. In 2015, field technicians completed 2,972 point counts on 241 of the 242 planned survey grids in Wyoming (99.6%), covering a total of 253,747 km². Technicians detected 216 species, including 34 SGCN. Bird Conservancy biometricians estimated occupancy for 158 species, including 20 SGCN. Data provided robust estimates for 95 species, including nine SGCN. Biometricians estimated density and population size for 159 species, including 20 SGCN. Data provided robust estimates for 80 species, including seven SGCN.
- The Department, in collaboration with the USFWS, finalized a statewide 10(j) rule that would allow all black-footed ferrets in Wyoming to be designated as experimental, non-essential. Following the finalization of this rule, the Department re-established and met with the Wyoming Black-footed Ferret Working Group to begin discussions on how to collaborate on ferret recovery efforts in the state. The Department also began efforts for a reintroduction of ferrets to Meeteetse, including developing and finalizing a management plan, completing on-the-ground survey efforts, and coordinating dusting for fleas for plague management. Releases of ferrets occurred on July 26, 2016. Additionally, the Department attended two national ferret meetings, including the Conservation Subcommittee and Sylvatic Plague Vaccine Subcommittee. A continuing project initiated in 2005 is to establish shallow water wetland habitats in the Green River Basin for the growing population of resident trumpeter swans and up to 20 other SGCN, including ducks, waterbirds, raptors, and moose. An initial site review was completed near Big Piney with a willing landowner and a WLCI grant proposal developed with the Green River Land Trust in spring 2016. Swans nested on three project sites in 2016. 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 National Resources Conservation Service. The original planning effort to initiate this work was funded through SWG. 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 Department conducts annual monitoring of project wetland sites.

- Work on the 2012 Upper Green River Standard North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant is nearing completion. A one-year grant extension was requested and received to complete easement and wetland project work. The Department worked with the landowner and partners on the Wild Red wetland project, which was filled in spring 2016, and received approval for an alternative easement project in LaBarge Creek. This project is a substitute for an approved easement that was completed without using the allocated NAWCA dollars. Project work is scheduled to be completed in July 2017
- The common loon monitoring and research project, started in 2013 in partnership with Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), is continuing. The annual Wyoming Loon Working Group meeting was held in Yellowstone National Park in May 2016 to review last year's achievements and on-going work for the 2016 nesting season. In 2015, BRI and partners documented 17 territorial pairs. Of these, 15 nested and hatched 11 chicks, of which nine survived (half of the production compared to the previous year). A total of five adults and three chicks were captured using nocturnal capture methods with assistance from Department personnel. Monitoring of all known and potential nesting habitat continued in spring/summer 2016. Nest platforms were also placed at a few locations that lacked secure nest sites. The overall 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.
- 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.
- 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 coordinator has been heavily involved in revisions to SWAP species accounts and assisting with information transfer between the Department and WYNDD. Funding was provided through Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations
- The Department completed the first of a two-year effort to document wolverines throughout the Bighorn and western mountains of Wyoming. Personnel used remote cameras coupled with bait and lure to attract and document wolverines at 25 survey stations. Wolverines were documented at 3 stations in the southern half of the study area. The survey will be completed during the winter of 2016-2017. This project is part of a collaborative effort with Idaho, Montana, and Washington to develop a baseline model for wolverines that can be used to monitor trends over time. This project in Wyoming was funded through Wyoming State Legislature general fund appropriations.
- A graduate project to estimate the black-backed woodpecker population in the Black Hills of South Dakota continued. In 2015, the field crew distributed 124 black-backed woodpecker transects across the Black Hills in South Dakota (n = 100) and Wyoming (n = 24). Three rounds of surveys were conducted on each transect. In the Wyoming portion of the study

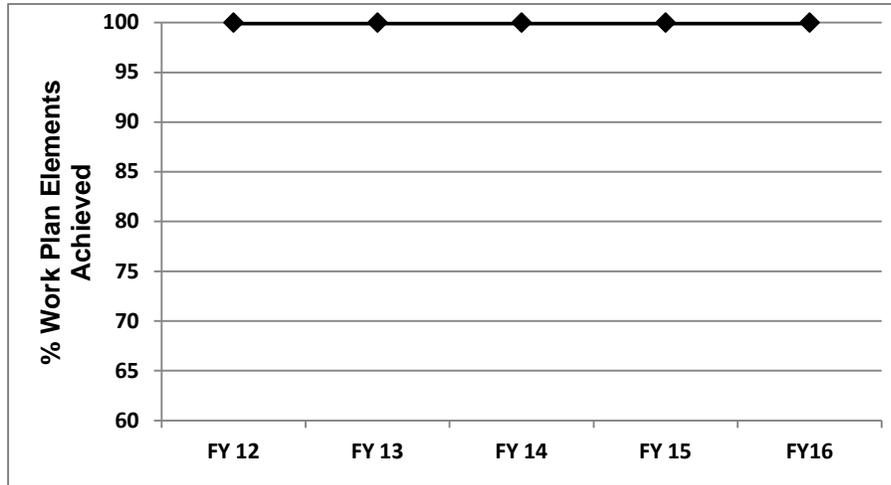
area, a total of 24 black-backed woodpeckers were detected. Surveys will continue in 2016. This project is funded through the Governors ESA funds.

- The Department continued monitoring surveys for Preble's meadow jumping mouse in Wyoming. These surveys will help to better understand survival, density, and potential for competition with the closely related western jumping mouse in the state. The Department also participated on the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Recovery Team and completed the first draft of the recovery plan, which was published in FY 16. Efforts to address public comments and complete the final recovery plan are on-going.

The nongame sub-program initiated several projects in FY 16 that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- In June, the Department initiated the first year of a two-year project to survey bats throughout the Zone of Integration of eastern and western bat species in eastern Wyoming. This project is in collaboration with the state of Nebraska and will be completed in FY 18. This project is funded through a Competitive State Wildlife Grants.
- The Department initiated a project to increase records of occurrence and evaluate distribution, genetics, and habitat requirements of water voles in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming. This project follows a pilot project conducted in 2014, and will expand upon results from that survey effort. This project will be completed in 2016. This project was funded through SWG.
- In 2015, the University of Wyoming and the WYNDD initiated a project funded through the Wyoming Governor's ESA funds to evaluate capture techniques, distribution, occupancy, and habitat of small mammals associated with arid shrublands throughout the state. During the first field season, over 4,000 individuals were captured, representing 19 different species. All target species were detected to varying degrees throughout the summer. The second field season is currently underway, and the project is expected to be completed by fall 2017.
- The Department contracted with the WYNDD to conduct range-wide occupancy surveys for white-tailed prairie dogs in Wyoming. These surveys conform to recommended survey protocols and will provide a baseline from which trends can be assessed over time. Surveys will be completed this fall. This project was funded through legislatively appropriated funds, five-year USFWS funds, and through SWG.
- The Department initiated a survey of birds and small mammals associated with piñon-juniper and rock outcrops in southwestern Wyoming. Surveys for 10 avian juniper obligate species have been completed for 2016, and small mammal surveys are currently on-going. The field effort will be completed in the fall of 2017. This project was funded through SWG.
- The Department is working in coordination with the University of Wyoming to examine the abundance of black rosy-finches across latitudinal and alpine habitat gradients. This project was funded by SWG.

Performance Measure #4: Trophy Game Management, Monitoring, 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, capturing 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.

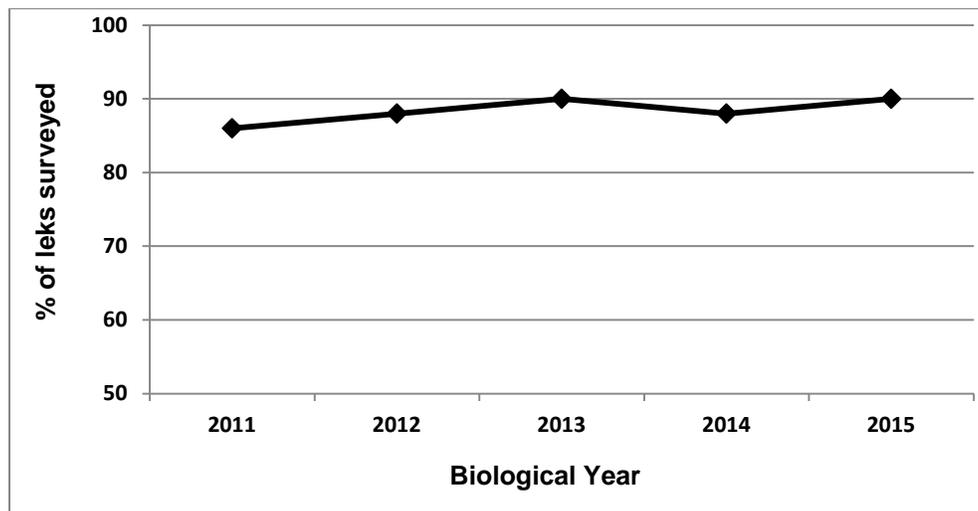
What has been accomplished:

- Conducted trapping of grizzly and black bears for monitoring purposes in Squirrel Meadows in the Caribou Targhee National Forest, Fox Park in the Bridger Teton National Forest, and in the northwestern part of the Wind River Reservation, primarily in the Crow Creek drainage.
- 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.
- Initiated evaluation of a noninvasive monitoring strategy for black bears in the Greys River area using genetic methodologies to estimate abundance.
- Conducted numerous information and education programs relative to bear, mountain lion, and wolf ecology, management, and human safety/awareness.
- Managed 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 mountain lions throughout Wyoming.
- Assisted personnel from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks with mountain lion monitoring techniques in the Black Hills.
- Initiated mountain lion monitoring efforts in the Green River region to evaluate the efficacy of using infrared camera technology to detect mountain lions.
- 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 the IGBST on grizzly bear location data and verification of all 2015 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 the 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 International Bear Association meeting held in Alaska.
- Worked closely with multiple media outlets for stories and interviews regarding large carnivore monitoring and management throughout Wyoming.
- Updated information in the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan and presented information to the public at multiple meetings culminating with a final plan presented to and approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in Casper, Wyoming.
- Developed grizzly bear management regulations (Chapter 67) that would serve as the foundation for grizzly bear management and regulatory mechanisms to maintain a recovered grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem should delisting occur.

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 2016 (end of biological year 2015), there were 1,855 known occupied sage-grouse leks in Wyoming. Department personnel, together with personnel from other agencies, volunteers, and consultants, surveyed 90 percent of these leks at least once. The proportion of leks checked in the previous 10 years (biological years 2005-2014) averaged 86 percent. In the spring of 2016, 1,237 leks were confirmed active, 291 confirmed inactive, and 146 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 2016, the average number of males on “count” leks was 36/active lek, 16 percent greater than the 31/active lek observed in the spring of 2015, suggesting a population increase. While 34/active lek is well below the recent high of 42/active lek in the spring of 2006, it remains substantially higher than the low of 13/active lek reported in 1996 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.

Following a lengthy process, in September 2015, the USFWS issued a decision of “not warranted” for listing greater sage-grouse as threatened or endangered under the ESA. This means the State of Wyoming maintains management authority over sage-grouse in Wyoming and management emphasis focuses on implementation of the core area strategy (described below). In its decision document, the Service specifically cited Wyoming’s core area strategy as a mechanism that, if implemented as envisioned, should ensure conservation of sage-grouse in Wyoming and therefore help preclude the need for a future listing. The Service plans to re-examine the issue after five years (~2020) to ensure planned conservation efforts are implemented and the status of the species remains unwarranted for listing.

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 Local Working Groups (LWG). 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 (FY 16) that replaced 2011-4.

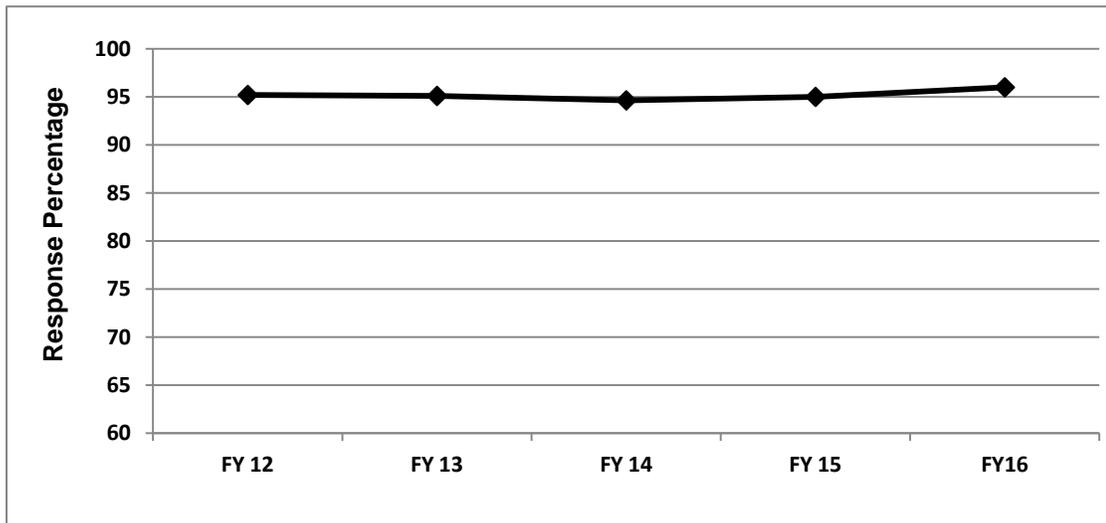
- Implementation of the Executive Order and the core area management concept has resulted in state and federal agency policy and stipulation changes, modifications of projects being implemented by the oil and gas industry, and curtailment or modification of some wind energy developments. These changes and modifications are reported by the habitat protection program.
- The eight 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, over 200 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 Job completion Reports 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. A new sage-grouse population model has been developed by the University of Montana for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sage-grouse Technical Committee and the Rangewide Interagency Sage-grouse Conservation Team. This model will be tested and applied as appropriate to the sage-grouse population in Wyoming in the coming year.

