

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



2017

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

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations	41.8	\$7,191,131
Regional Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	34.3	\$3,463,477
Aquatic Invasive Species**	24.3	\$1,320,951
Boating Access	0.0	\$1,691,344
Aquatic Nongame (CWCS)**	1.7	\$502,536
Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	5.5	\$527,108
Fish Spawning	1.6	\$176,026
Fish Distribution	0.0	\$145,168
TOTAL	109.2	\$15,017,741

* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

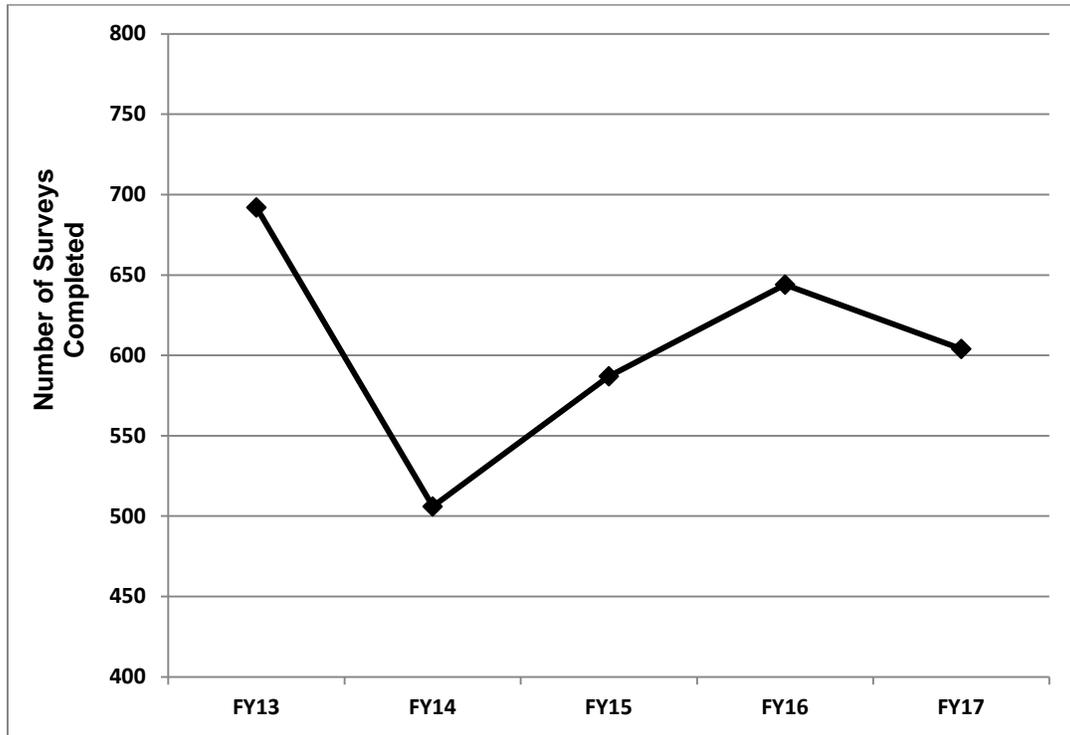
** Legislatively funded program.

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. Each year, Department biologists conduct hundreds of stream and lake surveys throughout the state to monitor the status of important populations of trout, walleye and other game fish species. Data are used to adjust stocking strategies and fishing regulations and to monitor important populations of these species. Since the inception of the State Wildlife Grant and Governor’s ESA Grant funding programs, Fish Division’s survey strategy has evolved to include many more projects to monitor, conserve, and restore Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). These projects often involve surveys targeting nongame, as well as sport fishes.

What has been accomplished:

In 2017, a total of 604 stream and lake surveys were completed (390 stream surveys and 214 lake surveys). The number of surveys exceeded the target of 540 and was within 2 percent of the average of the previous five years. The slight decrease from 2016 was due largely to an 82 percent reduction in the number of stream surveys completed by the statewide Aquatic Assessment Crew. In 2015, the number of surveys completed by this crew was unusually high due to a project in eastern Wyoming described in last year’s report that has since been completed.

In the Snake River drainage in western Wyoming, eleven Hoback River tributaries were surveyed to assess distribution of some SGCN, including bluehead sucker, Snake River cutthroat trout, and leatherside chub. Snake River cutthroat trout were found in a number of streams that were not previously known to support game fish. Further upstream in the Snake River watershed, nonnative brook trout were removed from Flat, Blue Crane, and Game creeks and Jenny Lake to benefit populations of native Snake River cutthroat trout, a SGCN.

Two Wind River tributaries near Shoshoni were surveyed extensively to update information regarding distributions and relative abundance of nongame fishes. Past sampling in the basins had been limited to two sampling events that occurred in 1976 and 1995. A total of 19 sites were surveyed in the Muskrat and Poison creek watersheds that flow westerly between Riverton and Shoshoni before entering the Wind River and Boysen Reservoir, respectively. A total of 10 native species were found, including brassy minnow, a SGCN.

The area where Poison Creek enters Boysen Reservoir (Poison Creek Bay) is known to be an important nursery area for Wind River sauger. Juvenile sauger monitoring in 2016, indicated that strong year-classes of wild sauger were produced in 2015 and 2016 with most juvenile sauger in the reservoir captured in Poison Creek Bay. The Department, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes, and Rogue Biological Consultants, is currently working on a project that is using genetic analyses to determine if the strong year classes are the result of natural recruitment, sauger stocking, or a combination of both. Regardless of the result, the presence of high numbers bodes well for the Wind River sauger population that has been in decline for many years.

Severe storms in 2015 produced powerful flooding in the Niobrara River and in Muddy Creek, a tributary to Glendo Reservoir. Habitat conditions were altered and impacts to fish populations were unknown. Surveys in 2016 were conducted in both drainages to assess impacts from the floods. It was encouraging to find that plains topminnow, a SGCN, and other nongame fish species were present in Muddy Creek post-flood and habitat was recovering. The majority of the native species had also returned to impacted reaches of the Niobrara River; however, Northern pike were found in portions of the drainage for the first time. The flooding may have allowed this exotic predator to overcome barriers that had previously restricted its distribution to the Niobrara River in Nebraska. Department biologists will be working to identify the distribution of Northern pike in this watershed and determine if the species can be removed.

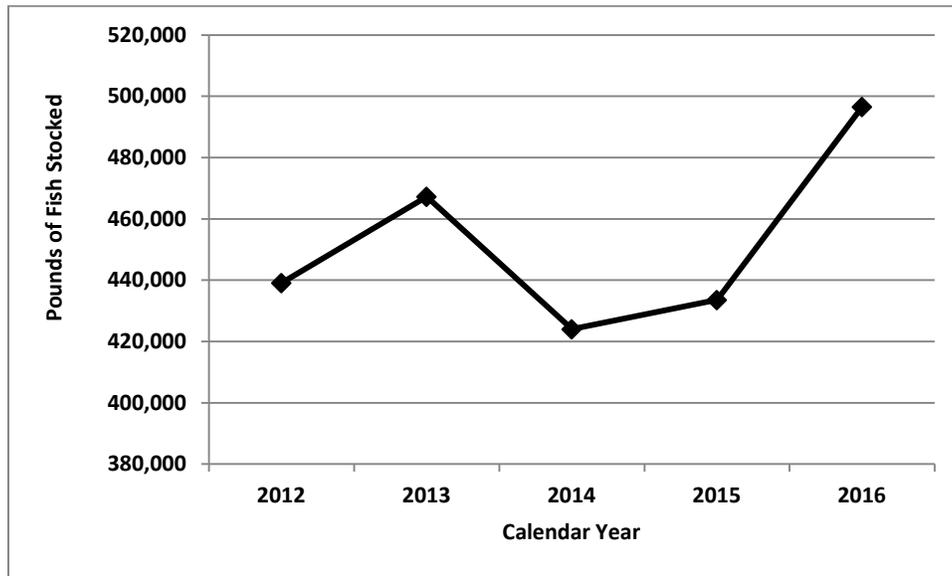
Many other significant accomplishments did not translate to significant numbers of stream and lake surveys. A few of those accomplishments are summarized below.

- Multiple projects were completed to secure populations of native flannelmouth and bluehead sucker in the Big Sandy River drainage. Chemical treatments of two tributaries, Sculpin Creek and Long Draw, were completed and a fish migration barrier was constructed on the Big Sandy River west of Farson. The barrier will facilitate future removal of nonnative burbot and white sucker above the barrier to establish a refugia for native SGCN.
- A fish passage barrier was also completed on Bare Creek, a South Cottonwood Creek tributary in the Wyoming Range, in 2015. In 2016, the stream above the barrier was

chemically treated to remove nonnative trout. The stream will be restored to native Colorado River cutthroat trout in the near future.

- Mystery Lake, located in the Teton Wilderness east of Grand Teton National Park, was successfully treated to remove nonnative brook trout. The lake will remain fishless and managed for native amphibian SGCN.
- Fish passage was improved in the LaBarge Creek watershed by replacing two impassible road culverts with bridge crossings.
- Department biologists continued work on a radio telemetry project to determine whether or not adult shovelnose sturgeon are naturally reproducing in the lower Bighorn River. Twenty-five additional fish were implanted with transmitters and tracked for 27 days. The goal of this radio telemetry project is to identify potential spawning locations and describe spawning habitat and sturgeon movement in the river.
- A second project was initiated in the Bighorn River that focuses on sturgeon eggs and newly hatched fish rather than adults. Seven embryonic drift surveys were completed and larval fish were submitted to the Colorado State University Larval Fish Laboratory for identification. Detailed water velocity and discharge data will be used to estimate drifting rates of developing sturgeon eggs.

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



Story behind the performance:

By Commission Policy, “Fish reared at Department facilities shall be stocked only in waters with insufficient natural recruitment where public access is provided, except in very limited conditions, as provided by policy”. Fish stocking thus occurs primarily in artificial reservoir and downstream tailwater habitats. The Department’s five native cutthroat trout brood stocks are also used to restore populations of genetically pure trout in their native drainages. Fish stocking is the culmination of a process that begins with egg taking from captive and wild brood stocks

(egg sources) and ends with the stocking of the right strain or type of fish into waters at the scheduled time and fish size. The eggs are hatched and reared at one of 10 facilities and then stocked using the fish culture sub-program's distribution trucks/system. The fish culture sub-program meets its trout, salmon (kokanee), and grayling needs in state. The fish culture sub-program also receives, in trade for surplus grayling and trout eggs, warm or cool water sport fishes not available in Wyoming.

In FY17, 4,803,334 trout, kokanee, and grayling totaling 496,549 pounds were stocked from 10 Wyoming facilities and the unmanned Flume Creek facility. The FY 17 production denoted a increase of 47,535 pounds compared to 449,014 pounds in FY 16. The five-year rolling average for fish production in Wyoming fish culture facilities is 446,449 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 2017 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. Future fish production schedules at the facility are dependent on the number of catchable sized rainbow trout requested for five large reservoirs (Flaming Gorge, Seminoe, Pathfinder, Alcova and Lake Desmet).

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, blugill, hybrid sunfish, channel catfish, 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 17 budget.

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Bird Farms	5.4	\$768,078

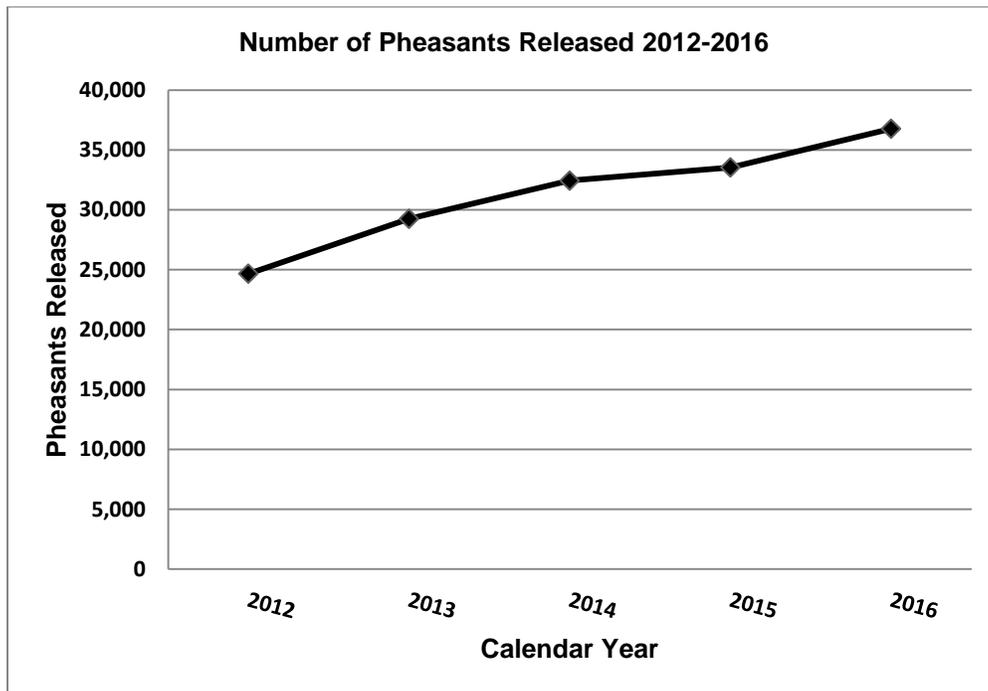
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 2012 and 2016, the number of pheasants released ranged from 24,667 to 36,767 with an average of 31,330. The number released in 2016 was 36,767.

What has been accomplished:

The Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor, and the Downar Bird Farm Coordinator, spent considerable time planning and discussing an opportunity made available to acquire wild pheasants from North Dakota. The Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor coordinated with personnel in North Dakota and efforts were made to capture 100 rooster pheasants at the Lake Ilo Wildlife Preserve. Severe winter conditions resulting in starvation deaths to wild pheasants forced operations to stop and no North Dakota pheasants were brought to Wyoming. Since that attempt, significant research has been done regarding this project and many things were learned that will lead Wyoming bird farm personnel to re-evaluate exactly what they hope to accomplish with a project that is more complex than it first appeared. The Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor and the Downar Bird Farm Coordinator worked to design and build a replacement building to house incubator, hatcher, chiller, and egg processing operations. This building will also serve as an office space and storage for feed. This will replace an old barn that was modified in an effort to be more bio-secure as well as efficient. This improvement was long overdue. Construction will begin early 2018. The Sheridan and Downar Bird Farms continued with changes implemented 2015 to increase hatching and survival rates. These changes have resulted in high hatch rates and increased survival to adulthood. Both bird farms are at maximum production and increases that have been achieved in past years will likely level off.

Personnel at the Sheridan Bird Farm oversaw a flight pen top reconstruction on the south side of the facility as well as an in-house rebuild and re-top of a 50'x100' holding pen on the west side of the loading chute. Modern woven netting was used to save money and time. Flight pens and runways were farmed and planted into oats to improve early plant growth and also discourage undesirable weeds. This was successful and cover crops did much better than last season. Personnel remodeled, cleaned, and organized the shop attic to improve storage and organizations of tools, feeders, heaters, and game bird drinkers. New flooring was installed in the Sheridan Bird Farm supervisor's residence and bird farm personnel helped tear out and disposal of old materials. The Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor attended supervisor meetings and engaged in

discussions and planning efforts to regulate the private hatching of sage-grouse. Sheridan bird farm switched to a high protein, all-processed feeding program to avoid problems with nutrition that were experienced in the summer of 2016. Personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. Personnel conducted several facility tours to members of the public. They provided assistance to other Department employees with different projects including work on check stations, fish population surveys, extension services, and assistance to local game wardens.

Personnel at the Downar Bird Farm oversaw and directed extensive construction repairs to rotten steel roofs on all the brooder houses as well as covering soffit and fascia on those building to seal out weather and control damage due to moisture. The incubator barn building was also re-roofed and new foundations were poured around incubators and hatchers inside that building. A large flight pen was torn down and reconstructed on the south end of the farm. The Downar Bird Farm Coordinator assisted in a major remodel of the check station at the Springer Unit. The coordinator also spent significant time identifying and prioritizing areas at the Downar Farm that needed attention to improve efficiency and safety of farm operations. Aggressive rodent control efforts all year have resulted in a feed cost saving of over \$5000 as well as reducing exposure to illnesses and diseases carried by mice. Personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. Personnel conducted several facility tours to members of the public. They 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Hunter Education	1.0	\$ 198,396
Conservation Education	2.0	470,953
TOTAL	3.0	\$ 669,349

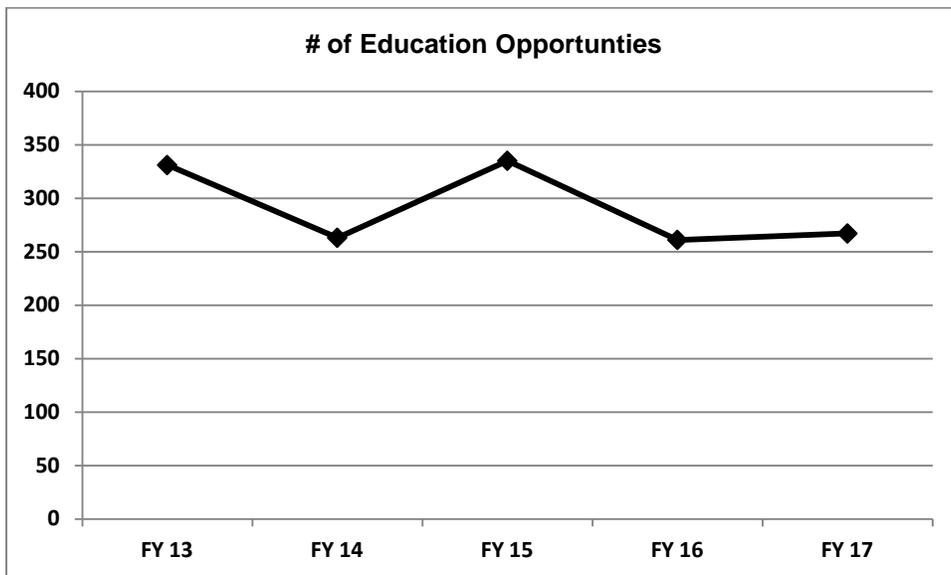
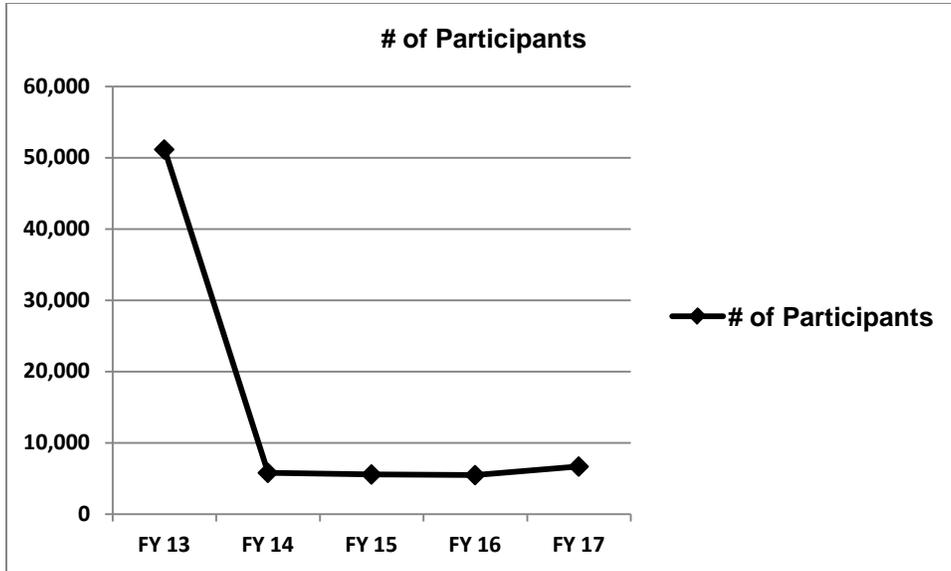
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants. These programs do require statewide responsibilities, travel, and assistance from regional personnel.*

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. Combining this information would be beneficial, but one team is in the Director’s Office and the other in the Wildlife Division. Regarding these

numbers specifically, FY 17 was significant because the Conservation Education Coordinator and a new Hunter and Angler Participation Coordinator were hired.

What has been accomplished:

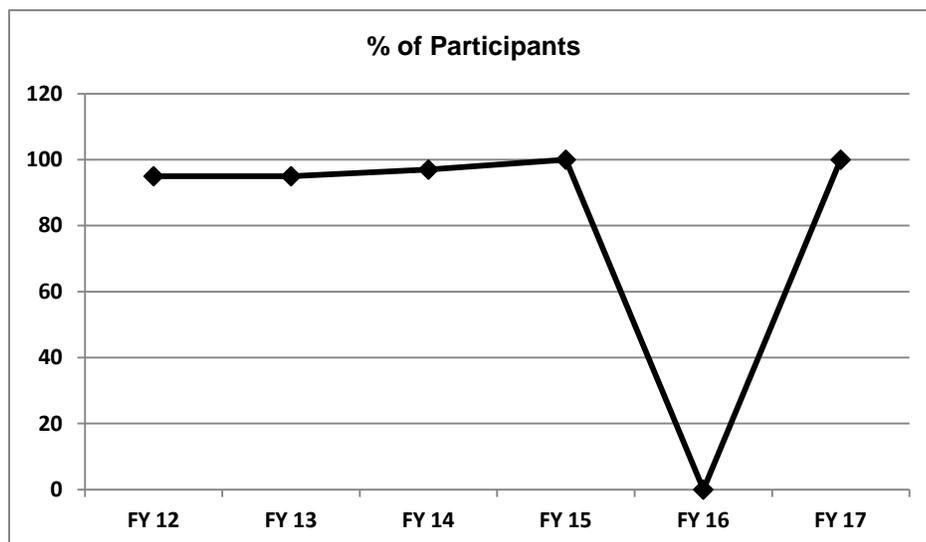
In July 2016, the Commission reviewed and approved an outreach plan to guide future conservation education and outreach programming. This plan was put together by a group of employees from different divisions and regions. Its goals are:

- 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; and
- Continuing to foster external partnerships and increase active partner participation

The Commission approved additional funding for this plan and also directed the Department to hire staff to implement the plan. The Conservation Education Coordinator started work on day camps led in each region of the state. Half of these occurred in FY 17. Participants were surveyed to be able to judge effectiveness and have data to further evaluate the camps in the future. The Department also brought back *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* and received great interest in participating.

Hunter education continues to serve a large volume of students year-around throughout the state with education delivered through a network of volunteers. In FY 17, the Department saw more interest in hunter education and more graduates. Additionally, 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 tracked in evaluating this goal were related to the Forever Wild Families Program until FY 17 when the Department started surveying participants of other educational programs.

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 submitted 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Conservation Engineering	5.0	\$ 624,721

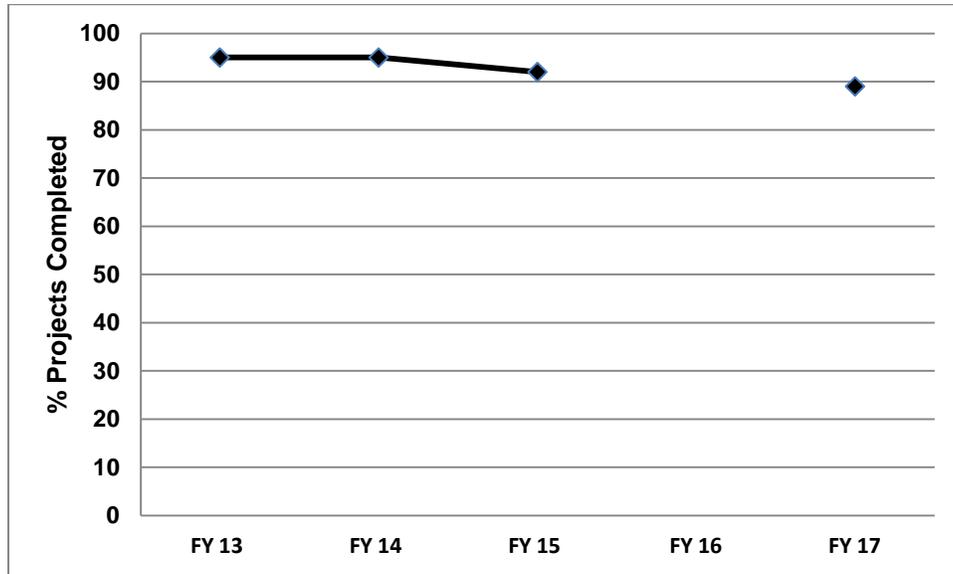
** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 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 Engineering Section 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, Expo, 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 includes providing oversight for the design and construction 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 Diamond Lake Pipeline Project. In addition, 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 FY 17, Conservation Engineering did not have a full complement of employees. However, Conservation Engineering is still able to provide adequate customer service. Performance measure metrics were not tracked in FY 16 but with implementation of the Services Project Request system, projects in FY 17 were able to be better tracked. The Conservation Engineering Branch was able to address 89% of the projects that were requested of them in 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 17 budget. Customer Services is broken into three sections: Telephone Information Center, telecommunications services, and alternative enterprises.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Customer Services	3.0	\$ 161,102
Mailroom	1.0	516,902
TOTAL	4.0	\$ 678,004

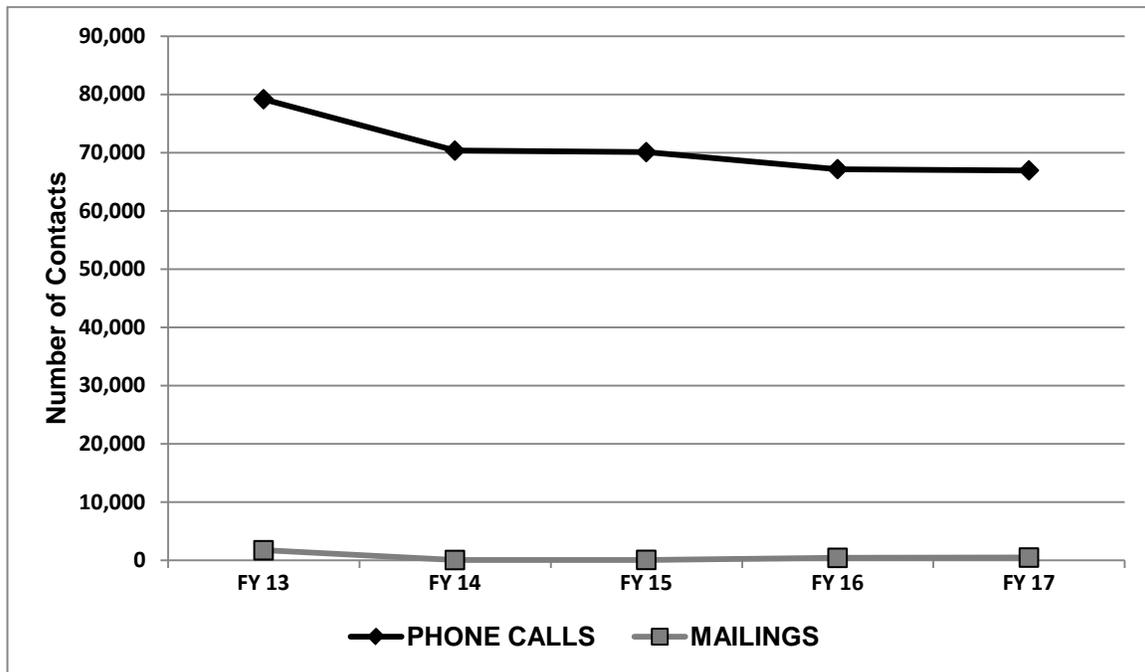
** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 17, there were four customer service representatives trained to handle all incoming calls and requests for information. The Department trained two additional customer service representatives during FY 17. During this time period, 66,956 calls were answered of the 76,824 total calls directed to the Telephone Information Center. The calls that were not answered were abandoned calls (9,815) where the caller hung up

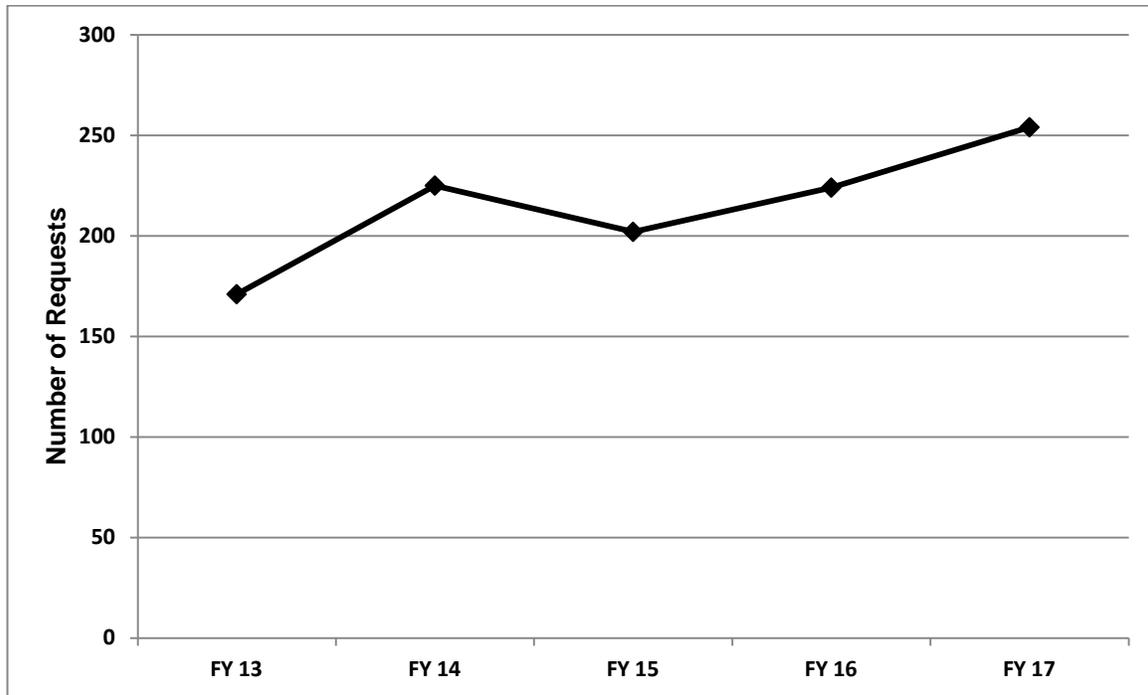
before the customer service representative concluded the preceding call. This represents a level of service of 87 percent. All front counter staff answers calls in the Telephone Information Center and five additional staff members assist throughout the year and especially during high call volume days. The Department has a minimum of three representatives with more answering calls on higher 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 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 70,749 and the average number of mailings has been 560. In FY 17, the Telephone Information Center staff answered 66,956 incoming calls and processed 484 mailing requests for information from customers. As reflected in the performance measure chart, there have been reductions in the number of incoming calls received and a significant reduction in requests for materials to be mailed to customers. Both of these reductions are a result of customers using the Department's website to obtain information and to apply for or purchase licenses. The reduction also reflects that customers are comfortable with using this process.

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



Story behind the performance:

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

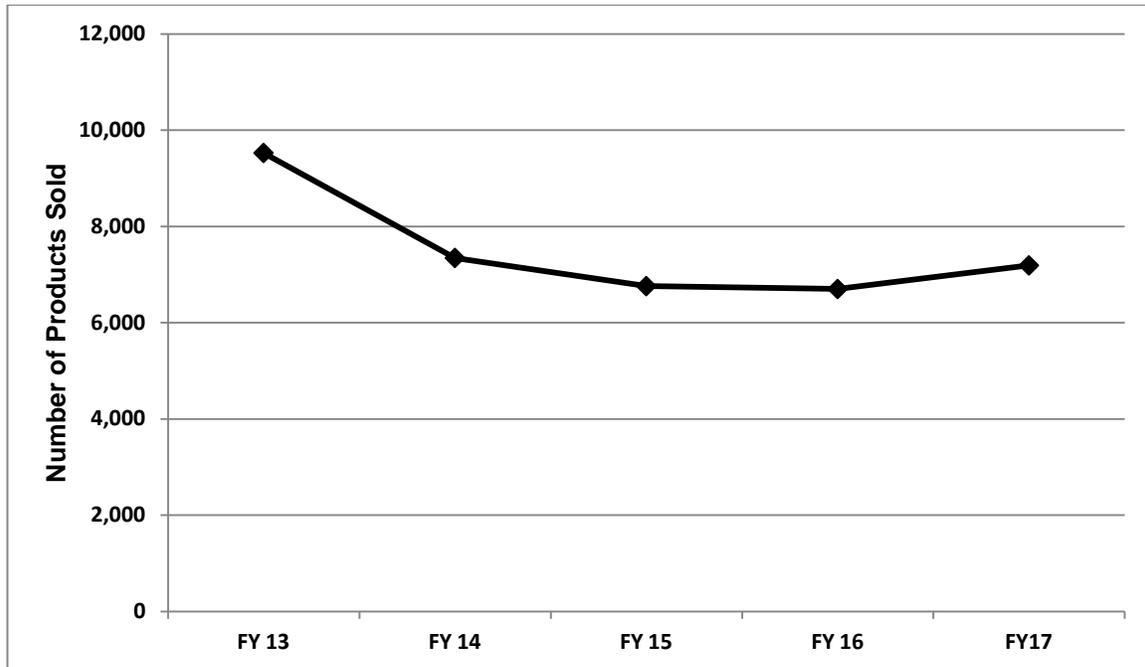
As the Telecommunications Liaison, this employee serves as the point of contact for Department employees with State Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and private vendors for all telecommunication related issues. Telecommunications is growing due to the rapid pace of the cellular environment and this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

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

As in FY 16, the FY 17 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).

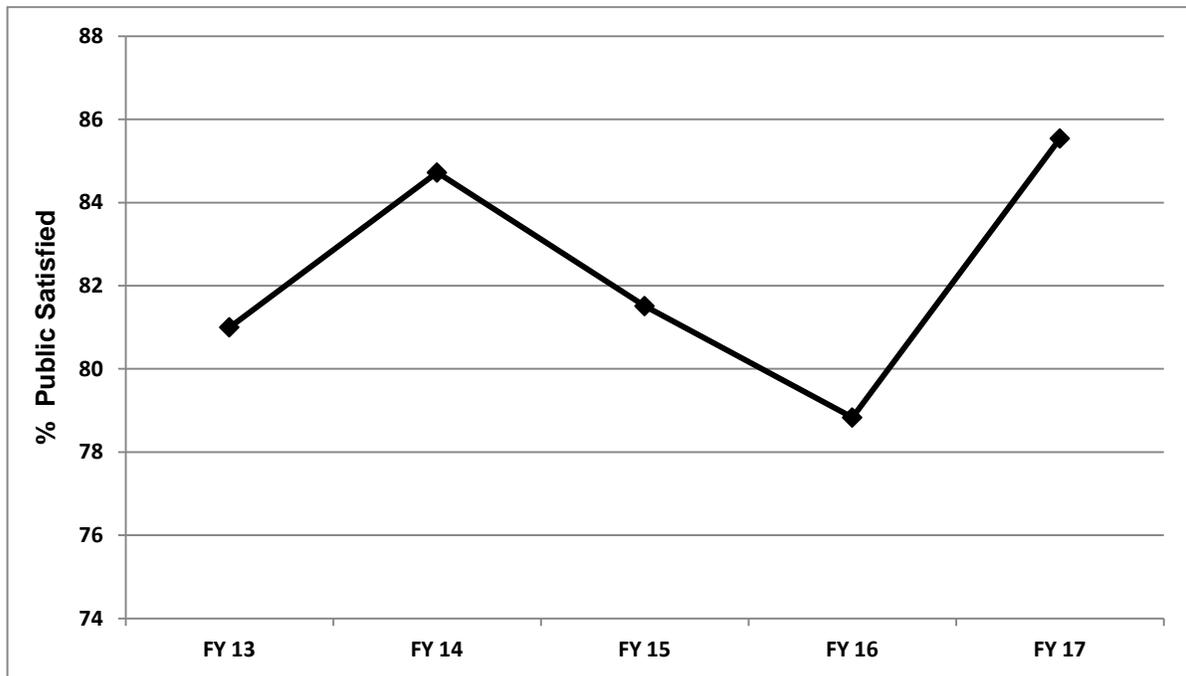


Story behind the performance:

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 16, the number of products sold was 6,699. In FY 17, the number of products was similar at 7,190. 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 17, 348 individuals responded to the survey which included 181 residents and 167 nonresidents. The survey provides the opportunity for the public to evaluate the customer service provided by the Department. Since FY 13, an average of 82.41 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 330 survey participants that responded to the specific survey question on contacting the Telephone Information Center during FY 17, only 71 used the Telephone Information Center for assistance.

