

# **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**



**2018**

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



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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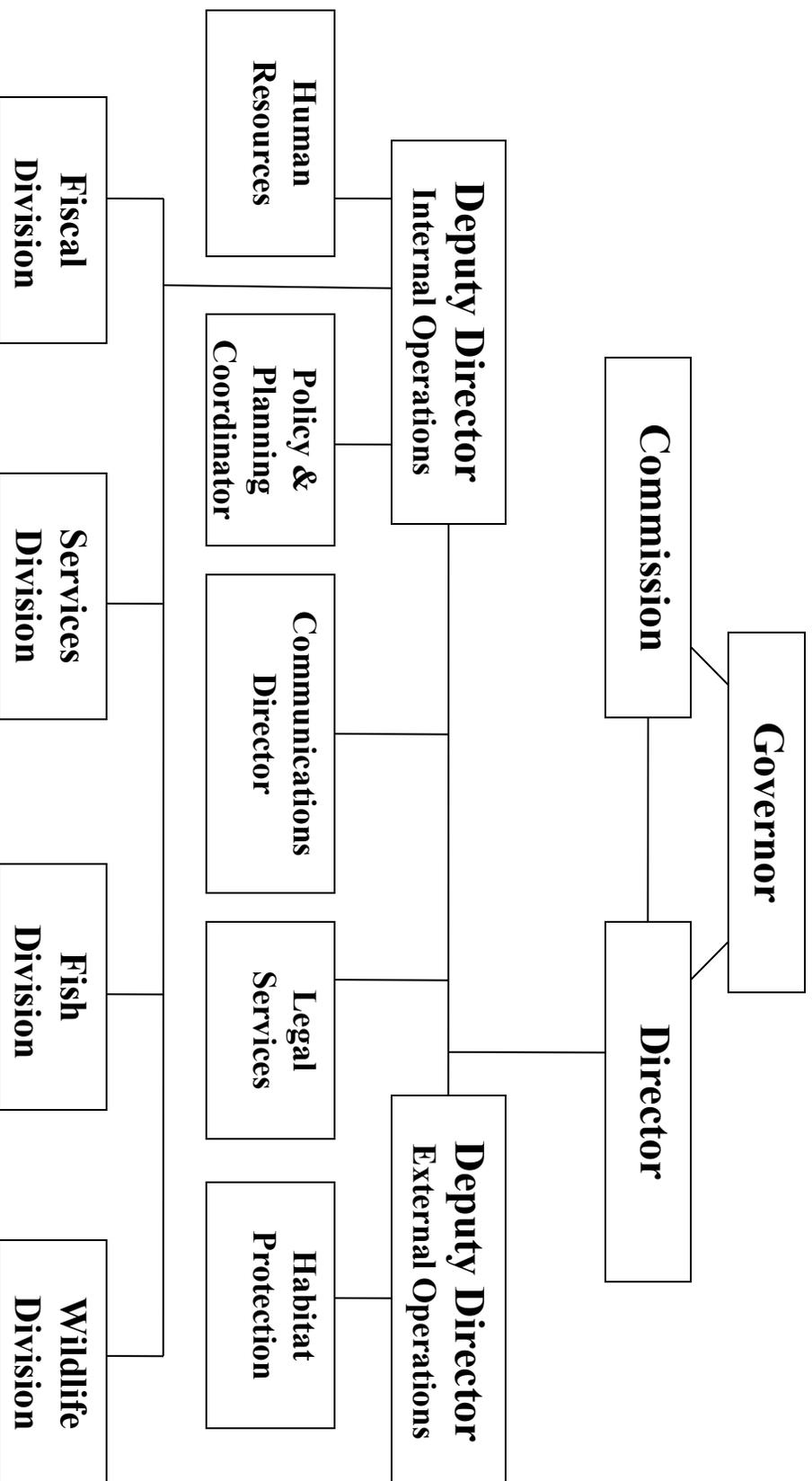
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# Wyoming Game and Fish Department Organization Chart