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. While all reported conflicts were noted, not all required a response which accounts for the less than 100% response rate. All conflicts reported to the Large Carnivore Section are addressed by some form of action that may be limited to a discussion or notation within the conflict database. 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 2011-2015, 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 and monthly updates related to grizzly bear management activities. All of these updates are provided to the public through the Department's website
- 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 Bear Wise Wyoming program, conducting multiple safety presentations, workshops, and symposia.
- Worked with sportsmen's groups to provide free bear spray to hunters in Cody, Wyoming.
- 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.
- Worked with multiple non-governmental organizations regarding proper messaging and collaboration on proactive measures to reduce conflicts between large carnivores and people.
- Assisted Department regional personnel on large carnivore conflict resolutions in areas where large carnivore section personnel are not permanently stationed.
- Conducted immobilization training specific to large carnivores at the Department's immobilization class at the Sybille Research Facility.
- Provided an 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.
- Conducted multiple informational presentations for the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regarding damage compensation and also represented the Department during arbitration of damage payment hearings.
- Met personally with landowners to assist with the damage compensation process.
- Responded to large carnivore conflicts throughout Wyoming and also documented the highest conflict year to date for large carnivores and humans in Wyoming.
- Assisted with multiple law enforcement investigation both at the state and federal level regarding black bears, mountain lions, grizzly bears, and wolves.
- Conducted Predator Attack Team (PAT) training for Department personnel in Cody, Wyoming; updated the PAT guidelines for field response to attacks on humans.
- Due to the high nature of conflicts between humans and bears during the reporting period, the section stepped up educational efforts throughout Wyoming and through internet based information to provide for proactive measures to reduce conflicts between humans and bears.
- Provided bear safety information to sportsmen who received elk hunting tags through the mail system.

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 16 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Strategic Management**	1.0	\$ 162,970

** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

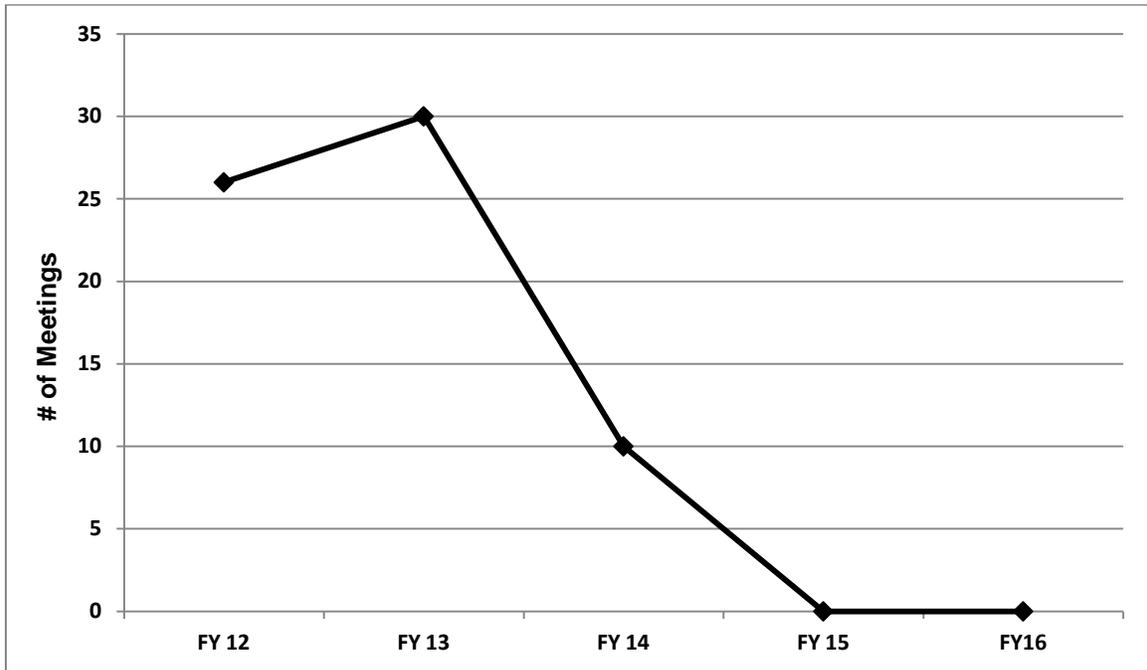
*** The Strategic Management Program and Planning Coordinator have been combined into one program. Budget numbers are also reported in the Department Administration Program Report.*

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.

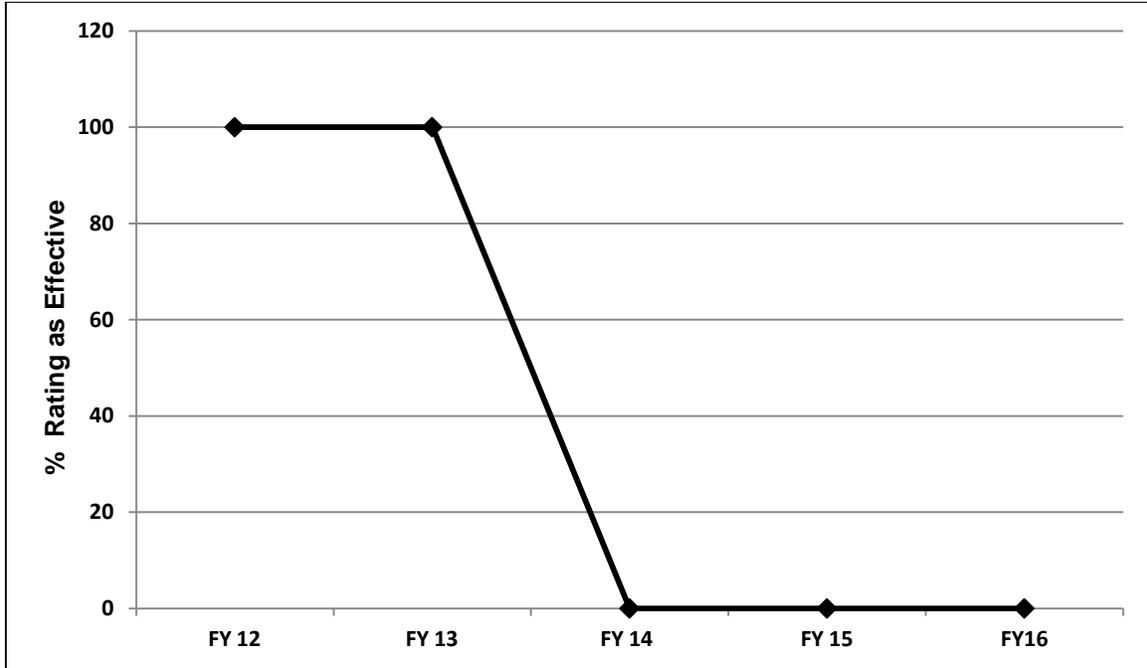
Performance Measure #1: Quarterly meetings held with divisions to determine data needs (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 20 meetings are held each year).



Story behind the performance:

In FY 14, the Human Dimensions Coordinator (HDC) switched much of her focus to help 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, FY 15, or FY16. 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 2016 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Office Management	21.5	\$ 1,531,712
Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings	2.5	1,434,842
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,966,554

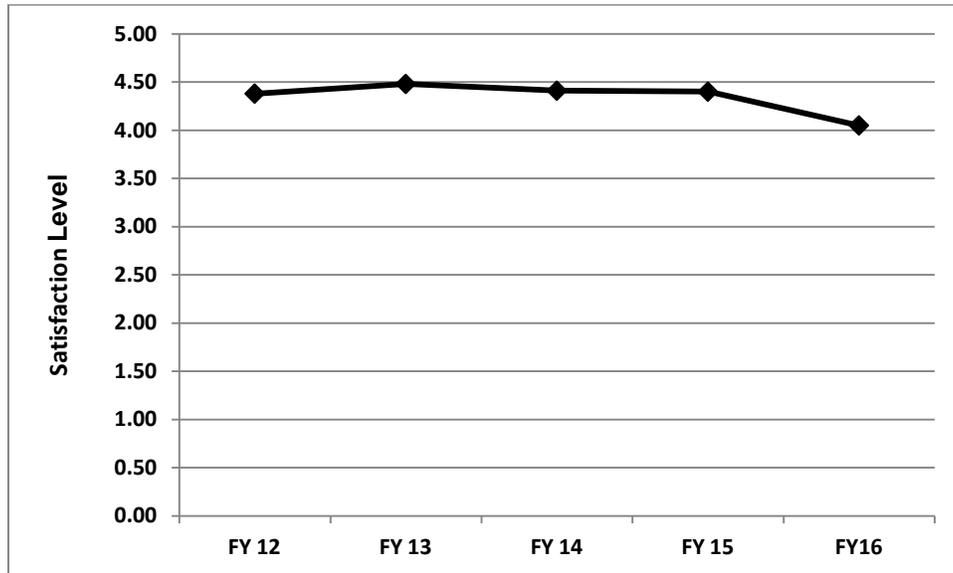
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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.

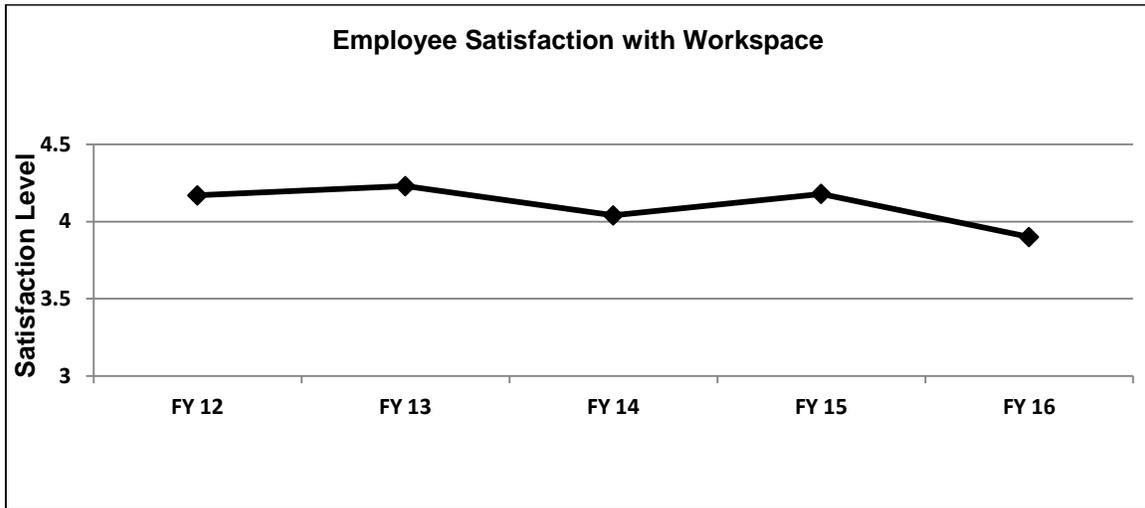


Story behind the performance:

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. 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 16, the regional offices received a score of 4.05 on a scale of 5 (Very Satisfied) to 1 (Very Dissatisfied) based on employee satisfaction with the level of regional office management support. The survey shows a decline of less than one-half point from last year, indicating essentially the same level of satisfaction. Based on these survey results, the majority of regional office personnel are 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:

In Pinedale, a lot of work was done to improve the regional office. A new front entry door was installed to replace the old one that was not energy efficient and in disrepair. The old automated door entry system was replaced with an electronic keypad at the rear entrance. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is showing its age and maintenance on the multiple units is frequent. The lights in the office were replaced and updated to accept new, more energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. Electrical upgrades, which include additional outlets, were installed at the shop to accommodate campers and to reduce usage of extension cords.

The Jackson Regional Office continues to have maintenance issues with the HVAC system in the main office, but work is occurring towards a solution. The heaters in the main shop and Fish Division storage shop were replaced in FY 16. Plumbing work and electrical updates were also performed in the main shop.

The Green River Regional Office made several improvements to better utilize current structures at the facility in 2016. A loft addition was constructed in an empty pole barn that was built a few years ago, gaining more storage space and organization for the Fish Division. In addition to the loft, a concrete floor was poured which had been gravel. An interior/exterior handicap automatic door opener was installed on the front doors of the regional office for better access for individuals needing assistance. A snow plow was purchased to keep the parking lot clear of snow, making a much safer parking area. These improvements were not only necessary, but extremely important for increasing value and functionality.

During FY 16, the exterior areas of the Cody Regional Office received several needed improvements. Drainage issues around the shop area and new asphalt in the parking lot were addressed. Other drainage problems at the front of the office were fixed by installing new concrete and grading. The north employee parking lot was re-surfaced with gravel to reduce

mud in the parking and walking areas. In addition, pipe was installed to reduce flooding in and around the modular office areas. Also, in FY 16, the carpets were cleaned in all the offices in the compound. A keyless entry system was installed in the main office for added security. Shelving was installed in the cold storage building to better organize equipment and create additional storage.

During FY 16, the Casper Regional Office had many demands placed upon the facilities resulting in constant repairs, security issues, and required updates. These often created challenges for the Casper Regional Office staff. Frequently, the individual maintenance specialist must deal with unforeseen repairs to office and vehicle equipment; repairs to the heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical operations; landscaping (lawn sprinklers, tree trimming); and concrete and parking area repairs. The office added three security cameras and updated the locks for all entrances to address the serious and well documented security issues at the Casper Regional Office. The office continues to see an increase in meetings held in the building by Department employees along with many state, federal, and local agencies including after-hours hunting and angling groups and hunter safety classes. On numerous occasions, there will be five different meetings held in the building at one time and may include over 100 people attending these various meetings. Office and shop space is very limited, especially in the summer months with contract employees associated with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and state wildlife programs. The recent opening of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Historical Center has increased the amount of walk-in traffic into the office from individuals, interest groups, and school groups. The parking lot also serves as a public parking area for people utilizing the North Platte River Parkway. People have been documented utilizing the parking lot for the parkway seven days a week and 24 hours a day.

There were no improvements made at the Sheridan Regional Office during FY 16. Office space was available to provide for an adequate work space for all employees.

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 is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 16 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
Laboratory Services	7.0	\$ 831,033
Veterinary Services	15.0	\$ 1,902,748
TOTAL	22.0	\$ 2,733,781

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 16 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).