Program: Department Administration

Division: Department-wide

Mission: Provide leadership for wildlife conservation in Wyoming.

Program Facts:

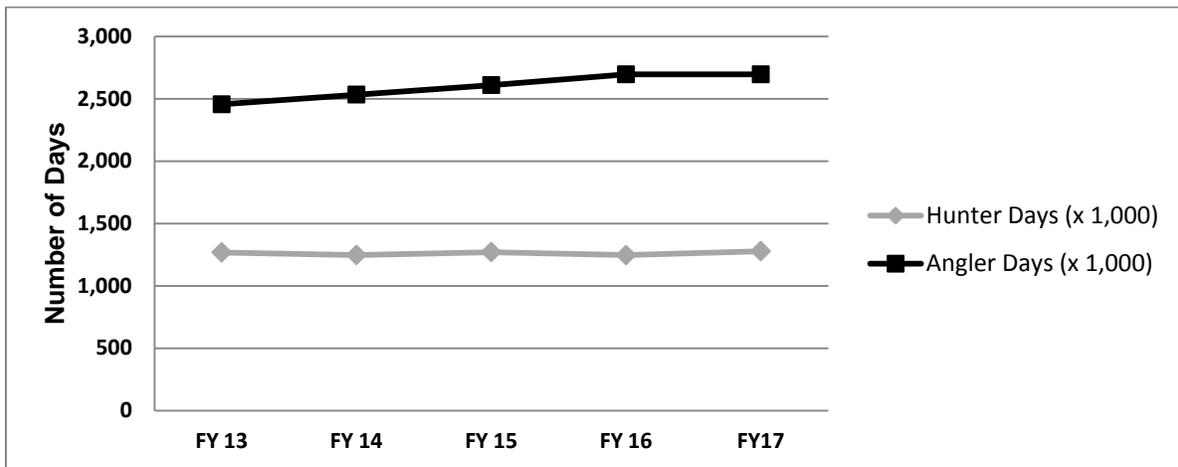
The Department Administration Program is made up of four major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Administration	33.5	\$ 4,488,731
WGFD Vehicle Fleet	0.0	2,576,278
Commission	.8	116,486
TOTAL	23.8	\$ 7,181,495

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 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 13 - FY 17, Wyoming residents and nonresidents have expended an average of 1,261,062 hunter days and 2,527,082 angler days. In FY 17, 1,277,511 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 17 were 16.1 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 increased approximately 2.6 percent between FY 16 and FY 17. Big game (+6,718) and migratory game bird (+41,954) days increased while trophy game (-5,135), small game (-2,218), upland game (-1,450) and furbearers (-7,653) days all decreased. The increase in big game days results from increased license availability, especially for deer. Fluctuations in recreation days for the other categories reflect annual variations in populations, and thus hunter interest. Changes to the way furbearer days are calculated took place last year. A detailed explanation of this change can be found in the 2016 report.

The number of angler days is trending upwards over the last five years. Good fishing conditions and improved regional economic conditions likely account for this trend. The increase in fishing in 2016 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 1 percent overall. 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 2016, the Access Yes Program experienced many successes, including, but not limited to:

- Providing access to 2,785,709 acres (1,758,632 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 1,027,077 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 199,813 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of the WIHA and HMA which would not have been accessible without the Access Yes program.
- Providing fishing access to 3,845 lake acres and 88 stream miles through the Walk-in Fishing Area (WIFA) Program.
- Worked with the Department IT personnel to streamline the online permission slip process making it more user friendly for sportsmen and reducing problems associated with obtaining permission slips for the HMAs and the National Elk Refuge (NER).
- Issued 24,894 online permission slips to 14,415 individual hunters for access to the HMA program and the NER.
- Provided 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.

- Responded to 94 e-mails received through the Access Yes program website regarding hunting, fishing, or the Access Yes Program. The majority of these e-mails (92 percent) were responded to within one day of receipt.
- Successfully implemented the first year of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grant. The Department was awarded \$1,198,122 over three years to be used for contract personnel time, supplies, promotion of the Access Yes program, Access Yes easements, and long-term easements.
- Hunters surveyed during the 2015 hunting season for harvest results indicated 20 percent of antelope hunters (23 percent of nonresident, 16 percent of resident), 15 percent of deer hunters (13 percent of nonresident, 16 percent of resident), and 14 percent of elk hunters (12 percent of nonresident, 14 percent of resident) 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 to hunt.
- Increased hunting access translates into improved wildlife population management and decreased agricultural damage through harvest.
- Increased license sales in hunt areas with difficult public access.
- 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. This is a 4 percent increase for antelope, a 2 percent increase for deer, and a 2 percent decrease for elk from 2014.

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. Besides 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 16 they generated \$619,042.

Donations to Access Yes provide another valuable source of funds. During FY 16, direct donations from conservation groups and organizations totaled \$35,025, 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 \$139,356 in FY 16. Additionally, several private individuals made personal contributions. Overall, during FY 16, the Access Yes Program received \$937,139, which is over a four percent increase from FY 15.

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 2016, every dollar spent provided approximately 3.2 acres of access.

Program: External Research

Division: Office of the Director

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

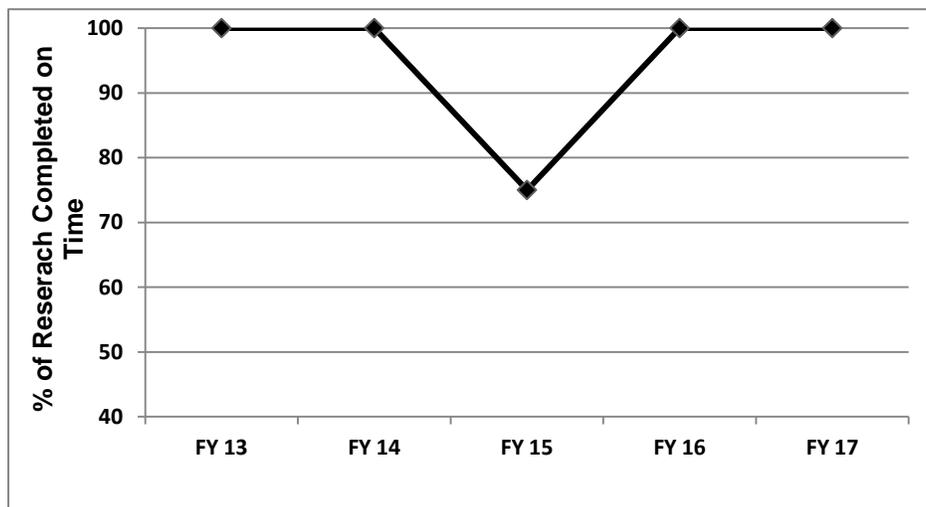
Program Facts: Scientific investigations are typically conducted by researchers associated with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit), universities, and independent researchers. The External Research Program funds no Department personnel, but by agreement, \$40,000 per year is used to help fund administration of the Coop Unit. Listed below is the FY 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
External Research	0	\$ 673,982

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, eight maintenance and operation research projects were scheduled to close during FY 17 (Wyoming Range Mule Deer, Migrations and Development; Using Stable Isotopes to Identify Ungulate Migrations Routes; Platte Valley Mule Deer; Photo Monitoring, Sierra Madre Elk; Snowy Range Moose; and Sublette Moose). Two of these projects closed (Sublette Moose and Migrations and Development) and five projects were extended through FY 18. 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.

During FY 17, no new projects were initiated with maintenance and operation funding. However, the Eastern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Mule Deer study continued with Commission funding via the Department's Mule Deer Initiative, and the Interstate 80 Pronghorn Study was launched with funding from private donors.

At the end of FY 17, seven projects are continuing, including 1) The Snowy Range Moose Project, which seeks to understand movement, nutrition, and demography in the presence of beetle-kill; 2) The Sierra Madre Elk Project, which seeks to understand how elk respond behaviorally to beetle-kill and the presence of hunters, as well as how hunters respond to beetle-kill and downed timber resulting from beetle kill; 3) The Wyoming Range Mule Deer Project, wherein the underlying goal is to characterize factors regulating this highly prized deer herd, with an eye towards habitat, climate, nutrition, predation, and disease; 4) the Deer-Elk Ecology

Research Project, which seeks to understand the relative contributions of habitat, climate, predation, disease, and competition with elk on the dynamics of mule deer, with a broad suite of other community-based questions; 5) the Photo Monitoring project, which is evaluating the means to monitor herd composition and migration using remote trail cameras; 6) Platte Valley Mule Deer project, which is moving into a phase of migration assessment; and 7) Ungulates and Isotopes, which is exploring the means to identify migration routes using isotopes in ungulate teeth.

Wildlife Division Projects completed in FY 17 include: 1) Migration and Development, which has documented the how energy development alters the behavior of migrating mule deer, and, 2) Sublette Moose Study, which evaluated the influence of predators on moose populations and provided baseline data on the Sublette moose herd.

The Coop Unit continues to provide reliable, objective science to help inform the management of Wyoming's wildlife resources. For example, the Photo Monitoring project has already produced results indicating that helicopter surveys are very likely missing a large number of bulls in sampled herds. Additionally, the data showing when bulls and cows migrate out of remote country near Yellowstone National Park in the fall is being used by managers to fine tune hunting seasons. The camera monitoring locations identified in this study will be a long-term resource for the Cody, Lander, and Jackson regional offices.

The Department continues to work with the Coop Unit and other university researchers to meet aquatic research needs. Thirteen Fish Division research projects were underway or initiated in FY 17. One of these projects was scheduled for completion in FY 17 but completion was delayed. The project was extended to accommodate further analysis for the thesis. Five new aquatic projects were initiated in FY 17. New research was funded with the Wyoming Coop Unit, University of Idaho, Colorado State University, and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

At the end of FY 17, thirteen aquatic research projects were ongoing (five new and eight continuing). Projects initiated in FY 17 include: 1) A project conducted by a Coop Unit post-doc investigating Yellowstone cutthroat trout hybridization with rainbow trout in the North Fork Shoshone; 2) A project conducted by a University of Idaho Coop Unit masters student investigating the movement of illegally introduced burbot from Fontenelle Reservoir to the Green River; 3) A project conducted by a University of Wyoming masters student to determine if eDNA may be able to detect montane amphibians better than visual surveys; 4) A project conducted by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) will continue inventories of native freshwater mussels in Wyoming; and 5) A project conducted by Colorado State University masters student to determine if water temperature may be an important variable in determining spawning and recruitment success of sauger.

Continuing projects in FY 17 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 Unity 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; 5) A project conducted by WYNDD will examine how geology influences differences in amphibian distribution and abundance in western Wyoming; 6) A project conducted by a 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 7) A project being conducted by WYNDD is furthering a statewide inventory of native freshwater mussels.

Aquatic projects scheduled for completion in FY 17 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.

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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Feedgrounds	2.0	\$ 2,501,712

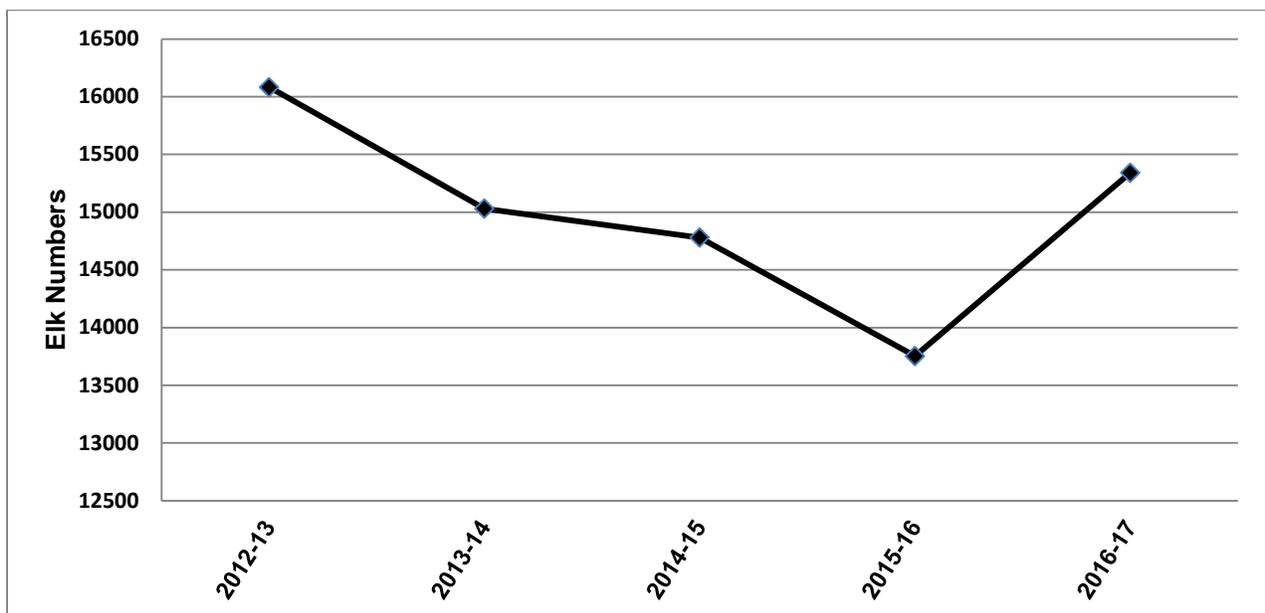
This program is uniquely organized in that it is statewide, but located in the Pinedale Region. Personnel are assigned in Pinedale and Afton. The program is supervised by the Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisor.

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 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, loss of native ranges to development, and deep snow accumulations 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 within herd units near feedgrounds, 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 15,341 elk were fed during the winter of 2016-2017. This is 1,461 more than the 42-year average. In 2016-2017, all winter feeding operations were started by January and finished by May 1. An above average amount of hay was fed at 7,324 tons. The 42-year average is 6,721 tons of hay per winter. During the last five winters, the number of elk attending 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 mortalities due to excessive starvation, elk in the Jackson and Pinedale regions were fed. Emergency feeding operations took place last season in the Buffalo Valley, Star Valley, and Farson.

Winter conditions during 2016-2017 were severe, with record snowfall in the Pinedale area. However, a warm up in early March melted a lot of snow allowing for average end dates on most feedgrounds. Overall, the feeding season was 109 days, 8 days longer than the previous season of 101 days. The average feeding season is 120 days. Wolves continue to chase elk from and between feedgrounds. Winter conditions and wolves can influence the number of elk counted on feedgrounds and/or fed. Three of seven elk herd units (Jackson, Afton, and Hoback) 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. Adequate hay (quantity and quality) is fed at feedgrounds to reduce elk 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, and elk trapping cannot be prevented by feedground management techniques. Mortality resulting from goring, some diseases, and malnutrition) may be related to feedground management, and thus feedground managers should utilize available techniques to minimize these causes of mortality. The percent of winter mortality on feedgrounds for 2016-2017 was 1.7 percent, which is .8 higher than the previous year.

In addition to helping support elk population numbers and hunting opportunities in northwest Wyoming, elk attendance on feedgrounds provides an opportunity to reduce conflict with private landowners. During winter 2016-2017, no elk were vaccinated on feedgrounds. This was the second year that vaccination activities have not taken place (for further details, see Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program).

Summary of Feedground Program for FY 17:

- The overall average feeding season was 109 days.
- Approximately 7,321 ton of hay was fed.
- Elk mortality was 1.7 percent on feedgrounds.
- Wolves caused elk mortalities at 14 of 22 feedgrounds. There were 129 elk mortalities caused by wolves as documented by elk feeders. This number increased by 23 elk from the previous year.
- Wolves caused approximately 900 head of elk to move from Black Butte elk feedground to private lands in early to mid April.

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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Revenue Collection & Licensing	16.0	\$ 1,501,433
Asset Management	3.0	\$ 625,687
Disbursements**	5.0	\$445,182
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,572,302

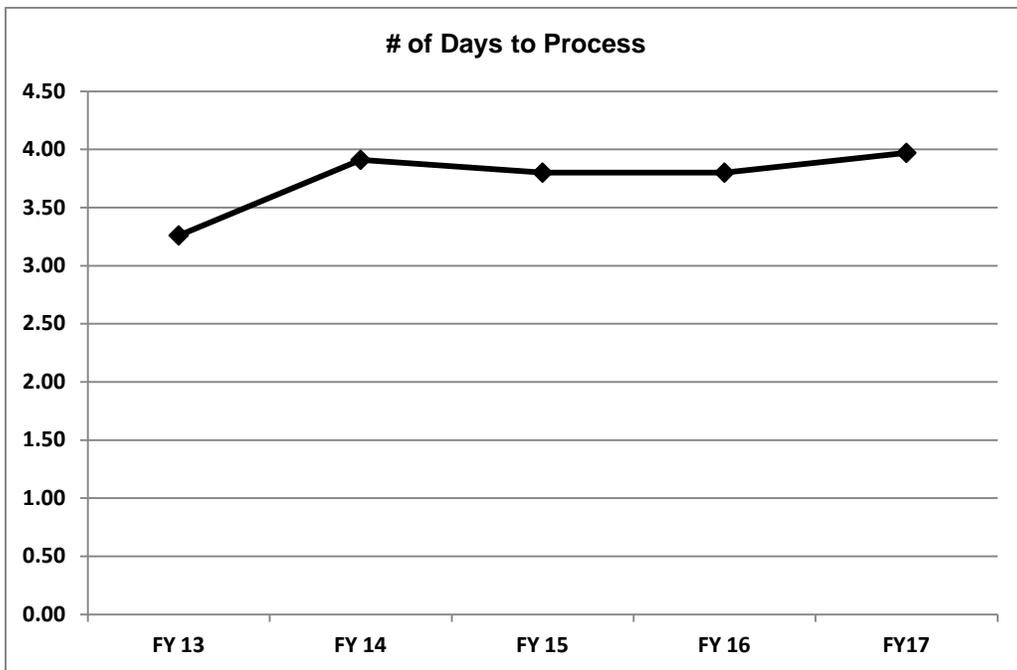
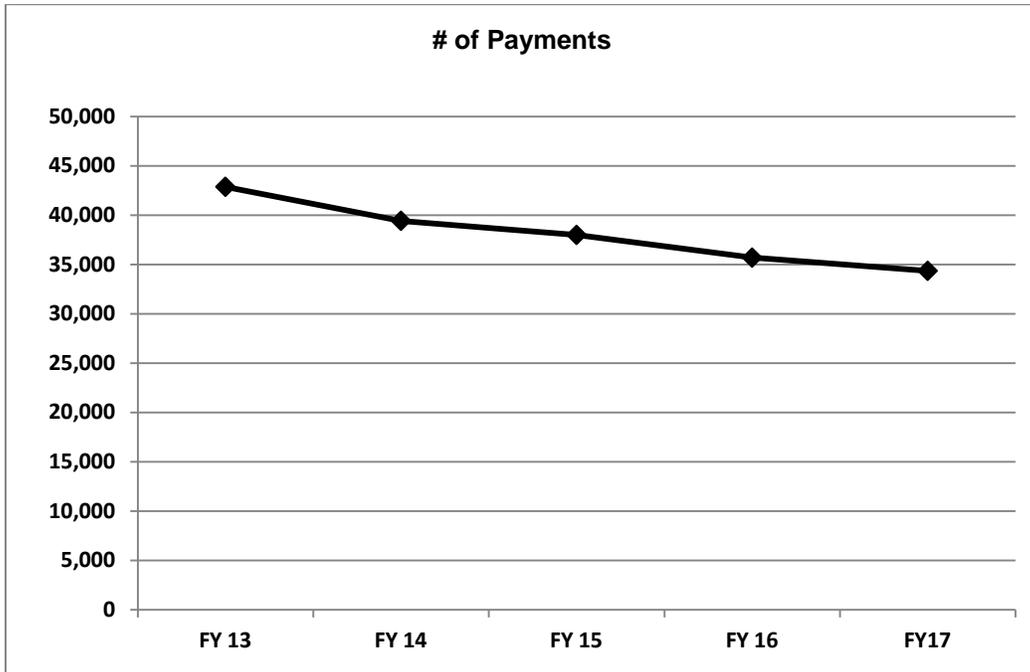
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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

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.

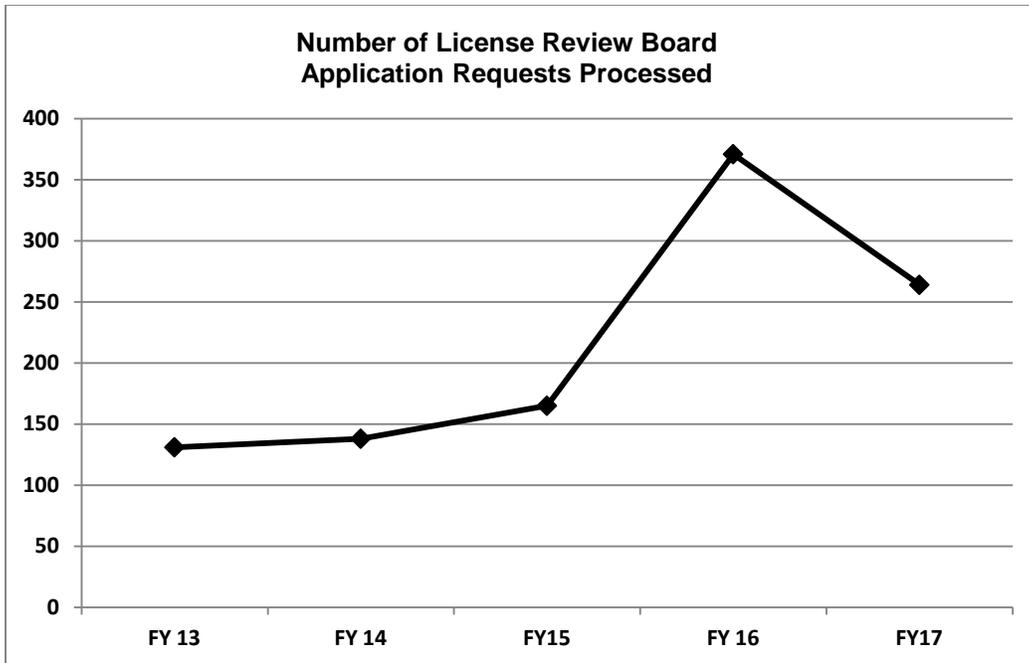
Performance Measure #1: Timeliness of processing payment transactions. (Personnel with the program will work to ensure payments are processed within four working days and receipts are processed within 10 working days).

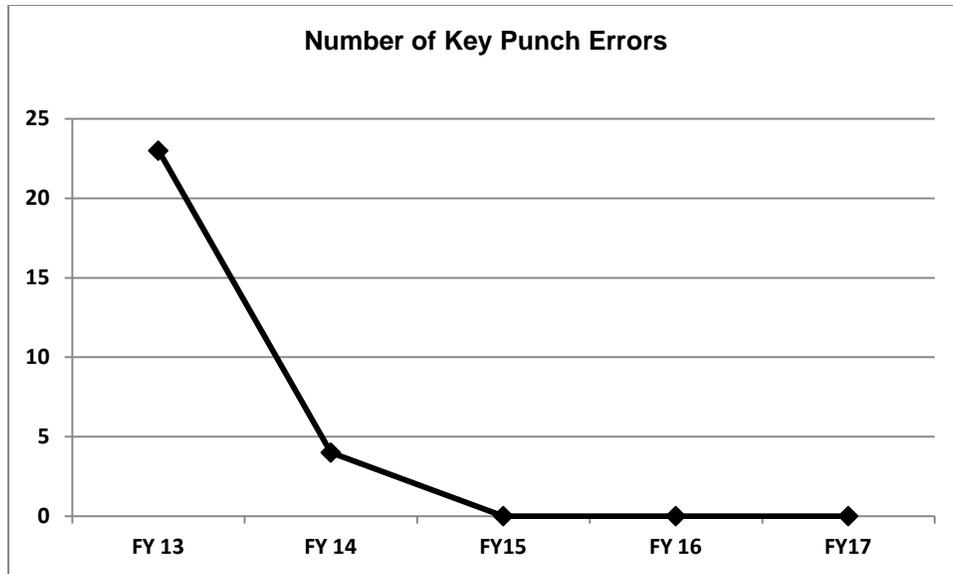


Story behind the performance:

With the increased use by Department personnel of the State Visa Card for acquisition of goods, the number of actual payment transactions has stabilized in FY17 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 increased slightly to 3.9 days; this is due to the State Auditor's Office mandating that all state agencies conduct vendor management in the WOLFS state accounting system. This has required staff to spend an additional two hours per day on this vendor management process which includes providing vendor forms to new vendors for the establishment of a vendor number, form to existing vendors for change of address, etc., data entry, correction, and tracking of vendor adds or updates.

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





Story behind the performance:

During the 2016 calendar year license application period, 395,644 applications were submitted for limited quota drawings and preference point purchases. All applications are required to be submitted online except landowner applications. During this 2016 application period, 392,476 applications were submitted online with 3,168 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 2016 application period, the Department did not have to correct licenses or issue refunds for key punch errors. The Department had to issue refunds for twelve 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: Manage, preserve, and restore 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Terrestrial Habitat Management	10.5	\$1,432,376
Aquatic Habitat Management	10.0	1,510,244
Fish Passage	2.0	362,310
Water Management	2.4	291,966
Wyoming Landscape Cons. Initiative	1.0	115,091
TOTAL		\$3,711,987

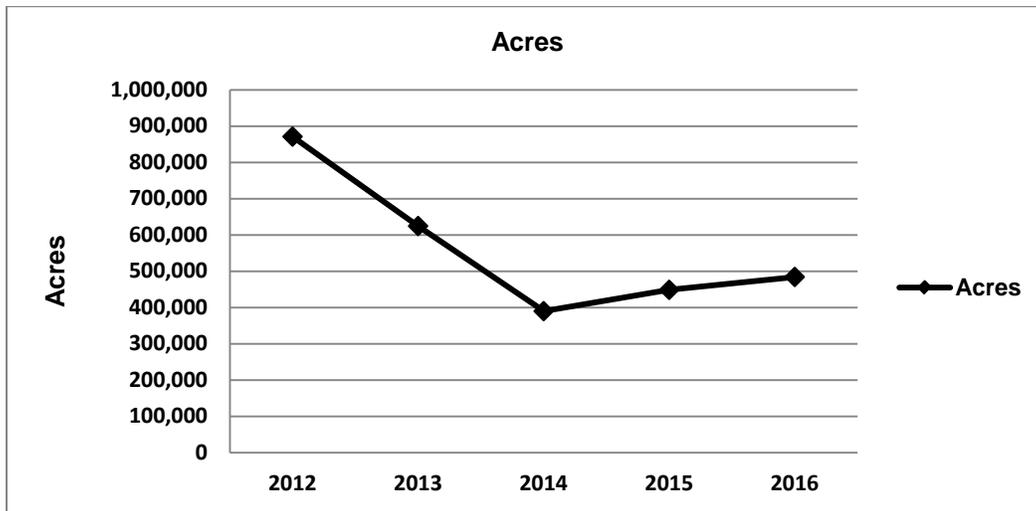
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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

Primary Functions of the Habitat Program:

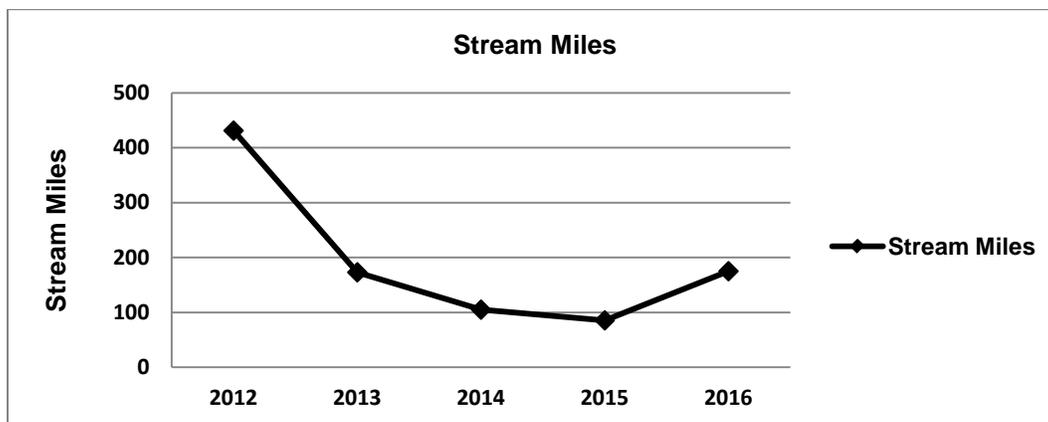
- **Manage, preserve, and restore habitat for the long-term sustainable management of fish and wildlife populations** by inventorying wildlife habitat conditions, determining where conditions are limiting, and planning and implementing projects at watershed and landscape scales to conserve and restore 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: Acres of habitat conserved, enhanced and restored annually. Personnel in this program strive to conserve, enhance, and restore 500,000 acres of habitat annually.



In calendar year 2016, habitat work directly impacted 484,332 acres. This total includes habitat treatments on public and private lands including Department managed properties. Detailed activity summaries can be found in the 2016 Strategic Habitat Plan (SHP) Annual Report.

Performance Measure #2: Stream miles restored, enhanced, or protected annually. Personnel strive to protect, enhance, or restore 100 stream miles annually.



In calendar year 2016, aquatic habitat work benefitted 175 miles of streams and riparian areas. This total includes efforts occurring on public and private lands and waters, including Department managed properties. Detailed activity summaries are in the 2016 Strategic Habitat Plan Annual Report.

Story behind the performance:

These performance measures were enacted in 2016 and provide the following advantages:

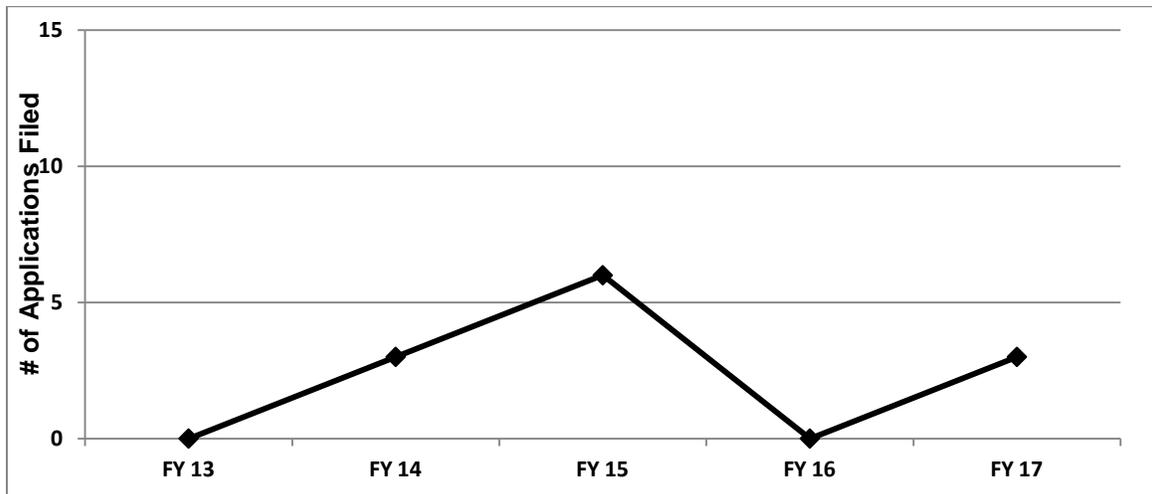
1. The same performance measures are used to track implementation of the SHP. Aligning these performance measures for reporting on the SHP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's CMS Annual Report, and Wyoming Governor's Annual Report greatly reduces time and duplication in reporting for both field and administrative 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, and 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.

What has been accomplished:

- 6 stream restorations or bank enhancements on 1.7 stream miles
- 44,223 trees or shrubs planted
- 51 stream structures installed
- 5,186 acres of mowing, chopping, or Lawson aeration
- 21 watershed stream assessments on 59.7 stream miles
- 2,654 acres of prescribed burns
- 11.2 stream miles made accessible via fish passage
- 192,890 upland acres inventoried
- 4,732 acres of Department managed lands irrigated

The Department's 2016 Annual Report on SHP accomplishments provides details on many of these habitat projects.

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.

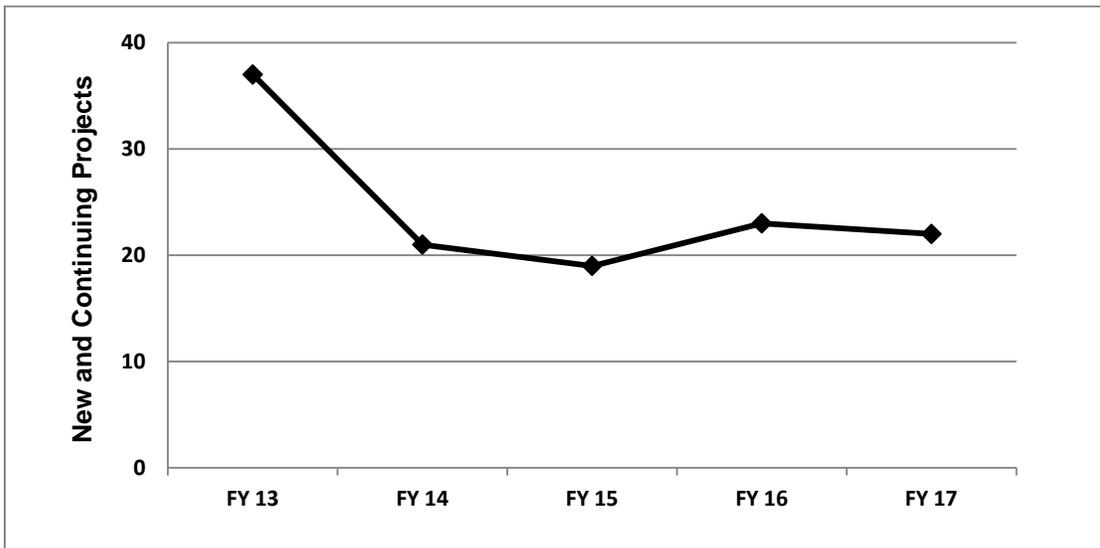
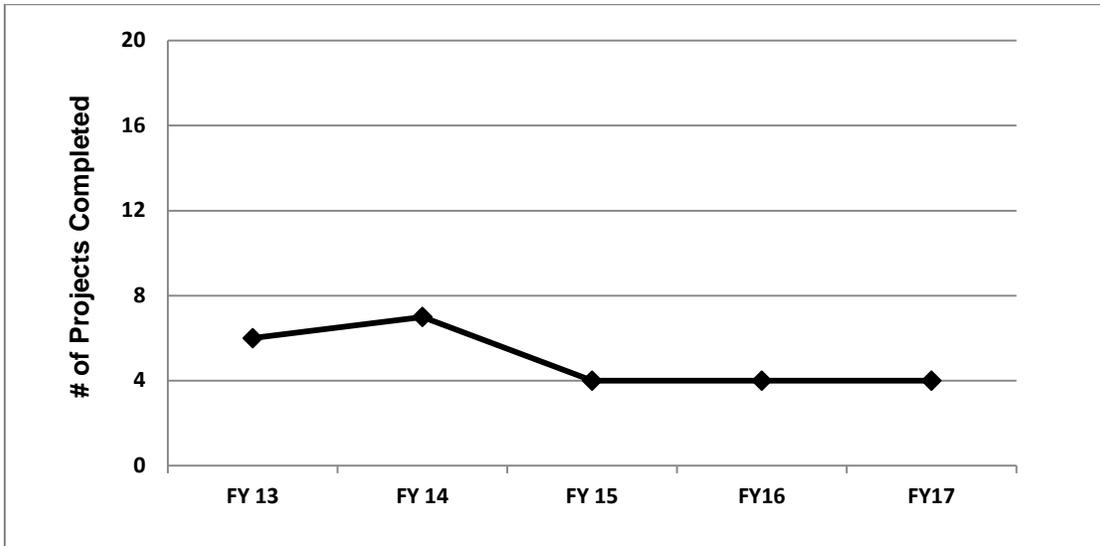
This measure shows the number of instream flow water rights applications filed with the State Engineers Office. The high number of filings submitted to the State Engineer in FY 12 included some studies that were begun in FY 11. However, four of the filings in FY 12 were made in late June 2012 and three more filings were submitted to the State Engineer’s Office in late July 2013. Three filings were submitted in FY 17.