# **PROGRAM-LEVEL REPORTS**



**Program:** Aquatic Wildlife Management

**Division:** Fish

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

**Program Facts:** The Aquatic Wildlife Management Program is made up of seven sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations	41.5	\$6,493,956
Regional Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	34.2	\$3,465,921
Aquatic Invasive Species	24.3	\$1,319,460
Boating Access	0.0	\$1,691,344
Aquatic Nongame (CWCS)	2.8	\$375,191
Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	5.5	\$528,089
Fish Spawning	1.9	\$180,474
Fish Distribution	0.0	\$149,186
TOTAL	110.2	\$14,203,621

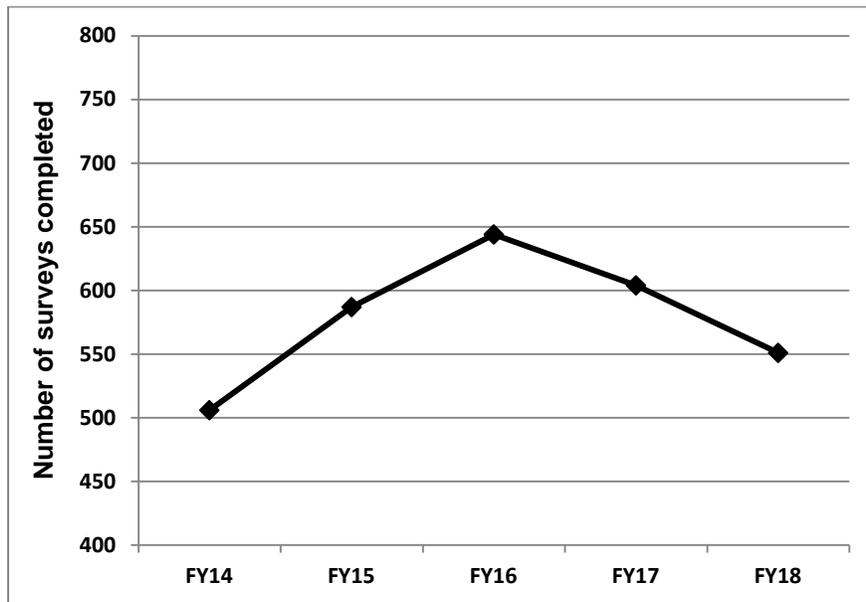
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 Endangered Species Act 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 FY 18, a total of 551 stream and lake surveys were completed (362 stream surveys and 189 lake surveys). The number of surveys exceeded the target of 540 for the fourth consecutive year and was within 10 percent of the number of surveys completed in FY 17 and within 10 percent of the average of the previous five years. A large decrease in the number of stream surveys conducted by regional management crews (down by 99 stream surveys) was due primarily to extremely high stream runoff in western Wyoming in 2017. High flows continued in many drainages throughout most of the summer and fall, forcing many activities to be cancelled. This reduction in sampling effort; however, was largely offset by a nearly commensurate increase in the number of stream surveys conducted by the statewide Aquatic Assessment Crew (up by 95 surveys) in eastern Wyoming where flows were often conducive to fieldwork. The small overall decline in the total number of stream and lake surveys completed was due largely to a 50%

decline in the number of lake surveys in the Casper region. This decrease was due to the fact that the crew was short-staffed for large portion of the field season.

There was a widespread increase in the number of stream surveys that were conducted using environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. If this technique proves to be a suitable surrogate for traditional fish sampling techniques to determine species presence/absence, there are likely to be additional decreases in the total number of stream and lake surveys conducted in the future. In FY 18, this tool was used to detect presence of numerous fish (Sturgeon Chub, Brook Trout, Bluehead Sucker, and Leatherside Chub) and amphibian species.