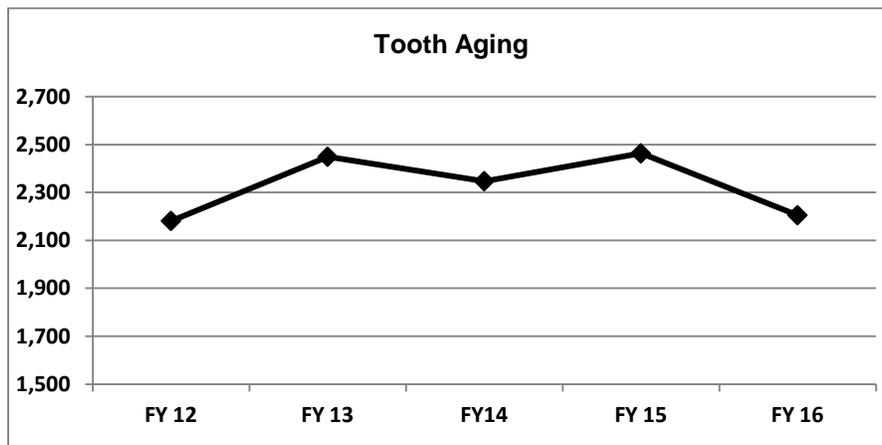
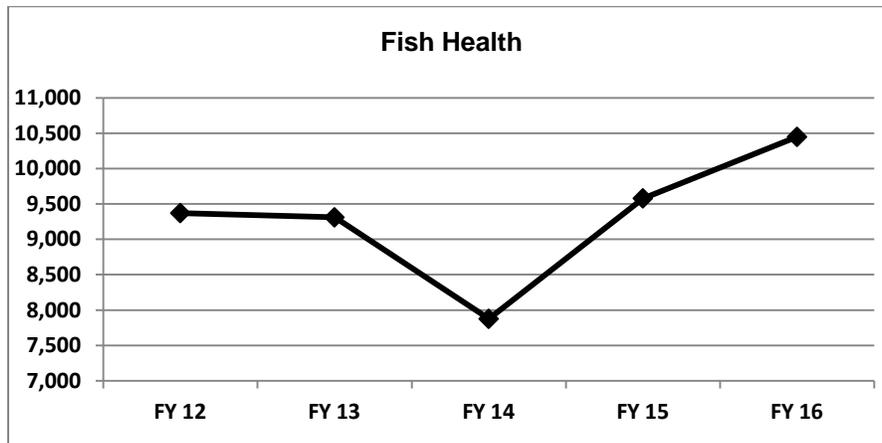
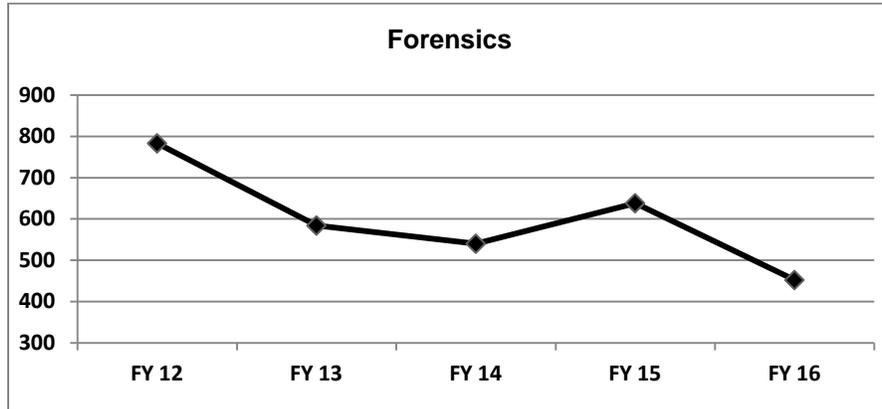
Laboratory Services is located on the University of Wyoming campus. Veterinary Services spans three locations: The wildlife disease laboratory is located at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, the research unit is located at the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Unit at Sybille, and numerous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

Primary Functions of the Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program:

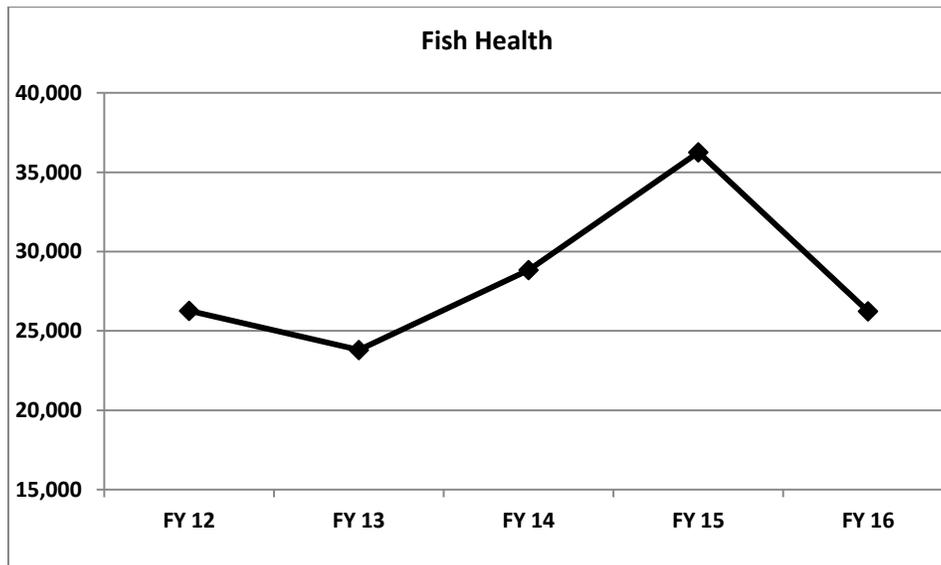
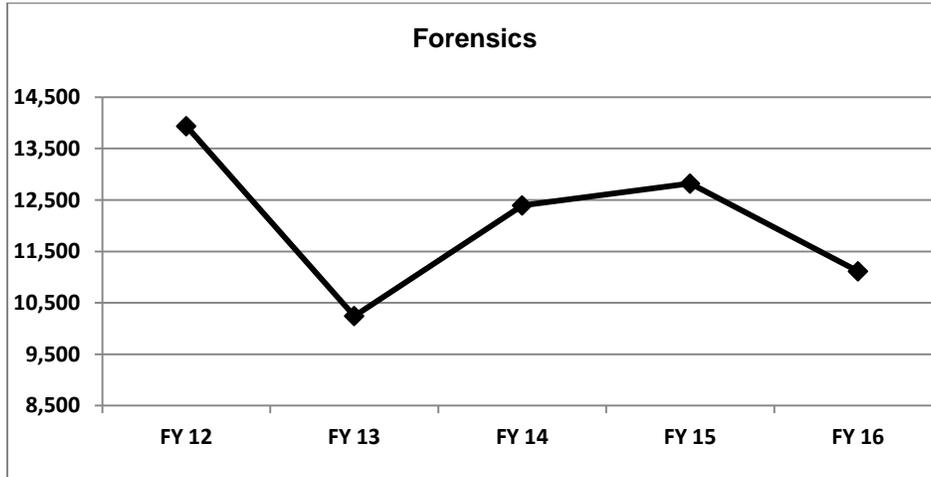
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting on diseases and implementing disease control measures for wildlife and fish species for which the Department has statutory authority to regulate.
- **Enhance and protect the integrity 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 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 that it can be of service to both 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 16 when compared with FY 15. The laboratory continues to train new game wardens and explain the laboratory's capabilities. It also continues to sign on new states and currently analyzes forensic evidence for nine states in addition to Wyoming including Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota, and Minnesota. It should be noted that the laboratory is unbiased and neutral and this is the reason that Wildlife Forensics resides in the 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. This year, the number of tests performed is back in-line with the five-year average. 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 increased back to the five-year average of 41 cases which is an increase from the record low of 28 cases last year. (FY 15 had 28 cases, FY 14 had 44 cases, FY 13 had 45 cases, and FY 12 had 53 cases). This increase is hard to explain, but most of the cases involved in diagnostics are due to bacterial cold water 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 three 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. Currently there are 28 scientists in the world that are certified. 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. SWGWILD has been disbanded and has been converted into two different programs; the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) (as described in the next paragraph) which deals with consensus driven standards and guidelines for domestic wildlife forensic laboratories and scientists and the Technical Working Group for Wildlife Forensics which is doing the same thing for the international community.

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 and the Department of Justice 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 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 subcommittee and the Forensic Analyst is a member of the forensic subcommittee as well as the liaison to the Human Factors Resource Committee. The Forensic Program Manager will take over the position as the chair of the wildlife subcommittee starting in September of 2016. The Laboratory Director is the Executive Secretary for the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee. For most scientific working groups dealing with human forensics, the OSAC will be replacing the scientific working group organizations. The wildlife subcommittee is working through the SWGWILD Standards and Guidelines utilizing the OSAC process to get them on the Federal Registry. They currently have the General Wildlife Standards in the process of going through a Standards Developing Organization with several other documents ready to move forward soon.

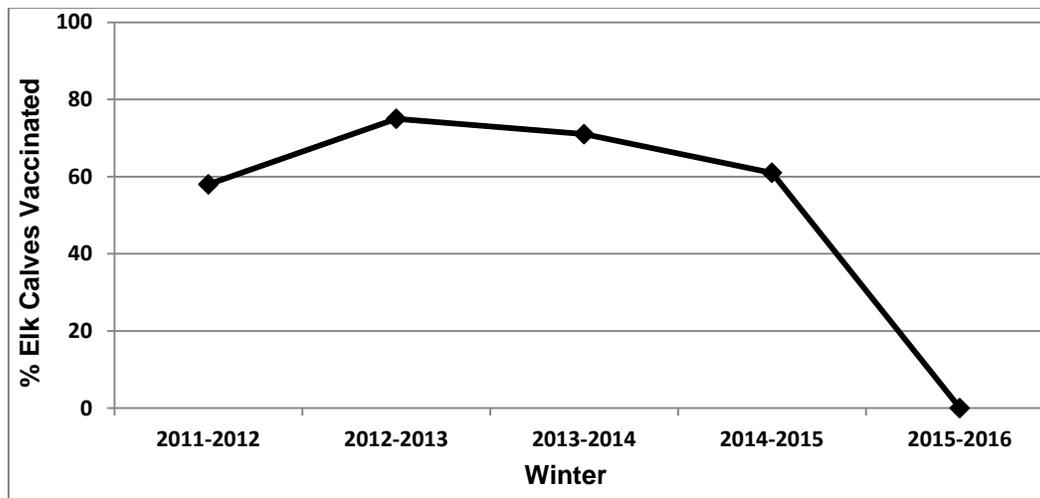
The Fish Health Section continues to study the AFS Blue Book requirements and continuously changes and improves the protocols of the fish health laboratory to bring it up to this standard. While this has significantly increased the workload in this section, it will serve to increase the credibility of the laboratory. The Aquatic Animal Health Inspector has passed his national boards and is currently certified through AFS as an Aquatic Animal Health Inspector. The Fish Health Biologist has been accepted to take the same test and should be certified by the end of 2016. The Fish Health Program Coordinator continues to work toward certification as an AFS Fish Health Pathologist.

The fish health section is also working on a registry system through the AFS. This registry continues to be a work in progress for AFS and the Wyoming Game and Fish, Fish Health

laboratory. The Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic Laboratory is currently one of three laboratories in the country that have achieved a Tier One Registry. Fish Health will continue to work on meeting the established standards and guidelines of Tier Two while AFS continues to work on finishing these requirements.

All three sections continue to work on updating all protocols into International Organization for Standardization 17025 format. This is a very time consuming process, but much progress has been made in this area of the laboratory. The Forensic Analyst is also working on a QA/QC manual that will be a part of the accreditation process for all areas of the laboratory.

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:

Brucella abortus is a bacterium causing brucellosis, a disease endemic in elk and bison in portions of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. Transmission of brucellosis typically occurs orally when susceptible animals contact an infected aborted fetus, which is the characteristic symptom of the disease. Supplemental winter feeding of elk in western Wyoming congregates animals during the brucellosis transmission period (February through June), and elk attending feedgrounds demonstrate elevated prevalence of the disease. When brucellosis spills over from wildlife to cattle, substantial economic losses for Wyoming’s cattle producers can result. Thus, the Department implements management actions to reduce transmission of the disease, including providing elk-proof fencing materials to producers, conducting habitat treatments to reduce elk dependency on supplemental feed, using low-density feeding methods to reduce brucellosis transmission events, and truncating the feeding season on select feedgrounds where risk of elk-cattle commingling is low to reduce the period of dense aggregation.

Prior to winter 2015-2016, vaccination of elk on feedgrounds during winter was a primary management technique. From controlled studies, vaccination of elk with *Brucella abortus* strain

19 was shown to reduce abortion rates. The ballistic elk vaccination program was initiated in 1985, and after 30 years and nearly 100,000 elk vaccinated, an evaluation on efficacy of the program revealed: 1) there was no difference in brucellosis prevalence of vaccinated versus unvaccinated elk, 2) there was no difference in brucellosis prevalence of elk pre- versus post-vaccination, and, 3) there was no significant difference in the abortion rate of vaccinated versus unvaccinated elk populations. The observed lack of efficacy and the fact that the sole provider of the vaccination equipment was forced to terminate its ballistic delivery division resulted in the cessation of the elk vaccination program.

What has been accomplished:

During winter 2014-2015, ballistic delivery of *Brucella abortus* strain 19 did not occur on winter elk feedgrounds due to lack of availability of vaccination supplies and a lack of efficacy of the vaccine in reducing abortion rates and incidence of the disease.

Data development agenda:

A new performance measure will be generated for Veterinary Services in the next report.

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 2015

Population: 6,210^a
Population Objective: 7,475^b
Harvest: 154
Hunters: 193
Success Rate 80%
Recreation Days: 1,831
Days/Animal: 12
Licenses Sold: 195

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$171,256
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$1,673,227
Total Program Revenue: \$1,844,483
Program Costs: \$2,448,326

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 10 herds with population models, two herds with a trend count objective, and field personnel estimates of two herds with a limited opportunity objective.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 12 herds with population and trend count objectives.

The estimated statewide population of bighorn sheep increased slightly from 2014. 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 2015 bighorn sheep harvest decreased from 2014, and was below the five-year average (182). 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 equaled 2014 and the five-year average. Hunter effort increased in 2015, and was above the five-year average (10.6 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 (\$)
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
2015	154	1,831	80%	12	195	2016	171,256	2,448,326

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$579,807), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

BISON

Calendar Year 2015

Population: 630
Population Objective: 500
Harvest: 206
Hunters: 288
Success Rate: 72%
Recreation Days: 2,111
Days/Animal: 10.2
Licenses Sold: 309

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$204,580
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$32,997
Total Program Revenue: \$237,577
Program Costs: \$179,328

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 2014. 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.

Bison hunting in 2015 returned to more normal conditions. Bison harvest decreased 31 percent from 2014, and was also lower than the five year average (227). Hunter success in 2015 decreased greatly, and was below the five-year average (80 percent). Hunter effort was 10.2 days/bison harvested, much higher than in 2014, and higher than the five-year average (8.3 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 (\$)
2011	194	1,542	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
2015	206	2,111	72%	10.2	309	2016	204,580	179,328

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$3,763), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ELK

Calendar Year 2015

Population: 113,300^a
Population Objective: 79,525^b
Harvest: 24,749
Hunters: 58,959
Success Rate: 42%
Recreation Days: 482,809
Days/Animal: 19.5
Licenses Sold: 72,038

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$9,924,305
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$9,892,538
Total Program Revenue: \$19,816,843
Program Costs: \$16,626,500

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

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 14 herds with a post hunt population objective and the 14 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, 6 of 34 elk herds with complete data are below objective, the rest are at or above objective.