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 142 instream flow filings that have been submitted to date provide a significant measure of protection for all species of trout in 649 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*. Participation in the program is stable.

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:

WLCI, working with partners, funded four new projects and 18 continuing projects in FY 17. There are an additional 21 projects that have received funding in previous years and did not receive funding in FY 17, either because the proponent did not need additional funding, or there were unforeseen circumstances delaying the project. For example, the funding agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department expired. A new agreement with restored funding should be available by October 1, 2017. Both the new and continuing funded projects include aspen restoration, 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 16, there were six new projects and 17 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 22 projects funded in FY 17, one 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. The LPDTs continue to meet and discuss projects with one another, even those that are not related to WLCI.

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. With the aid of 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. The new administration in Washington D.C., specifically the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, is reviewing both Federal Advisory Committees and Non-Federal Advisory Committees. Since mid-April the BLM has not been able to participate in any new decision making meetings. The Secretarial Order has hindered the operation of WLCI. The review is expected to be complete in October 2017.

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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat and Access	32.2	\$ 4,410,400

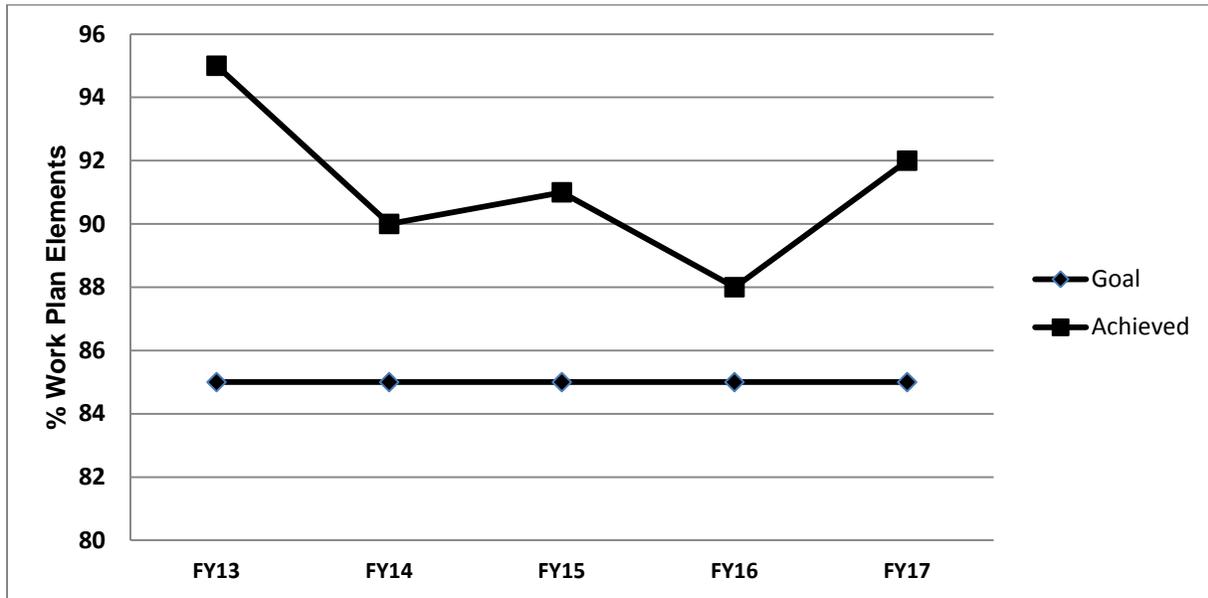
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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:

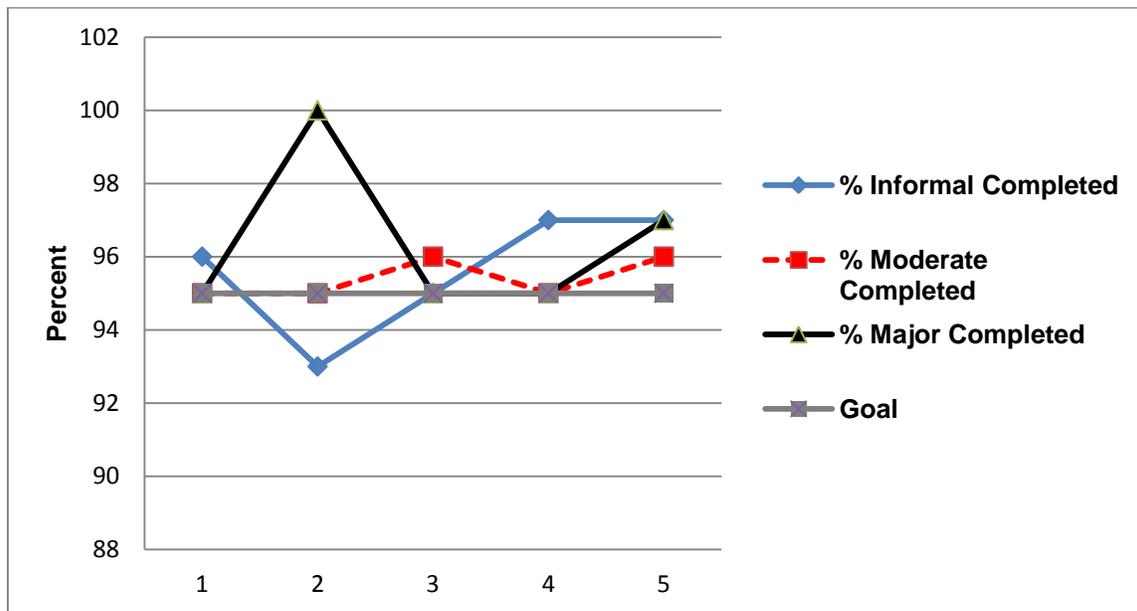
The program is responsible for administering and managing 38 unique WHMAs and 198 Public Access Areas (PAAs). WHMAs and PAAs are managed according to a Managed Land and Access Summary (MLAS) developed for each individual area. Work plans are developed prior to each fiscal year in an attempt to address 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. In FY 17, 92 percent of work plan elements were 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, after many years of high personnel turnover, the work unit has stabilized, allowing more work to be accomplished.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 17, 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 on WHMAs and PAAs. The program has an increasing workload, so only high priorities have been accomplished. Notable program accomplishments in FY 17 include: 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 three open irrigation systems to three center pivots; maintaining over 600 miles of fence; irrigating 4,700 acres; monitoring grazing on 44,000 acres; developing two new PAAs; developing springs and wells; rebuilding fences; haying 600 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, 22 elk feedgrounds, and 38 WHMAs totaling over 450,000 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 hatcheries.

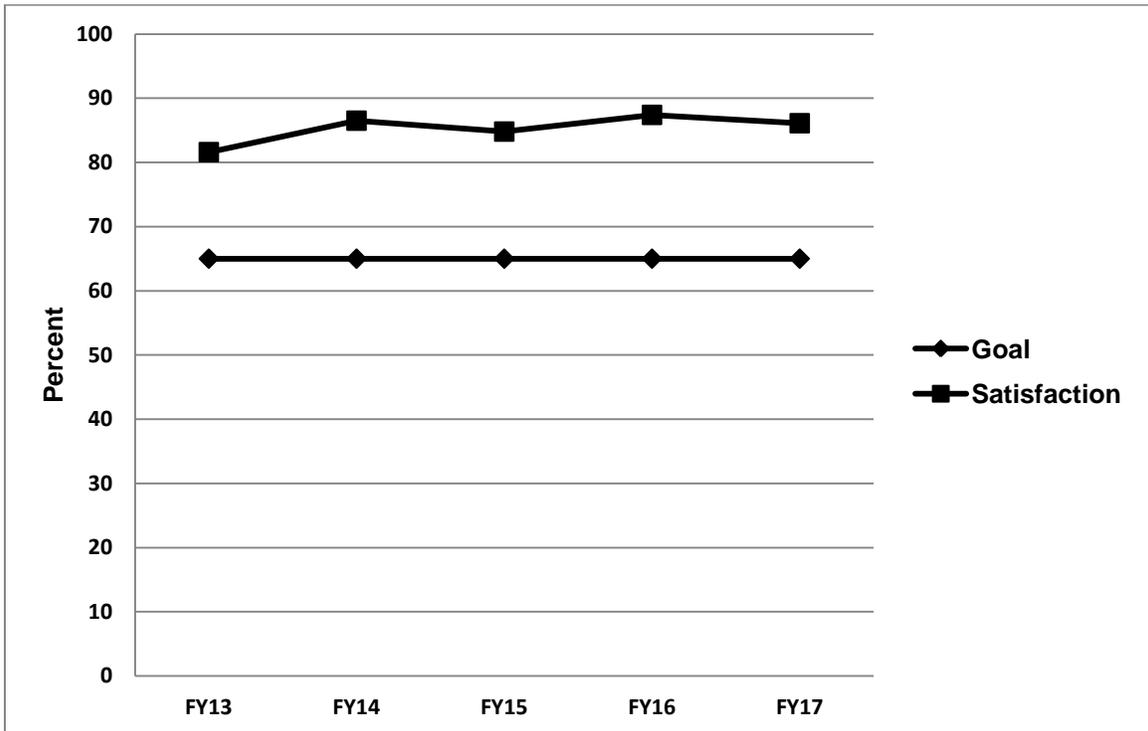
The percent of project requests completed has been excellent within the constraints of employee availability and budget capacity. The percent of project requests completed has been consistent between FY 13 and FY 17 with an average of 96 percent of informal, 95 percent of moderate, and 96 percent of major project requests being completed. Results for 2017 varied minimally from this average with 97 percent of informal, 96 percent of moderate, and 97 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 17, the Habitat and Access Program completed 96 percent of project requests. Some of the major projects were habitat treatments for the Sublette Mule Deer herd and Platte Valley mule deer herd. Over 3,000 acres were treated with mowing, seeding, dixie harrowing, and aspen 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 completed on the Heward canal to convert 10,000 feet of open ditch to a 42” pipeline which supplies water to the hay meadows and ponds on the Wick WHMA. Construction also started on a 6000 foot 24” pipeline to supply water to Diamond Lake for fisheries.

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 the public satisfied with management and maintenance of PAAs and WHMAs is 86.1 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 86.1 percent in FY 17. 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 Habitat and Access, Access Yes, or by another agency.

What has been accomplished:

In FY 17, 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 program lands. 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:

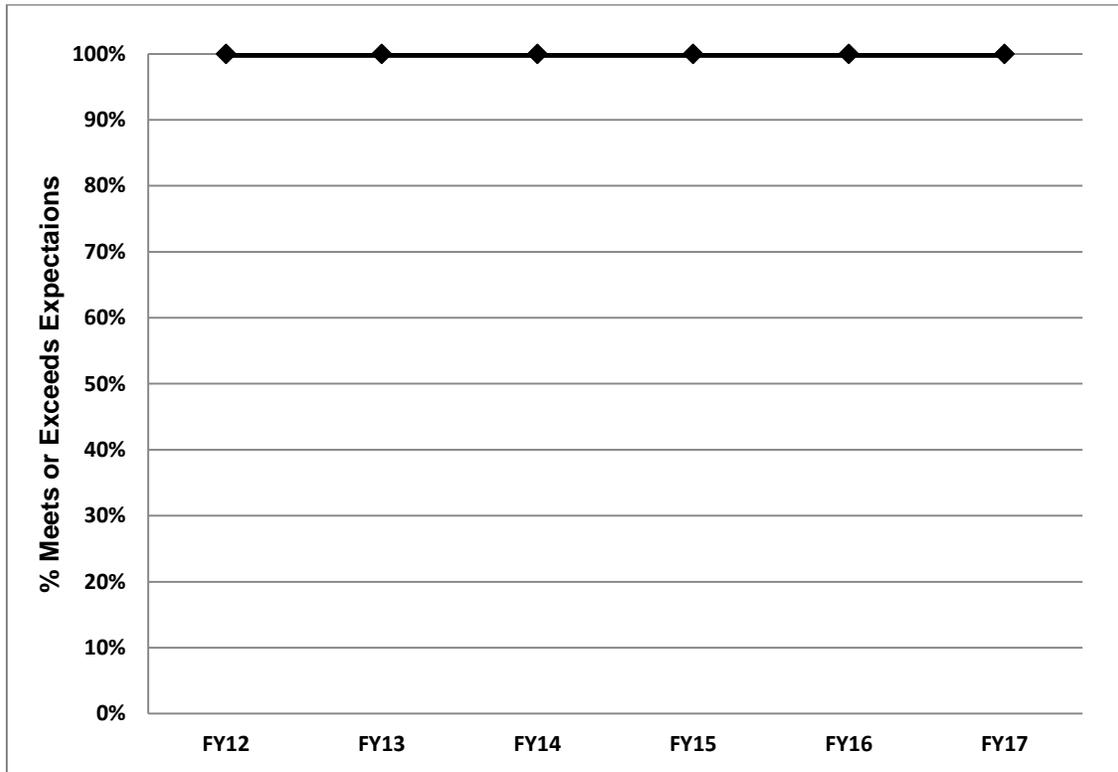
	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat Protection Program	6.0	\$ 654,966

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 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 to 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Information	5.0	\$ 790,657
Publications	1.3	594,227
TOTAL	6.0	\$ 1,384,884

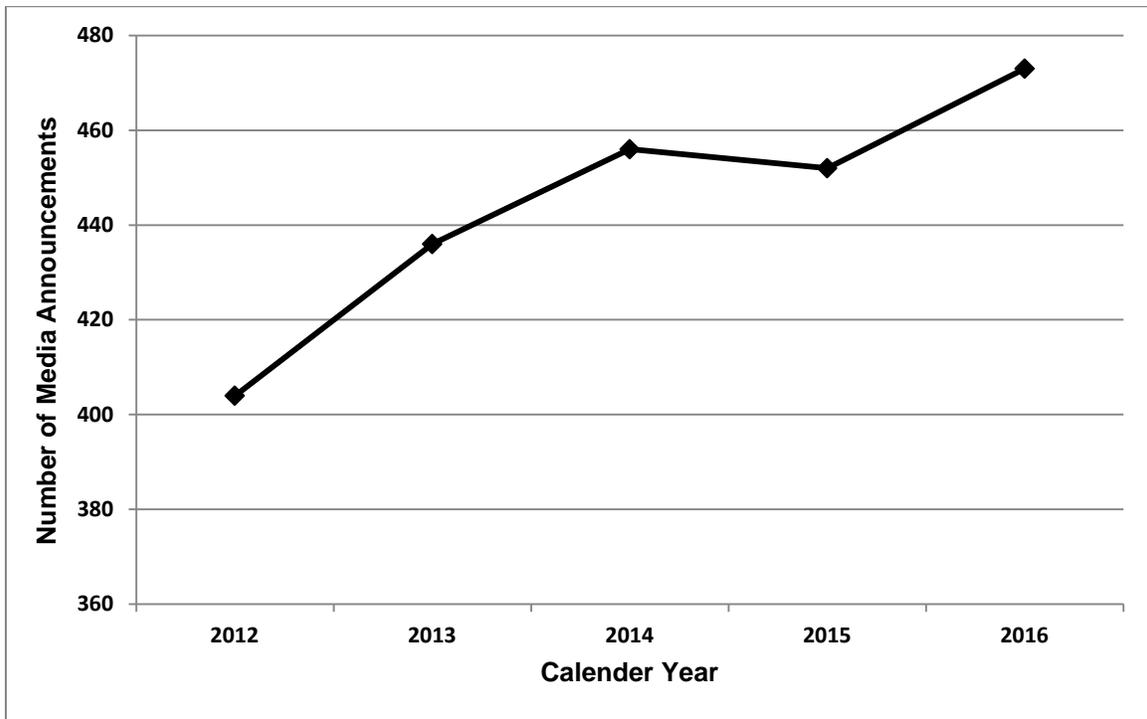
** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

The Information Program includes the information and publications sub-programs. This program 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 444 individual print, radio, or television news releases, or public service announcements. In 2016, the number of news, radio interviews, and public service announcements distributed was 473. 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 2017, approximately 27,000 people “Like” and follow the Department’s Facebook page. In FY 17, the Department’s YouTube channel had gained 2,000 dedicated followers with thousands of views of Department videos. As of September 2017, approximately 3,565 people “Follow” the Department’s Twitter page. The Department also launched an Instagram page on social media in FY 15. There are already 2,800 followers. GovDelivery, the Department’s email outreach software, has more than 240,000 subscribers as of August 2016. Total impressions via GovDelivery is over 3.68 million in the past year ending in August. The engagement rate is 66.7%, which is a high number for the industry.

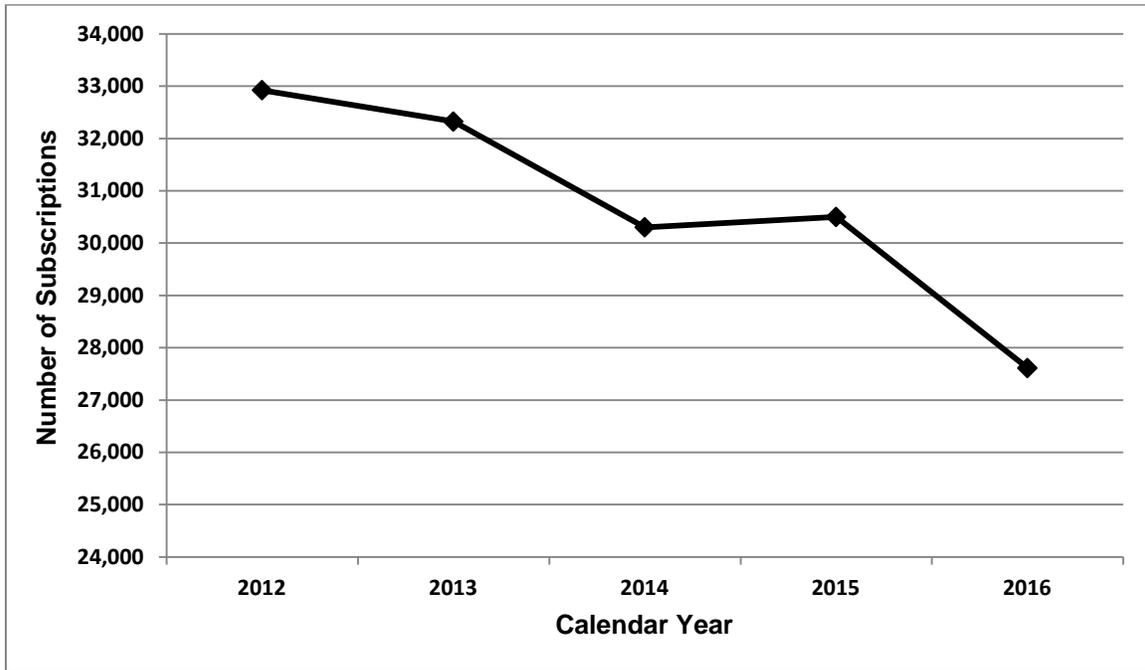
Digital and social media impact and following expands on a daily basis and is expected to continue to grow with new opportunities and challenges.

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 monthly e-newsletters to hunters and anglers. These reach over 250,000 email addresses and provide a valuable service to customers while also telling the Department’s story.

Performance Measure #2: 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:

Average monthly subscribers for the magazine was 27,612. *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.

Wyoming Wildlife magazine targets a broad, 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. More than 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 20,732. Using the magazine industry’s multiplier of four readers for every subscription, it is estimated *Wyoming Wildlife* reaches about 110,448 people per issue. Adequate funding of promotional efforts for magazine subscriptions would allow the staff to increase circulation, income, and readership. Another consideration is the small amount of staff dedicated to this publication when compared with magazines produced by other state wildlife agencies.

What has been accomplished:

With the recognition of budget efficiencies, the publications section realized a cost savings, mostly through a reduction in staffing five years ago. There is now a better handle on the costs of operating 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 magazine has also completed a survey of its subscribers and of non-subscribers to better understand our audience and to make decisions on the publication's future.

The Facebook page for *Wyoming Wildlife* has also grown in popularity. It now has 4,799 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Information Technology	22	\$ 3,392,589

** Includes permanent and contract positions in addition to eight positions that are a direct bill to the Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS).*

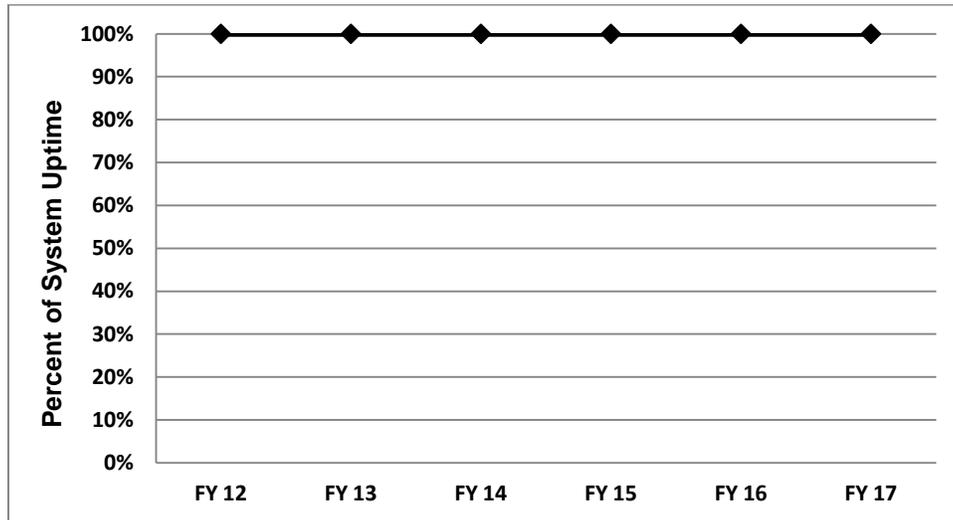
The current program is made up of administration and three sections: Application Development, IT Operations, and GIS.

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).



Story behind the performance:

The IT/GIS Program is 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 81 mission critical applications; and maintaining approximately 100 layers of authoritative GIS data, 245 Species of Greatest Conservation Need distribution models and ranges, additional derived data layers, and a total of 20 GIS mapping applications such as the black bear bait location reservation application, the Wyoming Hunt Planner and mobile applications such as the WOS Data Collector and RHA (Rapid Habitat Assessment) Data Collector. 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.

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 17 was 99 percent, down from 99.9 percent in FY 16, but well above the 95 percent goal.

The IT/GIS Program continues to produce innovative solutions to manual, “pen and paper” processes. Increased demand for technology related resources, high traffic volumes for online hunting applications, and ongoing day-to-day maintenance supports the need for additional full-time employees, technical training and education, and enhanced data/IT security. The IT/GIS

Program will continue to be challenged by assisting Department senior leadership in defining realistic customer expectations while ensuring current business operation activities are met.

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 2017 (FY 17) budget:

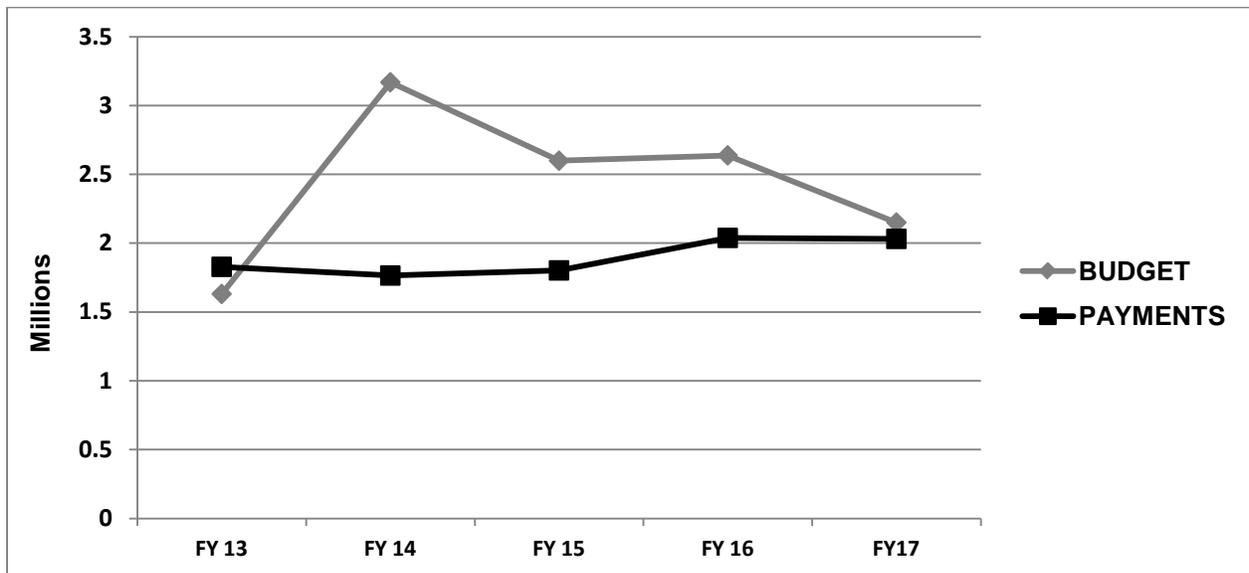
<u>Sub-Program</u>	<u>#FTE's</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Damage Claims	0	\$1,000,000
Landowner Coupons	0	600,000
Retiree Assessment	0	50,000
State Agency Law Enforcement System (SALEC)		200,000
Cost Allocation	0	<u>300,000</u>
TOTAL		\$ 2,150,000

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 Measure #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 17, only the Enterprise Technology Service's portions of the assessments have been required for reimbursement.

In FY 17, the damage claim budget was \$1,000,000, which is \$500,000 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.

All 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 17 budget:

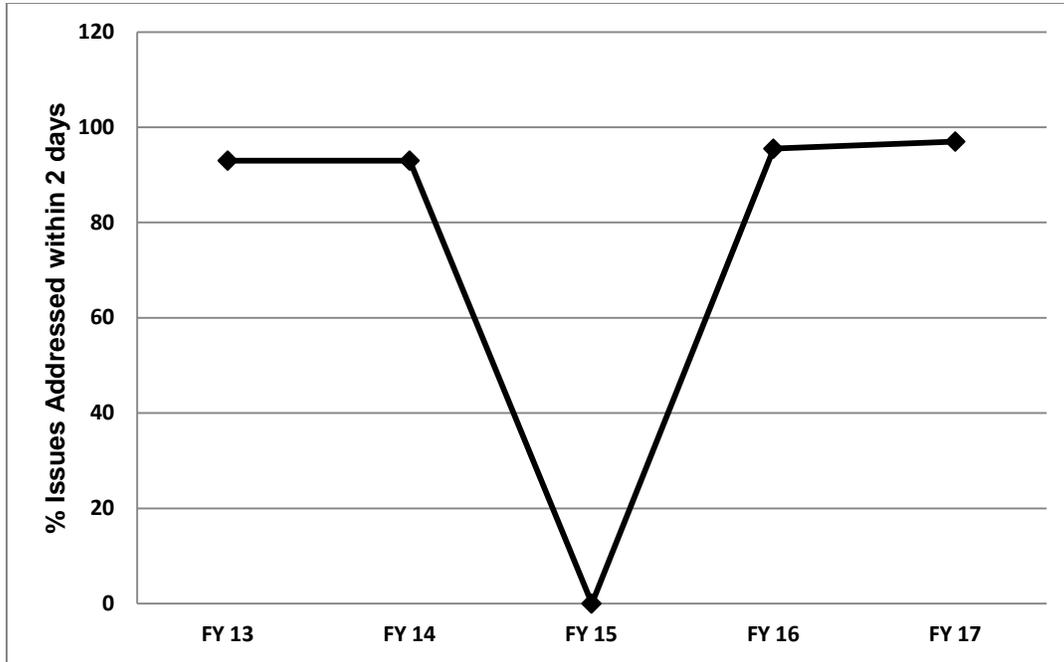
<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Personnel Management	3	\$498,065

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 the 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:

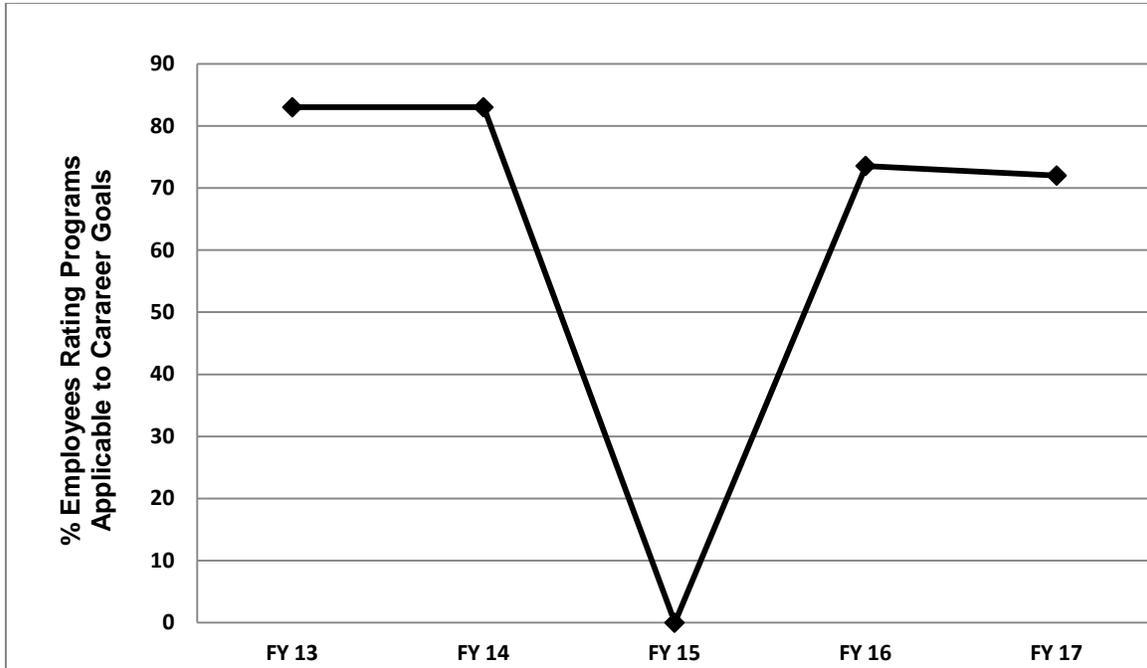
Excellent customer service is critical to the success of the Personnel Management Program. In addition to maintaining a courteous and professional work environment, personnel management staff strive to provide accurate, timely, and valuable information and services to both internal and external customers. 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, 94.6 percent of questions and requests were addressed within two days if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 17, 97.3 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, 78.3 percent of employees felt that programs were applicable to their career goals if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 17, 71.9 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. During FY 17, the Department will be revamping the program to better serve the needs of the 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 fourth 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 17 budgets:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Property Rights (Lands) Admin. **	3.0	\$ 877,454
Access Yes	5.0	1,687,244 ***
TOTAL	8.0	\$ 2,564,698

* *Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 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.*

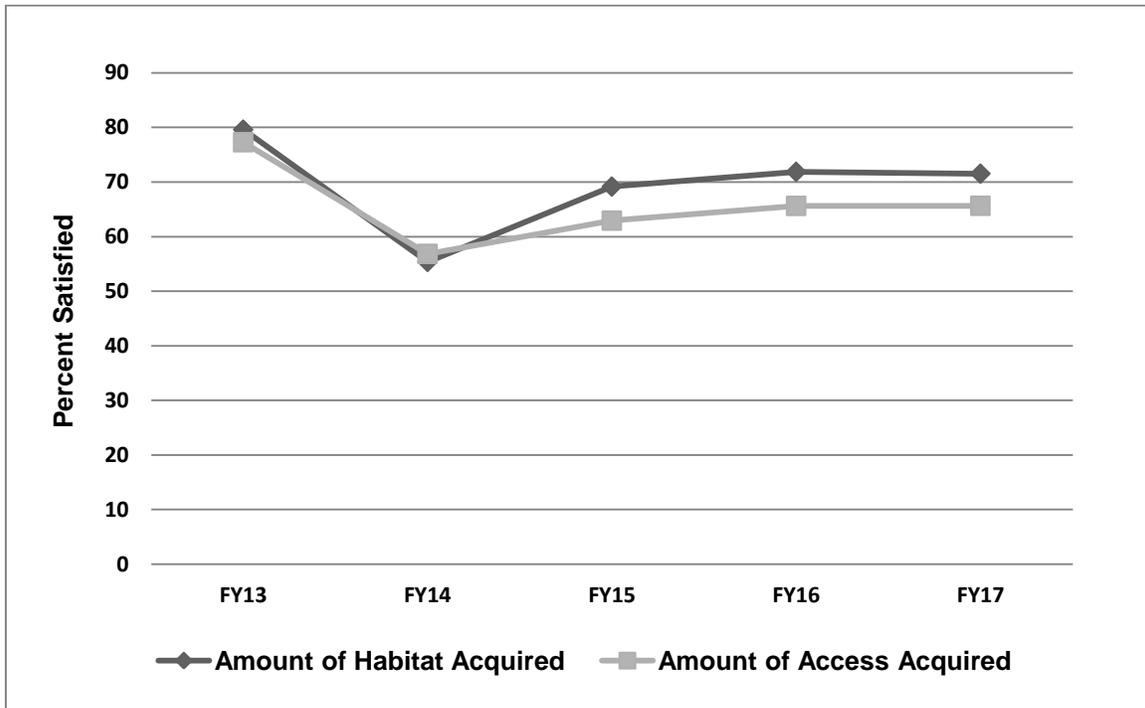
*** *Includes personnel, operations, and easement payments.*

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:

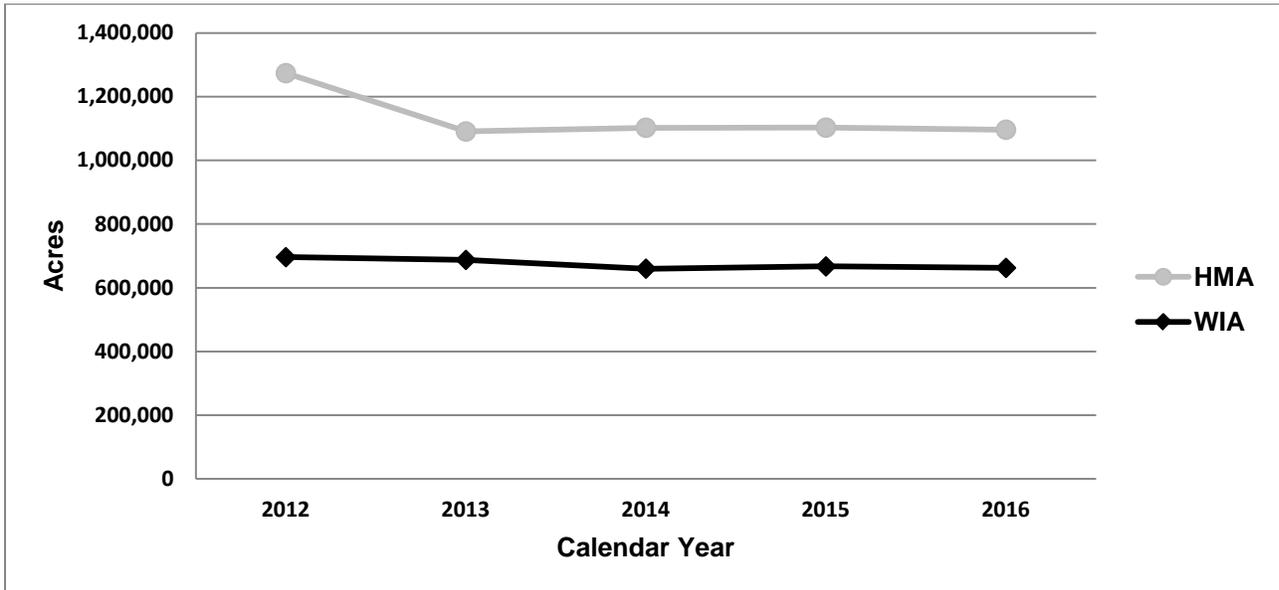
The Commission owns 166,842 acres and administers another 254,792 acres of federal, state, and private lands, which conserve and sustain wildlife populations and provides public access and recreation. In addition, the Commission has acquired permanent public access to over 128 miles of streams and rivers 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, 71.54 percent of the sampled public was satisfied. With respect to the amount of access acquired, 65.65 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:

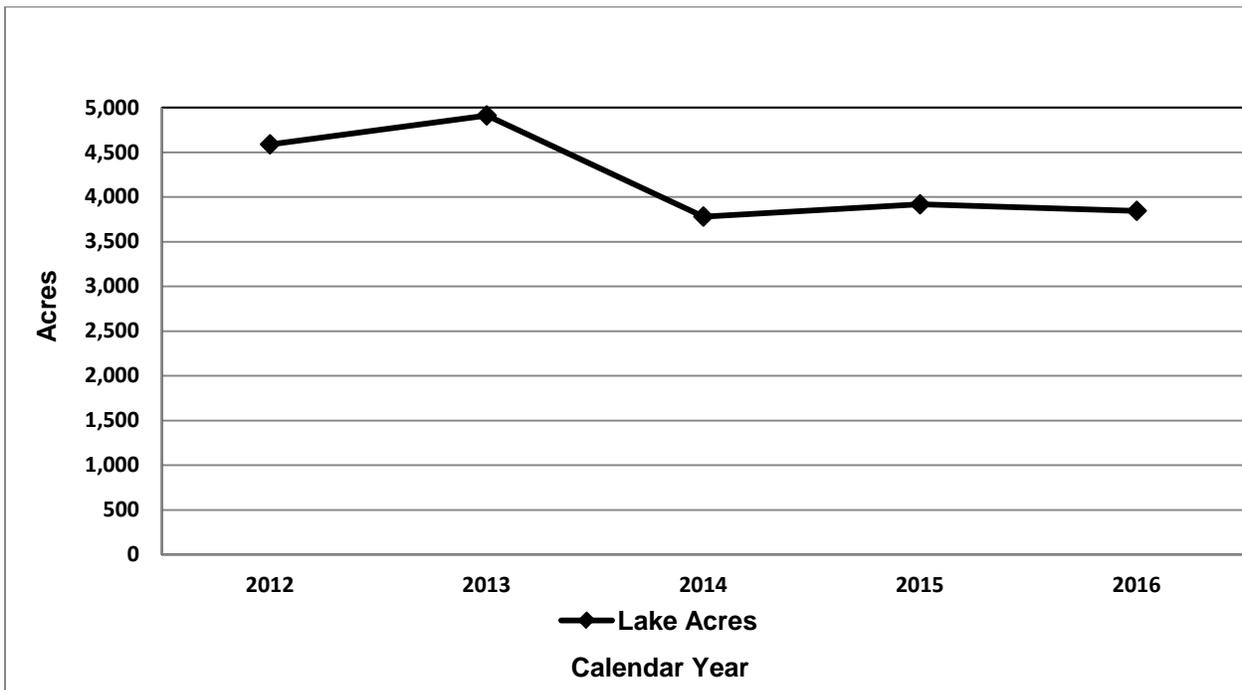
- 40.18 percent of those surveyed were familiar with the Lands Management Program;
- 98.20 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire and conserve wildlife habitat in Wyoming; and
- 96.39 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire public access for recreation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

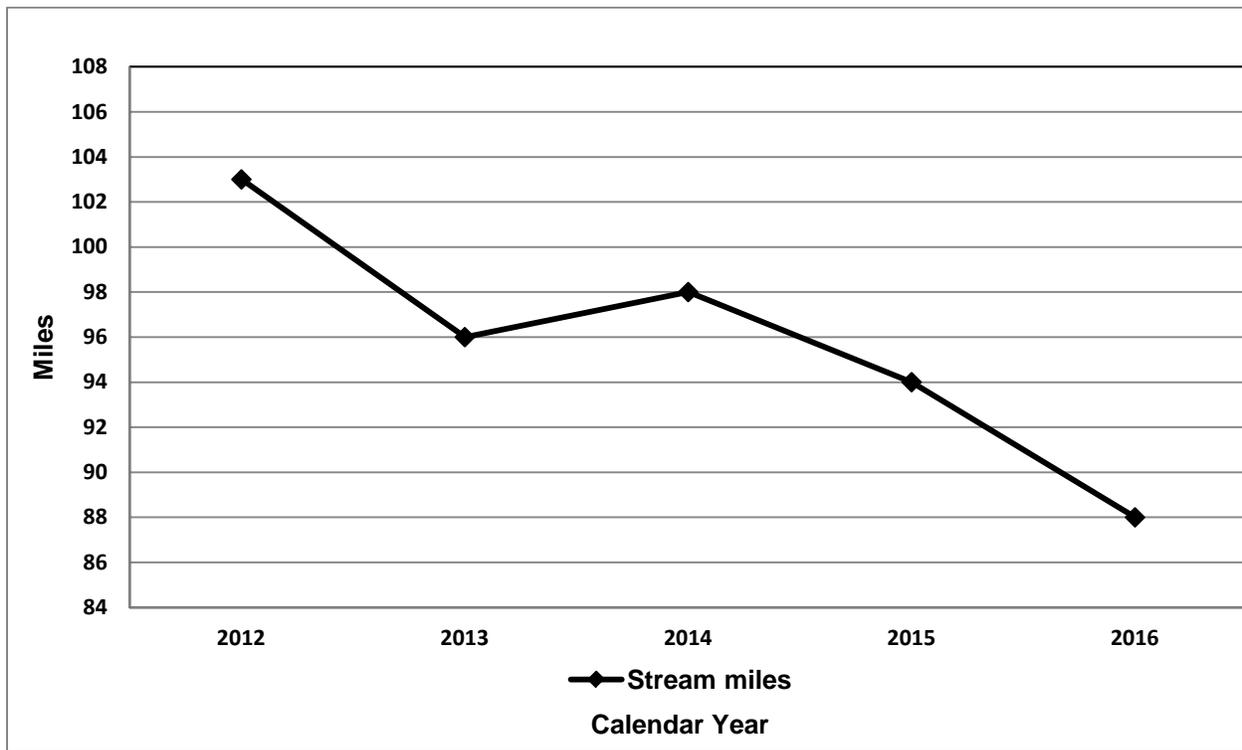
Performance Measure #2: Hunting and fishing access to private and public land. (Personnel in this program will work to maintain public hunting access to at least 1.25 million acres of private land, public fishing access to at least 273 lake acres, and public fishing access to at least 100 stream miles.)

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) 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.

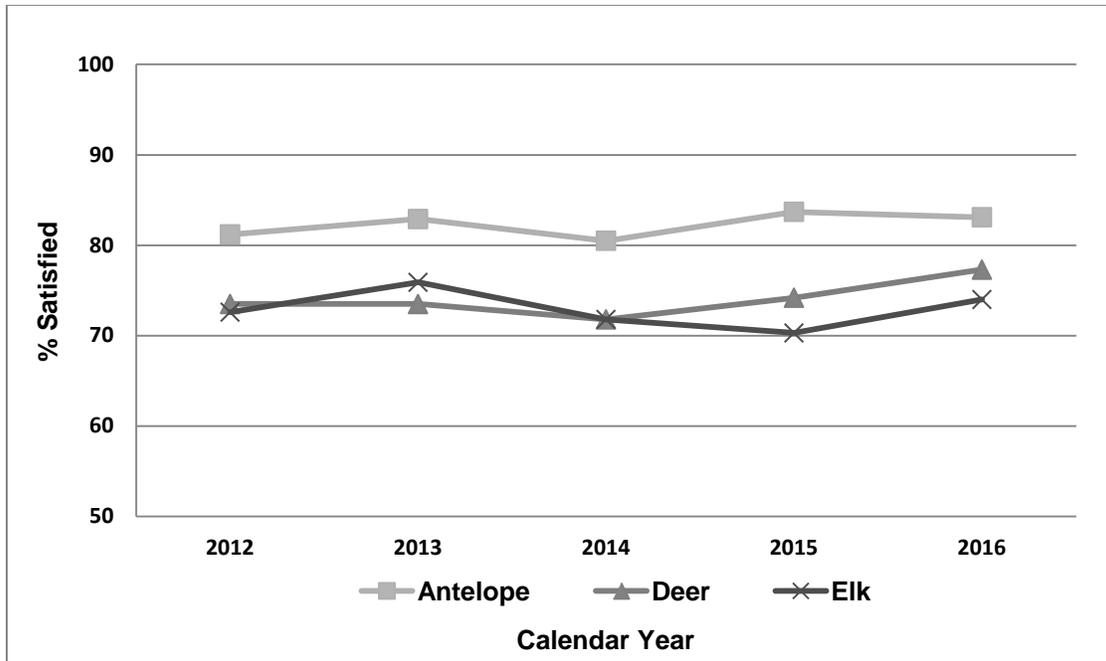
In addition to providing recreational access, Access Yes assists with increasing cooperation between the Department, landowners, and the public for population management of wildlife and decreasing agriculture damage through harvest.

What has been accomplished:

The enrollment in each program for 2016 was: Hunter Management Areas (HMA), 1,096,203 acres; Walk-in Areas (WIA) hunting, 662,429 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 3,845 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 88 miles. The average enrollment in each program from 2012-2016 was: HMAs, 1,133,124 acres; WIAs hunting, 674,611 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 4,209 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 95.8 miles. Enrollment in either WIAs or HMAs is dependent upon the amount of available Access Yes funds. During 2016, easement payments were slightly higher than the Access Yes donations collected during fiscal year 2016 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 2.8 million acres of hunting access for the fall 2016/spring 2017 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 10 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 2016 harvest survey data satisfaction rates were: antelope, 83.1 percent (82.3 percent average since 2012); deer, 77.3 percent (74.1 percent average since 2012); and elk, 74 percent (72.9 percent average since 2012). Satisfaction with a hunting experience can mean a variety of things from harvesting a record-book animal to having a place to hunt. Antelope satisfaction decreased slightly from 2015, but remains high. Deer satisfaction increased again in 2016, while elk satisfaction increased from 2015.

The 2016 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, 20.3 percent of antelope

hunters, 16.5 percent of deer hunters, and 13.9 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Information and Education	7.0	\$701,069

** Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 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:

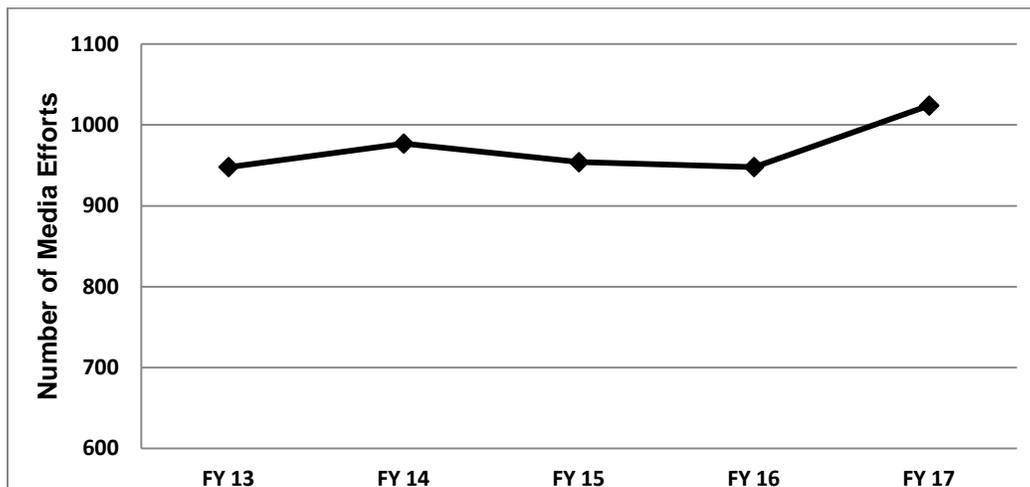
- **Work cooperatively with Department personnel to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of Wyoming's wildlife resources** by providing information and education support to other branches within the Wildlife Division and other divisions within the Department. The RIES Program supports 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 17:

- 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.

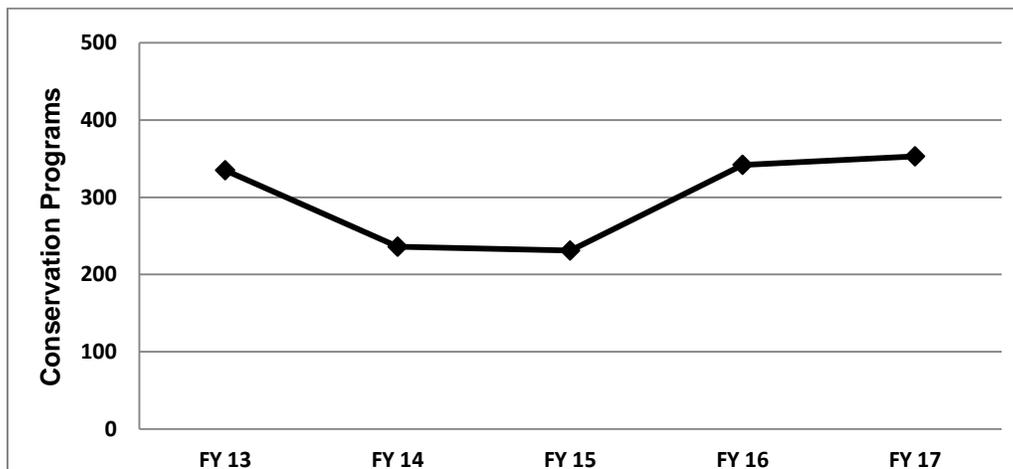
What has been accomplished:

RIES personnel maintained working relationships with local radio and television stations in all regions of the state to provide weekly (or more) coverage of timely Department issues and to assist in familiarizing the public with the agency’s activities. Regional personnel were involved

in this relationship, which helps make the Department more accessible to the public and creates general awareness of the Department’s role in wildlife and fisheries management.

To help convey important conservation messages while helping participants understand “who we are and what we do” through positive, hands-on experiences, RIES personnel coordinated media field trips to bighorn sheep captures.

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:

RIES personnel continue to involve many people, across a wide diversity of demographics, in a variety of conservation education programs. The following programs highlight just a few of their accomplishments:

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 limited quota license draws, fly fishing, tracking, and a simulated big game hunt.

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.

RIES personnel partnered with the Medicine Lodge State Archeological Site to host the annual Medicine Lodge Kids Outdoor Day. Participants had the opportunity to experience macroinvertebrate identification, .22 rifle marksmanship, fly casting, and mountain biking.

The Jackson ElkFest, the Pinedale Mountain Man Rendezvous, and the Jackson Hole WILD Science Fair had the expertise and involvement of RIES personnel to help make the events a success.

RIES personnel worked with the Forensic and Fish Health Lab to hold a tooth aging event as part of the Laramie Rivers Conservation District's Conservation Expo. Other activities included a Wildlife Clue game with the forensic lab, and a fish health booth where participants were involved in a fish necropsy to look for diseases and parasites.

RIES personnel coordinated with the Laramie Fisheries Management crew to hold three fishing workshops across the region. Participants learned tactics for fishing local waters, as well as stocking information, and recent fish sampling data for each location. Following an indoor slide show, fisheries managers and RIES personnel joined the participants for a few hours of fishing.

RIES personnel helped plan and coordinate the Lander Wyoming Outdoor Weekend (WOW) expo event. As just one part of this event, hundreds of students celebrated International Migratory Bird Month and participated in a Project WILD bird migration obstacle course.

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 17 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration	17.1	\$ 2,301,373**
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists	28.3	\$ 3,941,549
Regional Game Wardens	53	\$ 7,314,756
TOTAL	98.4	\$ 13,557,678

* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 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).

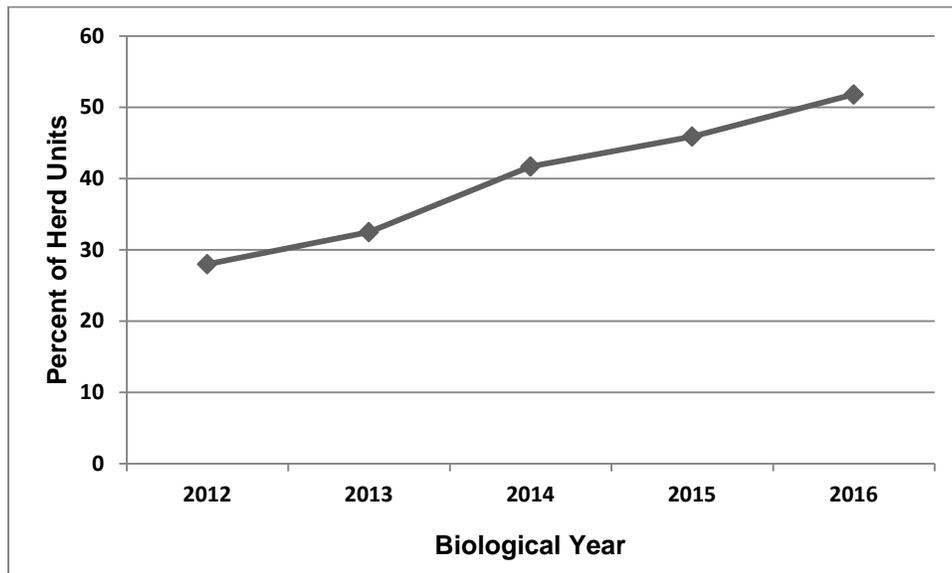
The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is located statewide.

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 17, there were four objective types: post-hunt population, post-hunt trend count, landowner/hunter satisfaction, and limited opportunity objective. Two 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 ± 10 percent to ± 20 percent. The satisfaction objective is met when 60 percent of landowners and hunters indicate they are satisfied. The limited opportunity objective is for those moose and bighorn sheep 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. Since 2011, almost all big game herds have had their objectives reviewed. Many had their objectives revised or changed to an objective other than post-hunt population. Department efforts to review all objectives internally and then to work with the public and the Commission to revise objectives as appropriate, is the main reason more than half of herds are now at objective. Biological years run from June 1 to May 31. Biological Year 2016 covers the period June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.



Story behind the last year of performance:

While the Department is responsible for managing over 800 species of wildlife in Wyoming, many of our constituents are focused on the management of big game species (pronghorn antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and wild bison). In addition, most of the Department’s annual revenue is derived from sales of hunting licenses and special management permits for these species. Management of big game species and wild bison is the responsibility of regional terrestrial wildlife biologists, regional game wardens, and the regional terrestrial wildlife administration. Percentages reported above are based on objective evaluations for each species presented in the final big game Job Completion Reports (2012-2016).

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 to 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 significantly impact reproductive success as well as adult and juvenile survival over the winter. The winter of 2016-17 was very severe west of the continental divide and will negatively impact big game populations there for a number of years, especially mule deer and pronghorn. Several populations had high to complete mortality of fawns born in 2016, and high mortality rates for adult age classes too. Some herds that were at objective dropped below objective and will probably remain so for several years. However, east of the continental divide the winter was considered normal with average impacts to big game. Consequently, a number of deer and pronghorn herds remain at or dropped 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 (WBGGLC), private landowners, federal land management agencies, private conservation organizations, and many others.

What has been accomplished:

A total of 16 herds had objectives reviewed in 2016. Of those, 14 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 considered by regional personnel who modified objective recommendations as appropriate. Final field 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.

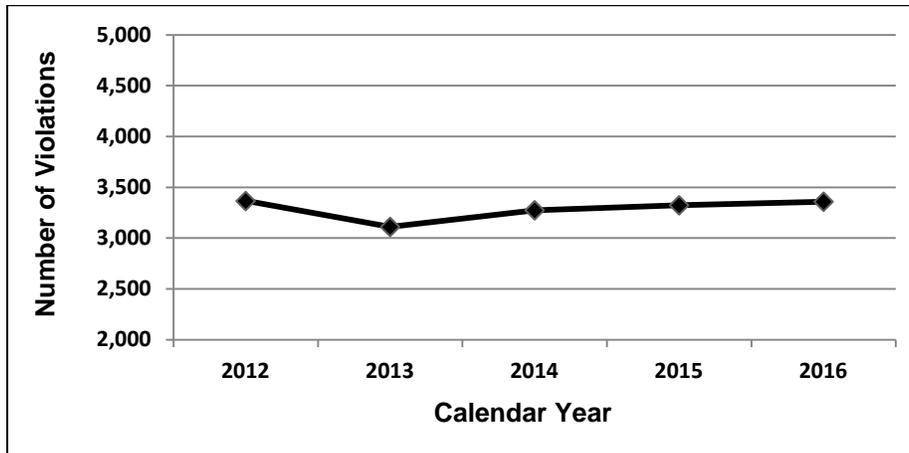
Of the total 144 herds tracked for this report, 5 herds (3.5 percent) had incomplete data including two herds with no established objective. Of the 139 herds with complete data, 72 herds (51.8 percent) were at objective (for herds with a population or trend count objective, at objective means the estimate is +/- 20 percent of the objective number), 22 (15.8 percent) were above objective, and 45 (32.4 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	4	3	0	0
Elk	3	0	8	1
Moose	0	1	0	0
White-tailed Deer	1	0	0	2
Mule Deer	19	15	0	0
Pronghorn	20	7	6	0
TOTAL	47	26	14	3
Trend Count Objective				
Bighorn Sheep	1	1	1	0
Bison	0	0	1	0
Elk	10	0	5	1
Mountain Goat	0	1	1	0
Pronghorn	1	0	0	0
Moose	2	3	0	0
TOTAL	14	5	8	1
Landowner/Hunter Satisfaction Objective				
Pronghorn	2	4	NA	0
Elk	3	4	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	1	NA	1
TOTAL	5	2	NA	1
Grand Totals				
Bighorn Sheep	7	5	1	1
Elk	16	4	13	2
Bison	0	0	1	0
Mountain Goat	0	1	1	0
Moose	5	5	0	0
White-tailed Deer	2	1	0	2
Mule Deer	19	18	0	0
Pronghorn	23	11	6	0
TOTALS	72	45	22	5
PERCENT¹	51.8%	32.4%	15.8%	

¹ There are 139 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.

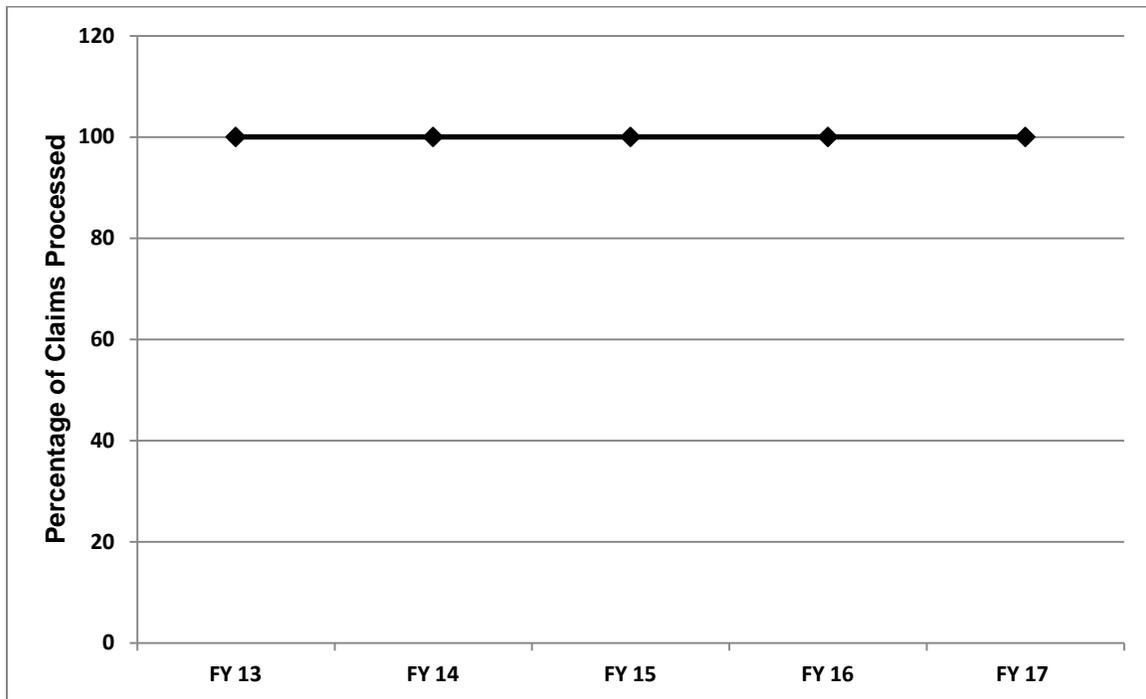
The ten most common violations for 2016 in order of prevalence are hunting/fishing/trapping/commercial operations without a license/stamp (659); failure to provide proper safety equipment aboard watercraft (384); violations of aquatic invasive species regulations (352); trespass to hunt or fish (265); violation of regulations/rules for Department/state lands (263); wanton destruction/waste of a game animal (212); hunting after hours or in wrong/closed area (211); failure to tag/register a big/trophy game animal, wild turkey, or bobcat (195); making a false statement to procure a hunting or fishing license (161); and take wrong sex of game animal (149). There were 11 instances of operating a watercraft under the influence. In 2016, law enforcement personnel discovered 4,501 violations as part of 3,359 LEIRs. This is 353 fewer violations than the number discovered in 2015.

What has been accomplished:

- Multiple task forces were utilized in 2016 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.
- Law enforcement personnel observed improved compliance with conservation stamp requirements by hunters and anglers in the field. This is likely due to increased educational efforts to the public via the Department website and written publications.

- Regional CMS coordinators continued their efforts to bring the CMS database as up to date as possible, with an emphasis on closing out old cases where court dispositions were finalized, but the CMS had not been updated to reflect this information.

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 13, 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 17, the Department received 178 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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Law Enforcement Administration & Boating Safety	3.0	\$ 439,048**
Law Enforcement Investigative Unit	6.0	\$ 711,722
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 1,150,770

* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

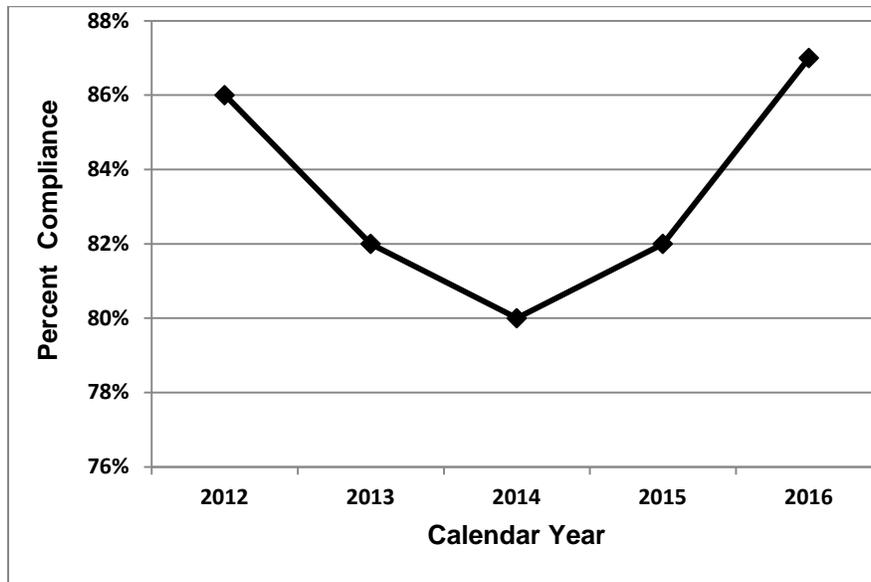
** Does not include federal cost share dollars.

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.

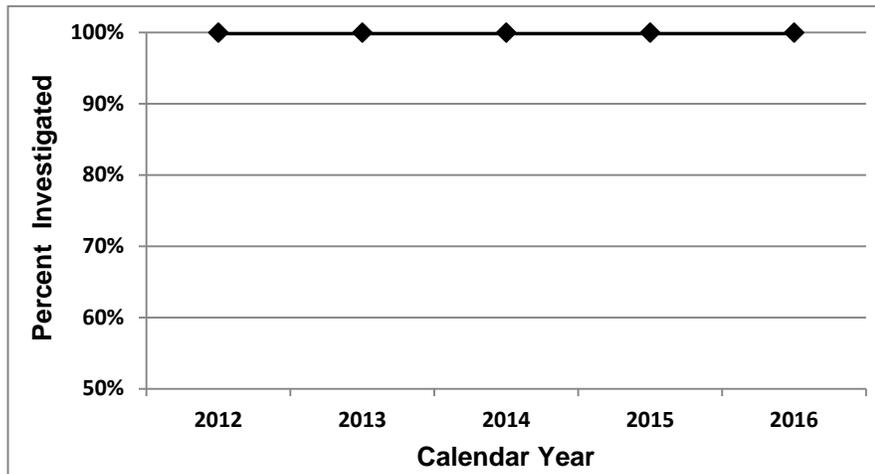
During 2016, eight game wardens each spent approximately five man-months of time on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Numerous senior game warden positions made up the remainder of Department efforts on watercraft safety and enforcement duties. Funding is received annually from the Recreational 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 2016 with an 87 percent compliance rate. The six watercraft regulations with the highest numbers of violations in 2016 were: failure to provide life jackets (163), failure to provide a throwable flotation device (113), failure to provide a fire extinguisher (71), operating an unnumbered boat (47), failure to operate watercraft in accordance with navigation rules (47), and operation of a watercraft by an underage person (20).

What has been accomplished:

- Five game wardens were hired in 2016. 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 two watercraft events, a sailing regatta and a river raft race. The boating safety of both the participants and the public was evaluated before granting these requests.
- Department personnel spent a total of 6,620 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 nine separate accidents that involved 12 vessels and 44 people, resulting in two serious injuries and one fatality. Officers also arrested 11 boat operators for boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI).
- The Department participated in several nationwide boating safety initiatives, such as the National Safe Boating Council’s “Wear It!” program and “Operation Dry Water,” a BUI awareness and enforcement program.

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:

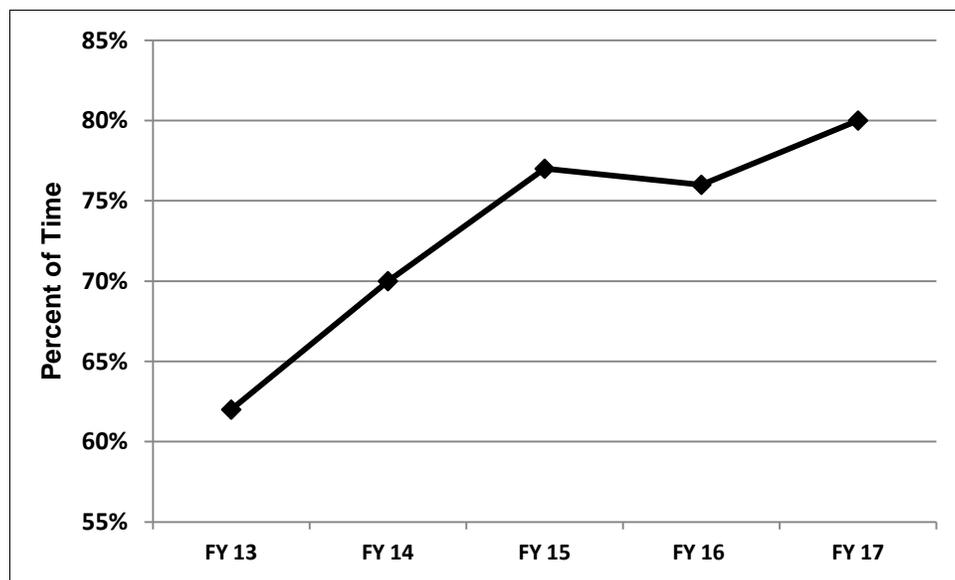
Wildlife crimes often go undetected due to the remote locations where they take place. Wildlife law enforcement officers conduct routine patrols for violators, but cannot be in every location to prevent all crimes. The wildlife of this state belongs to the people of Wyoming, and it is paramount that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

Reports made to the Stop Poaching Program are tracked on a calendar year. The majority of these reports and subsequent cases are a direct result of the Department’s Stop Poaching Hotline, which is answered by statewide radio dispatch personnel. 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 2016, there were a total of 512 Stop Poaching reports documented and all reports were investigated, although some reports remain under investigation. In many instances, it was determined that no violation had occurred or a violation had occurred but a suspect could not be identified. These tips resulted in the issuance of 63 citations and 13 warnings to suspects. A total of \$85,170 in fines/restitutions was paid and \$15,500 was issued in rewards to informants during 2016.

What has been accomplished:

- A variety of promotional items were purchased and distributed to the public to promote awareness of the program.
- Tracking of Stop Poaching reports has become more efficient since an electronic 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 completed, the warden completes the tracking form and sends it to law enforcement administration for tracking purposes.

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 and are assisted by 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 13, an average of 6,733 investigative hours has been completed annually (75 percent). In FY 17, the WIU was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes and spent 7,442 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 7,442 hours working to solve wildlife crime (80 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 17 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Mgt	4.0	\$858,804
Terrestrial Nongame (CWCS)**	8.9	1,205,355
Migratory Game Bird (Waterfowl)	1.5	173,026
Trophy Game Management	12.1	1,277,911
Wolf Management	2.0	707,162
Sage-grouse Conservation	2.0	922,506
Predator Management	0.0	100,000
TOTAL	30.5	\$5,244,764

* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 17 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 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). This program has statewide responsibilities with personnel based in various locations.

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.

The Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Management sub-program (SWaHM) was previously referred to as the Biological Services sub-program. The name was changed due to 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 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.

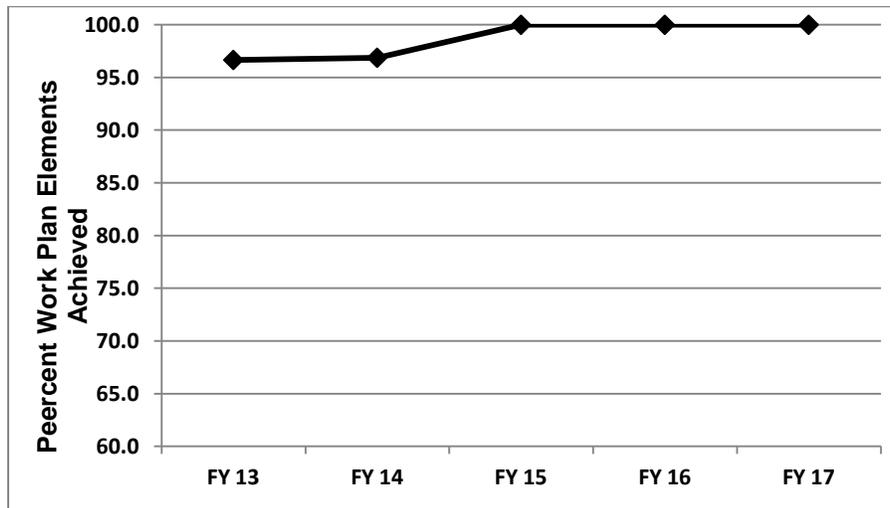
Primary Functions of the Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program:

- 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 2017 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 13-FY 17), SWaHM has completed an average of 99 percent (165 of 167) of its major work plan elements. In FY 17, 100 percent (35 of 35) of major work plan elements were completed (see bulleted list below).