A mini-Missouri benthic trawl was tested on stream surveys throughout the state to assess the utility of the gear for collecting small bodied fish species. The gear proved to be very effective and captured 137 Sturgeon Chub in the mainstem Bighorn River. Sturgeon Chub, a native SGCN, had not been sampled for many years and was thought to have been extirpated from the Bighorn River. This new gear also proved to be more effective than traditional gears at sampling rare fishes in large rivers in eastern Wyoming.

Additional surveys were conducted to assess the distribution of illegally introduced fishes. These included efforts to describe the current distribution of introduced Northern Pike in the Little Snake River. No pike were captured, suggesting that the Stateline Diversion Dam near Baggs, Wyoming may prevent the movement of pike into areas upstream. Other surveys indicated that Brook Stickleback, an aquatic invasive species, is likely more widespread in waters in the Laramie and Casper regions than previously believed.

Streams throughout the Sweetwater River drainage were surveyed to better describe the current distribution of native fish species. Eleven sites were sampled and 16 fish species (11 native and 5 nonnative) were documented. A few of these sites were identified as suitable areas for establishing additional populations of native Hornyhead Chub.

Numerous stream and lake surveys were conducted to describe native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout populations. Nine wilderness streams were surveyed in the South Fork Little Wind River drainage to collect samples needed to assess the genetic purity of cutthroat trout. Six additional surveys were conducted to assess the potential to restore Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to Sand Creek, a headwater tributary to the North Fork Popo Agie River.

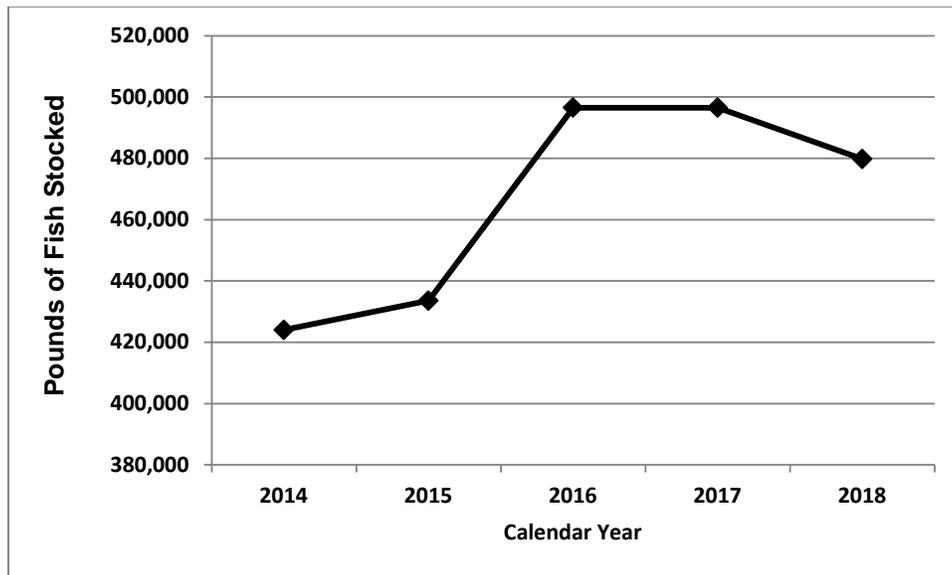
Lake Trout monitoring efforts on Flaming Gorge Reservoir showed that the abundance of this species continues to exceed management goals and average size continues to decline. Monitoring results prompted an increase in the Lake Trout creel limit that will go into effect in 2019.

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

- Piscicide treatments were completed on several waters to secure populations of native game or native nongame fish population restorations.
- Piscicide treatments continued on Muddy Creek (Little Snake River Drainage) to restore populations of native Flannelmouth and Bluehead Sucker and Roundtail Chub.

- Dime Lake, located in the Jackson Region, was successfully chemically treated to remove nonnative trout. Future monitoring efforts will assess the impact of trout removal on populations of amphibians at this lake.
- The North Fork of West Pass Creek in the Sheridan Region was chemically treated to remove nonnative Brook and Brown Trout and secure an important population of native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.
- Several road culverts were replaced in tributaries to LaBarge Creek to facilitate fish passage. Native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout have been restored to this Wyoming Range watershed.
- Colorado River Cutthroat Trout were transplanted from Maki Creek to Bare Creek, a Wyoming Range stream that was chemically treated in FY 17.