Harvest decreased to 24,749 elk in 2015, and dropped below the five-year average harvest of 25,263. Hunter success decreased to 42 percent, and dropped below the five-year average (43 percent). Hunter effort (days/animal) increased in 2015 to 19.5 days, above the five-year average (18.5 days/animal). Recreation days decreased, but were still above the five-year average (467,236).

Management strategies will continue to focus on decreasing elk statewide, except in the herds at or below 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 (\$)
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
2015	24,749	482,809	42%	19.5	72,038	2016	9,924,305	16,626,500

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$1,151,612), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MOOSE

Calendar Year 2015

Population: 3,470^a
Population Objective: 4,355^b
Harvest: 365
Hunters: 411
Success Rate: 89%
Recreation Days: 3,431
Days/Animal: 9.4
Licenses Sold: 430

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$183,538
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$992,854
Total Program Revenue: \$1,106,392
Program Costs: \$1,041,230

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

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the two herds with a post hunt population objective and four 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 2015 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 again in 2015, hunter success decreased, and hunter effort (days per animal) increased. The 2015 hunter success equaled the five-year average (89 percent), and hunter effort was above the average (8.7 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 (\$)
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
2015	365	3,431	89%	9.4	430	2016	183,538	1,041,230

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$18,805), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MULE DEER

Calendar Year 2015

Population: 407,000^a
Population Objective: 481,600^b
Harvest: 28,316
Hunters: 49,859
Success Rate: 57%
Recreation Days: 246,279
Days/Animal: 8.7
Licenses Sold: 69,151

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$7,725,901
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$7,862,094
Total Program Revenue: \$15,587,995
Program Costs: \$8,884,624

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

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 33 herds with a post hunt population objective.

Wyoming's estimated mule deer population has rebounded somewhat to stand at approximately 85 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 (MDI). Each region now has at least one herd where the MDI is being implemented. 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 again in 2015, and rose above the five-year average of 27,096. Hunter success increased to 57 percent, and remained above the five-year average of 52 percent. Hunter effort decreased in 2015, and dropped below the five-year average (9.6 days/animal). The Department has been working to address access and habitat issues through its Access Yes (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 (\$)
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
2015	28,316	246,279	57%	8.7	69,151	2016	7,725,901	8,884,624

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 (\$106,645), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

PRONGHORN

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	407,400^a	License Revenue:	\$4,664,366
Population Objective:	429,200^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$5,539,735
Harvest:	35,648	Total Program Revenue:	\$10,204,101
Hunters:	38,211	Program Costs:	\$4,009,107
Success Rate:	93%		
Recreation Days:	144,511		
Days/Animal:	4.1		
Licenses Sold:	48,452		

^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 one herd with incomplete data.

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

In 2015, Wyoming's total estimated statewide pronghorn population was 407,400 animals compared to the objective of 429,200. The estimated state population increased in 2015, and is now about 5 percent below the state-wide objective. Much of the state had improved precipitation and habitat conditions in 2015. 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 slightly decreased license quotas in 2015; 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 (Access Yes) Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program. The 2015 harvest of 35,648 animals was a slight increase from the previous year, but still well below the five-year average (43,508). Hunter effort increased slightly to 4.1 days per animal harvested, which is still above the five-year average of 3.9 days/animal, while the success rate equaled the previous year and is above the five-year average (92%).

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 (\$)
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
2015	35,648	144,511	93%	4.1	48,452	2016	4,664,366	4,009,107

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$9,909), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	485^a	License Revenue:	\$42,242
Population Objective:	320^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$48,427
Harvest:	31	Total Program Revenue:	\$90,669
Hunters:	31	Program Costs:	\$151,775
Success Rate:	100%		
Recreation Days:	180		
Days/Animal:	5.8		
Licenses Sold:	34		

^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 (\$)
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
2015	31	180	100%	5.8	34	2016	42,242	151,775

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$5,773) and interest earned on Department cash balances.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	83,000^a	License Revenue:	\$412,007
Population Objective:	55,000^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$31,717
Harvest:	16,662	Total Program Revenue:	\$443,724
Hunters:	25,716	Program Costs:	\$686,664
Success Rate:	65%		
Recreation Days:	113,949		
Days/Animal:	6.8		
Licenses Sold:	10,522		

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

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the one herd 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 2015 white-tailed deer hunting season was the best of the last five years. The harvest and success rate were the highest seen in those five years, and the effort to harvest a white-tailed deer was the lowest. All the hunting statistics indicated an increase in population, and possibly increased access to hunt them.

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 (\$)
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
2015	16,662	113,949	65%	6.8	10,522	2016	412,007	686,664

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 (\$782), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

TROPHY GAME

Black Bear
Grizzly Bear
Mountain Lion
Gray Wolf

BLACK BEAR

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$311,891
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$300,028
Harvest:	453	Total Program Revenue:	\$611,919
Hunters:	3,841	Program Costs:	\$1,090,904
Success Rate:	11.8%		
Recreation Days	26,083		
Days/Animal:	57.6		
Licenses Sold:	4,508		

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 2015 harvest was the highest on record, and was well above the five-year average (408). The Department documented a slight decrease in male harvest and a considerable increase in female harvest. Mortality limits were increased in recent years to allow additional hunting opportunity for an abundant resource. The 2015 hunter success rate was slightly lower than the previous year, and remained below the five-year average (12 percent). Hunter effort equaled that in 2014, and was slightly below the five-year average (60.2 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 (\$)
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
2015	453	26,083	11.8%	57.6	4,508	2016	311,891	1,090,904

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$35,491), 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 (\$)		
2012	1,694,477	2012	
2013	1,940,610	2013	
2014	1,793,556	2014	
2015	2,278,218	2015	
2016	2,606,261	2016	

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 2016, the total revenue received from grant funding was \$193,884.

MOUNTAIN LION

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$151,292
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$141,524
Harvest:	248	Total Program Revenue:	\$292,816
Hunters:	1,168	Program Costs:	\$741,888
Success Rate:	21.2%		
Recreation Days:	8,636		
Days/Animal:	34.8		
Licenses Sold:	2,391		

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 2015 mountain lion harvest was slightly down from 2014, and below the five-year average (280). 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 (\$)
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
2015	248	8,636	21.2	34.8	2,391	2016	151,292	741,888
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$1,110), and interest earned on Department cash balances.								
** No harvest survey conducted due to budgetary constraints; numbers derived from reported harvest.								

GRAY WOLF

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	264*	License Revenue:	\$0
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue**:	\$547,307
Harvest:	N/A	Total Program Revenue:	\$547,307
Hunters:	N/A	Program Costs:	\$836,104
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.

*264 wolves in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation; including all jurisdictions in Wyoming: 382 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 (\$)
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
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		2016	N/A	836,104

*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 (\$280,132), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

SMALL GAME

Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
Squirrel

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	70,521	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	6,925	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	10.2		
Recreation Days:	27,470		
Days/Animal:	0.4		
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 2015 harvest statistics, and general observations of cottontail abundance over the past year, indicate the population has rebounded from the recent low. Harvest increased in 2015 for the fourth year in a row, and was more than double the five-year average (29,535). Hunter numbers and recreation days both increased from 2014. The number of animals harvested per hunter increased from 2014, and remained above the five-year average (5.7 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal decreased in 2015, and is below the five-year average (0.7 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	70,521	27,470	10.2	0.4	6,925	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,248	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	407	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	3.1	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	2,077		
Days/Animal:	1.7		
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 in 2015 tripled that of 2014, and was more than double the five-year average (469 animals). The number of hunters increased, as increased hare populations encouraged more hunting participation. Recreation days increased from 2014, and remained higher than the five-year average of 1,566. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2015 was above the five-year average (1.3 animals/hunter), and the 2015 effort rate was well below average (4.7 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	1,248	2,077	3.1	1.7	407	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,462	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	459	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	3.2		
Recreation Days:	2,649		
Days/Animal:	1.8		
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 increased slightly in 2015, but the harvest and recreation days increased substantially. The 2015 harvest survey indicated that the number of hunters was higher than the five-year average (432), while harvest increased to above the average (1,252), as did the recreation days (1,831). Hunter success in 2015 was higher than the five-year average (2.9 animals/hunter). Hunters spent more time to get each animal than the five-year average (1.5 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	1,462	2,649	3.2	1.8	459	2016	**	**

**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$787,140
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,657,233
Harvest:	38,347	Total Program Revenue:	\$2,444,373
Hunters:	11,679	Program Costs:	\$3,386,241
Birds/Hunter:	3.3		
Recreation Days:	31,538		
Days/Bird:	0.8		
Licenses Sold:	29,005		

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 2015 pheasant season had a harvest that was above the preceding four years, and above the five-year average (33,458). The number of days hunters spent afield decreased, but remained slightly above the five-year average (31,442). The number of pheasant hunters was the highest of the last five years. Hunter effort decreased in 2015, and was below the five-year average (0.9 days/bird). Hunter success decreased in 2015, and was lower than the five-year average (3.7 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 (\$)
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
2015	38,347	31,538	3.3	0.8	11,679	2016	787,140	3,386,241

**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 (\$45,765), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.

GRAY PARTRIDGE

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	6,174	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	1,608	Program Costs:	\$ **
Birds/Hunter:	3.8		
Recreation Days:	7,055		
Days/Bird:	1.1		
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 2015 season was a great improvement over the year before, with harvest and recreation days both more than double that in 2014, and hunter numbers the highest of the last five years. All three measures were also above the five-year averages (4,435 harvest, 6,063 recreation days, and 1,298 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	6,174	7,055	3.8	1.1	1,608			

**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 2015

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 12,534
Hunters: 2,139
Birds/Hunter: 5.9
Recreation Days: 9,327
Days/Bird: 0.7
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2016

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 2015 improved from 2014, with the harvest more than doubling, and all harvest figures being the best in five years. The 2015 season was above the five-year average for harvest (6,409), number of hunters (1,744), and recreation days (6,964). Hunter success and effort figures show that chukar hunting improved in 2015 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	12,534	9,327	5.9	0.7	2,139	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,326,896
Harvest:	10,498	Total Program Revenue:	\$1,326,896
Hunters:	4,299	Program Costs:	\$2,770,262
Birds/Hunter:	2.4		
Recreation Days:	10,231		
Days/Bird:	1.0		
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 2015.

In 2015, harvest numbers showed improvement for the second year in a row. Harvest, recreation days, and the number of hunters increased and rose above the five-year averages (8,661 harvest, 9,743 recreation days, and 4,076 hunters). The 2015 harvest rate increased, and was slightly above the five-year average (2.1 birds/hunter), and hunter effort was slightly below 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 (\$)
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
2015	10,498	10,231	2.4	1.0	4,299	2016	**	2,770,262
<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 (\$825,094), and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p> <p>¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.</p>								

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Calendar Year 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	3,929	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	1,124	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	3.5			
Recreation Days:	4,209			
Days/Bird:	1.1			
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 for 2015 improved for the second year in a row. All figures were better than the five-year averages for harvest (2,431), recreation days (3,906), number of hunters (965), birds per hunter (2.4) and days per bird (1.8).

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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	3,929	4,209	3.5	1.1	1,124	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	9,420	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	3,696	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	2.5			
Recreation Days:	15,929			
Days/Bird:	1.7			
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 essentially no change from 2014 to 2015 in harvest and the number of hunters, while there was a slight uptick in the number of recreation days. All of these measures were just above the five-year averages of 9,217 blue grouse harvested, 15,279 recreation days, and 3,647 hunters. The 2015 harvest rate and effort figures were essentially unchanged from 2014, and equaled the most recent five-year average (2.5 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	9,420	15,929	2.5	1.7	3,696	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue	\$	**
Harvest:	8,451	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	2,437	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	3.5			
Recreation Days:	12,725			
Days/Bird:	1.5			
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 2015 increased from 2014, and was higher than the five-year average (5,989). Hunter numbers and recreation days had the exact same pattern (five-year average of 1,952 hunters and 10,132 recreation days). The success rate, measured in birds per hunter, increased and was higher than the five-year average (3.0). Hunter effort decreased slightly, and remained below average (1.8 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	8,451	12,725	3.5	1.5	2,437	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	24,873	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	2,095	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	11.9			
Recreation Days:	6,931			
Days/Bird:	0.3			
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 decreased in 2015. Harvest dropped below the five-year average (25,632) while recreation days increased and rose above the average (6,903 days). The number of hunters decreased slightly, though, and remained below average (2,239). The success rate decreased, but remained higher than the five-year average (11.5). Hunter effort (days/bird) returned to 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 (USFWS) in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Concern over the decline in mourning dove populations based on annual surveys has prompted the USFWS 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	24,873	6,931	11.9	0.3	2,095	2016	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$188,704
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$437,340
Harvest:	3,531	Total Program Revenue:	\$626,044
Hunters:	8,019	Program Costs:	\$188,245
Birds/Hunter:	.4		
Recreation Days:	22,331		
Days/Bird:	6.3		
Licenses Sold:	8,061		

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. In 2015, harvest, recreation days, and number of hunters increased from 2014, and were above the five year averages of 3,175 (harvest), 20,138 (recreation days), and 7,070 (hunters). The success rate equaled that of 2014 and the five-year average, and the number of days to harvest a turkey decreased to just below the average of 6.4.

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 (\$)
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
2015	3,531	22,331	0.4	6.3	8,019	2016	188,704	188,245

*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 2015

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 49,744
Hunters: 6,146
Bird/Hunter: 8.1
Recreation Days: 20,802
Days/Bird: 0.6
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2016

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 2015, with a few minor exceptions, habitat conditions across the traditional survey area in the United States and Canada were characterized mostly as similar or poorer to the previous year, with an early spring. The breeding duck population was similar to the prior year, and 43 percent above the long-term average.