While our record of completing major work plan elements is good, accomplishing them can be a challenge because the sub-program is often assigned a number of unplanned, urgent, and high priority items each year by Wildlife Administration and/or the Director’s Office. The sub-

program's personnel include some latitude in their annual work schedules in anticipation of these unplanned assignments. All such assignments were completed in FY 17. Recognition that unplanned assignments are a critical function of the statewide wildlife and habitat management sub-program was accomplished by including completion of unscheduled technical duties 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 17, these elements were:

SWaHM Administrative 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, State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG), Worth the Watching, and Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition 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.

- Maintain membership in 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.

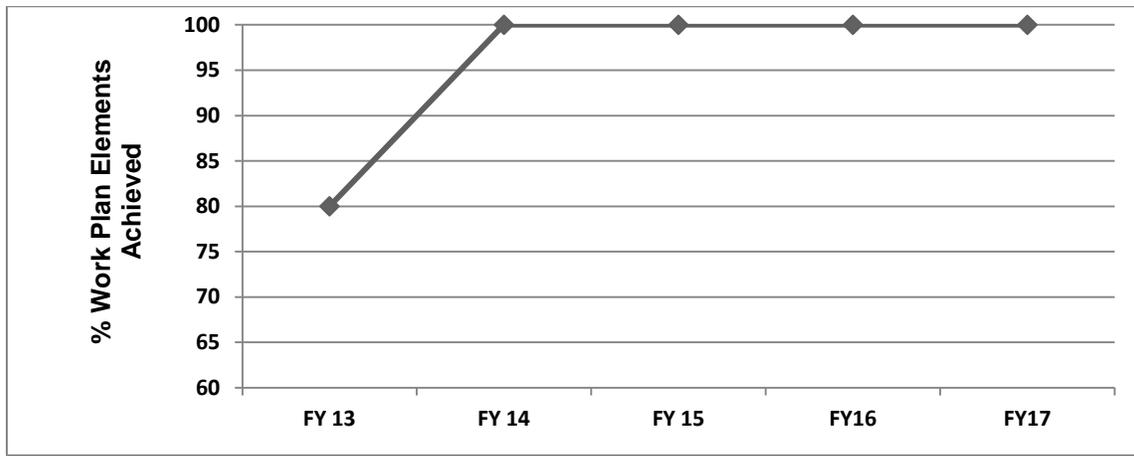
Sage-grouse Work Unit

- 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.
- 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 Work Unit

- Administer and supervise the statewide waterfowl sub-program.
- Serve as Wyoming's Representative to the Central Flyway Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Bird Technical Committees.
- 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 four mourning dove banding stations.
- Write the Migratory Game Bird Annual Completion Report.
- Run one duck banding station.
- Conduct mid-winter waterfowl survey, December goose classification survey, and fall RMP crane survey.

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, conducting duck 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 13, the migratory game bird management sub-program completed an average of 96 percent of its annual major work plan elements. In FY 17, 100 percent (nine of nine) 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 and in FY 17 duck banding was added. 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, September, and October crane, modified call-count dove, mid-winter waterfowl, winter Canada goose classification, and May duck 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 March, and August/September. Due to austerity cutbacks including elimination of the Pacific Flyway biologist position, Wyoming 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 to provide information necessary for setting hunting seasons. These surveys included March and September crane surveys, modified call-count survey for mourning doves, and mid-winter waterfowl surveys, as well as participating in the national mourning dove and duck banding program. In FY 17, 471 doves and 1,011 ducks were banded.

The annual Migratory Game Bird budget was prepared. It included funding to support the Central Flyway pre-season duck banding effort in North Dakota.

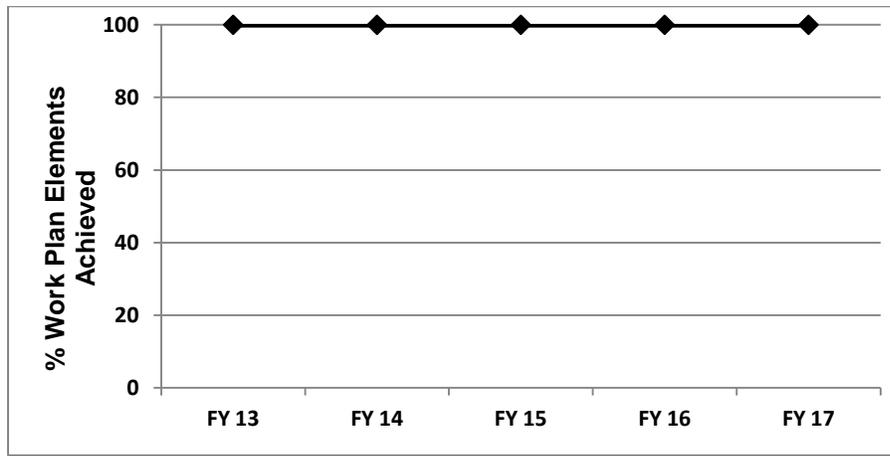
Another spring light goose hunting season was held in the Central Flyway portion of the state in accordance with the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act.

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 400 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 17 reporting cycle, the sub-program collected survey data on 42 of 46 mammal and 35 of 56 bird SGCN listed in Wyoming’s 2010 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The 2010 SWAP was revised and approved before the Commission in early FY 18. Data collected on SGCN in Wyoming since 2010 was used during the SWAP revision to review and revise Native Species Status rank and to revise Species Accounts for all SGCN. The SWAP is awaiting final approval while it is under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An approved SWAP is mandatory in order to receive federal SWG funding which is a major funding source for SGCN work in Wyoming.

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, funds from the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition, 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. The nongame bird and mammal

sub-program will be funded through Commission dollars starting again in FY 18. Legislative funding was eliminated at the end of FY 17. During the FY 17 there were no personnel changes in this sub-program.

What Has Been Accomplished:

During FY 17, the terrestrial nongame sub-program continued collecting information on population trends of SGCNs. The sub-program has worked with a number of collaborators such as nongovernment organizations (NGO); 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 17 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:

- Evaluating the use of Automated Recording Devices to Monitor Forest Owls (many SGCN). The project was granted to the Teton Raptor Center. Forest owls are typically surveyed using nighttime callback survey methodologies, which require traveling to a territory and broadcasting a conspecific call to elicit a response from territorial breeding owls. However, the effectiveness of broadcast surveys is not well documented and previous data on great gray owls suggest this method may not be adequate to assess territory occupancy. In 2016, this study simultaneously conducted callback surveys and continuously recorded all sounds within 18 known great gray owl territories in western Wyoming to compare the two protocols to determine occupancy. Using two surveys in a week, the principle investigator would have estimated that 40 percent of territories were unoccupied, whereas recorders detected 100 percent occupancy rates in weeks currently investigated. The project found that manual analysis of recorded data is the most precise way to determine if and when owls are calling but is extremely time consuming. In the future, automated band limiting energy detectors used in conjunction with random forest classifications to determine positive calls may be the most effective methods for determining great gray owl occupancy. This project was funded through SWG.
- Changing climatic conditions in Wyoming's alpine habitat. A test of wildlife responses, limits, and plasticity using the American pika (SGCN), *Ochotona princeps*. The project was granted to the U.W. Coop Unit. The project assessed pika responses to climatic variation. Results indicate that microrefuges were essential to pika occurrence, independent of other critical habitat characteristics, such as forage availability. The study also found that individuals exposed to higher daytime temperatures showed stronger selection for high-quality forage, compared to individuals that experienced cooler conditions. Finally, by varying food-collection, individuals were able to behaviorally respond to temperature-driven reductions in foraging time. Taken together, findings suggest that behavioral adaptation coupled with adequate accesses to suitable microrefuges and quality vegetation, may provide pikas a tool to modulate increasing temperatures. This project was funded through SWG.
- Black-backed Woodpecker (SGCN) status in the Black Hills. The project was granted to U.S. Forest Service. Black-backed woodpeckers (*Picoides arcticus*) are rare residents of northern conifer forests and are almost always associated with disturbances, such as fire and beetle infestation. The Black Hills population of black-backed woodpeckers has been petitioned to be considered a Distinct Population Segment under the Endangered Species Act, and more information on their population size in the region is needed. The objective

was to map abundance of black-backed woodpeckers in the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains of South Dakota and Wyoming, and provide a population estimate for black-backed woodpeckers in the region. The study located 124 and 115 transects across the Black Hills in South Dakota (n = 100) and Wyoming (n = 24; Figures 1-3), containing 1,232 and 1,138 sampling points, in 2015 and 2016, respectively. In Wyoming's portion of the study area, the 24 transects had a total of 240 points. An estimated 2,920 and 3,439 individual black-backed woodpeckers, which is equivalent to 1,460 and 1,720 pairs of black-backed woodpeckers, were reported in the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota in 2015 and 2016, respectively. This study represents the most extensive survey of black-backed woodpecker abundance in the region and sets the stage for future analyses of the species population viability in the region. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.

- Status of the Watervole (SGCN) in the Bighorn Mountains. The project was conducted internally by the Department in cooperation with WYNDD. The water vole is a habitat specialist confined to alpine and subalpine streams. Due to its limited mobility, habitat specificity, small population sizes, and vulnerability, especially in the Big Horn Mountains, the water vole is listed as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Forest Service and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The Department conducted live-trapping surveys in the Big Horn Mountains in 2016, as a follow-up to surveys conducted in 2014, to increase records and create a baseline for future monitoring. Water voles were detected at 4 of the 28 sites surveyed. Water voles were detected in three hydrologic unit codes that previously had no records of water vole, including the first two records from within the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area. Despite these new areas of detection, the study captured 75 percent fewer water voles than in 2014. It was recommended that the water vole remain a high priority species in the Big Horn Mountains. This work was funded through SWG.
- Effects of energy development on Ferruginous Hawks (SGCN) and Golden Eagles. This project was granted to the U.S. Forest Service. The Department has not received a final report for this work. Ongoing efforts are underway to recommend a monitoring program for ferruginous hawks in northeast Wyoming. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- Classifying Exposure Risk of Small Mammals to Energy Development (many SGCN). The project was granted to U.W. A final report has not yet been submitted to the Department. This document is expected during FY 18. The primary investigators are attempting to secure additional funding to continue this work into the future. This project has focused on pocket mice in sagebrush ecosystems. The project will develop recommendations for survey and management in the face of continued energy development. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- Sage Grouse (SGCN) as an Umbrella Species. This project was granted to the U.W. Coop unit. The umbrella species concept is a conservation shortcut wherein multiple species are protected under the umbrella of areas protected for one species. While appealing in theory, empirical tests of the concept have been scarce. Greater sage-grouse have high conservation priority across western North America, and many hope sage-grouse serve as an umbrella species, whereby conservation actions taken for sage-grouse benefit the many other at-risk wildlife species in sagebrush ecosystems. The project used a multifaceted approach to address the following questions: 1) How much protection does a reserve established for sage-grouse offer 52 background species? 2) Do finer-scale measures of sage-grouse abundance, habitat preference, and habitat quality align with those of sagebrush-associated

songbirds of concern? 3) How do mowing treatments meant to enhance sage-grouse habitat affect non-target songbirds? Results suggest that broad-scale habitat protections implemented for greater sage-grouse benefited many, but not all co-occurring species of concern. The utility of sage-grouse as an umbrella species was limited at finer spatial scales. These findings help identify background species missed by the sage-grouse umbrella and illustrate the need to consider spatial scale in surrogate-species conservation strategies. This work was funded through SWG.

The sub-program continued several projects in FY 17 that were initiated in prior reporting cycles that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- Coordinated range-wide occupancy surveys for white-tailed prairie dog (petitioned species, SGCN). This project was granted to WYNDD. The project was designed to conduct periodic monitoring for white-tailed prairie dog throughout their range in the state. This project marks the first time Wyoming has monitored this species using occupancy analysis. Data gathered from this project was shared with the USFWS as they consider their work to assess the white-tailed prairie dog listing petition. Occupancy surveys were done in conjunction with Colorado and Utah. This work was funded through SWG, Governor's ESA account, and USFWS five-year funds.
- Multi-state occupancy analysis of wolverine (SGCN). Work for this project was conducted internally. Wyoming work was primarily funded through legislative funds. Camera traps were set at 51 sites during the winters of 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. It is estimated that seven individual wolverine were detected during the project. Wolverines were detected in the Absaroka and Wind River Ranges. All surveys were performed in coordination with personnel from the Washington, Idaho, and Montana Departments. Field work was completed in the spring of 2017. Final reporting and data analysis is expected to occur during FY 18. This work was funded through legislative funds, Commission funds, competitive SWG funds, and GNLCC funds.
- Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (many SGCN). This project is granted to the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Monitoring is a key component of the Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan. This project is currently funded through 2019. Additional funds will be sought to continue this work because the Integrated Monitoring design allows the Department to monitor trends of many avian SGCN that may be overlooked or under represented by other survey techniques. In 2016, field technicians completed 2,540 point counts on 198 of the 200 planned survey grids within the 37 strata in the 5 Bird Conservation Regions in Wyoming. They detected 185 avian species, including 47 SGCN. This work is funded through BLM grants and SWG funds.
- Wyoming and Nebraska bat zone of integration survey (many SGCN). Work for this project was conducted internally. This project is performed in cooperation between the states of Nebraska and Wyoming. The study is designed to survey for bats in eastern Wyoming, in a designated zone of integration between the neighboring states. Funds from this project will additionally be used to install three bat gates in order to preserve bat hibernacula, helping to conserve sensitive bat species in the state. This project has been funded a Competitive SWG grant.
- Spotted Skunk (petitioned species, SGCN) distribution and genetics. This project was granted to U.W. This work is examining western and eastern spotted skunk range within the

state. The project is additionally assessing spotted skunk genetics to help elucidate differences in subspecies designations. This genetic information will directly inform the USFWS as they consider a petition to federally list the plains subspecies of the eastern spotted skunk. This project has been funded by Governor's ESA, Commission funds, and WAFWA grants.

- Black-footed ferret (SGCN) recovery assistance. Work for this project is primarily being accomplished internally. In addition to internal efforts, Wildlife Services have been contracted to assist with plague control at the Meeteetse release site. Working Dogs for Conservation have been granted funds to assess effectiveness of scent dogs in performing ferret surveys. Funds are primarily used to monitor black-footed ferrets at the Shirley Basin and Meeteetse reintroduction sites, to ensure prairie dog colony health in Meeteetse, and to assess new survey techniques using scent dogs. This project has been funded by SWG and Section 6 funds.
- Evaluating distribution and trends of juniper-obligate species (many SGCN). Work for this project has been accomplished internally. This project is designed to holistically assess SGCN assemblages (of both birds and mammals) in Utah juniper habitat in Sweetwater and Uinta Counties. Work will help determine species present in SW Wyoming, and assess what habitats are important for this species assemblage. This project was funded through SWG funds.
- Black Rosy-Finch (SGCN) distribution, abundance, and habitat. Funds for this project granted to the U.W. Coop Unit. The black rosy-finch is one of the most understudied avian species in Wyoming and North America. This study is assessing the abundance of rosy finch across latitudinal and alpine habitat gradients, collecting habitat and climate data to develop predictive distribution maps, evaluating specific attributes of alpine snowfields most used for foraging, and developing recommendations for long-term monitoring. This work was funded using SWG funds.
- Long-billed Curlew (SGCN) reproductive success, migration, and habitat use. Funds for this project were granted to the Intermountain Bird Observatory. Work for this project is a continuation of previous work performed in the state. This project is conducting demographic monitoring at the Daniel/Pinedale study area, and is adding a new monitoring site in Teton County. Satellite tracking of four additional curlews will provide a more complete understanding of habitats used during the non-breeding season by curlews that nest across Wyoming. This project has been funded through legislative funds, BLM funds, and two NGOs.
- Species Information Coordinator for the 2017 SWAP revision (many SGCN). Funds for this project were granted to WYNDD. This project was funded to assist with the 2017 revision of Wyoming's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The coordinator has been heavily involved in revisions to SWAP species accounts and assisting with information transfer between the Department and WYNDD. This project was funded through legislative funds.
- Green River Standard North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. Work on this 2012 grant is almost complete. Another one-year grant extension (July 2018) 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, which substituted for an approved easement that was completed without using the allocated NAWCA dollars. Work was completed in summer 2017 on vegetation reestablishment and

weed control for the Wild Red wetland project. Some minor dike fortification will be finished in fall 2017. The easement on La Barge Creek is nearly finalized.

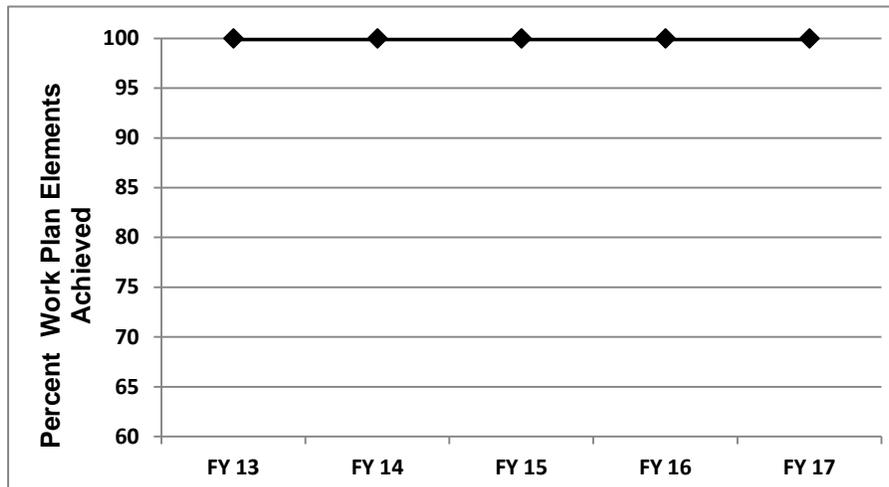
- Common Loon (SGCN) Research and Monitoring. Department participation for this work was coordinated internally. The common loon monitoring and research project, started in 2013 in partnership with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI). The annual Wyoming Loon Working Group meeting was held in Yellowstone National Park in May 2017 to review last year's achievements and on-going work for the 2016 nesting season. Nineteen territorial pairs have been confirmed thus far in the 2017 season. BRI has documented nesting attempts at 13 of the 19 territories. Efforts have been discussed to translocate loon chicks to the Wind River Range, should water be drained prior to fledging for young of the year in Bergman Reservoir. This project was initially funded through a grant from the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Current work is funded through 2017 by a multi-year grant to BRI from the Ricketts Conservation Fund.
- Trumpeter Swan (SGCN) Monitoring. Work for this project was conducted and coordinated internally. Since the late 1980's, the Department has been actively involved in monitoring and managing trumpeter swans. Range expansion work since the 1990s in the Green River basin has resulted in more than doubling the resident population and the number of nesting pairs, and has greatly expanded both summer and winter ranges for this species in Wyoming. The Department completed survey flights to collect census data on the total number of adult and young in summer, and to document occupancy and productivity of all known nest sites. In the 2016 fall population count, 213 adults and 61 cygnets were documented. In summer 2017, 28 nesting pairs hatched 65 cygnets, with 6 percent of the production occurring in the Green River range expansion area. Distribution of swans continues to slowly increase, but concerns remain over low productivity of swan nest sites and a lack of population growth in the core Snake River drainage. This work was accomplished through legislative funds and support from a regional non-profit group.
- Grassland Avian Monitoring (many SGCN). Work for this project was conducted and coordinated internally. Monitoring work focuses on two grassland endemics (mountain plover and long-billed curlew), and two secondary grassland associates (upland sandpiper and burrowing owl). Current long-term monitoring programs (Breeding Bird Survey and Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions) do not sufficiently quantify populations of these four grassland species due to the seasonal timing during which the surveys are conducted. This project is designed to monitor these populations through time to ensure adequate management. This work is accomplished through legislative and Department funds.

The nongame sub-program initiated several projects in FY 17 that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- NSSU Small Mammals (many SGCN) at Risk of Energy Development. Work for this project was conducted internally. This project used standardized survey techniques to evaluate small mammal communities in key areas of the state where data is lacking. The project coordinated with personnel from the energy industry and other state agencies to locate and summarize historic trapping records that will further allow the evaluation of how current small mammal communities compare to previous survey efforts. This work was funded through Governor's ESA and SWG funds.

- Harlequin Duck (SGCN) Monitoring and Satellite Tracking. This work was conducted in coordination with the Department and BRI. Monitoring was coordinated internally. Aerial monitoring surveys along known nesting streams in northwestern Wyoming have been conducted every five years since 2002 in the pre-nesting season. The total number of ducks and pairs counted in the pre-nesting period in May 2017 (55 ducks/26 pairs) was almost identical to numbers from 2012, indicating a stable nesting population. In addition to annual monitoring, BRI implanted 4 adult males with satellite transmitters (two each in 2016 and 2017) to obtain the first data on migration routes and timing to the coast, as well as movement and habitat use of breeding ducks. Four female adults were also tagged with color leg bands and geolocators. In August 2017, biologists from Grand Teton National Park and BRI participated in a Department coordinated backcountry brood survey of the major nesting streams in the park. A total of 9 hens, 3 broods, and 10 chicks were documented. This work was funded through SWG funds.
- Thunder Basin National Grassland raptor surveys (many SGCN). This project was conducted and coordinated internally. Aerial raptor monitoring has been conducted along set transects over the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Raptor monitoring information will be used to track populations over time. All data will be shared with the Medicine Bow National Forest. Funds for this project were provided by the U.S. Forest Service.
- Linking environmental drivers and energy development to the abundance and distribution of the Wyoming pocket gopher (SGCN). Funds for this project were granted to U.W. The project will examine relationships between Wyoming pocket gophers and environmental variables including a gradient of energy development. This project will additionally examine interactions of the northern pocket gopher as compared to the Wyoming pocket gopher and energy development. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- Statewide swift fox (SGCN) monitoring. This work was conducted and coordinated internally. Previously, the Department has conducted routine swift fox surveys in eastern Wyoming. Due to anecdotal range expansions, in 2017 the Department conducted swift fox surveys throughout the entire state. Collected data will be compared to previous work in eastern Wyoming. Data from the western portion of the state will provide a baseline, and allow managers to provide an estimate of range expansion. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- Northern Long-eared Bat (SGCN) Survey – Laramie Peak. This work was granted to WYNDD. Northern long-eared bats were tentatively detected in the Medicine Bow National Forest, Laramie Peak Unit, by the USFS. This observation, if confirmed, represents a significant expansion of the species range, as currently understood. The observation did not include any voucher information. This project will examine possible populations of northern long-eared bats in the Laramie Mountain Range. This work is funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- Great Gray Owl (SGCN) Habitat Analysis. This work was granted to the U.W. Coop Unit in coordination with the Teton Raptor Center. This project will examine habitat selection by breeding male great gray owls while on nesting territories. By improving our understanding of habitat needs during the reproductive period, this study will increase knowledge about factors that influence population status. This project was funded through 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 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 the 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.

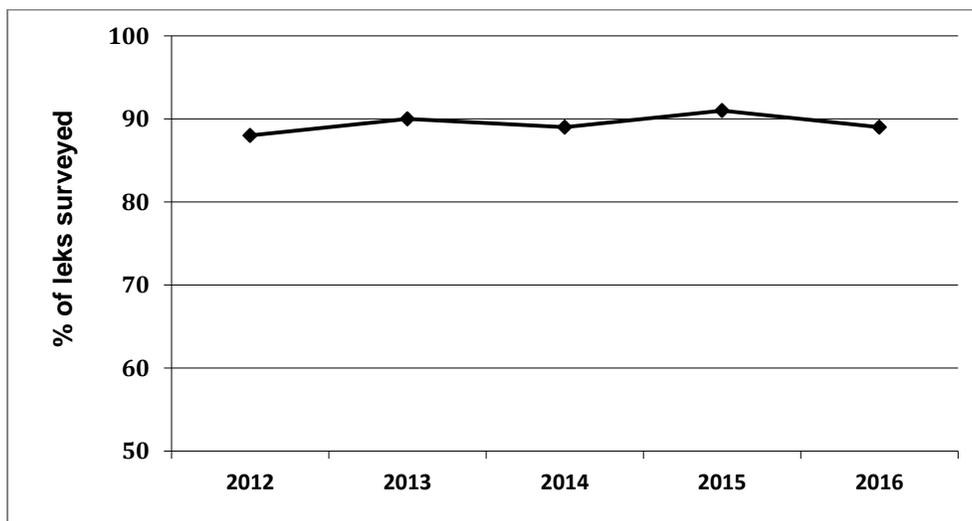
What has been accomplished:

- 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 hair-snare DNA monitoring of black bears in the Greys River region in the Wyoming Range.
- Initiated evaluation of a noninvasive monitoring strategy for black bears in the Sierra Madres area using genetic methodologies to estimate abundance. The initiation of this work included capturing black bears.
- All regulated management of wolves by the Department was suspended on September 23, 2014.
- During FY 17, a Federal Appeals Court overturned a judge's decision that placed wolves back under endangered species status; subsequently wolves are currently managed by the State of Wyoming in the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area (WTGMA) in northwest Wyoming.
- Developed gray wolf harvest regulations for Fall 2017 hunting seasons, conducted public meetings regarding proposed wolf management throughout Wyoming, and presented proposed regulations to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.
- Conducted numerous information and education programs relative to bear, mountain lion, and wolf ecology, management, and human safety/awareness.
- Managed wolf, black bear, and mountain lion harvest databases.
- Analyzed black bear harvest data from the previous season and produced the annual harvest report.
- Represented the Department at the Commission meeting to amend Chapter 42 harvest regulations for mountain lions in Wyoming; specifically addressed legislation in regards to separation of mountain lion harvest limits by residency in Hunt Area 1 of northeast Wyoming.
- Assisted personnel from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks with mountain lion monitoring techniques in the Black Hills.
- Continued 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, Wyoming Federation of Houndsmen, and Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association to provide information as to mountain lion and wolf 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 2016 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.
- 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 after delisting occurs.

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 2017 (end of biological year 2016), there were 1,828 known occupied sage-grouse leks in Wyoming. Department personnel, together with personnel from other agencies,

volunteers, and consultants, surveyed 89 percent of these leks at least once. The proportion of leks checked in the previous 10 years (biological years 2006-2015) averaged 87 percent. In the spring of 2017, 1,187 leks were confirmed active, 299 confirmed inactive, and 140 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 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 of 28 males/lek observed on leks, 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 2017, the average number of males observed on leks was 32/active lek, 10 percent fewer than the 36/active lek observed in the spring of 2016, suggesting a population decrease. While 32/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 USFWS 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. However, the new federal administration issued a secretarial order (SO3353) requiring review of all federal sage-

grouse management plans. The implications of this review are not yet known, but are generally viewed as favorable to industry.

What has been accomplished:

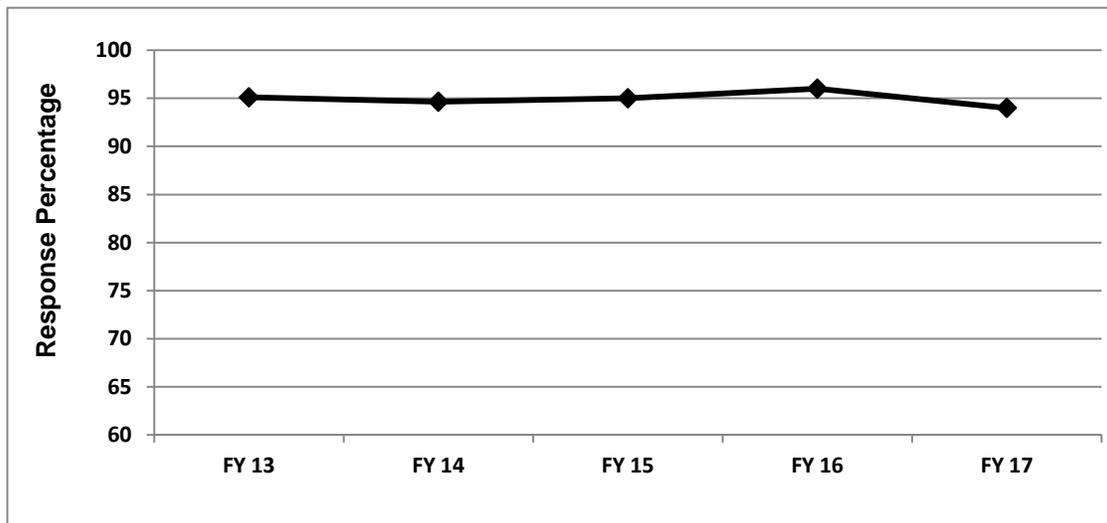
- The Department, along with other state agencies continued to implement Governor Mead's Executive Order 2015-4, Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection. The specific actions are reported by the Habitat Protection Program.
- Wyoming's eight local sage-grouse working groups continued to implement their conservation plan using nearly \$7 million from Wyoming general fund appropriations together with other public and private funding sources. Since 2005, over 220 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. Beginning in FY 18, legislative funding of the Sage-grouse Program will transfer from the state General Fund back to the Department. A license fee increase was approved from legislature to facilitate this action.
- 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.
- Department personnel worked with their North Dakota Game and Fish Department counterparts, Utah State University researchers, and others to capture and translocate 60 sage-grouse from Wyoming to North Dakota in an effort to prevent extirpation of the North Dakota population. The effort will be repeated in 2018 and researchers will determine not only the success of the translocation, but the effects of translocation on the source population near Rawlins, Wyoming. This study is part of a larger collaborative effort involving translocation projects in Utah and California/Nevada.

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 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 is being tested and will be applied as appropriate to the sage-grouse population(s) 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 percent 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 2012-2016, 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 94 percent of reported conflicts between humans and black bears, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and mountain lions during the reporting period through investigation or on-site resolution of the conflict – while other conflicts were filed as a report, there was not an opportunity to respond other than reporting the incident. 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.
- Provided an annual Job Completion Report on all grizzly bear management activities by the Department.
- 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 Jackson, Wyoming.
- Continued to increase the presence of the Bear Wise Program toward a Bear Wise Wyoming program, conducting multiple safety presentations, workshops, and symposia throughout the state.
- Worked with sportsmen's groups to provide free bear spray to hunters in Cody and Jackson, Wyoming.
- Conducted a "Large Carnivore Trail" at the Wyoming Outdoor Weekend, in Lander Wyoming where visitors learned about large carnivore safety and proactive conflict resolution when recreating in large carnivore habitats.
- 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".
- Updated a "Bear Wise Wyoming" page for the Department's new website in order to educate the public.
- Developed a series of videos regarding bear safety and recreating in bear habitat that have been displayed on the Department's website and through social media.
- 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.
- Provided bear safety information in new harvest regulations packets that are sent to all hunters.

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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Strategic Management**	1.0	\$ 123,603

** Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

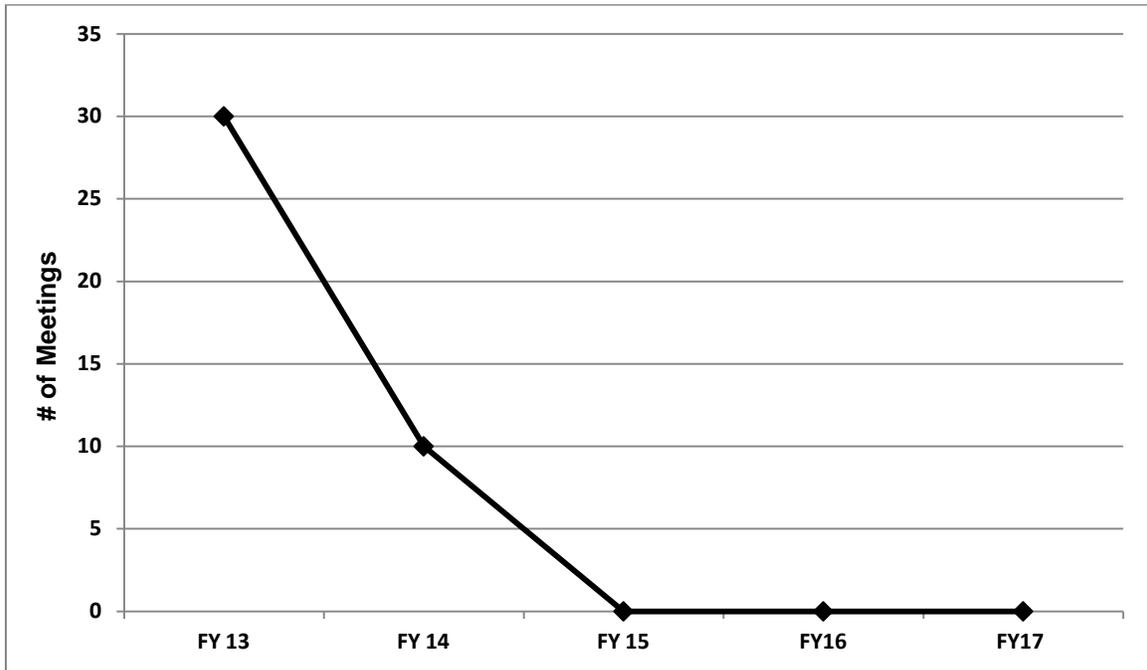
*** The Strategic Management Program and Planning Coordinator have been combined into one program. Budget numbers are also reported in the Department Administration Program Report.*

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.

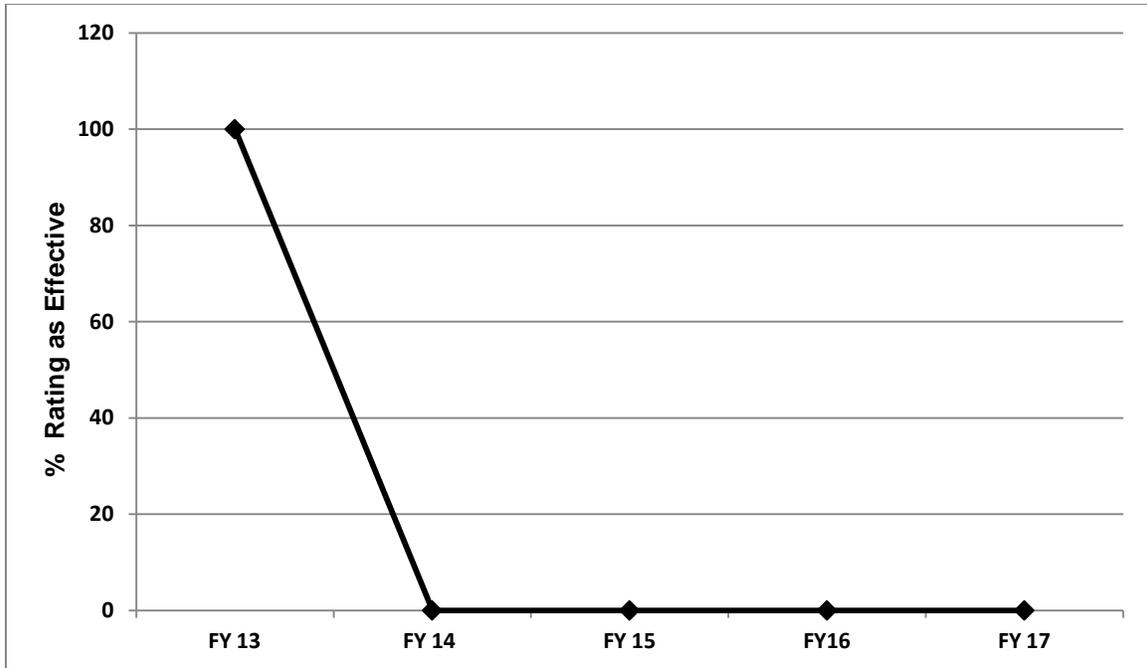
Performance Measure #1: Quarterly meetings held with divisions to determine data needs (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 20 meetings are held each year).