**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 four native cutthroat trout brood stocks are also used to restore populations of genetically pure trout in their native drainages. Fish stocking is the culmination of a process that begins with egg taking from captive and wild brood stocks (egg sources) and ends with the stocking of the right strain or type of fish into waters at the scheduled time and fish size. The eggs are hatched and reared at one of 10 facilities and then stocked using the fish culture sub-program’s distribution trucks/system. The fish culture sub-program meets its trout, salmon (kokanee), and grayling needs in state. The fish culture sub-program also receives, in trade for surplus grayling and trout eggs, warm or cool water sport fishes not available in Wyoming.

In FY 18, 4,948,277 trout, kokanee, and grayling totaling 479,767 pounds were stocked from 10 Wyoming facilities and the unmanned Flume Creek facility. The five-year rolling average for fish production in Wyoming fish culture facilities is 448,635 pounds.

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 upon the number of catchable-size 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, bluegill, hybrid sunfish, channel catfish, and walleye. 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 optimal 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 18 budget.

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Bird Farms	5.4	\$774,154

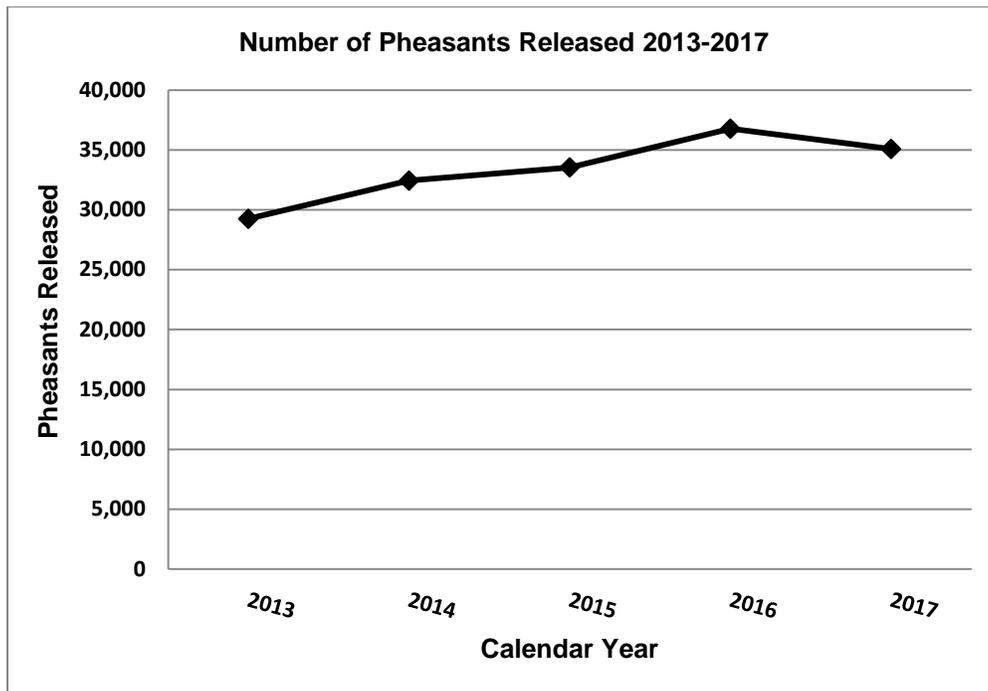
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 2013 and 2017, the number of pheasants released ranged from 29,246 to 36,767 with an average of 33,413. The number released in 2017 was 35,078.