In Wyoming, the 2015-2016 winter was wetter than average, followed by a normal spring. Water conditions and breeding habitat were improved. Hunter numbers decreased slightly, but were still near the five year average. Harvest increased slightly, and was at the five year average. The harvest rate in 2015 was near the average for the last 5 years (8.0 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	49,744	20,802	8.1	0.6	6,146	**	**
**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 2015

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 23,565
Hunters: 4,732
Bird/Hunter: 5.0
Recreation Days: 23,565
Days/Bird: 0.9
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2016

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 31,993 in 2012 to a low of 21,732 in 2011. In 2015, harvest decreased, and was lower than the five-year average (27,466). Recreation days also decreased, and were the lowest in the last five years. Hunter numbers decreased, and were the lowest in the last five years. 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	23,565	20,822	5.0	0.9	4,732	**	**
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:¹	104	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:¹	164	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:¹	0.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:¹	375		
Days/Bird:¹	3.6		
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 2015 season, harvest was similar to the previous year. Recreation days saw a 36 percent increase, and hunter numbers increased 14 percent. The success rate decreased, and was at the five-year average (0.6 birds per hunter). Hunter effort in 2015 was slightly below the five year average (3.8 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	104	375	0.6	3.6	164	**	**

**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 2015

Population: *
Population Objective: *
Harvest: *
Hunters: *
Bird/Hunter: *
Recreation Days: *
Days/Bird: *
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2016

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

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.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
2015	*	*	*	*	*		
*Population and harvest data at time of publication was not available from the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Report.							
**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 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Recreation Day Objectives:	2,778,000	License Revenue:	\$6,531,639
Recreation Days:¹	2,695,080	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$11,190,350
Fish/Day:	2.5	Total Program Revenue:	\$17,721,989
Licenses Sold:	351,989	Program Costs:	\$22,542,029
Economic Return Per Day:	\$74.00		

In 2015, nearly 2.7 million angler days of sport fishing recreation were estimated. Overall license sales were up almost six 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).¹ 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 renovations.²

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sport fisheries program.						
Calendar Year	Rec. Days ¹	Fish/Day	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2015	2,695,080	2.5	351,989	2016	\$6,531,639	\$22,542,029

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. ²Costs do not include general fund capital construction dollars for hatchery renovations.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Calendar 2015

Fiscal Year 2016

Licenses Sold: 933

Licenses Sold: \$29,343
All Other Agency revenue: \$4,651
Total Program Revenue: \$33,994**
Program Costs: \$27,540

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 Department cash balances.*

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.				
Calendar Year	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2015	933	2016	\$27,540	\$33,994

FURBEARERS

Bobcat
Other Furbearers

OTHER FURBEARERS

Calendar 2015

Furbearer Harvest: 7,236
Furbearer Trappers¹: 470
Furbearers per Trapper: 15.4
Recreation Days: 5,798
Days/Animal: .80
Licenses Sold ²: 2,274

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$101,610
Other Agency Revenue*: \$133,106
Total Program Revenue: \$234,716
Program Costs: \$528,082

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. The 2010 survey asked how many nights traps/snares were set and how many days were spent firearm hunting for all furbearing species combined. Prior to 2010, the Department attempted to parse the trap/snares nights and hunting days out by species. The harvest survey was revised for the 2015-16 trapping season to capture total recreation days (days afield checking traps/snares + firearm days) for all species combined.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Furbearer Program.							
Other Furbearer Statistics					Entire Furbearer Program		
Calendar Year	Reported Harvest ³	Furbearers/Trapper	Number Trappers ¹	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2015	7,236	15.4	470	2,274	2016	101,610	528,082

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.

³ 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 2015

Captures: 12
Licenses Sold: 41

Fiscal Year 2016

License Revenue: \$5,770
All Other Agency Revenue: \$63,434
Total Program Revenue: \$69,204
Program Costs: \$514,642

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 2015, 23 resident licenses were issued and 11 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 48 percent. Eighteen nonresident licenses were issued and one bird was captured, for a capture success rate of 6 percent. In total, 12 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry for an overall success rate of 29 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
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
2015	12	29%	41	2016	5,770	514,642

¹Based on capture licenses sold.

²Includes only licenses to capture falcons; 84 licenses to hunt with falcons were issued in 2015. General fund revenue received was \$22,917.

³Includes program costs for raptors, including bald eagle 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 supervisor, 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) and revision of Wyoming's 2017 SWAP. Priorities and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) 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 approximately \$1.73 million for the FY 17/18 biennium. These funds are primarily used for personnel, maintenance, and operations costs. During the FY 17/18 biennium, the legislature also provided \$367,000 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 ten 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 \$30,616, 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 SGCN. 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 16, the Terrestrial Nongame Program did not receive any of these funds directly, but are partnering on two funded projects.

APPENDIX B:

**BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARIES**

Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Department FY 2017 Budgets

COMMISSION STANDARD BUDGET

Budget	Name	Preliminarily Approved FY 2017 Budget	Proposed FY 2017 Changes	Revised Budget FY 2017			FY 2016 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change
				Total	M&O	Personnel			
Director	0A10 Director Office Admin	1,976,566		1,981,566	187,736	1,793,830	1,300,314	681,252	52.39%
	0A10 Director Office-Contingency	100,000		100,000	100,000	-	100,000		
	0J11 Public Information Admin	314,825		339,825	96,908	242,917	400,543	(60,718)	-15.16%
	0A20 WGFC Vehicle Fleet	2,576,278		2,576,278	2,576,278	-	1,697,457	878,821	51.77%
	0A30 Commission	116,486		116,486	87,116	29,370	127,635	(11,149)	-8.74%
	0E10 Conservation Educ-Forever Wild	160,126	51,000	211,126	117,589	93,537	161,609	49,517	30.64%
	0E11 Conservation Educ-Volunteers	114,647	47,000	161,647	69,916	91,731	107,947	53,700	49.75%
	0E20 Hunter Education	173,396	25,000	198,396	115,776	82,620	179,668	18,728	10.42%
	0J10 Media/Customer Outreach	472,832	3,000	475,832	56,518	419,314	564,784	(88,952)	-15.75%
	0J20 Publications	594,227		594,227	486,125	108,102	489,686	104,540	21.35%
	0P10 Personnel	498,065		498,065	219,145	278,920	508,548	(10,483)	-2.06%
	0S10 Strategic Planning	93,603	30,000	123,603	34,898	88,705	162,970	(39,367)	-24.16%
	0U10 Cooperative Research	440,000	30,000	470,000	470,000	-	740,000	(270,000)	-36.49%
	0W10 Statewide Habitat Protection	654,966		654,966	39,434	615,532	701,123	(46,157)	-6.58%
Director's Office Total		8,286,017	186,000	8,502,016	4,657,438	3,844,578	7,242,282	1,259,734	17.39%
Fiscal	2A10 Fiscal Administration	501,330		501,330	24,189	477,141	585,483	(84,153)	-14.37%
	2F11 Cashier	72,690		72,690	994	71,696	72,583	107	0.15%
	2F12 Licensing	1,090,080		1,090,080	203,737	886,343	1,094,942	(4,862)	-0.44%
	2F13 General Accounting	338,662		338,662	15,860	322,802	464,462	(125,799)	-27.08%
	2F20 Accounts Payable	445,182		445,182	2,510	442,672	246,777	198,406	80.40%
	2F31 Asset Management	239,447		239,447	6,766	232,681	290,627	(51,179)	-17.61%
	2F32 Uniforms/Insurance	386,240		386,240	386,240	-	374,861	11,379	3.04%
	2V10 Customer Service	161,102		161,102	7,158	153,944	143,121	17,981	12.56%
	2J50 Mailroom	516,902		516,902	458,676	58,226	594,126	(77,223)	-13.00%
	2Z1X Regional Office Management	1,545,776		1,545,776	314,644	1,231,132	1,531,712	14,064	0.92%
2X10 Legislated Expenses	2,150,000		2,150,000	2,100,000	50,000	2,637,600	(487,600)	-18.49%	
Fiscal Total		7,447,412		7,447,412	3,520,774	3,926,638	8,036,292	(588,880)	-7.33%
Services	4A11 Services Administration	262,251		262,251	28,816	233,435	263,427	(1,176)	-0.45%
	4H10 Habitat Access/Maintenance	3,907,400		3,907,400	1,325,293	2,582,106	4,187,561	(280,161)	-6.69%
	4H20 Property Rights Development	235,000		235,000	235,000	-	235,000		
	4K10 Conservation Engineering	624,721		624,721	152,965	471,756	731,752	(107,032)	-14.63%
	4L20 Game and Fish Lab	843,881		843,881	184,830	659,051	831,033	12,848	1.55%
	4R01 Property Rights-Administration	817,454		817,454	460,108	357,346	760,161	57,293	7.54%
	4R1X Property Rights-Acquisition	60,000		60,000	60,000	-	485,000		
	4Y10 Information Technology	3,392,589		3,392,589	1,304,223	2,088,366	3,254,534	138,055	4.24%
4ZXX Support Facilities	1,391,273		1,391,273	1,258,760	132,513	1,434,842	(43,569)	-3.04%	
Services Total		11,534,568		11,534,568	5,009,995	6,524,573	12,183,310	(223,741)	-1.84%
Fish	5A10 Fish Administration	438,464		438,464	42,982	395,482	433,424	5,040	1.16%
	5H40 Habitat Coordinator (WLCl)	115,091		115,091	6,851	108,240	114,901	190	0.17%
	5C10 Hatchery & Rearing Stations	7,191,131		7,191,131	3,579,965	3,611,166	5,411,750	1,779,381	32.88%
	5C20 Fish Spawning	176,026		176,026	50,195	125,831	163,377	12,648	7.74%
	5C30 Fish Distribution	145,168		145,168	145,168	-	130,974	14,194	10.84%
	5H10 Regional Aquatic Habitat	1,013,567		1,013,567	96,048	917,520	1,062,293	(48,726)	-4.59%
	5H20 Water Management	291,966		291,966	62,139	229,826	263,361	28,605	10.86%
	5H30 Fish Passage	362,310		362,310	189,281	173,029	295,278	67,031	22.70%
	5Q10 Regional Aquatic Mgmt	3,463,477		3,463,477	383,930	3,079,547	3,441,013	22,463	0.65%
	5Q30 Statewide Aquatic Mgmt	527,108		527,108	73,489	453,619	526,869	240	0.05%
5Q40 Boating Access	1,691,344		1,691,344	1,691,344	-	1,691,344			
Fish Total		15,415,649		15,415,649	6,321,390	9,094,259	13,534,585	1,881,065	13.90%

Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Department FY 2017 Budgets

COMMISSION STANDARD BUDGET

Budget	Name	Preliminarily Approved FY 2017 Budget	Proposed FY 2017 Changes	Revised Budget FY 2017			FY 2016 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change
				Total	M&O	Personnel			
6A10	Wildlife Administration	1,210,120		1,210,120	321,412	888,708	1,192,177	17,943	1.51%
6B1X	Bird Farms	768,078		768,078	354,759	413,320	662,856	105,222	15.87%
6D10	Feedgrounds	2,501,712		2,501,712	2,281,829	219,883	3,127,751	(626,038)	-20.02%
6H10	Terrestrial Habitat Mgmt	318,599		318,599	39,956	278,643	319,348	(749)	-0.23%
6H30	Terrestrial Regional Habitat	722,007		722,007	63,184	658,823	750,196	(28,190)	-3.76%
6N10	Special Enforcement-Investigators	711,722		711,722	59,535	652,187	709,143	2,579	0.36%
6NX0	Special Enforcement-Boat Safety, Stop Poaching, Administration	439,048		439,048	125,708	313,341	423,511	15,538	3.67%
6R10	Property Rights-Statewide PLPW	107,303		107,303	21,575	85,728	105,015	2,287	2.18%
6R30	Property Rights-Regional PLPW	552,786		552,786	70,622	482,165	541,266	11,520	2.13%
6R2X	Property Rights-PLPW Access (F06)	1,027,155		1,027,155	1,027,155		1,027,155		
6T1X	Wildlife Biologists	3,941,549		3,941,549	1,034,356	2,907,193	3,911,490	30,058	0.77%
6T2X	Wildlife Wardens	7,314,756		7,314,756	1,678,607	5,636,149	7,068,475	246,280	3.48%
6T3X	Regional Wildlife Supervisors	2,301,373		2,301,373	517,158	1,784,215	2,260,409	40,964	1.81%
6T50	Biological Services	848,804	10,000	858,804	424,397	434,407	829,251	29,552	3.56%
6T71	Trophy Game and Conflict Resolution	1,277,911		1,277,911	264,797	1,013,114	1,388,940	(111,029)	-7.99%
6T80	Waterfowl	173,026		173,026	59,382	113,645	167,345	5,681	3.40%
6T90	Predator Management	100,000		100,000	100,000	-	100,000		
6G10	Regional Information & Education	701,069		701,069	52,958	648,111	696,220	4,848	0.70%
Wildlife Total		25,017,017	10,000	25,027,017	8,497,388	16,529,630	25,280,549	(253,532)	-1.00%
3T6X	Mule Deer Initiative						449,785	(449,785)	-100.00%
3T6X	Platte Valley Mule Deer Projects						152,499	(152,499)	-100.00%
3T6X	Mule Deer Migration		680,710	680,710	680,710			680,710	
3T6X	Choke Cherry Sierra Madre		105,000	105,000	105,000			105,000	
Non Recurring Total			785,710	785,710	785,710		602,284	183,426	30.46%
WGFC Standard Budget Subtotal		67,700,663	981,710	68,712,373	28,792,695	39,919,678	66,879,302	1,833,071	2.74%
Wildlife Trust Fund Interest Total		1,194,627		1,194,627	1,194,627		1,200,000	(5,373)	-0.45%
State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Total		800,000		800,000	511,794	288,206	800,000	(0)	0.00%
Budget request before reimbursable grants		69,695,290	981,710	70,707,000	30,499,117	40,207,883	68,879,302	1,827,698	2.65%
Reimbursable Grants:		6,000,000		6,000,000	5,680,260	319,740	7,100,000	(1,100,000)	-15.49%
Total WGFC Standard Budget		75,695,290	981,710	76,707,000	36,179,377	40,527,623	75,979,302	727,698	0.96%
Personnel % (does not include reimbursable)						57.32%			
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									
Capitol Construction Projects									
	Name	Approved FY 2017	Approved FY 2016	Future Obligations					
3Z4A	Laramie Reg Office/Forensic Lab	14,151,758	1,348,242						
	Cody Regional Office			7,000,000					
	Whiskey Mtn Conservation Camp			2,000,000					
Capitol Construction Projects Total		14,151,758	1,348,242	9,000,000					
Commission Approved Spending Authority		FY 2017	FY 2016		GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2017-2018 BIENNIUM				
Commission Standard Budget		76,707,000	75,979,302		Name		Approved FY 2017	Approved FY 2018	
Capitol Construction Projects Budget		14,151,758	1,348,242		Aquatic Invasive Species		1,320,951	1,320,951	
<i>Estimated Future Obligations</i>					Vet Services Program		1,849,922	1,849,922	
Project Name		FY17	FY18-20		Sage Grouse Protection		922,506	922,506	
Mule Deer Initiative		550,215	1,500,000		Wolf Management		707,162	707,162	
Platte Valley Mule Deer Projects		301,380			CWCS (Sensitive Species)		1,111,873	1,111,873	
<i>Estimated Future Obligations</i>		<i>851,595</i>	<i>1,500,000</i>		GENERAL FUND BUDGET TOTAL	TOTAL	5,912,414	5,912,414	