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, FY 16, or FY 17. 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 2017 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Office Management	19.3	\$ 1,545,776
Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings	2.5	1,391,273
TOTAL	21.8	\$ 2,937,049

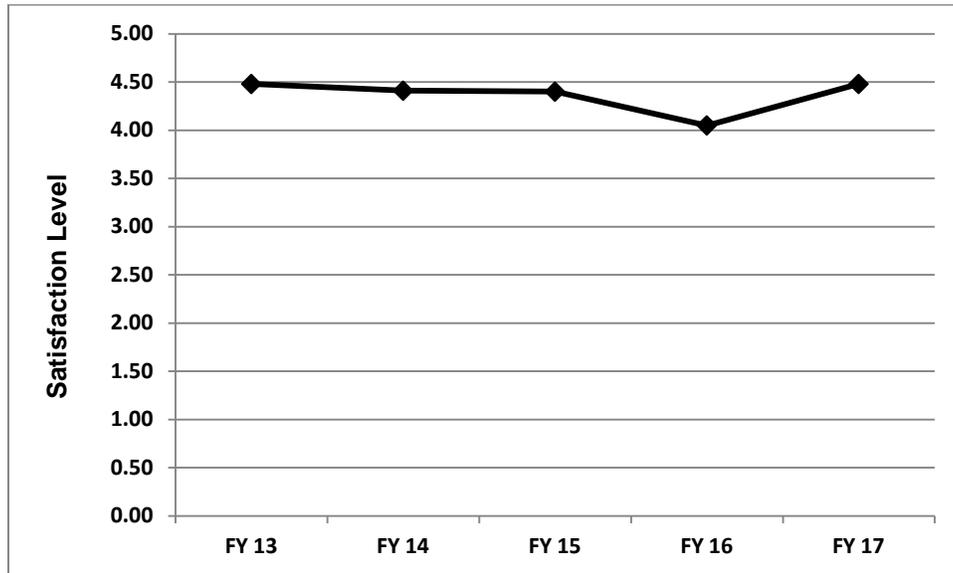
** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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.

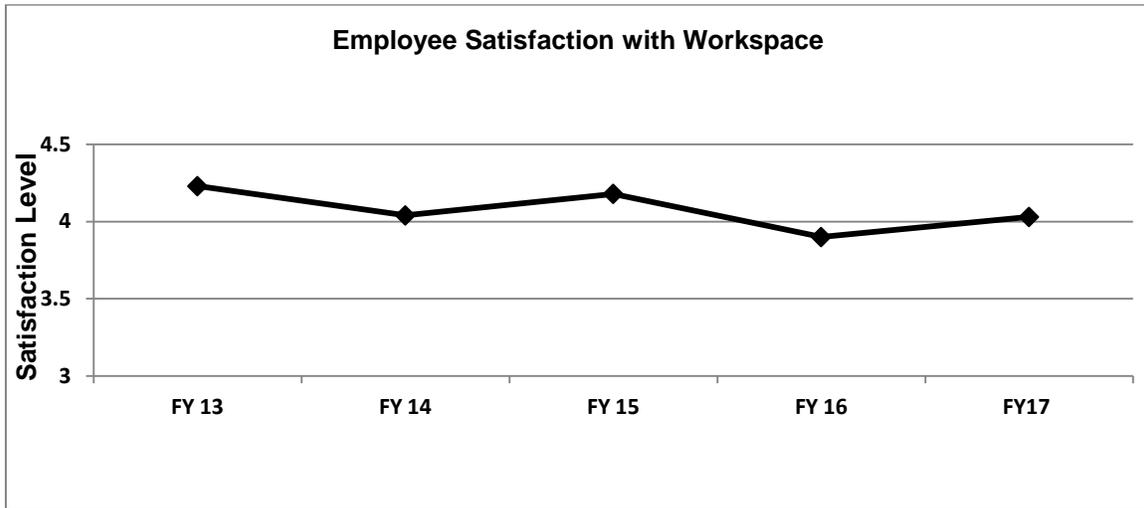


Story behind the performance:

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 regional office managers.

Overall, in FY 17, 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 within 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, keypad entry locks were installed on the shop doors to eliminate the need for key cards or keys. The conference room received a makeover including new paint, removal of an unused partition screen, and an upgraded video screen. The handicapped toilet in the ladies rest room was replaced to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. One of the eight heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units was replaced with a new one. Due to the main water line freezing outside the building, the main water line from the curb to the building was replaced and an unused portion was abandoned. Decorative rocks that were left over from a restoration project were placed in front of the building. Several offices received upgrades to desks, chairs, and filing cabinets, getting rid of the old green metal army surplus models.

The Jackson Regional Office continues to have maintenance issues with the HVAC system, but they are improving. A contractor was able to identify several valves and pipes that were blocked and a chemical specialist has been hired to clear the system. A leak was repaired in the main shop roof. The basement of the main shop was insulated and upgrades were made to electrical and heating systems. The shop compound parking area was filled and leveled to mitigate a problem with standing water and poor drainage. Contractors also installed three security cameras in the Jackson Regional Office and the shop windows were replaced

The Green River Regional Office completed several large projects during FY 17, which required a lot of time and processing. Electricity was installed on the fisheries' "pole barn" requiring rewiring and a trench was dug from one structure to the new one to run the electrical wiring. New lights and fixtures were installed inside the pole barn. The regional office parking lot was crack sealed which consisted of digging up the old concrete next to the building and asphaltting, replacing parking blocks, and hauling away the old concrete and blocks. The parking lot was thoroughly cleaned and double coated sealed and restriped. A permanent projector was mounted and wired in the conference room. Two security cameras were installed, one in the main lobby area and one near the back door of the building. This was a long time in the making and has

been a great asset to the office. The shop was thoroughly cleaned and organized and new tools and equipment were purchased such as a new tool chest, an industrial size air compressor, and a table saw.

During FY 17, the only improvement completed at the Cody Regional Office was the addition of a layer of recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) to the parking lot. The parking lot suffered damages last year due to an inordinate amount of snow removal and the second layer of RAP considerably improved its condition.

During FY 17, the Casper Regional Office had many demands placed upon the facility 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 equipment and vehicles, repairs to plumbing and electrical operations, landscaping, painting, carpet and meeting room cleaning, HVAC system maintenance, and concrete and parking area repairs. The invaluable contract maintenance specialist expanded the storage abilities of the Casper Office by installing new cabinets at the front office. This addition has benefitted the public as well. The sitting area and map viewing station is located near our license application kiosk. The Casper Region has the highest number of users of this station. Lighting was installed for our customers who need to review maps and regulations for the application process. 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. The maintenance specialist assisted in a project for a new front entrance by converting the steps to a ramp and will continue assisting with this project in FY 18 as well. The Casper office was able to update the skylights and completed significant tree trimming, hedge removal, and landscape updates including new sod. The Casper Office break room was also updated with new cabinets and a sitting area. The Casper Office completed regular repairs and regular servicing of the Casper Region AIS mobile decontamination units (four in all). Due to the high traffic use of the compound, new security keypads were installed for the doors in the compound office complex and shop area.

There were no improvements made at the Sheridan Regional Office during FY 17. Office space was available to provide for an adequate work space for all employees.

The Lander Region made a few facility improvements in FY 17. These consisted of a fiber optic line into the main building allowing upgrades to the office's phone system and increased internet speed. The new digital phone upgrade significantly reduces the cost of long distance phone calls around the state. The regional office hot water system was also updated to further reduce costs.

The Laramie Regional Office did not have any major improvements in FY 17 in anticipation of a new office building. Regular maintenance occurred on the furnace, walk-in freezer/cooler, fire extinguishers, and facility landscaping. The second floor electrical outlets were updated, a garage door opener was replaced, and a furnace combustion blower and pressure switch were replaced.

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 17 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
Laboratory Services	7.0	\$ 843,881
Veterinary Services	17.8	\$1,944,222
TOTAL	24.8	\$ 2,788,103

** Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 17 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).

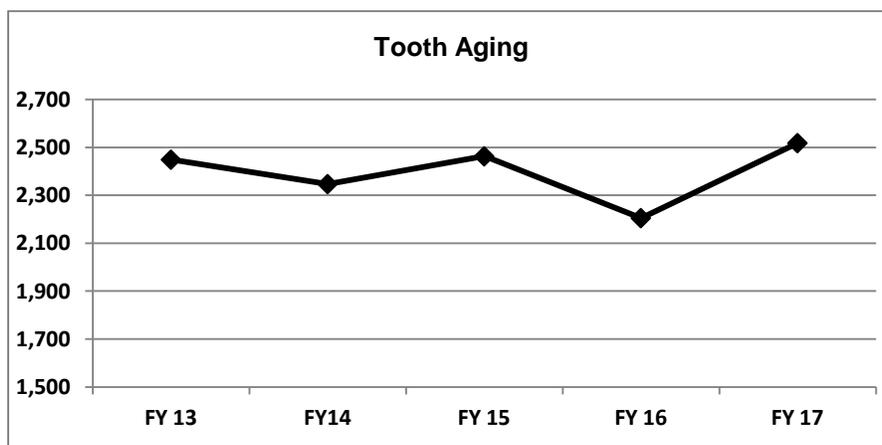
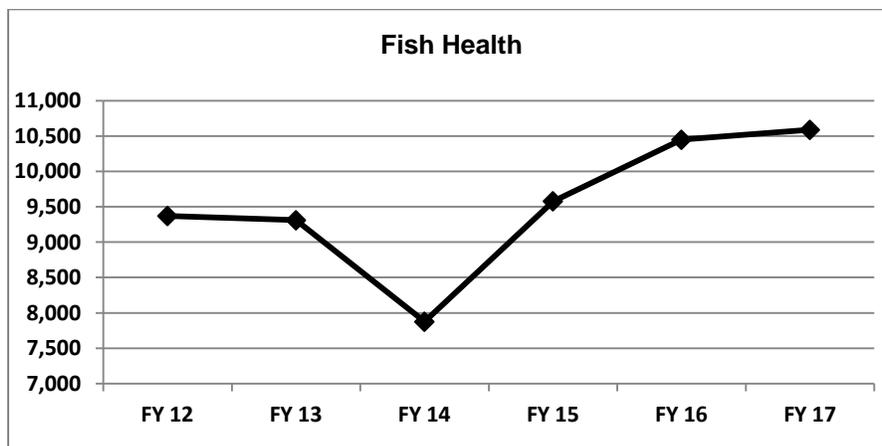
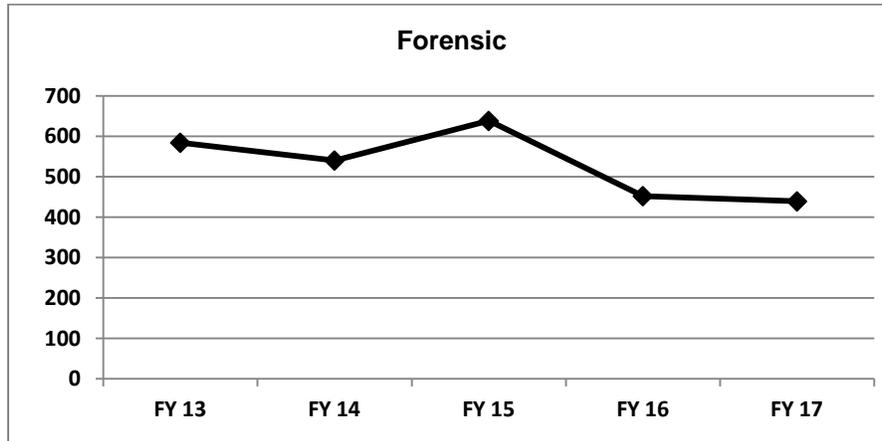
Laboratory Services is located on the University of Wyoming campus. Veterinary Services spans three locations: The wildlife health laboratory is located at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, the research unit is located at the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille, and numerous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

Primary Functions of the Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program:

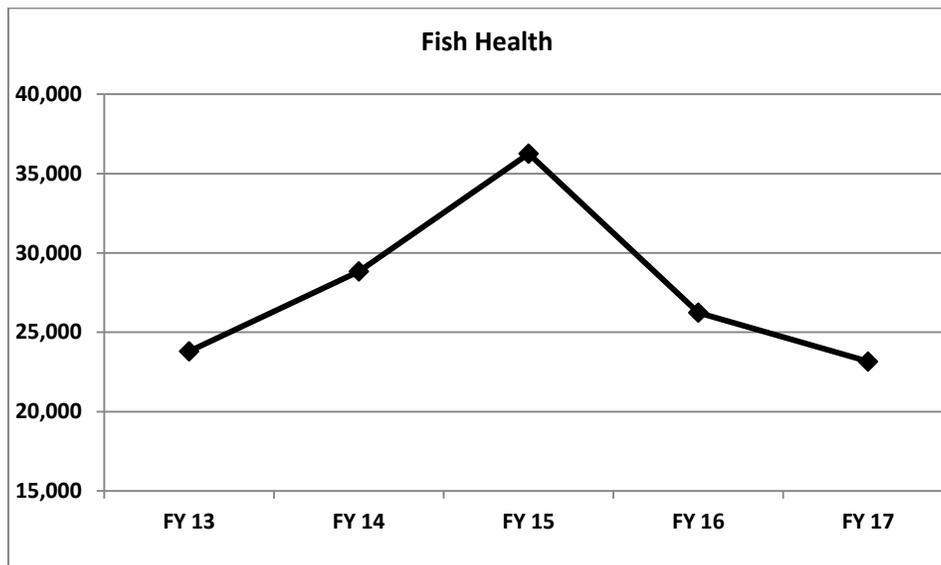
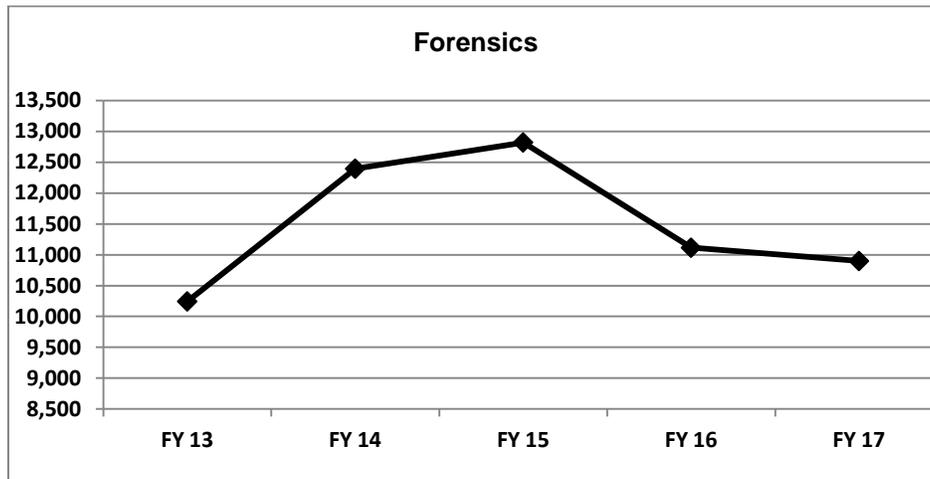
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting on diseases and providing disease management strategies for wildlife and fish species for which the Department has statutory authority to regulate.
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** through laboratory research, 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 very

slight decrease in the number of items and cases submitted in FY 17 when compared with FY 16. 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 ten states in addition to Wyoming including Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota; and there is a contract with the Attorney General's office for Utah as we speak. 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 declined to a record low of 27 cases which is a large decrease from the 41 cases the previous year. This decrease is hard to explain, but most probably due to animal husbandry practices in the hatcheries becoming more effective.

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 contributes to 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 the treasurer; the Forensic Analyst is serving as the second Vice President and will take over the duties of President in 2019. The Forensic Program Manager is the Certification Director for the next two 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. Kim Frazier continues to serve on the Technical Working Group and is also the chair of wildlife forensics for OSAC.

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 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 Analyst is a member of the forensic subcommittee as well as the liaison to the Human Factors Resource Committee. The Forensic Program Manager is the chair of the wildlife subcommittee. The Laboratory Director is the Executive Secretary for the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee. OSAC will be replacing most scientific working group organizations dealing with human forensics. 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 Fish Health Laboratory has spent a great deal of the year working with AFS on their "Tier I" recognition of the laboratory. This included documenting protocols and employees. They will continue to work on requirements for Tier II recognition during this next year. The Fish Health Biologist has passed his national boards and is currently certified through AFS as an Aquatic Animal Health Inspector. This means that the Department's Fish Health laboratory currently has four certified inspectors.

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 quality assurance/quality control manual that will be a part of the accreditation process for all areas of the laboratory.

Performance Measure #2: The number of brucellosis kits mailed to hunters and the number of brucellosis samples processed (Personnel in this program will work to annually mail 7,000 brucellosis kits to hunters and process 600 brucellosis samples).

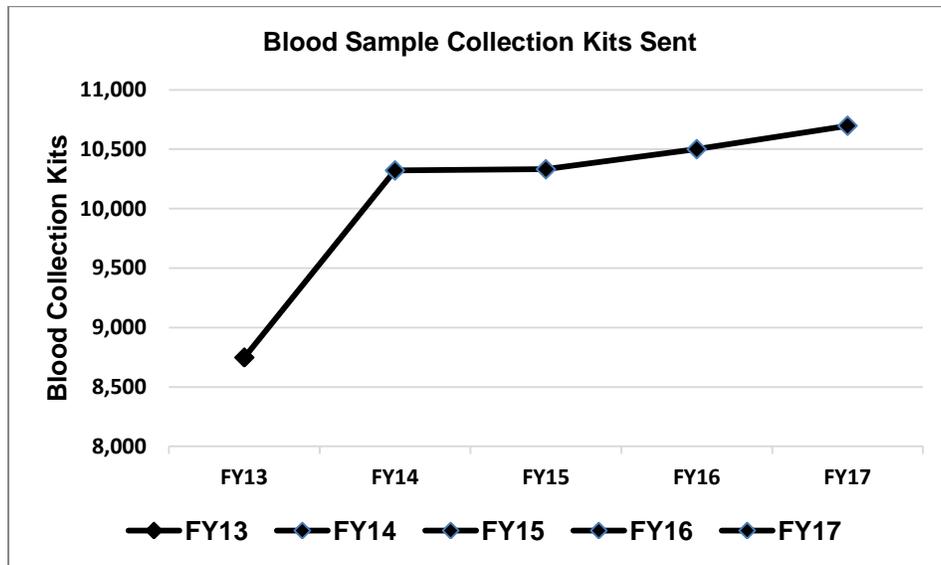


Figure 1: Number of blood sample collection kits sent to elk hunters holding licenses in target surveillance hunt areas.

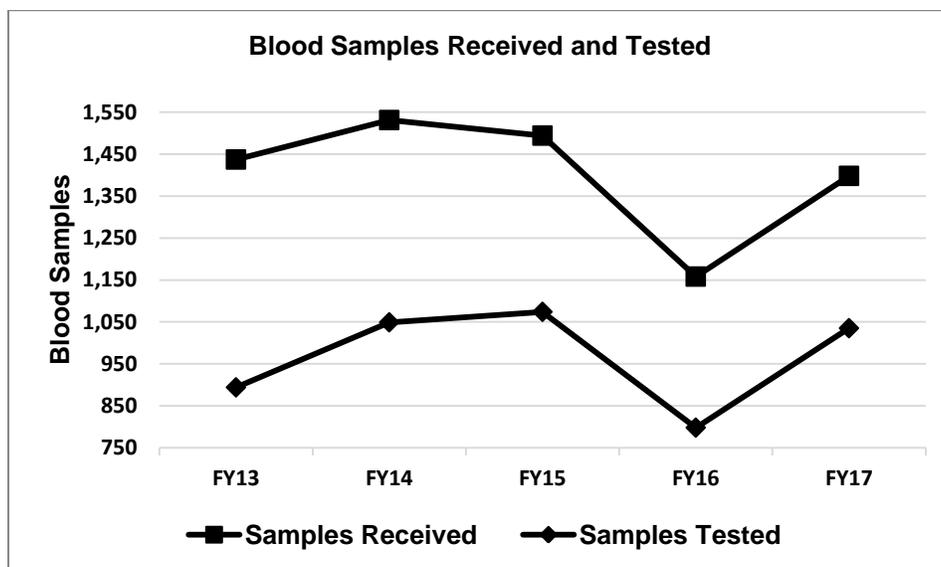


Figure 2: Number of blood samples received and processed verses the number of samples that were suitable for testing for brucellosis.

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. When brucellosis spills over from wildlife to cattle, substantial economic losses for Wyoming's cattle producers can result.

Each year, the Department monitors the distribution and prevalence of brucellosis within the state's elk populations by requesting hunters to collect blood samples from their harvested animal. Surveillance is generally concentrated in elk herds of the Bighorn Mountains and herds that surround the Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) that do not use state or federal feedgrounds. In addition, nearly a quarter of the brucellosis non-endemic area is surveyed each year, which provides coverage of the entire area every four to five years. Between 7,000 and 10,000 blood collection kits are assembled and mailed to elk hunters successful in acquiring limited quota elk licenses within target surveillance areas. In general, hunters return between 1,000 and 1,500 blood samples to the laboratory, of which approximately 60 percent are suitable for testing (samples often freeze in the return mailing, rendering them untestable).

Since 1991, over 14,300 elk blood samples have been analyzed for brucellosis. In 2012, this disease was documented outside the greater Yellowstone area (GYA) when it was discovered in elk in the northwestern Bighorn Mountains. Between 2012 and 2015, a combined total of seven elk were identified from Elk Hunt Areas (HAs) 39, 40, and 41 on the northwestern slope. Due to the lack of effective control measures to stop the spread of this disease, the documentation of seropositive elk outside of the GYA is alarming to both livestock and wildlife managers.

What has been accomplished:

The FY 17 surveillance program again concentrated on the Bighorn Mountains; particularly in HAs 39, 40, and 41; but was also focused on those HAs surrounding the DSA to ensure continued monitoring of the endemic/nonendemic border. Surveillance outside of the known brucellosis endemic area occurred in the northeastern corner of the state near Gillette and the Black Hills.

In FY 17, over 10,500 blood collection kits were mailed or directly handed to elk hunters successful in limited quota elk license drawings in the select (target) HAs. Samples were also obtained opportunistically in association with various research efforts where animals were captured and bled for disease testing. All useable serum samples were analyzed at the Department's Wildlife Health Laboratory. Serologic assays for exposure to *B. abortus* were conducted and interpreted using current National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) protocols for the rapid automated presumptive and fluorescence polarization assay in microplates and tubes. Serological profiles were categorized using the United States Department of Agriculture's brucellosis eradication uniform methods and rules for Cervidae combined with the tristate agreement with Montana and Idaho on brucellosis testing of free-ranging elk. Reactors originating outside of the known endemic area were submitted to NVSL for confirmation with the complement fixation test. Serologic data (prevalence levels) on elk within the known endemic area is based on yearling and adult females, but males are included in surveillance data outside of the known endemic area.

A total of 1,398 elk blood samples were received with 1,035 (74 percent) of those being suitable for testing. The majority of the samples were collected from the Bighorn Mountains where 592 useable samples were tested, and 546 of those were from yearlings or adults.

A total three seropositive cow elk were identified from HA 40 in FY 17; two animals were identified through trapping operations in February, and one was harvested during the fall hunting season. Brucellosis was also found in one new HA in the Bighorn Mountains when a seropositive bull was harvested from HA 49 in mid-October. In an effort to collect additional samples from HA 49, an additional 890 letters and 456 blood collection kits were sent to most HA 49 license holders encouraging them to collect a blood sample from their harvested animal. Additional blood sample drop-off collection coolers were distributed throughout HA 49 and field personnel were available to collect samples whenever possible. Attempts to obtain a *B. abortus* isolate through culture of lymph nodes collected from hunter killed animals or collected from seropositive elk movement study animals have been unsuccessful.

Brucellosis surveillance in the combined northern HUs (Clark's Fork, Cody, Gooseberry, and Wiggins Fork) of the DSA, documented an increase in seroprevalence from 9.2% (n=76 samples) in 2015 to 15% (n=206) in 2016. Seroprevalence in cows of the Cody HU (HAs 55, 56, 58-61, 66) was 12.4% (n=153) which is very similar to the 10 year average of 12.9% (n=1,112). Elk HA 58 had the highest seroprevalence in the HU with 20% (n=25), which is slightly above the 10 year average of 18% (n=89). The Clark's Fork HU (HAs 51, 53, 54) on the other hand observed a decrease in prevalence over the 10-year average of 9.9% (n=573) to 8.7% (n=23) in 2016.

Seroprevalence in the targeted HAs selected for long-term monitoring (HAs 61, 62, and 63) increased in FY 17. In the southern herd units of the DSA, only seven suitable samples were received from cows harvested from either the South Wind River or the West Green River. Although the sample size is very small, no seropositive animals were identified from these herd units.

A total of 1,073 useable samples were collected over the past four years of surveillance in the northeastern corner of the state (totals include samples collected from HAs on the eastern slope of the Bighorn Mountains). All samples tested negative for exposure to *B. abortus* on serological tests. In the past 25 years, 4,335 samples from the non-endemic area have been analyzed. To date, this disease has not been documented outside of western half of the state.

Performance Measure #3: The number of chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples tested (Personnel in this program will work to annually test 1,500 CWD samples).

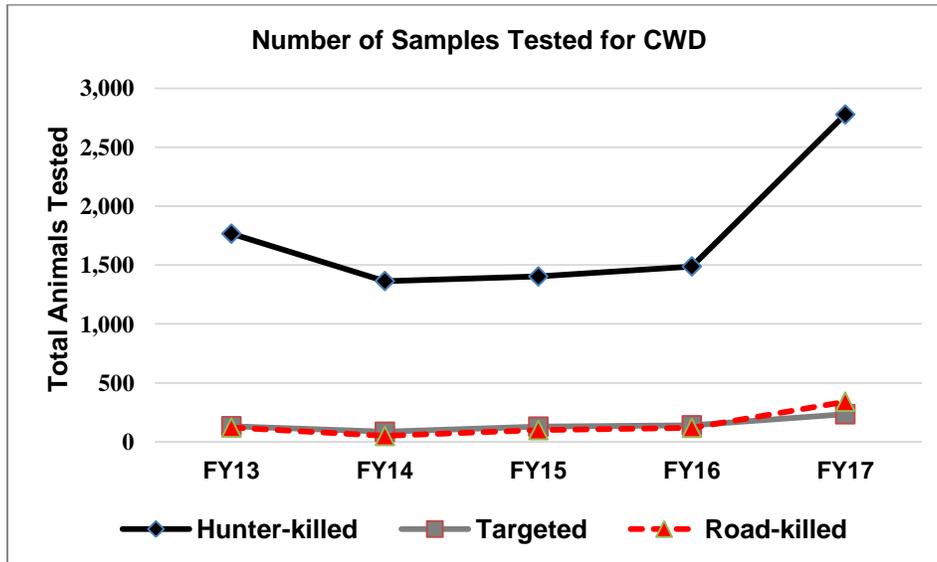


Figure 3: Total number hunter-killed, targeted, and road-killed animals (deer, elk and moose combined) tested for CWD in 2016

Story Behind the Performance:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system of cervids caused by abnormal proteins called prions. This disease was first identified in free-ranging populations in the southeastern corner of Wyoming in 1985 and has since slowly spread north and west; now covering the majority of the state. Recent research in Wyoming and Colorado suggests that CWD can lead to declines in some deer and elk populations. The threat of population impacts has prompted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to increase surveillance efforts in order to better understand statewide distribution, as well as prevalence within the “core endemic area” where this disease has been established for at least 30 years.

What Has Been Accomplished: The FY 17 surveillance effort was focused on the western edge of the known endemic area; encompassing the Green River, Jackson, Lander, and Pinedale regions. Sampling efforts were also concentrated in the core endemic area of the Laramie Range, to include the Laramie Mountain mule deer herd, the South Converse deer herd, as well as the Laramie Peak elk herd. The Black Hills deer herd was also targeted to re-examine prevalence in this herd that has been exposed to CWD since 2006. Samples from other areas of the state were collected opportunistically.

Hunter harvested deer, elk, and moose samples were collected at points of concentration (i.e., meat processors and check stations). Samples were also collected from road-killed and targeted (those showing signs of the disease) animals. Only retropharyngeal lymph nodes were sampled due to their ease of extraction and suitability as a diagnostic tissue. The Wildlife Health Laboratory used an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to analyze lymph node

samples. Results were reported to hunters in less than three weeks of sample submission, and hunters could obtain results by accessing the WGF D’s website. Hunters having deer or elk test positive for CWD were also individually notified by a letter within 48 hours of confirmation of test results.

A total of 3,351 deer, elk, and moose samples were analyzed. Of these samples, 153 tested positive for CWD representing 119 mule deer, 23 white-tailed deer, and 11 elk. All moose tested for CWD were negative. This year’s surveillance effort identified nine new deer hunt areas: HAs 7 and 17 in the northeastern corner of the state; HA 92 near Lander; HAs 110, 111, 113, and 121 near Cody; HA 128 near Dubois; and HA 145 in the Afton area. Of the 3,351 total samples received, 83 percent were derived from hunter-killed animals, 7 percent from targeted, and 10 percent from road-killed deer, elk, and moose. It should be noted that the majority of road-killed surveillance occurs outside of the known endemic area for CWD, while targeted animals are submitted from within as well as outside the endemic area.

	Mule Deer		White-Tailed Deer		Elk		Moose		Total	
	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos
Hunter-kill	1,480	92	345	18	923	5	29	0	2,777	115
Targeted	141	25	21	4	54	6	18	0	234	35
Road-kill	260	2	32	1	33	0	15	0	340	3
Total	1,881	119	398	23	1,010	11	62	0	3,351	153

Table 1. Distribution of samples and proportion of positives according to surveillance category

Significantly more samples were collected in FY 17 when compared to surveillance efforts over the past four years (averaged~ 1,790 samples each year from FY 13-FY 16). Although the increased sampling effort was distributed across many parts of the state, the Black Hills and Upper Powder River deer herds saw twice as many samples collected in FY 17 than the total number of samples collected over the past four years from those herd units. Sample sizes more than doubled from FY 16 collections in the Clark’s Fork, North Bighorn, Southwest Bighorn, Sublette, Upper Powder River, and the Wyoming Range deer herd units. For elk, the largest increase was seen in the Jackson herd unit, where the sample totals increased from 338 to 510. Sampling for CWD in this herd unit is successful in a large part due to a collaborative effort between the Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service to sample animals harvested on and adjacent to the National Elk Refuge.

Prevalence within Laramie Mountain mule deer herd of the core endemic area, rose slightly from 22.6 percent in FY 16 to 23.4 percent in FY 17. Sample size in the South Converse mule deer herd in FY 17 was too low to estimate prevalence with precision; however, the estimate (42.9 percent) is similar to the five-year average for this herd (41.4 percent). Due to a decline in the population, harvest in the South Converse mule deer herd is low, making it difficult to collect sufficient sample sizes through voluntary CWD surveillance. In general, prevalence in the South Converse mule deer herd has shown an increasing trend over time. The prevalence estimate for the Black Hills white-tailed deer herd was 1.2 percent, whereas no CWD was detected in the sympatric mule deer population; again, sample sizes were too low to be meaningful. It is important to note that hunter harvest of mule deer is primarily male and therefore prevalence

estimates only reflect male prevalence. Chronic wasting disease prevalence in female mule deer is largely unknown across Wyoming, but is assumed to be lower than that of males as demonstrated in other states where CWD is endemic.

Prevalence in the Laramie Peak elk herd was 5.9 percent, which is lower than the FY 16 level of 8.3 percent. Unfortunately, prevalence estimates vary wildly from year to year for this herd due to low prevalence and sample size. The prevalence of chronic wasting disease listed in Table 2 below is based on multi-year averages, and likely underestimates prevalence in areas where CWD is increasing over time.

Herd Unit	2016 Estimated Prevalence (Percent)	2012-2016 Average Prevalence (Percent)
South Converse Mule Deer	42.9	41.5
Laramie Mtn Mule Deer	23.4	22.9
Laramie Peak Elk	5.9	6.4

Table 2: Estimated FY 17 CWD prevalence and 5-year average prevalence in herd units of the core endemic area. Annual sample sizes are low leading to uncertainty in prevalence estimates. Long-term averages provide more confidence on approximate prevalence over a specified time-frame; however, long-term averages may underestimate prevalence in areas where prevalence is increasing.

Although the prevalence of CWD remains low in the majority of hunt areas across state, prevalence levels approaching 20 percent or above are becoming more common in many deer hunt areas that surround the core endemic area (Laramie Mountain and South Converse mule deer herds). The prevalence of CWD is also increasing in many deer hunt areas of the Bighorn Basin, where prevalence is approaching or exceeding 10 percent. Again, it is important to note that sample sizes achieved through our annual CWD surveillance are too low to estimate prevalence with good precision. Therefore the annual prevalence rates provided in this report represent rough estimations of true prevalence. Continued surveillance and monitoring of this disease as well as impacts it may be having on populations is warranted.

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 2016

Population: 6,090^a
Population Objective: 6,925^b
Harvest: 167
Hunters: 208
Success Rate 80%
Recreation Days: 1,921
Days/Animal: 11.5
Licenses Sold: 201

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$183,057
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$1,543,900
Total Program Revenue: \$1,726,957
Program Costs: \$2,198,128

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 6 herds with population models, 3 herds with trend count objectives, 4 herds with field personnel estimates for limited opportunity objectives, and 1 without a working model.

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

The estimated statewide population of bighorn sheep decreased slightly from 2015. 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 2016 bighorn sheep harvest increased from 2015, and remained below the five-year average (179). 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 2015 and was slightly below the five-year average. Hunter effort decreased in 2016, 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 (\$)
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
2016	167	1,921	80%	11.5	201	2017	183,057	2,198,128

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$349,933), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

BISON

Calendar Year 2016

Population: 546
Population Objective: 500
Harvest: 274
Hunters: 281
Success Rate: 98%
Recreation Days: 823
Days/Animal: 3
Licenses Sold: 282

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$150,028
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$5,008
Total Program Revenue: \$155,035
Program Costs: \$242,899

The one wild bison population is now considered at 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 from 2015. 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. The successful 2016 hunting season brought the population estimate from the trend count to within the range for being considered at objective. License quotas and hunting opportunity will be reduced considerably in 2017 as management transitions to population maintenance from population reduction.

Bison hunting in 2016 was exceptionally good. Bison harvest increased 33 percent from 2015, and was higher than the five year average (243). Hunter success in 2016 increased greatly, and was above the five-year average (82 percent). Hunter effort was 3 days/bison harvested, much lower than in 2015, and lower than the five-year average (7.3 days/bison harvested).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's bison program.

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

Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Success	Days/Animal	Lic. Sold	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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
2016	274	823	98%	3.0	282	2017	150,028	242,899

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$3,949), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ELK

Calendar Year 2016

Population: 104,800^a
Population Objective: 79,125^b
Harvest: 25,852
Hunters: 58,159
Success Rate: 44.5%
Recreation Days: 473,068
Days/Animal: 18.3
Licenses Sold: 71,430

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$9,712,784
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$10,512,461
Total Program Revenue: \$20,225,246
Program Costs: \$16,173,348

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 10 herds with population models, 18 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 ten herds with post hunt population objectives and the eighteen herds with a trend count objectives.

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 difficult to decrease. At present, 4 of 33 elk herds with complete data are below objective, the rest are at or above objective.

Harvest increased to 25,852 elk in 2016, and was slightly higher than the five-year average harvest of 25,795. Hunter success increased to 45 percent, and equals the five-year average. Hunter effort (days/animal) decreased in 2016 to 18.3 days, essentially the same as the five-year average (18.4 days/animal). Recreation days decreased, and were slightly below the five-year average (473,502).

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 (\$)
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
2016	25,852	473,068	45%	18.3	71,430	2017	9,712,784	16,173,348

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$1,161,923), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MOOSE

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	3,950^a	License Revenue:	\$157,455
Population Objective	3,710^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,007,650
Harvest:	352	Total Program Revenue	\$1,165,105
Hunters:	382	Program Costs:	\$1,236,004
Success Rate:	92%		
Recreation Days:	3,270		
Days/Animal:	9.3		
Licenses Sold:	391		

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 1 herd with a population model, 5 herds with trend count objectives, and 4 herds with field personnel estimates for limited opportunity objectives.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 1 herd with a post hunt population objective and 5 herds with trend count objectives.