**What has been accomplished:**

The Sheridan Bird Farm (SBF) supervisor and the Downar Bird Farm (DBF) coordinator attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Pheasant Management Seminar in Janesville Wisconsin. The information and knowledge gained from meeting and networking with industry professionals, producers, and veterinarians will help Wyoming bird farm operations. With over 90 attendees from across the globe, this seminar has been an integral part of the bird farms program's improvements and increases in production. Bird farm personnel learned the latest information about avian influenza and other issues facing game bird producers. New technologies were discussed resulting in the SBF implementing changes to its blinding program.

The DBF coordinator discussed cooler designs and equipment options that will be beneficial to their new hatching facility. The Department bird farms continue with changes implemented in 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 SBF oversaw a perimeter fence reconstruction on the south side of the facility and a north side replacement. These fences were old and constructed using woven wire which is dangerous for whitetail fawns. These fences are now wildlife friendly with a three-inch top rail and two smooth wires. The largest brooder house at the SBF was remodeled inside to allow for a non-porous surface. Staff can now thoroughly disinfect the surface, providing a cleaner bio-secure environment for brooding chicks. SBF staff also replaced the steel netting over the loading chute with a two-inch woven nylon that is much lighter and easier on the birds that fly into it.

West and south fields were planted into grasses and German millet to eliminate weeds such as leafy spurge and Canada thistle. These planting were successful and allowed for a full usage of SBF water rights. Flight pens and runways were farmed and planted into oats to improve early

plant growth and also discourage undesirable weeds. Cover crops in most areas reached seven to eight feet tall.

Personnel implemented a growth monitoring program for pheasants as a means of establishing normal baselines throughout pheasant development. Much time was spent researching equipment, monitoring frequencies, and data collection.

SBF personnel conducted several facility tours to members of the public, including Leadership Sheridan. Personnel provided assistance to other Department employees including work on check stations, fish population surveys, extension services, and assistance to local game wardens. Personnel assisted the local Pheasants Forever chapter with a no-till drill loan program that improves game bird habitat in Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

Personnel at the DBF oversaw and directed flight pen repairs, demolition, and removal of two old buildings used to store equipment. The area was cleaned and prepared so new building construction could take place. All flight pens were farmed and sprayed for non-desirable weeds. A new contract employee was hired and his experience in construction and farming/ranching has been beneficial to building construction projects and rearing of pheasants.

The DBF coordinator contacted Nature Form hatching company to schedule full service of the SBF incubator and hatcher as well as to schedule refitting of equipment into the new hatching building at the DBF. A Quill automatic watering system was added to a portion of the brooding facilities. This reduced watering times and provided fresh water to thousands of growing chicks. The DBF coordinator spent considerable time building the egg cooler and designing a new hatching room ensuring the building is well equipped and efficient.

The DBF staff covered the walls of feed storage building with oriented strand board (OSB) and installed drain lines and drainage systems. Personnel were involved with general maintenance of facilities and vehicles. The DBF staff 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Hunter Education	1.0	\$ 197,401
Conservation Education	3.5	583,994
TOTAL	4.5	\$ 781,395