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AS OF JUNE 30, 2016**

**% CHNG
FY 13 to
FY 16**

	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013	
ASSETS:					
PETTY CASH	\$ 17,850	\$ 17,450	\$ 17,050	\$ 17,250	3%
CASH - OPERATIONS	51,969,021	51,414,908	46,482,912	44,739,212	16%
CASH- WDLFE TRUST INTEREST	3,757,182	3,229,021	4,040,832	4,183,074	-10%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	1,941,671	1,965,771	1,868,060	1,704,276	14%
	<u>57,685,724</u>	<u>56,627,150</u>	<u>52,408,854</u>	<u>50,643,812</u>	14%
CASH - WDLFE TRUST CORPUS	27,962,314	27,069,276	26,179,914	25,285,520	11%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	5,466,932	5,251,819	4,785,472	4,645,359	18%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	25,162	32,813	50,000	46,598	-46%
CASH - APPS/UNDISTRIBD IN PROCESS	12,625,812	11,627,939	11,140,634	11,724,396	8%
CASH-AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	444,795	444,795	444,795	444,795	0%
RETURNED CHECKS	480	541	57	794	-40%
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES					
TOTAL ASSETS	104,211,218	101,054,332	95,009,725	92,791,274	12%
LIABILITIES:					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	118,411	11,546	11,546	11,546	926%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	0	500	400	207,626	-100%
APP/UNDIST PENDING DRAW	12,625,812	11,627,939	11,140,634	11,724,396	8%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	701	4,165	4,684	46,554	-98%
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAIN/LOSS	(119,564)	0	0	0	
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	5,986	144,928	3,417	83,250	-93%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,731,346	11,889,077	11,260,680	12,173,371	5%
FUND BALANCE:					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBERANCES	10,278,565	7,792,419	5,269,506	6,976,391	47%
WDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS (F08)	27,962,314	27,069,276	26,179,914	25,285,520	11%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST (F07)	3,051,420	2,860,318	3,647,648	3,882,184	-21%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS (F06)	1,941,671	1,965,771	1,868,060	1,704,276	14%
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	444,795	444,795	444,795	444,795	0%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND (F02)	5,472,180	5,251,819	4,785,472	4,645,359	18%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	25,192	32,813	50,000	46,598	-46%
UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND(F01)	42,303,735	43,748,043	41,503,650	37,632,781	12%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	91,479,872	89,165,255	83,749,045	80,617,903	13%
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	104,211,218	101,054,332	95,009,725	92,791,274	12%

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016**

EXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 16	FY 15	% Change from FY 15
REVENUE RECEIVED			
Hunting & Fish Lic	30,235,752	29,864,145	1%
Conservation Stamps	812,071	813,495	0%
Boating Registration	377,300	415,960	-9%
Other license revenue (pp points)	7,350,637	6,593,420	11%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,517,238	1,876,996	-19%
Pooled Interest Trt (1)(2)	632,772	760,876	-17%
Income from Inv&Land	3,209,744	80,806	3872%
100% Reimbursable	4,621,706	4,762,634	-3%
Application Fees	2,112,474	2,030,065	4%
Publication Sales	235,997	141,348	67%
Access Yes donations/cstamp(3)	899,326	895,216	0%
Federal Aid & Grants	17,528,078	17,882,530	-2%
License Recoupment	830,379	844,510	-2%
General Funds	5,511,699	5,427,807	2%
Other Items	867,975	80,122	983%
TTL REVENUE EARNED	76,743,148	72,469,930	6%

EXPENDITURES MADE

Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	5,208,381	3,777,560	38%
Fiscal Division	4,738,595	4,861,862	-3%
Services Division	10,255,246	10,368,354	-1%
Fish Division	13,558,613	13,006,988	4%
Wildlife Division	25,611,586	25,016,002	2%
TOTAL M&O EXPENSES	59,372,421	57,030,766	4%

Access Fund	921,077	797,487	15%
Wyoming wildlife trust (1)(2)	562,234	1,401,689	-60%
Legislated Expenses	2,037,329	1,802,376	13%
Pr yr encmbrd m/o exp	2,425,302	2,541,458	-5%
TTL OPERATING EXP	65,318,363	63,573,776	3%

Reimbursable Contracts	6,098,269	2,957,607	106%
Statewildlife Grants	500,329	541,631	-8%
Property Rights			
Nonrecurring Projects	3,435,241	250,000	
Pr yr encmbrd other xp	182,108	1,071,881	-83%
TTL NONOP EXPENSES	10,215,947	4,821,119	112%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	75,534,310	68,394,895	10%
DEFICIT OF REVENUE OVER EXP	1,208,839	4,075,034	

NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 16	FY 15	% Change from FY 15
Wildlife Conservation Trust & Lifetime License Fund(s)			
Corpus, July 1	32,321,095	30,965,386	4%
Prior year adj for increase in value of investments			
Current year adj for increase in value of investments	0	0	
Change in unrealized investments	(5,248)	0	
Interest earned	111,642	126,859	-12%
Transfer from operations	(312,039)	0	
Donations	3,285	3,757	-13%
Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses	420,758	339,488	24%
Lifetime conservation stamps	77,705	72,110	8%
Annual conserv stamp 37 1/2%	812,048	813,495	0%
Corpus, June 30	33,429,246	32,321,095	3%

Aquatic Invasive Species Decals(4)			
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) \$532,401 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 \$77,705 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp \$812,047 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 \$174,382 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) \$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 16 AIS decal revenue = \$636,626

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, 2016**

	Total WGFC Expenditures	General Fund (non capital construction) Expenditures	Total FY 2016 Expenditures	% of Total Expenditures
Aquatic Wildlife Management	\$ 5,165,551	1,355,255	6,520,806	8.6%
Bird Farms	672,618		672,618	0.9%
Cooperative Research	531,177		531,177	0.7%
Conservation Engineering	582,720		582,720	0.8%
CWCS (Sensitive Species)	1,078,035	1,047,708	2,125,743	2.8%
Department Administration	4,849,446		4,849,446	6.4%
Education	328,561		328,561	0.4%
Feedgrounds	1,944,166		1,944,166	2.6%
Financial Management	2,328,680		2,328,680	3.1%
Fish Culture	5,664,630		5,664,630	7.5%
Habitat	10,046,633		10,046,633	13.3%
Information	1,574,342		1,574,342	2.1%
Legislated Expenses	2,037,297		2,037,297	2.7%
Customer Services	130,945		130,945	0.2%
Management Information Systems	3,067,256		3,067,256	4.1%
Personnel Management	462,392		462,392	0.6%
Property Rights	3,161,225		3,161,225	4.2%
Regional Information/Education	672,699		672,699	0.9%
Specialized Law Enforcement	1,463,639		1,463,639	1.9%
Human Dimensions/Strategic Management	98,020		98,020	0.1%
Support Facilities/Personnel	6,244,631		6,244,631	8.3%
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	16,100,535	1,144,707	17,245,242	22.8%
Wildlife Habitat Protection	833,857		833,857	1.1%
Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services	983,556	1,964,029	2,947,585	3.9%
Total Amount Expended	70,022,610	5,511,699	75,534,309	100%

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

LICENSES						
Antelope ¹³	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	126	93	197	202	206
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	30	23	58	58	76
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$20.00	284	270	155	146	149
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$18.00	88	83	47	40	38
Resident Antelope	\$33.00	18,087	17,029	15,839	14,644	14,712
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$33.00	0	4	8	8	6
Resident Antelope Super Tag	\$33.00					1
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$33.00					2
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$33.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$22.00	6,980	6,518	5,840	5,186	5,570
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,700	2,583	2,342	2,271	2,368
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	760	644	571	546	598
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$15.00	0		1		1
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00		1	1	1	
Total Resident Antelope		29,055	27,248	25,059	23,102	23,727
Nonres Antelope	\$272.00	13,276	11,874	10,377	8,964	8,187
Nonres Antelope Commissioner	\$272.00			2		
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$272.00		76	72	71	73
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$272.00				1	
NonRes Antelope w/Preference Point	\$272.00	2,953	2,438	2,490	2,225	2,205
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$272.00		8	19	39	36
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$272.00		1	1	1	
Nonres Antelope Yth One Shot Hunt	\$110.00				1	1
NonRes Antelope Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	315	279	256	239	201
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$34.00	24,233	22,209	17,384	11,694	11,322
Nonres Special Antelope	\$512.00	570	648	555	515	565
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$512.00	1,038	939	970	867	1,007
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	937	851	678	584	489
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$110.00				5	6
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00		8		5	5
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00	1,605	1,487	1,181	724	628
Total Nonresident Antelope		44,927	40,818	33,985	25,935	24,725
Total Antelope Licenses		73,982	68,066	59,044	49,037	48,452
Archery	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonresident Archery	\$30.00	5,114	4,985	4,849	4,751	4,886
Nonresident Youth Archery	\$12.00	140	120	125	99	130
Resident Archery	\$16.00	13,249	14,041	14,062	14,852	15,273
Resident Youth Archery	\$6.00	1,074	1,162	1,169	1,256	1,277
Total Archery Licenses		19,577	20,308	20,205	20,958	21,566
Bighorn Sheep	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,252.00	64	57	52	50	48
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00	5	5	5	5	5
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$2,252.00					1
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					

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$117.00	191	174	158	147	140
Resident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$117.00				1	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		260	256	223	208	195
Black Bear	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonres Black Bear	\$362.00	347	401	417	436	405
Nonres Black Bear Super Tag	\$362.00				1	
Resident Black Bear	\$45.00	3,362	3,720	3,716	3,955	4,103
Total Black Bear Licenses		3,709	4,121	4,133	4,392	4,508
Deer ¹³	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	223	175	354	398	449
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	38	33	88	79	89
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$23.00	462	492	284	348	367
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$18.00	93	76	53	49	39
Resident Deer	\$38.00	40,088	38,618	38,146	39,080	41,435
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$38.00			4		3
Resident Deer Governor	\$0.00				1	2
Resident Deer Military Combat	\$0.00	3		2		
Resident Deer Super Tag	\$38.00					1
Resident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$38.00					1
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$22.00	8,544	8,143	7,768	6,718	6,993
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	5,536	5,553	5,671	5,984	6,409
Resident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00				1	1
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	814	764	772	659	680
Total Resident Deer		55,801	53,854	53,142	53,317	56,469
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$552.00	1,030	867	925	899	1,205
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$312.00	3,536	3,214	3,274	3,144	3,446
NonRes Deer Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	259	218	211	231	241
Nonresident Deer	\$312.00	15,826	13,736	12,740	11,440	10,769
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$312.00	14	11	5		10
Nonresident Deer Governor	\$0.00	4	3	3	2	2
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$312.00	20	14	20	28	25
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	6,578	6,137	5,651	5,020	5,458
Nonres Special Deer	\$552.00	871	781	800	945	1,164
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	742	647	604	523	540
Nonresident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	5	6	3	6	4
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00	370	357	328	282	340
Total Nonresident Deer		29,256	25,991	24,566	22,522	23,204
Total Deer Licenses		85,057	79,845	77,708	75,839	79,673
Elk ¹³	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	51	60	157	195	219
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	218	163	431	484	527
Pioneer Elk Commissioner	\$5.00			1		
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$27.00	174	236	161	163	175
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$32.00	609	658	392	430	434

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Pioneer Heritage Elk Commissioner	\$32.00					
Res Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$52.00		1			1
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$43.00	11,097	13,386	13,490	13,215	13,115
Resident Elk	\$52.00	37,260	37,714	38,554	39,058	39,080
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$52.00	16	9	12	8	12
Resident Elk Governor	\$0.00	4	4	3	4	2
Resident Elk Military Combat	\$0.00	3		1		
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$52.00				1	
Resident Elk Youth Commissioner	\$25.00		2	1	1	
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	3,742	3,812	4,002	4,047	4,148
Resident Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$25.00		1		1	
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	927	1,073	1,118	1,107	1,170
Total Resident Elk		54,101	57,119	58,323	58,714	58,883
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$288.00	3,336	3,962	4,585	4,980	5,065
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$577.00	3,104	3,195	2,982	2,789	2,617
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$577.00	46	32	47	46	47
Nonres Elk & Fishing Governor	\$0.00	2	3	4	3	4
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$577.00		2	1	2	1
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,057.00	1,331	1,225	1,444	1,684	1,679
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$577.00	2,574	2,489	2,375	2,239	2,195
NonRes Elk Super Tag	\$577.00					1
NonRes Elk Yth w/Preference Point	\$275.00	70	77	58	81	79
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,057.00	727	794	896	1,038	1,120
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00	158	204	223	236	271
Nonres Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$275.00	5	7	4	4	5
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	77	79	72	74	71
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing Commissioner	\$275.00	1				
Total Nonresident Elk		11,431	12,069	12,691	13,176	13,155
Total Elk Licenses		65,532	69,188	71,014	71,890	72,038
Fishing	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Resident Daily Fish	\$6.00	37,992	36,530	35,893	34,196	35,685
Resident Daily Fish Military Combat	\$0.00	21				2
Resident Fishing Annual	\$24.00	72,197	79,082	79,888	79,735	80,634
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	6,128	6,725	7,295	7,493	7,613
Total Resident Fishing		116,338	122,337	123,076	121,424	123,934
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$14.00	160,453	182,434	187,986	191,241	206,949
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$92.00	11,419	13,603	14,991	15,803	17,049
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	2,855	3,421	3,587	3,777	4,057
Total Nonresident Fishing		174,727	199,458	206,564	210,821	228,055
Total Fishing Licenses		291,065	321,795	329,640	332,245	351,989
Furbearing/Trapping	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$242.00	40	37	46	50	46
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$44.00	1,793	2,132	2,308	2,189	2,051
Res Youth Furbearing Trapping	\$6.00	115	171	206	165	177
Total Furbearing/Trapping Licenses		1,948	2,340	2,560	2,404	2,274
Game Bird/Small Game	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$24.00	7,953	8,603	8,891	9,617	10,573
Res Bird/Small Game Military Combat	\$0.00	3			2	1
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$9.00	927	884	1,073	932	979