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 2016 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 2016, but hunter success increased slightly, and hunter effort (days per animal) decreased marginally. The 2016 hunter success was higher than the five-year average (91 percent), and hunter effort was above the average (8.8 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 (\$)
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
2016	352	3,270	92%	9.3	391	2017	157,455	1,236,004

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$25,344), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

MULE DEER

Calendar Year 2016

Population: 409,100^a
Population Objective: 476,600^b
Harvest: 31,237
Hunters: 53,018
Success Rate: 59%
Recreation Days: 260,785
Days/Animal: 8.3
Licenses Sold: 72,631

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$8,604,748
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$9,274,566
Total Program Revenue: \$17,879,314
Program Costs: \$10,497,053

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 34 herds with population models and field personnel estimates of 3 herds with landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the thirty-four herds with post hunt population objectives.

Wyoming's estimated mule deer population has rebounded somewhat to stand at approximately 86 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 for mule deer through a variety of management actions and habitat projects.

Harvest increased again in 2016 and rose further above the five-year average of 27,753. Hunter success increased to 59 percent, and remained above the five-year average of 54 percent. Hunter effort decreased in 2016, and remained below the five-year average (9.1 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, favorable moisture conditions have been the greatest factor in the recent population increases.

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 (\$)
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
2016	31,237	260,785	59%	8.3	72,631	2017	8,604,748	10,497,053

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 (\$301,735), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

PRONGHORN

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	425,400^a	License Revenue:	\$5,004,627
Population Objective:	429,200^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$6,377,190
Harvest:	39,027	Total Program Revenue:	\$11,381,817
Hunters:	41,896	Program Costs:	\$3,860,632
Success Rate:	93%		
Recreation Days:	138,378		
Days/Animal:	3.5		
Licenses Sold:	52,336		

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 33 herds with population models, 1 herd with a trend count objective, and 6 herds with field personnel estimates of landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives.

^b The statewide population objective is based only on the 33 herds with a post-hunt population objective and 1 herd with a trend count objective.

In 2016, Wyoming's total estimated statewide pronghorn population was 425,400 animals compared to the objective of 429,200. The estimated state population increased in 2016, and is now about 1 percent below the state-wide objective. Much of the state had improved precipitation and habitat conditions in 2016. 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 increased license quotas in 2016; 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 Program. The 2016 harvest of 39,027 animals was an increase from the previous year, and just below the five-year average (40,209). Hunter effort decreased to 3.5 days per animal harvested, which dropped below 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 (\$)
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
2016	39,027	138,378	93%	3.5	52,336	2017	5,004,627	3,860,632

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$3,706), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Calendar Year 2016

Population: 373^a
Population Objective: 295^b
Harvest: 37
Hunters: 38
Success Rate: 97%
Recreation Days: 156
Days/Animal: 4.2
Licenses Sold: 40

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$40,069
All Other Agency Revenue*: \$48,267
Total Program Revenue: \$88,336
Program Costs: \$100,905

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from two herds with trend count estimates.

^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 (\$)
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
2016	37	156	97%	4.2	40	2017	40,069	100,905

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$5,189), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	84,600^a	License Revenue:	\$410,863
Population Objective:	55,000^b	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$14,718
Harvest:	17,614	Total Program Revenue:	\$425,581
Hunters:	27,814	Program Costs:	\$945,080
Success Rate:	63%		
Recreation Days:	123,418		
Days/Animal:	7.0		
Licenses Sold:	10,634		

^a Statewide population estimate is calculated from 1 herd with a population model, 2 herds with field personnel estimates of landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives, and 2 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 2016 white-tailed deer hunting season was the best for total harvest of the last five years. The success rate and hunter effort changed slightly from the previous year but were still better than the five year averages. 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 (\$)
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
2016	17,614	123,418	63%	7.0	10,634	2017	410,863	945,080

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 (\$31), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

TROPHY GAME

Black Bear
Grizzly Bear
Mountain Lion
Gray Wolf

BLACK BEAR

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$350,465
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$326,350
Harvest:	451	Total Program Revenue:	\$676,815
Hunters:	3,474	Program Costs:	\$856,184
Success Rate:	13%		
Recreation Days	22,691		
Days/Animal:	50.3		
Licenses Sold:	4,605		

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 2016 harvest was the second highest on record, and was well above the five-year average (418). Harvest statistics show that 2016 was the best year yet for hunting black bear, despite recent increased mortality limits. The 2016 hunter success rate was the highest of the five year period, and the days per animal effort index dropped to the lowest of the period.

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 (\$)
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
2016	451	22,691	13%	50.3	4,605	2017	350,465	856,184
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$11,157), 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 the 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 2016, the grizzly bear population was conservatively estimated at 695 individuals in the ecosystem. On June 22, 2017, the Department of Interior announced that grizzly bears in Yellowstone will no longer be listed as endangered species. The Department is developing grizzly bear management regulations that will serve as the foundation for maintaining a recovered grizzly bear population in Wyoming.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s grizzly bear program.		
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)	
2013	1,940,610	2013
2014	1,793,556	2014
2015	2,278,218	2015
2016	2,606,261	2016
2017	1,713,088	2017

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 17, the total revenue received from grant funding was \$169,351.

MOUNTAIN LION

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$162,737
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$164,788
Harvest:	255	Total Program Revenue:	\$327,525
Hunters:	1,013	Program Costs:	\$670,527
Success Rate:	25.2%		
Recreation Days:	6,893		
Days/Animal:	27		
Licenses Sold:	2,477		

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 2016 mountain lion harvest was slightly up from 2015, but still below the five-year average (276). 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 (\$)
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
2016	255	6,893	25.2%	27	2,477	2017	162,737	670,527

*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$3,322), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

GRAY WOLF

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	269*	License Revenue:	\$0
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue**:	\$453,282
Harvest:	N/A	Total Program Revenue:	\$453,282
Hunters:	N/A	Program Costs:	\$1,196,464
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. On April 25, 2017, wolf management was returned to Wyoming, and a controlled hunt in the trophy game area is planned for the fall of 2017.

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.

*269 wolves in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation; including all jurisdictions in Wyoming: 377 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 (\$)
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	N/A	2016	N/A	836,104
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2017	N/A	1,196,464

*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 (\$246,861), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

SMALL GAME

Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
Squirrel

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	55,688	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	6,594	Program Costs:	\$	**
Animals/Hunter:	8.4			
Recreation Days:	24,530			
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 2016 harvest statistics may not be telling the whole story of the status of cottontail rabbit populations. A severe winter in the southwest corner of the state, which generally has the highest harvest, may have impacted rabbit populations, but it definitely reduced hunter opportunity. In the northern half of the state harvest increased. Overall harvest decreased in 2016, but was still easily the second highest for the five year period, and was well above the five-year average (38,312). Hunter numbers and recreation days both decreased from 2015, but were above the five-year averages of 5,269 hunters and 18,848 days. The number of animals harvested per hunter decreased from 2015, but remained above the five-year average (6.7 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal remained the same in 2016, and is below the five-year average (0.6 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	55,688	24,530	8.4	0.4	6,594	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	745	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	510	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	1.5	Cost Dept. Per Animal:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	3,311		
Days/Animal:	4.4		
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 and peak snowshoe hare harvest varies from region to region.

The 2016, the snowshoe hare harvest decreased, but the number of hunters and recreations days had large increases. All three indices were still higher than the five-year averages of 577 hares harvested, 374 hunters, and recreation 1,932 days. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2016 dropped and was just above the five-year average (1.4 animals/hunter), and the 2016 effort rate increased considerably and was just above average (4.2 days/animal).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal /Hunter	Days/ Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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	**	**
2016	745	3,311	1.5	4.4	510	2017	**	**
<small>**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.</small>								
<small>*¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.</small>								

SQUIRREL

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	1,664	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	475	Program Costs:	\$ **
Animals/Hunter:	3.5		
Recreation Days:	2,137		
Days/Animal:	1.3		
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 and harvest increased slightly in 2016, but the recreation days decreased substantially. The 2016 harvest survey indicated that the number of hunters was higher than the five-year average (453) and harvest remained above the average (1,348), as did the recreation days (1,935). Hunter success in 2016 was higher than the five-year average (3.0 animals/hunter). Hunters spent less time to get each animal than the five-year average (1.4 days/animals).

Squirrel hunting in Wyoming is not as popular as it is in other parts of the country. In Wyoming, most squirrel harvest is incidental to other hunting pursuits.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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	**	**
2016	1,664	2,137	3.5	1.3	475	2017	**	**
<small>**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.</small>								
<small>*¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.</small>								

UPLAND GAME

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

PHEASANT

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$746,626
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,545,008
Harvest:	36,684	Total Program Revenue:	\$2,291,634
Hunters:	12,344	Program Costs:	\$3,457,579
Birds/Hunter:	3.0		
Recreation Days:	34,478		
Days/Bird:	0.9		
Licenses Sold:	27,807		

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 2016 pheasant season had a harvest that was below the preceding two years but above the five-year average (34,902). The number of days hunters spent afield increased to the highest of the five-year period and was above the five-year average (31,579). The number of pheasant hunters was the highest of the last five years. Hunter effort increased in 2016 and equaled the five-year average (0.9 days/bird). Hunter success decreased in 2016 and was lower than the five-year average (3.6 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 (\$)
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
2016	36,684	34,478	3.0	0.9	12,344	2017	746,626	3,457,579

**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 (\$53,224), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.

GRAY PARTRIDGE

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	3,564	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	1,114	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	3.2			
Recreation Days:	5,247			
Days/Bird:	1.5			
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 hunters.

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 2016 season saw lower numbers for harvest, hunters, and recreation days. All three measures were also below the five-year averages (3,944 harvest, 5,483 recreation days, and 1,226 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 (\$)
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	2016	**	**
2016	3,564	5,247	3.2	1.5	1,114	2017	**	**

**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 2016

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 5,916
Hunters: 1,681
Birds/Hunter: 3.5
Recreation Days: 5,995
Days/Bird: 1.0
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2017

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 decreased from 2015 and were below the five-year averages. The 2016 season was below the five-year average for harvest (6,660), number of hunters (1,733), and recreation days (6,673). Hunter success and effort figures show the wide swings that environmental conditions can produce on chukar hunting.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	5,916	5,995	3.5	1.0	1,681	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$1,426,455
Harvest:	10,526	Total Program Revenue:	\$1,426,455
Hunters:	4,674	Program Costs:	\$2,697,643
Birds/Hunter:	2.3		
Recreation Days:	11,476		
Days/Bird:	1.1		
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 2016.

In 2016, harvest numbers showed slight improvements compared to 2015. Harvest, recreation days, and the number of hunters increased and remained above the five-year averages (8,743 harvest, 9,873 recreation days, and 4,116 hunters). The 2016 harvest rate decreased but was slightly above the five-year average (2.1 birds/hunter) and hunter effort was 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 (\$)
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
2016	10,526	11,476	2.3	1.1	4,674	2017	**	2,697,643
<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 (\$1,110,886), and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p> <p>¹ Figures revised since the 2013 report.</p>								

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Calendar Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	2,381	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	1,039	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	2.3			
Recreation Days:	4,107			
Days/Bird:	1.7			
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 2016 decreased from 2015 but were still better than the five-year averages for harvest (2,244), recreation days (3,677), number of hunters (909), 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	2,381	4,107	2.3	1.7	1,039	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$	**
Harvest:	8,932	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	3,787	Program Costs:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	2.4			
Recreation Days:	17,574			
Days/Bird:	2.0			
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.

The 2016 hunting season had a lower harvest than the previous year despite a few more hunters spending more days afield. This resulted in the harvest being below the five-year average (9,470) but recreation days and hunters being above the averages of 15,938 days and 3,743 hunters. The 2016 harvest rate and effort figures were not as good as the previous year and were also worse than 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	8,932	17,574	2.4	2.0	3,787	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$	**
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue	\$	**
Harvest:	8,324	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Hunters:	2,386	Total Program Revenue:	\$	**
Birds/Hunter:	3.5			
Recreation Days:	11,673			
Days/Bird:	1.4			
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 2016 was similar to 2015 and remained higher than the five-year average (7,026). Hunter numbers and recreation days had the exact same pattern (five-year average of 2,114 hunters and 10,951 recreation days). The success rate, measured in birds per hunter, equaled the previous year and was higher than the five-year average (3.3). Hunter effort decreased slightly and remained below average (1.6 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	8,324	11,673	3.5	1.4	2,386	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	23,920	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	2,255	Program Costs:	\$ **
Birds/Hunter:	10.6		
Recreation Days:	6,758		
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 2016. Harvest remained below the five-year average (25,694) while recreation days decreased and fell below the average (6,907 days). The number of hunters increased, though, and rose above the average (2,232). The success rate decreased and was less than the five-year average (11.5). Hunter effort (days/bird) remained at 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	23,920	6,758	10.6	0.3	2,255	2017	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$196,632
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue*:	\$520,342
Harvest:	3,879	Total Program Revenue:	\$716,974
Hunters:	8,071	Program Costs:	\$181,384
Birds/Hunter:	.5		
Recreation Days:	21,518		
Days/Bird:	5.5		
Licenses Sold:	8,074		

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 2016, the harvest and number of hunters increased from 2015 and were above the five-year averages of 3,236 (harvest) and 7,350 (hunters). Recreation days decreased from 2015 but were still above the average of 20,358 days. The success rate was slightly better than that of 2015 and the five-year average, and the number of days to harvest a turkey was the lowest of the five years reported and well below the average of 6.3.

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 (\$)
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
2016	3,879	21,518	0.5	5.5	8,071	2017	196,632	181,384

*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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	54,426	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	6,047	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	9.0	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	28,636		
Days/Bird:	0.5		
Licenses Sold:	**		

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 2016, with a few minor exceptions, habitat conditions across the traditional survey area in the United States and Canada were characterized mostly as poorer when compared to the previous year. The breeding duck population saw a slight decline from the prior year, and was 38 percent above the long-term average.

In Wyoming, the 2016-2017 continued to see good water conditions. Hunter numbers decreased slightly, and were the lowest seen in the last five years. Harvest saw an increase and was also the highest seen in the last five years. The harvest rate in 2016 was above the average for the last five years (8.2 birds/hunter) and effort decreased slightly.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	54,426	28,636	9.0	0.5	6,047	**	**
**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 2016

Population: Not available
Population Objective: Not available
Harvest: 36,366
Hunters: 5,350
Bird/Hunter: 6.8
Recreation Days: 25,475
Days/Bird: 0.7
Licenses Sold: **

Fiscal Year 2017

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 36,366 in 2016 to a low of 23,565 in 2015. In 2016, harvest increased, and was the highest seen in the last five years. Recreation days increased, and were near the five-year average (25,645). Hunter numbers increased, and nearly matched the five-year average (5,388). 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	36,366	25,475	6.8	0.7	5,350	**	**
**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:¹	158	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:¹	283	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:¹	0.6	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:¹	666		
Days/Bird:¹	4.2		
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 2016 season, harvest was significantly higher than the previous year. Recreation days saw a 77 percent increase, and hunter numbers increased 73 percent. The success rate stayed the same, and was at the five-year average (0.6 birds per hunter). Hunter effort in 2016 was above the five-year average (4.2 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2016	158	666	0.6	4.2	283	**	**

**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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Population:	Not available	License Revenue:	\$ **
Population Objective:	Not available	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$ **
Harvest:	500	Total Program Revenue:	\$ **
Hunters:	150	Program Costs:	\$ **
Bird/Hunter:	303	Cost Dept. Per Bird:	\$ Not Available
Recreation Days:	250		
Days/Bird:	0.5		
Licenses Sold:	**		

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

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 (\$)
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	800	500	4.0	0.5	200	**	**
2016	500	250	3.3	0.5	150	**	**
*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 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Recreation Day Objectives:	2,778,000	License Revenue:	\$6,587,563
Recreation Days:¹	2,726,259	All Other Agency Revenue:	\$9,677,101
Fish/Day:	2.5	Total Program Revenue:	\$16,264,664
Licenses Sold:	355,599	Program Costs:	\$24,583,958
Economic Return Per Day:	\$74.00		

In 2017, over 2.7 million angler days of sport fishing recreation were estimated. Overall license sales were up almost one percent from the previous year. 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 (\$)
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
2016	2,726,259	2.5	355,599	2017	\$6,587,563	\$24,583,958

¹ Estimates of average daily expenditures for FY08-12 are based on figures found in the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation* but adjusted for inflation. ²Costs do not include general fund capital construction dollars for hatchery renovations.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Calendar 2016

Fiscal Year 2017

Licenses Sold: 990

Licenses Sold: \$26,024
All Other Agency revenue: \$2,496
Total Program Revenue: \$28,520**
Program Costs: \$22,344

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 of 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 (\$)
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	\$27,540
2016	990	2017	\$26,024	\$22,344

FURBEARERS

Bobcat
Other Furbearers

OTHER FURBEARERS

Calendar 2016

Furbearer Harvest: 4,861
Furbearer Trappers¹: 449
Furbearers per Trapper: 10.8
Recreation Days: 5,346
Days/Animal: 1.1
Licenses Sold ²: 2,225

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$94,021
Other Agency Revenue*: \$146,293
Total Program Revenue: \$240,314
Program Costs: \$400,796

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 and 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 (\$)
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
2016	4,861	10.8	449	2,225	2017	94,021	400,796

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 (\$146), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

RAPTORS

RAPTORS

Calendar Year 2016

Captures: 16
Licenses Sold: 41

Fiscal Year 2017

License Revenue: \$5,885
All Other Agency Revenue: \$46,903
Total Program Revenue: \$52,788
Program Costs: \$403,828

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 2016, 30 resident licenses were issued and 10 birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 33 percent. Eleven nonresident licenses were issued and six birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 55 percent. In total, 16 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry for an overall success rate of 39 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
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
2016	16	39%	41	2017	5,885	403,828

¹Based on capture licenses sold.

²Includes only licenses to capture falcons; 89 licenses to hunt with falcons were issued in 2016. General fund revenue received was \$31,715.

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 include activities such as inventorying 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). The 2010 SWAP has been revised, and the 2017 revision has been approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The revised SWAP will be provided to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval. Once approved, the Nongame Program will begin implementation of the 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 \$865,000 for the FY 17/18 biennium. These funds along with money derived from the Governor's Endangered Species Account and State Wildlife Grant Program allow the Nongame Program to conduct needed surveys and research on terrestrial SGCN. Project reports can be found on the Department's web site at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Job-Completion-Reports>.

The Nongame Program 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/United States 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 17, the Terrestrial Nongame Program did not receive any of these funds directly, but are partnering on funded projects.

APPENDIX B:

**BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARIES**

Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2018 Budget

Budget	Name	Revised Budget	Proposed FY 2018 Changes	Preliminary Approved FY 2018 Budget	M&O	Personnel	FY 2017 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change	
Director	0A10	Director Office Admin	1,649,229		1,649,229	205,512	1,443,717	1,976,566	(327,337)	-16.56%
	0A10	Director Office-Contingency	100,000		100,000	100,000	-	100,000		
	0J11	Public Information Admin	375,172		375,172	73,801	301,371	314,825	60,347	19.17%
	0A20	WGFC Vehicle Fleet	2,318,666		2,318,666	2,318,666	-	2,576,278	(257,612)	-10.00%
	0A30	Commission	102,866		102,866	81,004	21,863	116,486	(13,620)	-11.69%
	0E10	Conservation Educ-R3	358,887		358,887	245,026	113,861	271,126	87,761	32.37%
	0E11	Conservation Educ-Volunteers	148,942		148,942	46,622	102,320	161,647	(12,705)	-7.86%
	0E20	Hunter Education	197,401		197,401	116,332	81,069	198,396	(995)	-0.50%
	0J10	Media/Customer Outreach	565,237		565,237	52,228	513,009	475,832	89,406	18.79%
	0J20	Publications	596,555		596,555	485,469	111,087	594,227	2,328	0.39%
	0P10	Personnel	445,530		445,530	159,279	286,251	498,065	(52,535)	-10.55%
	0S10	Strategic Planning	435,077	312,500	122,577	347,285	87,792	123,603	(1,026)	-0.83%
	0U10	Cooperative Research	440,000		440,000	440,000	-	470,000	(30,000)	-6.38%
0W10	Statewide Habitat Protection	737,577		737,577	37,630	699,947	654,966	82,612	12.61%	
Director's Office Total		8,471,141	312,500	8,158,641	4,708,854	3,762,287	8,532,016	(373,375)	-4.38%	
Fiscal	2A10	Fiscal Administration	497,341		497,341	24,428	472,913	501,330	(3,989)	-0.80%
	2F11	Cashier	72,735		72,735	994	71,742	72,690	45	0.06%
	2F12	Licensing	1,080,137		1,080,137	210,221	869,916	1,090,080	(9,943)	-0.91%
	2F13	General Accounting	336,317		336,317	14,420	321,897	338,662	(2,345)	-0.69%
	2F20	Accounts Payable	440,590		440,590	2,425	438,165	445,182	(4,593)	-1.03%
	2F31	Asset Management	582,116		582,116	339,675	242,441	625,687	(43,571)	-6.96%
	2V10	Customer Service	210,485		210,485	7,158	203,327	161,102	49,383	30.65%
	2J50	Mailroom	616,822		616,822	558,871	57,951	516,902	99,919	19.33%
	2Z1X	Regional Office Management	1,540,498		1,540,498	309,613	1,230,885	1,545,776	(5,277)	-0.34%
	2X10	Legislated Expenses	2,157,000		2,157,000	2,115,000	42,000	2,150,000	7,000	0.33%
Fiscal Total		7,534,041		7,534,041	3,582,805	3,951,236	7,447,412	86,629	1.16%	
Services	4A11	Services Administration	258,015		258,015	28,894	229,121	262,251	(4,236)	-1.62%
	4D10	Feedground Maintenance	326,330		326,330	302,263	24,067	326,330		
	4H10	Habitat Access/Maintenance	3,706,288		3,706,288	1,232,916	2,473,372	3,907,400	(201,112)	-5.15%
	4H20	Property Rights Development	290,000		290,000	290,000	-	235,000	55,000	23.40%
	4K10	Conservation Engineering	869,626		869,626	345,242	524,384	624,721	244,905	39.20%
	4L20	Game and Fish Lab	778,200		778,200	141,216	636,984	843,881	(65,681)	-7.78%
	4R01	Property Rights-Administration	773,713		773,713	468,958	304,755	817,454	(43,741)	-5.35%
	4R1X	Property Rights-Acquisition	60,000		60,000	60,000	-	60,000		
	4Y10	Information Technology	3,414,284		3,414,284	1,308,210	2,106,074	3,392,589	21,695	0.64%
	4ZXX	Support Facilities	1,504,673		1,504,673	1,381,033	123,640	1,391,273	113,400	8.15%
Services Total		11,981,129		11,981,129	5,558,732	6,422,397	11,534,568	446,560	3.87%	
Fish	5A10	Fish Administration	428,115		428,115	42,909	385,206	438,464	(10,348)	-2.36%
	5H40	Habitat Coordinator (WLCI)	112,504		112,504	6,790	105,715	115,091	(2,586)	-2.25%
	5C10	Hatchery & Rearing Stations	6,493,956		6,493,956	2,943,484	3,550,472	7,191,131	(697,175)	-9.69%
	5C20	Fish Spawning	180,474		180,474	44,788	135,686	176,026	4,448	2.53%
	5C30	Fish Distribution	149,186		149,186	149,186	-	145,168	4,018	2.77%
	5H10	Regional Aquatic Habitat	999,101		999,101	101,189	897,912	1,013,567	(14,466)	-1.43%
	5H20	Water Management	266,540		266,540	36,934	229,606	291,966	(25,426)	-8.71%
	5H30	Fish Passage	470,696		470,696	264,558	206,138	362,310	108,387	29.92%
	5O1B	Aquatic Sensitive Species	239,437		239,437	129,241	110,196		239,437	
	5Q10	Regional Aquatic Mgmt	3,465,921		3,465,921	399,352	3,066,569	3,463,477	2,444	0.07%
5Q1B	Aquatic Invasive Species	1,319,460		1,319,460	253,828	1,065,632		1,319,460		
5Q30	Statewide Aquatic Mgmt	528,089		528,089	74,990	453,099	527,108	981	0.19%	
5Q40	Boating Access	1,691,344		1,691,344	1,691,344	-	1,691,344	(0)	0.00%	
Fish Total		16,344,823		16,344,823	6,138,593	10,206,230	15,415,649	929,174	6.03%	

Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2018 Budget

Budget	Name	Revised Budget	Proposed FY 2018 Changes	Preliminary Approved FY 2018 Budget	M&O	Personnel	FY 2017 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change
6A10	Wildlife Administration	1,357,361		1,357,361	358,344	999,017	1,210,120	147,241	12.17%
6B1X	Bird Farms	774,154		774,154	357,364	416,791	768,078	6,076	0.79%
6D10	Feedgrounds	2,288,189		2,288,189	2,072,166	216,023	2,501,712	(213,523)	-8.54%
6H10	Terrestrial Habitat Mgmt	319,033		319,033	40,809	278,224	318,599	434	0.14%
6H30	Terrestrial Regional Habitat	825,551		825,551	75,991	749,560	722,007	103,544	14.34%
6L1B	Veterinary Services Program	1,295,294		1,295,294	472,129	823,165		1,295,294	
6L1C	CWD Research	87,364		87,364	15,612	71,752	94,300	(6,936)	-7.35%
6L2B	Veterinary Services - Brucellosis	532,204		532,204	70,218	461,986		532,204	
6N10	Special Enforcement-Investigators	733,999		733,999	63,094	670,905	711,722	22,277	3.13%
6NX0	Special Enforcement-Boat Safety, Stop Poaching, Administration	444,666		444,666	129,375	315,290	439,048	5,617	1.28%
6O1B	Terrestrial Sensitive Species	867,703		867,703	331,159	536,544		867,703	
6R10	Property Rights-Statewide PLPW	105,821		105,821	21,325	84,496	107,303	(1,482)	-1.38%
6R30	Property Rights-Regional PLPW	553,181		553,181	71,123	482,058	552,786	395	0.07%
6R2X	Property Rights-PLPW Access (F06)	1,027,155		1,027,155	1,027,155		1,027,155		
6T1X	Wildlife Biologists	3,905,881		3,905,881	1,038,426	2,867,455	3,941,549	(35,668)	-0.90%
6T2X	Wildlife Wardens	7,341,354		7,341,354	1,813,909	5,527,445	7,314,756	26,598	0.36%
6T3X	Regional Wildlife Supervisors	2,364,012		2,364,012	512,215	1,851,798	2,301,373	62,640	2.72%
6T3B	Wolf Management	703,951		703,951	525,525	178,426		703,951	
6T4B	Sage Grouse Planning & Protection	917,521		917,521	643,945	273,576		917,521	
6T50	Biological Services	857,840		857,840	420,118	437,723	858,804	(963)	-0.11%
6T71	Trophy Game and Conflict Resolution	1,278,109		1,278,109	265,753	1,012,356	1,277,911	198	0.02%
6T80	Waterfowl	182,063		182,063	70,175	111,887	173,026	9,036	5.22%
6T90	Predator Management	100,000		100,000	100,000	-	100,000		
6G10	Regional Information & Education	692,050		692,050	50,886	641,165	701,069	(9,018)	-1.29%
Wildlife Total		29,554,457		29,554,457	10,546,815	19,007,642	25,121,317	4,433,140	17.65%
WGFC Operating Budget Subtotal		73,885,591	312,500	73,573,091	30,535,799	43,349,792	68,050,963	5,522,128	8.11%
Wildlife Trust Fund Interest Total		1,199,526		1,199,526	1,199,526		1,194,627	4,899	0.41%
State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Total		800,000		800,000	566,835	233,166	800,000	0	0.00%
Reimbursable Grants:		6,000,000		6,000,000	5,653,180	346,820	6,000,000		
Total WGFC Standard Budget		81,885,118	312,500	81,572,618	37,955,340	43,929,778	76,045,590	5,527,028	7.27%
3U0B	Moose Reseach Projects	159,794			159,794				
Total Non Recurring Budget		159,794			159,794				
Commission Approved Spending Authority FY 2018									
Total Commission Budget		81,885,118							
Non Recurring Approved Projects		159,794							
GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2017-2018 BIENNIUM									
Name		Approved FY 2017							
Aquatic Invasive Species		1,849,142							
Vet Services Program		1,829,718							
Sage Grouse Protection		918,493							
Wolf Management		252,722							
CWCS (Sensitive Species)		1,054,468							
GENERAL FUND BUDGET		5,904,543							
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									

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AS OF JUNE 30, 2017**

**% CHNG
FY 14 to
FY 17**

	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	
ASSETS:					
PETTY CASH	\$ 18,250	\$ 17,850	\$ 17,450	\$ 17,050	7%
CASH - OPERATIONS	54,624,102	51,969,021	51,414,908	46,482,912	18%
CASH- WDLFE TRUST INTEREST	3,350,363	3,757,182	3,229,021	4,040,832	-17%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	2,069,437	1,941,671	1,965,771	1,868,060	11%
	<u>60,062,152</u>	<u>57,685,724</u>	<u>56,627,150</u>	<u>52,408,854</u>	<u>15%</u>
CASH - WDLFE TRUST CORPUS	28,861,281	27,962,314	27,069,276	26,179,914	10%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	5,617,429	5,466,932	5,251,819	4,785,472	17%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	36,430	25,162	32,813	50,000	-27%
CASH - APPS/UNDISTRIBD IN PROCESS	14,655,007	12,625,812	11,627,939	11,140,634	32%
CASH-AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	571,884	444,795	444,795	444,795	29%
RETURNED CHECKS	2,184	480	541	57	3731%
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES					
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>109,806,367</u>	<u>104,211,218</u>	<u>101,054,332</u>	<u>95,009,726</u>	<u>16%</u>
LIABILITIES:					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	303,852	118,411	11,546	11,546	2532%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	55	0	500	400	-86%
APP/UNDIST PENDING DRAW	14,655,007	12,625,812	11,627,939	11,140,634	32%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	3,180	701	4,165	4,684	-32%
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAIN/LOSS	(470,965)	(119,564)	0	0	
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	13,905	5,986	144,928	3,417	307%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>14,605,034</u>	<u>12,731,346</u>	<u>11,889,077</u>	<u>11,260,680</u>	<u>30%</u>
FUND BALANCE:					
RESTRICTED					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBERANCES	28,739,413	10,278,565	7,792,419	5,269,506	445%
WDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS (F08)	28,861,281	27,962,314	27,069,276	26,179,914	10%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST (F07)	2,538,620	3,051,420	2,860,318	3,647,648	-30%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS (F06)	2,069,437	1,941,671	1,965,771	1,868,060	11%
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	571,884	444,795	444,795	444,795	29%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND (F02)	5,639,833	5,472,180	5,251,819	4,785,472	18%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	36,497	25,192	32,813	50,000	-27%
UNRESTRICTED					
G&F OPERATING FUND(F01)	26,744,369	42,303,735	43,748,043	41,503,651	-36%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>95,201,333</u>	<u>91,479,872</u>	<u>89,165,255</u>	<u>83,749,046</u>	<u>14%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>109,806,367</u>	<u>104,211,218</u>	<u>101,054,332</u>	<u>95,009,726</u>	<u>16%</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

EXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 17	FY 16	% Change from FY 16
REVENUE RECEIVED			
Hunting & Fish Lic	30,644,316	30,235,752	1%
Conservation Stamps	817,880	812,071	1%
Boating Registration	395,990	377,300	5%
Other license revenue (pp points)	8,658,998	7,350,637	18%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,731,598	1,517,238	14%
Pooled Interest Trt (1)(2)	691,776	632,772	9%
Income from Inv&Land	797,507	3,209,744	-75%
100% Reimbursable	6,113,395	4,621,706	32%
Application Fees	2,228,929	2,112,474	6%
Publication Sales	217,332	235,997	-8%
Access Yes donations/cstamp(3)	913,361	899,326	2%
Federal Aid & Grants	19,833,225	17,528,078	13%
License Recoupment	844,500	830,379	2%
General Funds	5,648,645	5,511,699	2%
Other Items	229,098	867,975	-74%
TTL REVENUE EARNED	79,766,552	76,743,148	4%

EXPENDITURES MADE

Maintenance & Ops			
Office of Director	6,162,002	5,208,381	18%
Fiscal Division	(15,369,842)	4,738,595	-424%
Services Division	9,395,759	10,255,246	-8%
Fish Division	14,470,305	13,558,613	7%
Wildlife Division	25,551,729	25,611,586	0%
TOTAL M&O EXPENSES	40,209,953	59,372,421	-32%

Access Fund	781,891	921,077	-15%
Wyoming wildlife trust (1)(2)	504,388	562,234	-10%
Legislated Expenses	22,031,031	2,037,329	981%
Pr yr encmbrd m/o exp	3,803,482	2,425,302	57%
TTL OPERATING EXP	67,330,745	65,318,363	3%

Reimbursable Contracts	5,773,849	6,098,269	-5%
Statewildlife Grants	438,230	500,329	-12%
Property Rights			
Nonrecurring Projects	2,648,921	3,435,241	
Pr yr encmbrd other xp	931,638	182,108	412%
TTL NONOP EXPENSES	9,792,638	10,215,947	-4%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	77,123,383	75,534,310	2%
DEFICIT OF REVENUE OVER EXP	2,643,170	1,208,839	

NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS only:	FY 17	FY 16	% Change from FY 17
Wildlife Conservation Trust & Lifetime License Fund(s)			
Corpus, July 1	33,429,246	32,321,095	3%
Prior year adj for increase in value of investments	5,247		
Current year adj for increase in value of investments		0	
Change in unrealized investments	(22,404)	(5,248)	
Interest earned	122,738	111,642	10%
Transfer from operations	(355,083)	(312,039)	
Donations	4,178	3,285	27%
Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses	399,998	420,758	-5%
Lifetime conservation stamps	76,983	77,705	-1%
Annual conserv stamp 37 1/2%	817,807	812,048	1%
Corpus, June 30	34,478,710	33,429,246	3%

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;

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, 2017**

	Total WGFC Expenditures	General Fund (non capital construction) Expenditures	Total FY 2017 Expenditures	% of Total Expenditures
Aquatic Wildlife Management	\$ 5,908,474	1,394,248	7,302,722	9.5%
Bird Farms	681,570		681,570	0.9%
Cooperative Research	887,660		887,660	1.2%
Conservation Engineering	574,407		574,407	0.7%
CWCS (Sensitive Species)	1,592,219	996,982	2,589,200	3.4%
Department Administration	6,210,436		6,210,436	8.1%
Education	292,952		292,952	0.4%
Feedgrounds	1,868,178		1,868,178	2.4%
Financial Management	2,417,129		2,417,129	3.1%
Fish Culture	6,047,988		6,047,988	7.8%
Habitat	9,817,249		9,817,249	12.7%
Information	1,528,871		1,528,871	2.0%
Legislated Expenses	2,031,991		2,031,991	2.6%
Customer Services	156,327		156,327	0.2%
Management Information Systems	2,617,109		2,617,109	3.4%
Personnel Management	326,960		326,960	0.4%
Property Rights	2,864,354		2,864,354	3.7%
Regional Information/Education	668,146		668,146	0.9%
Specialized Law Enforcement	1,419,841		1,419,841	1.8%
Human Dimensions/Strategic Management	88,617		88,617	0.1%
Support Facilities/Personnel	5,224,450		5,224,450	6.8%
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	16,307,532	1,386,865	17,694,397	22.9%
Wildlife Habitat Protection	816,483		816,483	1.1%
Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services	1,125,794	1,870,551	2,996,345	3.9%
Total Amount Expended	71,474,737	5,648,645	77,123,382	100%