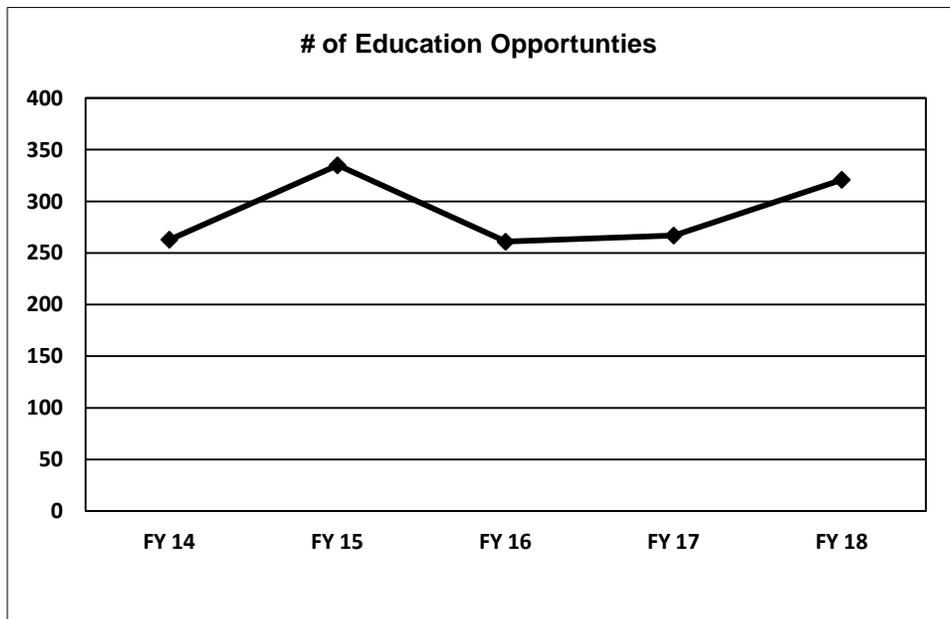
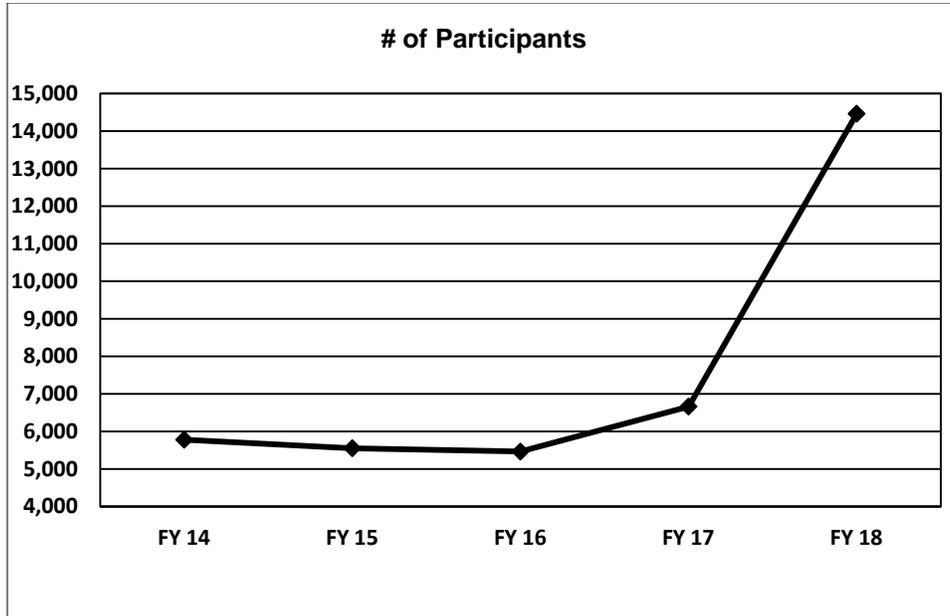
*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants. These programs do require statewide responsibilities, travel, and assistance from regional personnel.*

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, 2017 was a significant year because a Conservation Education Coordinator and a Hunter and Angler Participation Coordinator were hired. Hiring these positions has allowed the Department to implement more education programs across the state as reflected in the FY 18 numbers.