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Game Bird	\$16.00	7,430	7,596	6,945	6,792	7,001
Resident Small Game	\$16.00	1,533	1,393	1,653	1,735	2,459
Total Resident Game Bird/Small Game		17,846	18,476	18,562	19,078	21,013
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$72.00	1,738	1,893	1,898	2,110	2,313
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$20.00	4,977	4,925	4,186	4,687	5,515
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	115	146	100	128	164
Total Nonresident Game Bird/Small Game		6,830	6,964	6,184	6,925	7,992
Total Game Bird/Small Game Licenses		24,676	25,440	24,746	26,003	29,005
Gray Wolf ⁶	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
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	
Lifetime	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$482.00	79	82	93	53	77
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$662.50	338	374	436	372	447
Bird/Small Game	\$302.00	17	32	10	15	12
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	8	11	6	9	12
Conservation Stamp	\$180.50	84	124	94	115	77
Fishing	\$302.00	62	59	79	73	78
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	209	218	314	263	284
Total Lifetime Licenses		797	900	1,032	900	987
Moose	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonresident Moose	\$1,402.00	92	91	85	84	79
Nonresident Moose Governor	\$0.00	4	5	2	5	4
Nonresident Moose Trifecta	\$1,402.00				1	
Resident Moose	\$112.00	442	395	397	369	344
Resident Moose Governor	\$0.00	1		3		1
Resident Moose Super Tag	\$112.00				1	2
Total Moose Licenses		539	491	487	460	430
Mountain Goat	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,152.00	6	6	6	7	8
Nonres Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$2,152.00				1	
Resident Mountain Goat	\$122.00	17	18	22	21	24
Resident Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$122.00				1	2
Total Mountain Goat Licenses		23	24	28	30	34
Mountain Lion	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$362.00	213	179	222	224	234
Nonres Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$362.00				1	
Nonres Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$92.00	11	7	9	4	2
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	1,923	2,149	2,154	2,169	2,126
Resident Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$20.00	49	52	96	83	29
Total Mountain Lion Licenses		2,196	2,387	2,481	2,481	2,391
Wild Bison ⁸	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$2,502.00	18	15	19	19	8
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$1,002.00	1	4	9	42	52
Nonres Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00			5	1	3
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$402.00	84	81	82	70	32

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$252.00	124	165	211	183	211
Resident Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00				3	2
Resident Wild Bison Super Tag	\$402.00				1	1
Total Wild Bison Licenses		227	265	326	319	309
Wild Turkey ¹³	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Resident Fall Turkey	\$16.00	2,042	1,972	1,688	1,789	2,251
Resident Pio Heritage Fall Turkey	\$10.00		21	13	28	21
Resident Pio Heritage Spring Turkey	\$10.00		35	38	37	52
Resident Pioneer Fall Turkey	\$2.00		7	3	1	19
Resident Pioneer Spring Turkey	\$2.00		9	1	6	13
Resident Spring Turkey	\$16.00	4,503	3,886	3,854	3,829	4,343
TOTALS		6,545	5,930	5,597	5,690	6,699
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$72.00	276	240	219	183	246
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$72.00	1,847	1,281	1,256	1,094	1,116
TOTALS		2,123	1,521	1,475	1,277	1,362
Total Wild Turkey Licenses		8,668	7,451	7,072	6,967	8,061
Other Licenses	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$182.00	12	10	9	9	9
Deal in Live Bait	\$67.00	67	61	57	62	76
Duplicate Commercial	\$5.00	4	13	6	12	9
Duplicate Lifetime	\$5.00	244	215	294	324	323
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$5.00	2,405	2,870	3,062	3,309	3,744
Duplicate with Coupon	\$5.00	2,320	3,919	2,907	2,866	3,196
Duplicate without Coupon	\$5.00	143	200	207	197	260
Fishing Preserve	\$132.00	55	54	45	46	41
Game Bird Farm	\$132.00	108	105	102	104	95
License to Capture Furbearing Animal	\$20.00	1	2	1		
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$16.00	77	79	72	77	85
Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$242.00	13	16	10	8	18
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$277.00	11	10	9	9	10
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$702.00	6	7	5	3	3
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$38.00	16	26	23	19	23
Resident Fur Dealer	\$52.00	13	15	15	13	15
Resident Taxidermist	\$67.00	187	176	171	184	192
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$20.00	735	840	811	827	807
Total Other Licenses		6,417	8,618	7,806	8,069	8,906
STAMPS, PERMITS, & TAGS						
	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Central Visual Acuity Permit ¹	\$0.00				10	6
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit ²	\$12.50	214	187	148		
Conservation Stamps	\$12.50	170,810	175,964	176,037	174,579	177,229
Disabled Veteran 100% Bird/Sm Game & Fish	\$0.00	56	51	41	50	66
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00	180	251	246	245	311
Disabled Hunter Permit	\$0.00	163	235	248	297	369
Disabled Veteran 50% Fishing	\$0.00	186	199	176	197	247
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$12.50	12,115	11,760	12,111	12,393	12,697
Harvest Information Permits (HIP)	\$0.00	10,161	8,823	8,616	8,039	8,039

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Hunter Safety Exemption ³	\$0.00				108	221
Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities (SFV)	\$0.00	146	155	149	175	199
Interstate Game Tags	\$8.00	14,489	14,627	13,616	5,047	4,090
Nonres Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00		45	58	56	68
Nonres Marten Permit	\$0.00		1			
Nonres Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	33	26	23	14	28
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	112	119	123	127	125
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	27	11	24	23	15
Nonresident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	1				1
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50				49	46
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$12.50	4,867	5,015	5,141	5,283	5,442
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	7,588	7,991	9,523	8,525	8,087
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50				163	111
Res Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	127	150	139	137	121
Resident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	18	15	19	17	10
Resident Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00		735	716	742	618
Resident Guide ⁴	\$0.00			453	523	507
Resident Marten Permit	\$0.00	5	4	5	5	
Resident Pioneer Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$0.00	1,355	1,688	1,539	1,592	1,709
Resident Pioneer Veteran Bird/Fish/Sm Game	\$0.00	149	250	247	274	288
Resident Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	319	244	158	149	188
Resident Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	960	1,079	1,016	1,050	1,068
Sandhill Crane General Permit ¹⁴	\$0.00				334	519
Temporary Hunter With Disability (SFV) ⁵	\$0.00				49	56
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00	241	193	84	83	94
Total Stamps, Permits, & Tags		224,322	229,818	230,656	220,335	222,575

DONATIONS

	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Access Yes	\$1.00	118,248	123,072	125,915	130,025	139,810
Search and Rescue	\$1.00	156,096	169,904	175,323	213,301	228,074
Total Donations		274,344	292,976	301,238	343,326	367,884

WATERCRAFT & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DECALS⁹

	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00				690	756
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00				5,346	5,801
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00				533	589
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00				1,186	1,234
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00				3,761	4,372
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00				687	779
Nonresident AIS Motorized Decal	\$30.00	5,254	5,771	6,538	6,911	7,354
Nonresident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$15.00	2,873	3,716	4,679	5,303	5,967
Resident AIS Motorized Decal	\$10.00	19,914	21,612	17,753	7,864	3,879
Resident AIS Motorized Decal Three-Year	\$30.00			4,861		
Resident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$5.00	6,733	8,360	8,942	9,980	11,424
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$5.00				112	208
Watercraft Dealer	\$15.00	15	29	62	38	50

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Watercraft Duplicate	\$5.00	125	251	254	161	75
Watercraft Government Renewal Three-Year	\$0.00	14	67	32	40	81
Watercraft New One-Year	\$15.00	430	802	979	273	269
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$40.00	673	1,626	1,292	157	142
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$15.00	808	6,386	6,182	1,070	862
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$40.00	576	5,192	4,245	554	543
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$15.00	241	546	685	158	158
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$40.00	351	944	733	72	66
Total Watercraft & AIS		38,007	55,302	57,237	44,896	44,609

SUPER TAG & SUPER TAG TRIFECTA RAFFLE ⁷

	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Antelope Super Tag	\$10.00				2,029	2,067
Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$10.00				10,572	11,741
Black Bear Super Tag	\$10.00				220	238
Deer Super Tag	\$10.00				4,216	4,356
Elk Super Tag	\$10.00				7,791	7,615
Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$10.00				529	-
Moose Super Tag	\$10.00				8,307	8,514
Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$10.00				4,312	4,526
Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$10.00				214	392
Super Tag Trifecta	\$30.00				8,217	6,855
Wild Bison Super Tag	\$10.00				3,859	4,181
Total Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta					50,266	50,485

PREFERENCE POINTS

	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nonresident Antelope	\$30.00	22,324	25,889	28,965	33,040	38,255
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$100.00	6,099	6,342	6,638	7,092	7,547
Nonresident Deer	\$40.00	23,915	25,713	28,225	32,503	37,829
Nonresident Elk	\$50.00	30,801	33,696	36,750	41,480	47,191
Nonresident Moose	\$75.00	7,417	7,529	7,784	8,194	8,676
Nonresident Youth Antelope	\$10.00	2,119	2,430	2,606	3,015	3,439
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$10.00	1,786	1,922	2,062	2,394	2,855
Nonresident Youth Elk	\$10.00	1,740	1,932	2,032	2,337	2,837
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	4,437	4,738	4,464	4,814	4,978
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Point Purchase	\$7.00	3,719	3,919	4,228	4,244	4,540
Resident Moose - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	8,808	9,267	8,787	9,435	10,158
Resident Moose - Point Purchase	\$7.00	5,158	5,327	5,643	5,672	5,831
Total Preference Points		118,323	128,704	138,184	154,220	174,136

DRAW APPLICATION FEES

	PRICE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bison Application Fee	\$6.00	4,960	5,083	5,468	3,430	3,971
Nonresident Application Fee	\$14.00	86,783	85,403	85,066	87,735	92,675
Resident Application Fee	\$5.00	113,783	117,451	119,435	122,580	131,916
Withdrawal Fee	\$5.00	1,071	1,173	1,059	1,085	867
Total Fees		206,597	209,110	211,028	214,830	229,429

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

		1,446,266	1,531,897	1,549,001	1,630,691	1,719,936
*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.						
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 16

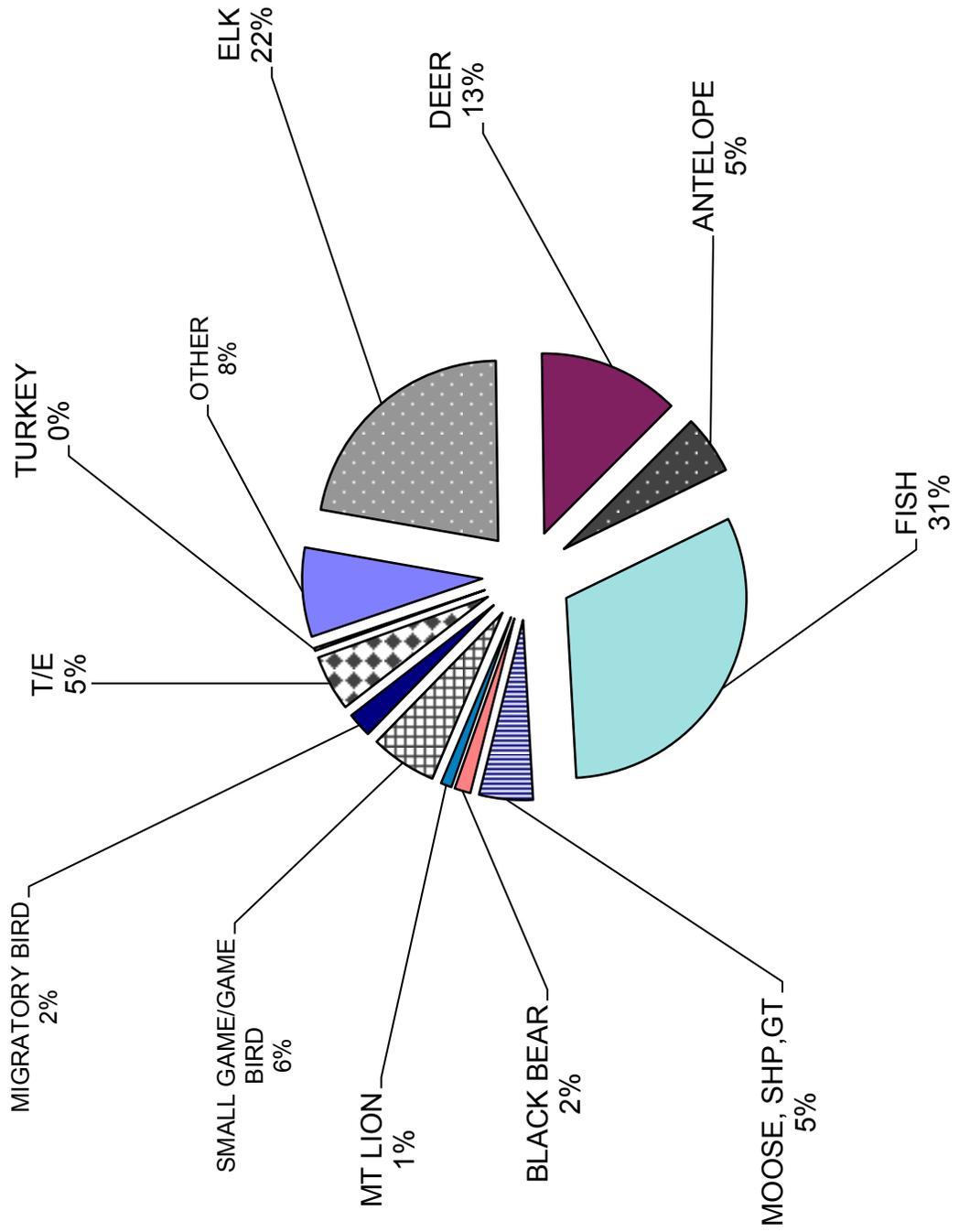
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$18,340,175		
BC	ANTELOPE (PRONGHORN)	\$3,024,446	\$984,661	\$4,009,107
BD	ELK	\$12,542,930	\$4,083,570	\$16,626,500
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,847,002	\$601,324	\$2,448,326
BF	MOOSE	\$785,497	\$255,732	\$1,041,230
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$114,498	\$37,277	\$151,775
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$559,676	\$182,212	\$741,888
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$822,971	\$267,933	\$1,090,904
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$1,966,147	\$640,114	\$2,606,261
BM	MULE DEER	\$6,702,506	\$2,182,118	\$8,884,624
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$518,016	\$168,649	\$686,664
BP	BISON	\$135,284	\$44,044	\$179,328
BW	WOLF	\$630,751	\$205,352	\$836,104
CA	SMALL GAME	\$76,369	\$24,863	\$101,232
CC	PHEASANTS	\$1,170,127	\$380,955	\$1,551,083
CF	TURKEY	\$142,011	\$46,234	\$188,245
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$1,553	\$506	\$2,058
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$12,679	\$4,128	\$16,807
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$2,089,869	\$680,393	\$2,770,262
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$32,854	\$10,696	\$43,550
DB	GEESE	\$546,347	\$177,873	\$724,219
DC	DUCKS	\$237,800	\$77,420	\$315,219
DD	SWANS	\$257,938	\$83,976	\$341,914
DE	DOVES	\$92,691	\$30,177	\$122,869
DF	CRANES	\$126,203	\$41,087	\$167,290

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 16

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$17,005,569	\$5,536,460	\$22,542,029
HB	BOBCAT	\$186,256	\$60,639	\$246,895
HC	BEAVER	\$398,382	\$129,700	\$528,082
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$20,776	\$6,764	\$27,540
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$892,728	\$290,643	\$1,183,371
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$1,028,091	\$334,713	\$1,362,803
NC	RAPTORS	\$332,196	\$108,152	\$440,348
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$853,974	\$278,026	\$1,132,000
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$509,319	\$165,818	\$675,137
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$11,852	\$3,859	\$15,711
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$18,185	\$5,920	\$24,105
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$26,010	\$8,468	\$34,478
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$199,995	\$65,112	\$265,107
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$6,192	\$2,016	\$8,209
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$19,143	\$6,232	\$25,376
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$40,929	\$13,325	\$54,255
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$251,035	\$81,729	\$332,764
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$84,913	\$27,645	\$112,558
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$9,329	\$3,037	\$12,366
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$1,908	\$621	\$2,529
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$861,188		\$861,188
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$75,534,309	\$18,340,175	\$75,534,309

*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.