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

LICENSES						
Antelope ¹³	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	93	197	202	206	230
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	23	58	58	76	96
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$20.00	270	155	146	149	178
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$18.00	83	47	40	38	44
Resident Antelope	\$33.00	17,029	15,839	14,644	14,712	15,560
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$33.00	4	8	8	6	7
Resident Antelope Super Tag	\$33.00				1	
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$33.00				2	1
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$33.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$22.00	6,518	5,840	5,186	5,570	6,673
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,583	2,342	2,271	2,368	2,437
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	644	571	546	598	688
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$15.00		1		1	1
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00	1	1	1		
Total Resident Antelope		27,248	25,059	23,102	23,727	25,915
Nonres Antelope	\$272.00	11,874	10,377	8,964	8,187	7,823
Nonres Antelope Commissioner	\$272.00		2			
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$272.00	76	72	71	73	71
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$272.00			1		1
NonRes Antelope w/Preference Point	\$272.00	2,438	2,490	2,225	2,205	2,918
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$272.00	8	19	39	36	0
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* ¹⁶	\$33.00					28
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$272.00	1	1	1		4
Nonres Antelope Yth One Shot Hunt	\$110.00			1	1	2
NonRes Antelope Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	279	256	239	201	289
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$34.00	22,209	17,384	11,694	11,322	12,106
Nonres Special Antelope	\$512.00	648	555	515	565	686
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$512.00	939	970	867	1,007	1,246
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	851	678	584	489	505
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$110.00			5	6	
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* ¹⁶	\$15.00					2
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	8		5	5	2
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00	1,487	1,181	724	628	738
Total Nonresident Antelope		40,818	33,985	25,935	24,725	26,421
Total Antelope Licenses		68,066	59,044	49,037	48,452	52,336
Archery	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonresident Archery	\$30.00	4,985	4,849	4,751	4,886	4,998
Nonresident Youth Archery	\$12.00	120	125	99	130	157
Resident Archery	\$16.00	14,041	14,062	14,852	15,273	15,082
Resident Youth Archery	\$6.00	1,162	1,169	1,256	1,277	1,293
Total Archery Licenses		20,308	20,205	20,958	21,566	21,530
Bighorn Sheep	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,252.00	57	52	50	48	50
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00	5	5	5	5	5
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$2,252.00				1	1
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$2,252.00			1		1
Nonresident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$240.00	5	2	1		
Nonresident Yth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep ¹¹	\$100.00					
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$117.00	174	158	147	140	144

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

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		256	223	208	195	201
Black Bear	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonres Black Bear	\$362.00	401	417	436	405	417
Nonres Black Bear Super Tag	\$362.00			1		
Resident Black Bear	\$45.00	3,720	3,716	3,955	4,103	4,188
Total Black Bear Licenses		4,121	4,133	4,392	4,508	4,605
Deer ¹³	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	175	354	398	449	464
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	33	88	79	89	122
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$23.00	492	284	348	367	396
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$18.00	76	53	49	39	40
Resident Deer	\$38.00	38,618	38,146	39,080	41,435	42,715
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$38.00		4		3	2
Resident Deer Governor	\$0.00			1	2	2
Resident Deer Military Combat	\$0.00		2			
Resident Deer Super Tag	\$38.00				1	
Resident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$38.00				1	1
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$22.00	8,143	7,768	6,718	6,993	7,232
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	5,553	5,671	5,984	6,409	6,703
Resident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00			1	1	
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	764	772	659	680	765
Total Resident Deer		53,854	53,142	53,317	56,469	58,442
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$552.00	867	925	899	1,205	1,328
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$312.00	3,214	3,274	3,144	3,446	3,979
NonRes Deer Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	218	211	231	241	273
Nonresident Deer	\$312.00	13,736	12,740	11,440	10,769	10,914
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$312.00	11	5		10	7
Nonresident Deer Governor	\$0.00	3	3	2	2	3
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$312.00	14	20	28	25	24
Nonresident Deer Super Tag	\$312.00			1		1
Nonresident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$312.00		2	1		2
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$34.00	6,137	5,651	5,020	5,458	5,976
Nonres Special Deer	\$552.00	781	800	945	1,164	1,403
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	647	604	523	540	549
Nonresident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	6	3	6	4	1
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00	357	328	282	340	363
Total Nonresident Deer		25,991	24,566	22,522	23,204	24,823
Total Deer Licenses		79,845	77,708	75,839	79,673	83,265
Elk ¹³	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	60	157	195	219	213
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	163	431	484	527	524
Pioneer Elk Commissioner	\$5.00		1			
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$27.00	236	161	163	175	185
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$32.00	658	392	430	434	475
Pioneer Heritage Elk Commissioner	\$32.00					
Res Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$52.00	1			1	1
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$43.00	13,386	13,490	13,215	13,115	12,480
Resident Elk	\$52.00	37,714	38,554	39,058	39,080	39,584
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$52.00	9	12	8	12	6

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Elk Governor	\$0.00	4	3	4	2	2
Resident Elk Military Combat	\$0.00		1			1
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$52.00			1		1
Resident Elk Youth Commissioner	\$25.00	2	1	1		
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	3,812	4,002	4,047	4,148	4,150
Resident Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$25.00	1		1		1
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	1,073	1,118	1,107	1,170	1,062
Total Resident Elk		57,119	58,323	58,714	58,883	58,685
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$288.00	3,962	4,585	4,980	5,065	4,696
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$577.00	3,195	2,982	2,789	2,617	2,734
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$577.00	32	47	46	47	40
Nonres Elk & Fishing Governor	\$0.00	3	4	3	4	3
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$577.00	2	1	2	1	3
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,057.00	1,225	1,444	1,684	1,679	1,641
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$577.00	2,489	2,375	2,239	2,195	2,170
NonRes Elk Super Tag	\$577.00				1	
NonRes Elk Trifecta	\$577.00					1
NonRes Elk Yth w/Preference Point	\$275.00	77	58	81	79	69
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,057.00	794	896	1,038	1,120	1,076
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00	204	223	236	271	239
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$100.00					1
Nonres Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$275.00	7	4	4	5	1
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	79	72	74	71	70
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing Commissioner	\$275.00					1
Total Nonresident Elk		12,069	12,691	13,176	13,155	12,745
Total Elk Licenses		69,188	71,014	71,890	72,038	71,430
Fishing	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Resident Daily Fish	\$6.00	36,530	35,893	34,196	35,685	33,071
Resident Daily Fish Military Combat	\$0.00				2	
Resident Fishing Annual	\$24.00	79,082	79,888	79,735	80,634	80,386
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	6,725	7,295	7,493	7,613	7,677
Total Resident Fishing		122,337	123,076	121,424	123,934	121,134
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$14.00	182,434	187,986	191,241	206,949	212,643
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$92.00	13,603	14,991	15,803	17,049	17,520
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,421	3,587	3,777	4,057	4,302
Total Nonresident Fishing		199,458	206,564	210,821	228,055	234,465
Total Fishing Licenses		321,795	329,640	332,245	351,989	355,599
Furbearing/Trapping	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$242.00	37	46	50	46	40
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$44.00	2,132	2,308	2,189	2,051	2,016
Res Youth Furbearing Trapping	\$6.00	171	206	165	177	169
Total Furbearing/Trapping Licenses		2,340	2,560	2,404	2,274	2,225
Game Bird/Small Game	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$24.00	8,603	8,891	9,617	10,573	10,687
Res Bird/Small Game Military Combat	\$0.00			2	1	1
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$9.00	884	1,073	932	979	907
Resident Game Bird	\$16.00	7,596	6,945	6,792	7,001	6,145
Resident Small Game	\$16.00	1,393	1,653	1,735	2,459	2,353
Total Resident Game Bird/Small Game		18,476	18,562	19,078	21,013	20,093
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$72.00	1,893	1,898	2,110	2,313	2,371
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$20.00	4,925	4,186	4,687	5,515	5,183
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	146	100	128	164	160
Total Nonresident Game Bird/Small Game		6,964	6,184	6,925	7,992	7,714

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Total Game Bird/Small Game Licenses		25,440	24,746	26,003	29,005	27,807	
Gray Wolf ⁶		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Archery ¹⁵	\$202.00						419
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$482.00	82	93	53	77		57
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$662.50	374	436	372	447		412
Bird/Small Game	\$302.00	32	10	15	12		22
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	11	6	9	12		6
Conservation Stamp	\$180.50	124	94	115	77		132
Fishing	\$302.00	59	79	73	78		61
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	218	314	263	284		305
Total Lifetime Licenses			900	1,032	900	987	1,414
Moose		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonresident Moose	\$1,402.00	91	85	84	79		73
Nonresident Moose Governor	\$0.00	5	2	5	4		5
Nonresident Moose Trifecta	\$1,402.00			1			1
Nonresident Moose Super Tag	\$1,402.00						1
Resident Moose	\$112.00	395	397	369	344		311
Resident Moose Governor	\$0.00		3		1		
Resident Moose Super Tag	\$112.00			1	2		
Total Moose Licenses			491	487	460	430	391
Mountain Goat		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,152.00	6	6	7	8		9
Nonres Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$2,152.00			1			0
Nonres Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$2,152.00						1
Resident Mountain Goat	\$122.00	18	22	21	24		30
Resident Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$122.00			1	2		
Total Mountain Goat Licenses			24	28	30	34	40
Mountain Lion		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$362.00	179	222	224	234		256
Nonres Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$362.00			1			
Nonres Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$92.00	7	9	4	2		4
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	2,149	2,154	2,169	2,126		2,186
Resident Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$20.00	52	96	83	29		31
Total Mountain Lion Licenses			2,387	2,481	2,481	2,391	2,477
Wild Bison ⁸		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$2,502.00	15	19	19	8		10
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$1,002.00	4	9	42	52		44
Nonres Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00		5	1	3		5
Nonres Wild Bison Super Tag	\$2,502.00						1
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$402.00	81	82	70	32		38
Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$252.00	165	211	183	211		184
Resident Wild Bison Governor ¹⁰	\$0.00			3	2		
Resident Wild Bison Super Tag	\$402.00			1	1		
Total Wild Bison Licenses			265	326	319	309	282
Wild Turkey ¹³		PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Resident Fall Turkey	\$16.00	1,972	1,688	1,789	2,251		2,191

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Pio Heritage Fall Turkey	\$10.00	21	13	28	21	26
Resident Pio Heritage Spring Turkey	\$10.00	35	38	37	52	43
Resident Pioneer Fall Turkey	\$2.00	7	3	1	19	26
Resident Pioneer Spring Turkey	\$2.00	9	1	6	13	29
Resident Spring Turkey	\$16.00	3,886	3,854	3,829	4,343	4,409
TOTALS		5,930	5,597	5,690	6,699	6,724
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$72.00	240	219	183	246	228
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$72.00	1,281	1,256	1,094	1,116	1,122
TOTALS		1,521	1,475	1,277	1,362	1,350
Total Wild Turkey Licenses		7,451	7,072	6,967	8,061	8,074
Other Licenses	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$182.00	10	9	9	9	9
Deal in Live Bait	\$67.00	61	57	62	76	83
Duplicate Commercial	\$5.00	13	6	12	9	6
Duplicate Lifetime	\$5.00	215	294	324	323	326
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$5.00	2,870	3,062	3,309	3,744	3,687
Duplicate with Coupon	\$5.00	3,919	2,907	2,866	3,196	3,793
Duplicate without Coupon	\$5.00	200	207	197	260	272
Fishing Preserve	\$132.00	54	45	46	41	41
Game Bird Farm	\$132.00	105	102	104	95	88
License to Capture Furbearing Animal	\$20.00	2	1			
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$16.00	79	72	77	85	89
Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$242.00	16	10	8	18	11
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$277.00	10	9	9	10	10
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$702.00	7	5	3	3	4
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$38.00	26	23	19	23	30
Resident Fur Dealer	\$52.00	15	15	13	15	13
Resident Taxidermist	\$67.00	176	171	184	192	199
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$20.00	840	811	827	807	857
Total Other Licenses		8,618	7,806	8,069	8,906	9,518
STAMPS, PERMITS, & TAGS						
	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Central Visual Acuity Permit ¹	\$0.00			10	6	4
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit ²	\$12.50	187	148			
Conservation Stamps	\$12.50	175,964	176,037	174,579	177,229	182,680
Disabled Veteran 100% Bird/Sm Game & Fish	\$0.00	51	41	50	66	82
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00	251	246	245	311	342
Disabled Hunter Permit	\$0.00	235	248	297	369	338
Disabled Veteran 50% Fishing	\$0.00	199	176	197	247	250
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$12.50	11,760	12,111	12,393	12,697	11,996
Harvest Information Permits (HIP)	\$0.00	8,823	8,616	8,039	8,039	8,031
Hunter Safety Exemption ³	\$0.00			108	221	245
Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities (SFV)	\$0.00	155	149	175	199	169
Interstate Game Tags	\$8.00	14,627	13,616	5,047	4,090	3,446
Nonres Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	45	58	56	68	50
Nonres Marten Permit	\$0.00	1				
Nonres Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	26	23	14	28	38
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	119	123	127	125	158
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	11	24	23	15	12
Nonresident Beaver Permit	\$0.00				1	0
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50			49	46	45
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$12.50	5,015	5,141	5,283	5,442	5,563

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	7,991	9,523	8,525	8,087	9,001
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50			163	111	125
Res Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	150	139	137	121	119
Resident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	15	19	17	10	11
Resident Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	735	716	742	618	629
Resident Guide ⁴	\$0.00		453	523	507	479
Resident Marten Permit	\$0.00	4	5	5		
Resident Pioneer Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$0.00	1,688	1,539	1,592	1,709	1,807
Resident Pioneer Veteran Bird/Fish/Sm Game	\$0.00	250	247	274	288	283
Resident Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	244	158	149	188	343
Resident Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	1,079	1,016	1,050	1,068	1,052
Sandhill Crane General Permit ¹⁴	\$0.00			334	519	600
Temporary Hunter With Disability (SFV) ⁵	\$0.00			49	56	59
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00	193	84	83	94	75
Total Stamps, Permits, & Tags		229,818	230,656	220,335	222,575	228,032

DONATIONS

	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Access Yes		\$123,072	\$125,915	\$130,025	\$139,810	\$ 143,864.23
Search and Rescue		\$169,904	\$175,323	\$213,301	\$228,074	\$ 230,434.02
Total Donations		\$292,976	\$301,238	\$343,326	\$367,884	374,298

WATERCRAFT & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DECALS ⁹

	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00			690	756	719
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00			5,346	5,801	5,595
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00			533	589	676
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00			1,186	1,234	1,134
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00			3,761	4,372	4,078
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00			687	779	769
Nonresident AIS Motorized Decal	\$30.00	5,771	6,538	6,911	7,354	7,274
Nonresident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$15.00	3,716	4,679	5,303	5,967	6,994
Resident AIS Motorized Decal	\$10.00	21,612	17,753	7,864	3,879	2,663
Resident AIS Motorized Decal Three-Year	\$30.00		4,861			
Resident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$5.00	8,360	8,942	9,980	11,424	13,379
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$5.00			112	208	241
Watercraft Dealer	\$15.00	29	62	38	50	34
Watercraft Duplicate	\$5.00	251	254	161	75	26
Watercraft Government Renewal Three-Year	\$0.00	67	32	40	81	34
Watercraft New One-Year	\$15.00	802	979	273	269	199
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$40.00	1,626	1,292	157	142	75
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$15.00	6,386	6,182	1,070	862	606
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$40.00	5,192	4,245	554	543	314
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$15.00	546	685	158	158	97
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$40.00	944	733	72	66	40
Total Watercraft & AIS		55,302	57,237	44,896	44,609	44,947

SUPER TAG & SUPER TAG TRIFECTA RAFFLE ⁷

	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Antelope Super Tag	\$10.00			2,029	2,067	2,360
Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$10.00			10,572	11,741	11,161
Black Bear Super Tag	\$10.00			220	238	318

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Deer Super Tag	\$10.00			4,216	4,356	4,750
Elk Super Tag	\$10.00			7,791	7,615	7,896
Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$10.00			529	-	-
Moose Super Tag	\$10.00			8,307	8,514	7,980
Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$10.00			4,312	4,526	4,590
Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$10.00			214	392	427
Super Tag Trifecta	\$30.00			8,217	6,855	7,486
Wild Bison Super Tag	\$10.00			3,859	4,181	4,477
Total Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta				50,266	50,485	51,445

PREFERENCE POINTS

	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nonresident Antelope	\$30.00	25,889	28,965	33,040	38,255	45,301
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$100.00	6,342	6,638	7,092	7,547	8,212
Nonresident Deer	\$40.00	25,713	28,225	32,503	37,829	44,407
Nonresident Elk	\$50.00	33,696	36,750	41,480	47,191	54,062
Nonresident Moose	\$75.00	7,529	7,784	8,194	8,676	9,393
Nonresident Youth Antelope	\$10.00	2,430	2,606	3,015	3,439	3,868
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$10.00	1,922	2,062	2,394	2,855	3,362
Nonresident Youth Elk	\$10.00	1,932	2,032	2,337	2,837	3,255
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	4,738	4,464	4,814	4,978	4,857
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Point Purchase	\$7.00	3,919	4,228	4,244	4,540	5,179
Resident Moose - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	9,267	8,787	9,435	10,158	9,634
Resident Moose - Point Purchase	\$7.00	5,327	5,643	5,672	5,831	6,843
Total Preference Points		128,704	138,184	154,220	174,136	198,373

DRAW APPLICATION FEES

	PRICE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bison Application Fee	\$6.00	5,083	5,468	3,430	3,971	3,746
Nonresident Application Fee	\$14.00	85,403	85,066	87,735	92,675	97,026
Resident Application Fee	\$5.00	117,451	119,435	122,580	131,916	135,354
Withdrawal Fee	\$5.00	1,173	1,059	1,085	867	843
Total Fees		209,110	211,028	214,830	229,429	236,969

		1,531,897	1,549,001	1,630,691	1,719,936	1,775,258
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*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.

STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

⁷ During the 2013 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-302 (p) was added to allow the Department to issue		
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.		
¹⁵ Began issuing Lifetime Archery Licenses in 2016		
¹⁶ During the 2015 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-705(h) was changed to set Complimentary Antelope Licenses to resident pricing beginning January 1, 2016		

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 17

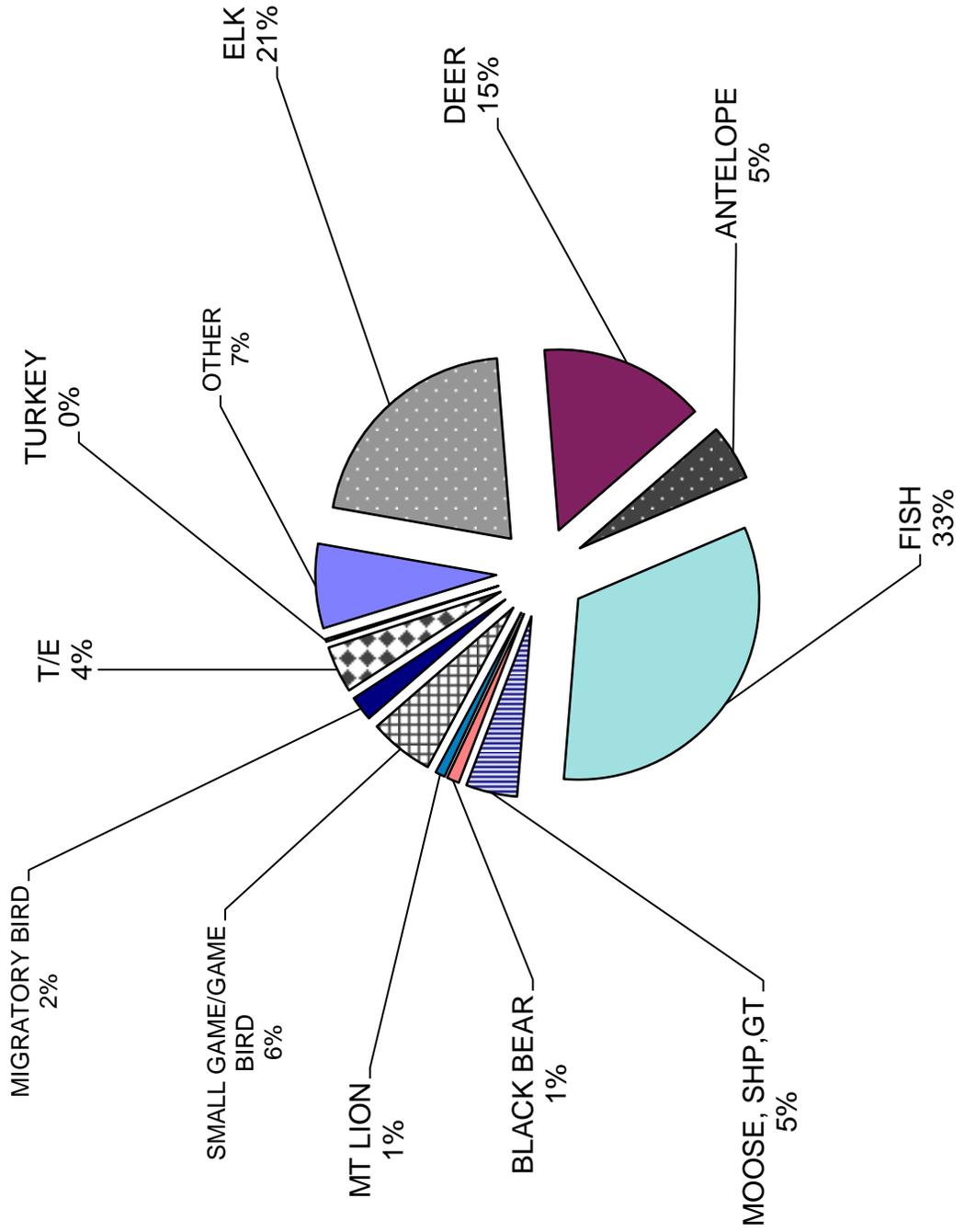
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$16,815,680		
BC	ANTELOPE (PRONGHORN)	\$3,009,426	\$851,206	\$3,860,632
BD	ELK	\$12,607,389	\$3,565,959	\$16,173,348
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,713,476	\$484,651	\$2,198,128
BF	MOOSE	\$963,485	\$272,519	\$1,236,004
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$78,657	\$22,248	\$100,905
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$522,687	\$147,840	\$670,527
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$667,409	\$188,775	\$856,184
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$1,335,380	\$377,708	\$1,713,088
BM	MULE DEER	\$8,182,624	\$2,314,429	\$10,497,053
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$736,705	\$208,375	\$945,080
BP	BISON	\$189,344	\$53,555	\$242,899
BW	WOLF	\$932,663	\$263,801	\$1,196,464
CA	SMALL GAME	\$73,610	\$20,820	\$94,430
CC	PHEASANTS	\$1,236,012	\$349,602	\$1,585,614
CF	TURKEY	\$141,391	\$39,992	\$181,384
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$2,207	\$624	\$2,832
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$7,369	\$2,084	\$9,454
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$2,102,857	\$594,786	\$2,697,643
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$42,136	\$11,918	\$54,054
DB	GEESE	\$169,829	\$48,036	\$217,865
DC	DUCKS	\$735,598	\$208,062	\$943,660
DD	SWANS	\$129,473	\$36,621	\$166,094
DE	DOVES	\$78,163	\$22,108	\$100,271
DF	CRANES	\$220,841	\$62,464	\$283,305

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 17

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$19,163,597	\$5,420,361	\$24,583,958
HB	BOBCAT	\$218,525	\$61,809	\$280,334
HC	BEAVER	\$312,427	\$88,369	\$400,796
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$17,417	\$4,926	\$22,344
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$1,471,846	\$416,307	\$1,888,153
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$849,666	\$240,325	\$1,089,991
NC	RAPTORS	\$256,695	\$72,605	\$329,300
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$483,967	\$136,889	\$620,856
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$461,580	\$130,556	\$592,136
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$20,067	\$5,676	\$25,743
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$7,415	\$2,097	\$9,512
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$30,614	\$8,659	\$39,273
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$198,444	\$56,129	\$254,573
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$3,534	\$1,000	\$4,534
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$12,581	\$3,558	\$16,139
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$35,442	\$10,025	\$45,467
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$9,519	\$2,692	\$12,211
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$12,001	\$3,395	\$15,396
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$5,284	\$1,495	\$6,778
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$2,203	\$623	\$2,826
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$856,147		\$856,147
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$77,123,383	\$16,815,680	\$77,123,383

*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 17 (includes general fund non capital construction)



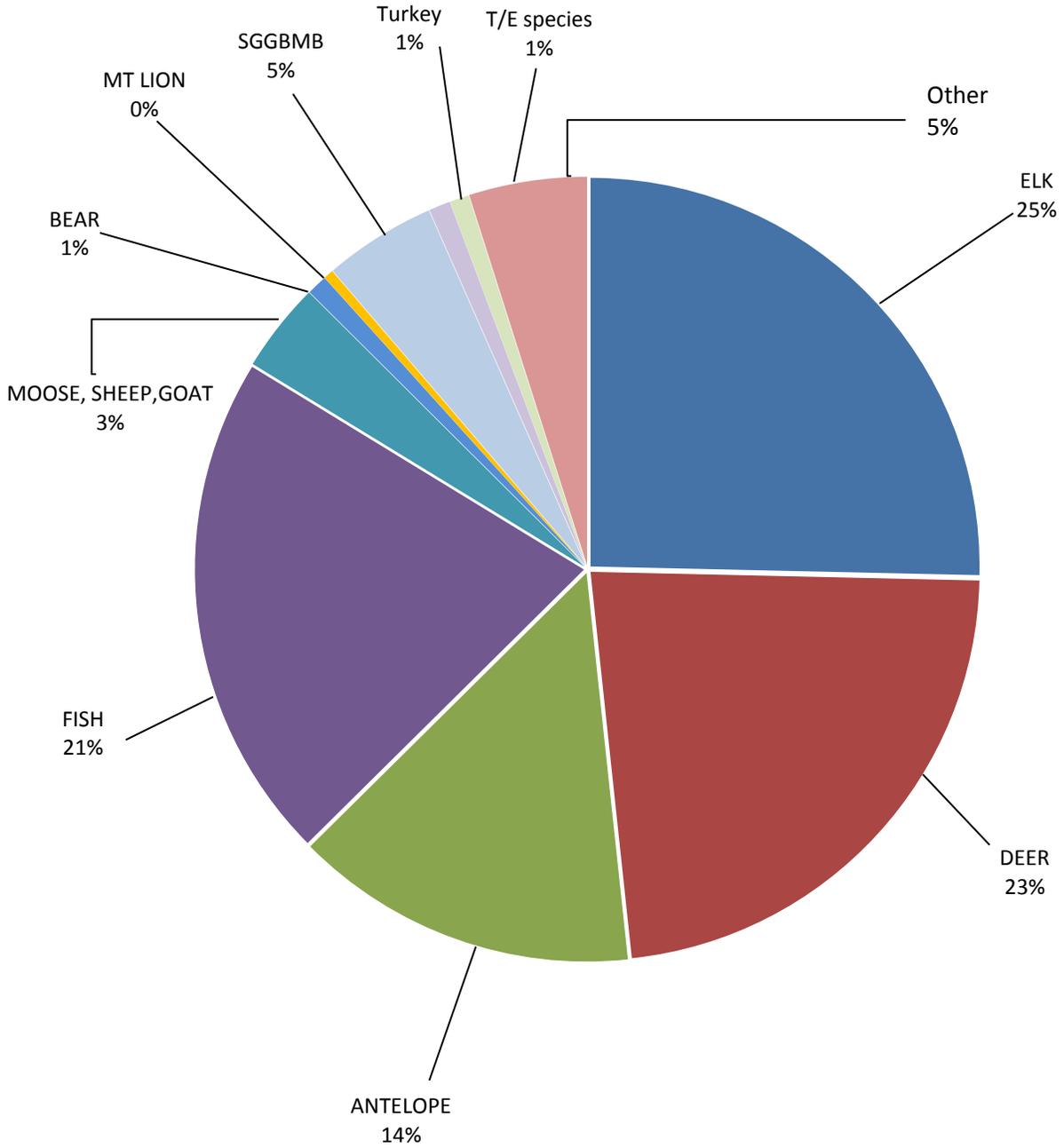
REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 17

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$2,704,144		
BC	ANTELOPE	\$10,989,031	\$392,786	\$11,381,817
BD	ELK	\$19,527,273	\$697,973	\$20,225,246
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,667,360	\$59,597	\$1,726,957
BF	MOOSE	\$1,124,898	\$40,208	\$1,165,105
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$85,288	\$3,048	\$88,337
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$316,222	\$11,303	\$327,525
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$653,458	\$23,357	\$676,814
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$163,506	\$5,844	\$169,351
BM	MULE DEER	\$17,262,300	\$617,015	\$17,879,314
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$410,894	\$14,687	\$425,581
BP	BISON	\$149,685	\$5,350	\$155,035
BW	WOLF	\$437,639	\$15,643	\$453,282
CA	SMALL GAME	\$2,077,535	\$74,258	\$2,151,793
CC	PHEASANTS	\$84,197	\$3,009	\$87,206
CF	TURKEY	\$692,231	\$24,743	\$716,974
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$104	\$4	\$108
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$1,377,228	\$49,227	\$1,426,455
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$9,693	\$346	\$10,040
DB	GEESE	\$684	\$24	\$708
DC	DUCKS	\$1,444	\$52	\$1,496
DD	SWANS	\$37,798	\$1,351	\$39,149
DE	DOVES	\$352	\$13	\$365
DF	CRANES	\$742	\$27	\$768

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 17

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$15,703,372	\$561,293	\$16,264,665
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
HC	BEAVER	\$232,021	\$8,293	\$240,314
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$27,535	\$984	\$28,520
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$818,526	\$29,257	\$847,783
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$510,851	\$18,260	\$529,110
NC	RAPTORS	\$50,966	\$1,822	\$52,787
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$595,526	\$21,286	\$616,813
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$319,624	\$11,424	\$331,049
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$525	\$19	\$544
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$5,974	\$214	\$6,188
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$10,841	\$387	\$11,228
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$157,801	\$5,640	\$163,441
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$1,220	\$44	\$1,264
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$12,809	\$458	\$13,267
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$4,651	\$166	\$4,817
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$132,203	\$4,725	\$136,928
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$201	\$7	\$208
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$0	\$0	\$0
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$1,408,201		\$1,408,201
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$79,766,553	\$2,704,144	\$79,766,553

WGF Revenue Collected by Species FY 17 (includes general fund noncapital construction)



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

PROGRAM	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%	2017	%
Antelope	3,933,317	5.72%	3,458,135	5.47%	2,998,057	4.37%	4,009,107	5.31%	3,860,632	5.01%
Elk	14,699,616	21.39%	14,759,617	23.36%	16,748,041	24.44%	16,626,500	22.01%	16,173,348	20.97%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	1,495,349	2.18%	2,211,924	3.50%	2,782,695	4.06%	2,448,326	3.24%	2,198,128	2.85%
Moose	1,359,572	1.98%	784,133	1.24%	994,976	1.45%	1,041,230	1.38%	1,236,004	1.60%
Rocky Mountain Goat	133,456	0.19%	86,367	0.14%	160,227	0.23%	151,775	0.20%	100,905	0.13%
Mountain Lion	633,200	0.92%	489,861	0.78%	525,015	0.77%	741,888	0.98%	670,527	0.87%
Black Bear	754,404	1.10%	706,665	1.12%	682,209	1.00%	1,090,904	1.44%	856,184	1.11%
Grizzly Bear	1,940,610	2.82%	1,793,556	2.84%	2,276,218	3.32%	2,606,261	3.45%	1,713,088	2.22%
Mule Deer	7,679,283	11.17%	6,745,783	10.68%	7,688,862	11.22%	8,884,624	11.76%	10,497,053	13.61%
White-tailed Deer	726,710	1.06%	420,029	0.66%	399,531	0.58%	686,664	0.91%	945,080	1.23%
Bison	199,643	0.29%	200,479	0.32%	177,968	0.26%	179,328	0.24%	242,899	0.31%
Wolf	1,450,231	2.11%	1,134,343	1.80%	882,375	1.29%	836,104	1.11%	1,196,464	1.55%
Small Game	34,584	0.05%	32,515	0.05%	29,468	0.04%	101,232	0.13%	94,430	0.12%
Game Birds	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pheasants	1,176,016	1.71%	1,161,946	1.84%	1,324,189	1.93%	1,551,083	2.05%	1,585,614	2.06%
Turkey	151,614	0.22%	174,284	0.28%	155,879	0.23%	188,245	0.25%	181,384	0.24%
Partridge	1,819	0.00%	3,144	0.00%	2,164	0.00%	2,058	0.00%	2,832	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	13,779	0.02%	8,592	0.01%	8,825	0.01%	16,807	0.02%	9,454	0.01%
Sage Grouse	3,156,876	4.59%	2,532,519	4.01%	2,534,741	3.70%	2,770,262	3.67%	2,697,643	3.50%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	25,168	0.04%	21,775	0.03%	31,531	0.05%	43,550	0.06%	54,054	0.07%
Geese	822,432	1.20%	810,294	1.28%	1,043,518	1.52%	724,219	0.96%	217,865	0.28%
Ducks	173,716	0.25%	173,983	0.28%	360,682	0.53%	315,219	0.42%	943,660	1.22%

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

PROGRAM	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%	2017	%
Swans	73,396	0.11%	348,402	0.55%	289,442	0.42%	341,914	0.45%	166,094	0.22%
Doves	293,081	0.43%	104,996	0.17%	220,018	0.32%	122,869	0.16%	100,271	0.13%
Cranes	99,126	0.14%	128,998	0.20%	103,023	0.15%	167,290	0.22%	283,305	0.37%
Sport Fish	21,940,359	31.92%	19,787,933	31.32%	20,133,253	29.38%	22,542,029	29.84%	24,583,958	31.88%
Bobcat/Lynx	378,395	0.55%	309,848	0.49%	264,253	0.39%	246,895	0.33%	280,334	0.36%
Beaver	246,140	0.36%	200,312	0.32%	505,545	0.74%	528,082	0.70%	400,796	0.52%
Commercial Fisheries	35,935	0.05%	15,179	0.02%	30,441	0.04%	27,540	0.04%	22,344	0.03%
Nongame Mammals	1,063,778	1.55%	902,922	1.43%	1,098,116	1.60%	1,183,371	1.57%	1,888,153	2.45%
Nongame Birds	1,028,419	1.50%	790,310	1.25%	1,035,194	1.51%	1,362,803	1.80%	1,089,991	1.41%
Raptors	757,083	1.10%	472,082	0.75%	199,192	0.29%	440,348	0.58%	329,300	0.43%
Nongame Fish	332,394	0.48%	453,361	0.72%	724,219	1.06%	1,132,000	1.50%	620,856	0.81%
Amphibians/Reptiles	625,534	0.91%	659,918	1.04%	849,841	1.24%	675,137	0.89%	592,136	0.77%
Predatory Birds	5,833	0.01%	3,703	0.01%	3,181	0.00%	15,711	0.02%	25,743	0.03%
Peregrine Falcon	48,996	0.07%	31,853	0.05%	25,816	0.04%	24,105	0.03%	9,512	0.01%
Bald Eagle	43,855	0.06%	29,563	0.05%	24,557	0.04%	34,478	0.05%	39,273	0.05%
Black-Footed Ferret	79,184	0.12%	139,022	0.22%	72,849	0.11%	265,107	0.35%	254,573	0.33%
Canadian Lynx	6,246	0.01%	3,240	0.01%	13,117	0.02%	8,209	0.01%	4,534	0.01%
Piebles Jumping Mouse	84,140	0.12%	98,115	0.16%	106,425	0.16%	25,376	0.03%	16,139	0.02%
Predatory Mammals	44,980	0.07%	39,635	0.06%	43,667	0.06%	54,255	0.07%	45,467	0.06%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	1,050	0.00%	7,855	0.01%	7,438	0.01%	332,764	0.44%	12,211	0.02%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	125,557	0.18%	118,403	0.19%	43,232	0.06%	112,558	0.15%	15,396	0.02%

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

PROGRAM	2013	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%	2017	%
Wyoming Toad	13,371	0.02%	7,317	0.01%	14,074	0.02%	12,366	0.02%	6,778	0.01%
Exotic Game	3,644	0.01%	306	0.00%	2,443	0.00%	2,529	0.00%	2,826	0.00%
Nonwildlife	838,165	1.22%	825,126	1.31%	915,633	1.34%	861,188	1.14%	856,147	1.11%
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	68,730,053	100.00%	63,188,338	100.00%	68,534,139	100.00%	75,534,309	100.00%	77,123,383	100.00%