**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:

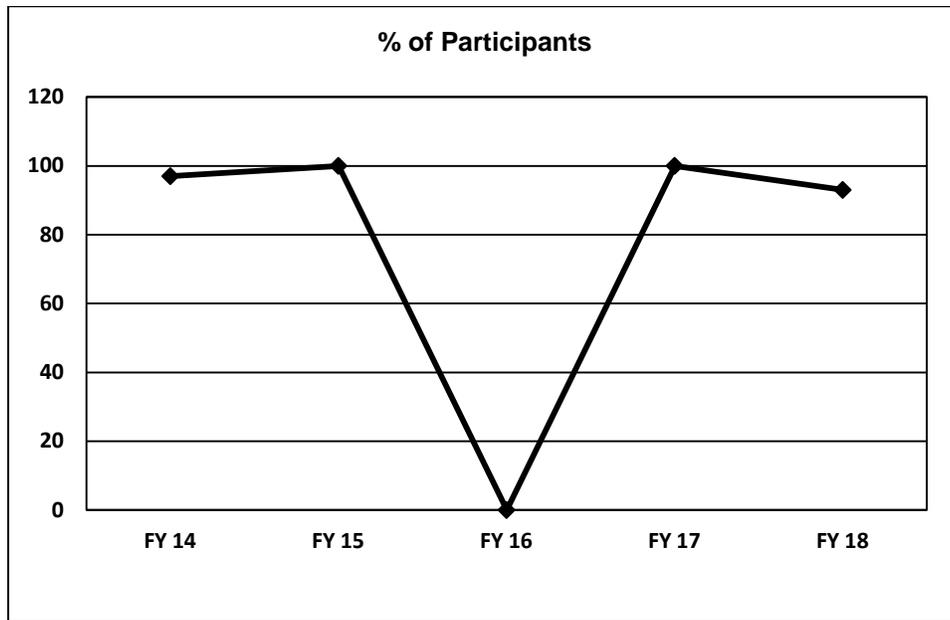
- Increasing engagement and awareness of wildlife and the Department;
- Continuing to build trust in the work, reputation, and expertise of the Department;
- Increasing participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife enjoyment; and
- Continuing to foster external partnerships and increase active partner 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 and overnight camps led in each region of the state. Half of these occurred in FY 18. Participants were surveyed to be able to judge effectiveness and obtain data to further evaluate the camps in the future.

The Hunter and Angler Participation Coordinator continued with the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) and furthered the program with a Beyond BOW women and youth pheasant hunt in the first half of FY 18. Other discontinued programs were brought back in FY 18. The Hunting and Heritage Expo was replaced in FY 18 by the Wyoming Outdoor Expo which was focused on broader outdoor skills, including hunting and fishing. The Department reached over 5,700 youth and adults over three days. Expo participants engaged in activities ranging from wildlife diseases to wildlife friendly fencing, spin casting to shooting firearms, canoeing to off-road ethics, and many more outdoor activities.

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 18, the Department saw more interest in hunter education and more graduates than previous years. 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 which includes camps, outreach events, and hunter education.

The FY 18 numbers show a slight decline in “meets expectations” for programs at 93 percent for FY 18. While a slight decline, the percentage more accurately represents the Department’s education programming since more programs are conducting surveys.

**What has been accomplished:**

The Department continues to deploy surveys after outreach events, education events, and after completion of hunter education classes. These surveys inform where the Department has opportunity to continue to improve its programming.

**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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Conservation Engineering	5.8	\$869,626

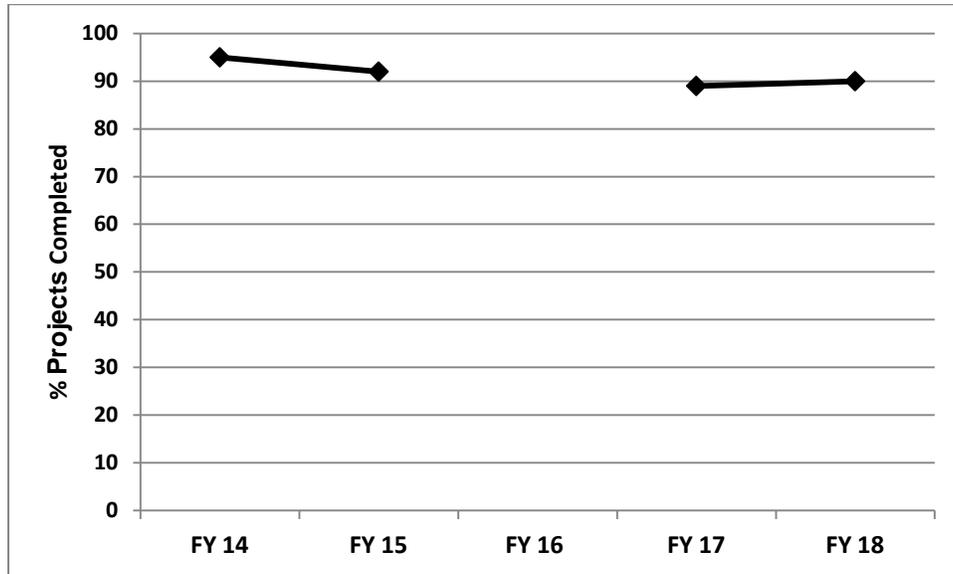
*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

This program consists of the engineering and surveying 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 and surveying 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 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.