WGF Expenditures by Species - FY 16 (includes general fund non capital construction)



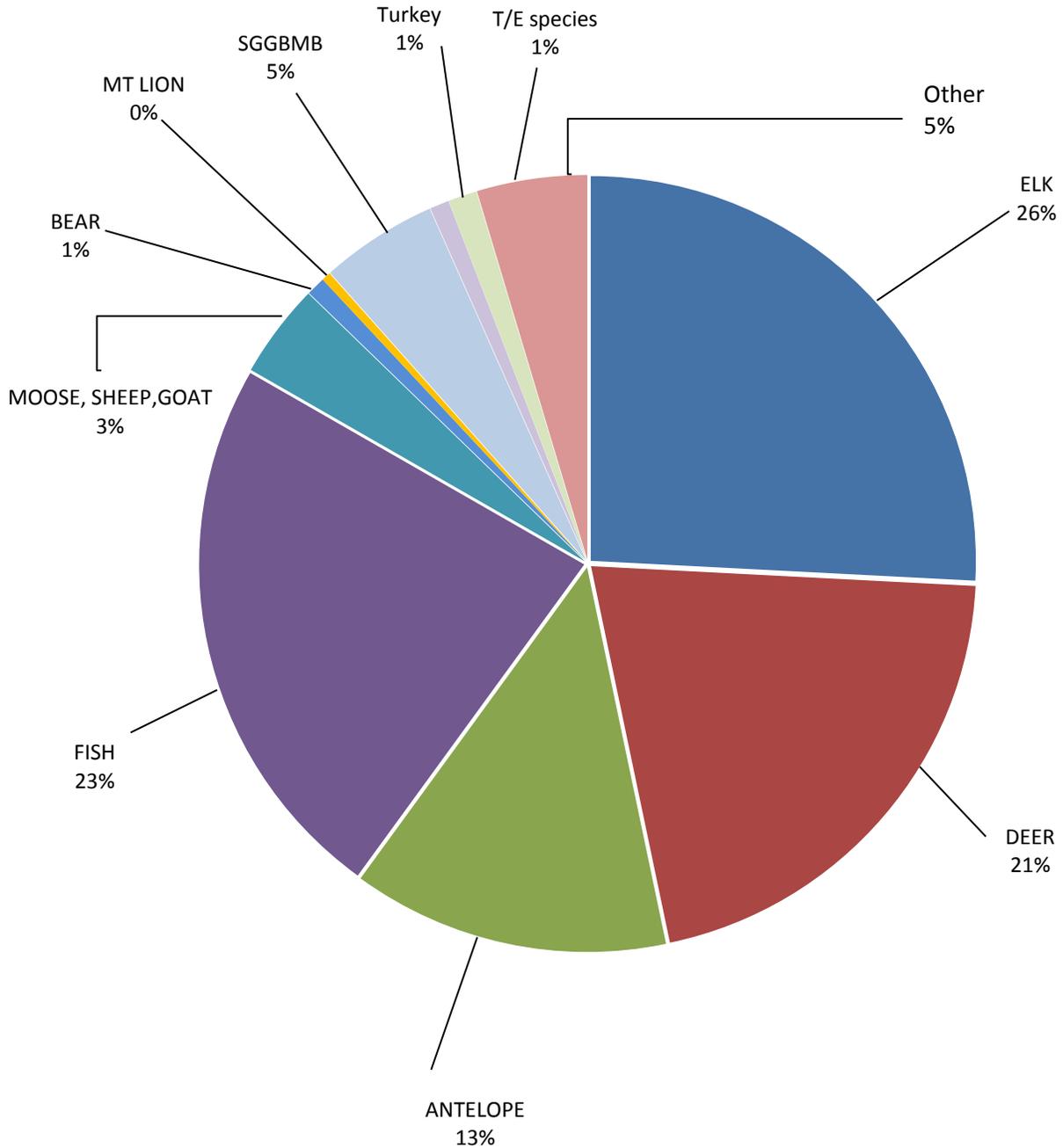
REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM – FY 16

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$5,301,150		
BC	ANTELOPE	\$9,492,690	\$711,411	\$10,204,100
BD	ELK	\$18,435,250	\$1,381,593	\$19,816,842
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,715,890	\$128,594	\$1,844,483
BF	MOOSE	\$1,029,256	\$77,136	\$1,106,392
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$84,348	\$6,321	\$90,669
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$272,402	\$20,415	\$292,816
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$569,258	\$42,662	\$611,920
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$180,367	\$13,517	\$193,884
BM	MULE DEER	\$14,501,229	\$1,086,766	\$15,587,995
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$412,789	\$30,936	\$443,724
BP	BISON	\$221,014	\$16,563	\$237,578
BW	WOLF	\$509,150	\$38,157	\$547,307
CA	SMALL GAME	\$2,111,624	\$158,251	\$2,269,876
CC	PHEASANTS	\$75,348	\$5,647	\$80,994
CF	TURKEY	\$582,398	\$43,647	\$626,044
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$162	\$12	\$175
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$1,234,387	\$92,509	\$1,326,896
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$1,683	\$126	\$1,809
DB	GEESE	\$173	\$13	\$186
DC	DUCKS	\$4,212	\$316	\$4,528
DD	SWANS	\$80,471	\$6,031	\$86,502
DE	DOVES	\$283	\$21	\$304
DF	CRANES	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM – FY 16

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$16,486,445	\$1,235,544	\$17,721,989
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
HC	BEAVER	\$218,352	\$16,364	\$234,716
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$31,624	\$2,370	\$33,994
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$697,307	\$52,258	\$749,566
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$749,301	\$56,155	\$805,455
NC	RAPTORS	\$64,380	\$4,825	\$69,204
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$136,016	\$10,193	\$146,209
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$319,382	\$23,935	\$343,317
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$17,793	\$1,333	\$19,127
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$7,887	\$591	\$8,478
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$141,173	\$10,580	\$151,753
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$4,929	\$369	\$5,298
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$15,272	\$1,145	\$16,416
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$1,050	\$79	\$1,129
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$196,450	\$14,723	\$211,173
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$131,118	\$9,826	\$140,945
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$2,899	\$217	\$3,117
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$0	\$0	\$0
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$706,239		\$706,239
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$76,743,149	\$5,301,150	\$76,743,149

WGF Revenue Collected by Species FY 16 (includes general fund noncapital construction)



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

PROGRAM	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%
Antelope	3,958,296	5.58%	3,933,317	5.72%	3,458,135	5.47%	2,998,057	4.37%	4,009,107	5.31%
Elk	16,493,854	23.26%	14,699,616	21.39%	14,759,617	23.36%	16,748,041	24.44%	16,626,500	22.01%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	1,823,835	2.57%	1,495,349	2.18%	2,211,924	3.50%	2,782,695	4.06%	2,448,326	3.24%
Moose	982,685	1.39%	1,359,572	1.98%	784,133	1.24%	994,976	1.45%	1,041,230	1.38%
Rocky Mountain Goat	56,123	0.08%	133,456	0.19%	86,367	0.14%	160,227	0.23%	151,775	0.20%
Mountain Lion	692,596	0.98%	633,200	0.92%	489,861	0.78%	525,015	0.77%	741,888	0.98%
Black Bear	864,833	1.22%	754,404	1.10%	706,665	1.12%	682,209	1.00%	1,090,904	1.44%
Grizzly Bear	1,694,477	2.39%	1,940,610	2.82%	1,793,556	2.84%	2,278,218	3.32%	2,606,261	3.45%
Mule Deer	8,341,097	11.76%	7,679,283	11.17%	6,745,783	10.68%	7,688,862	11.22%	8,884,624	11.76%
White-tailed Deer	674,624	0.95%	726,710	1.06%	420,029	0.66%	399,531	0.58%	686,664	0.91%
Bison	300,643	0.42%	199,643	0.29%	200,479	0.32%	177,968	0.26%	179,328	0.24%
Wolf	734,296	1.04%	1,450,231	2.11%	1,134,343	1.80%	882,375	1.29%	836,104	1.11%
Small Game	28,245	0.04%	34,584	0.05%	32,515	0.05%	29,468	0.04%	101,232	0.13%
Game Birds	163	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pheasants	1,693,459	2.39%	1,176,016	1.71%	1,161,946	1.84%	1,324,189	1.93%	1,551,083	2.05%
Turkey	175,429	0.25%	151,614	0.22%	174,284	0.28%	155,879	0.23%	188,245	0.25%
Partridge	3,397	0.00%	1,819	0.00%	3,144	0.00%	2,164	0.00%	2,058	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	4,952	0.01%	13,779	0.02%	8,592	0.01%	8,825	0.01%	16,807	0.02%
Sage Grouse	3,258,052	4.59%	3,156,876	4.59%	2,532,519	4.01%	2,534,741	3.70%	2,770,262	3.67%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	23,219	0.03%	25,168	0.04%	21,775	0.03%	31,531	0.05%	43,550	0.06%
Geese	305,835	0.43%	822,432	1.20%	810,294	1.28%	1,043,518	1.52%	724,219	0.96%
Ducks	1,067,842	1.51%	173,716	0.25%	173,983	0.28%	360,682	0.53%	315,219	0.42%

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

PROGRAM	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%
Swans	209,110	0.29%	73,396	0.11%	348,402	0.55%	289,442	0.42%	341,914	0.45%
Doves	131,663	0.19%	293,081	0.43%	104,996	0.17%	220,018	0.32%	122,869	0.16%
Cranes	108,639	0.15%	99,126	0.14%	128,998	0.20%	103,023	0.15%	167,290	0.22%
Sport Fish	21,474,956	30.28%	21,940,359	31.92%	19,787,933	31.32%	20,133,253	29.38%	22,542,029	29.84%
Bobcat/Lynx	480,931	0.68%	378,395	0.55%	309,848	0.49%	264,253	0.39%	246,895	0.33%
Beaver	189,976	0.27%	246,140	0.36%	200,312	0.32%	505,545	0.74%	528,082	0.70%
Commercial Fisheries	19,745	0.03%	35,935	0.05%	15,179	0.02%	30,441	0.04%	27,540	0.04%
Nongame Mammals	987,226	1.39%	1,063,778	1.55%	902,922	1.43%	1,098,116	1.60%	1,183,371	1.57%
Nongame Birds	827,377	1.17%	1,028,419	1.50%	790,310	1.25%	1,035,194	1.51%	1,362,803	1.80%
Raptors	653,433	0.92%	757,083	1.10%	472,082	0.75%	199,192	0.29%	440,348	0.58%
Nongame Fish	913,755	1.29%	332,394	0.48%	453,361	0.72%	724,219	1.06%	1,132,000	1.50%
Amphibians/Reptiles	409,590	0.58%	625,534	0.91%	659,918	1.04%	849,841	1.24%	675,137	0.89%
Predatory Birds	6,668	0.01%	5,833	0.01%	3,703	0.01%	3,181	0.00%	15,711	0.02%
Peregrine Falcon	55,694	0.08%	48,996	0.07%	31,853	0.05%	25,816	0.04%	24,105	0.03%
Bald Eagle	84,470	0.12%	43,855	0.06%	29,563	0.05%	24,557	0.04%	34,478	0.05%
Black-Footed Ferret	169,306	0.24%	79,184	0.12%	139,022	0.22%	72,849	0.11%	265,107	0.35%
Canadian Lynx	8,376	0.01%	6,246	0.01%	3,240	0.01%	13,117	0.02%	8,209	0.01%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	37,366	0.05%	84,140	0.12%	98,115	0.16%	106,425	0.16%	25,376	0.03%
Predatory Mammals	38,946	0.05%	44,980	0.07%	39,635	0.06%	43,667	0.06%	54,255	0.07%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	9,552	0.01%	1,050	0.00%	7,855	0.01%	7,438	0.01%	332,764	0.44%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	103,077	0.15%	125,557	0.18%	118,403	0.19%	43,232	0.06%	112,558	0.15%

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

PROGRAM	2012	%	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%
Wyoming Toad	14,844	0.02%	13,371	0.02%	7,317	0.01%	14,074	0.02%	12,366	0.02%
Exotic Game	7,184	0.01%	3,644	0.01%	306	0.00%	2,443	0.00%	2,529	0.00%
Nonwildlife	804,245	1.13%	838,165	1.22%	825,126	1.31%	915,633	1.34%	861,188	1.14%
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	70,924,085	100.00%	68,730,053	100.00%	63,188,338	100.00%	68,534,139	100.00%	75,534,309	100.00%