**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 Fish Division 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 Wildlife Forensics and Fish Health Laboratory, and also the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation and reconstruction project. Design and survey services were provided for the Diamond Lake Public Access Area pipeline project. In addition, projects including boating access, stream restoration, and elk feedground hay sheds were completed. Consisting of a small core of specialists, performance is greatly affected by the number of personnel and workload. In FY 18, Conservation Engineering was able to hire an additional engineer. Performance measure metrics were not tracked in FY 16 but with implementation of the Smartsheets project management software, projects in FY 18 were able to be better tracked. The Conservation Engineering Branch was able to address 90 percent of the projects that were requested of them in FY 18.

**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 18 budget. Customer Services is broken into three sections: telephone information center, telecommunications services, and alternative enterprises.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Customer Services	3.0	\$ 210,485
Mailroom	1.0	616,822
TOTAL	4.0	\$ 827,307

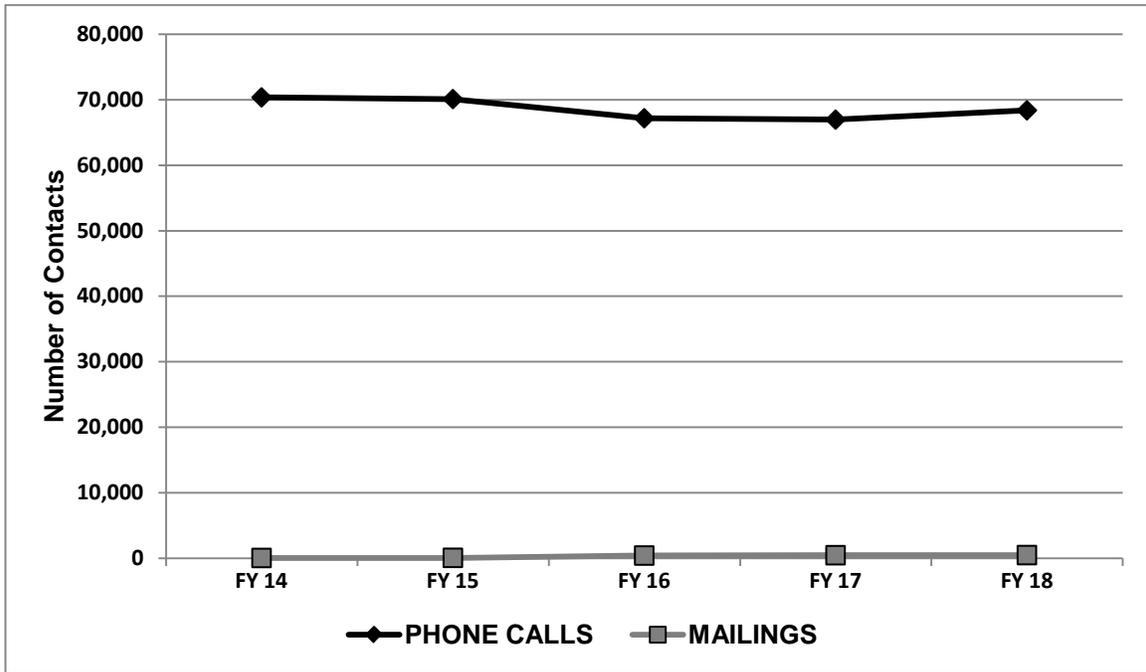
*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 18, there were five customer service representatives trained to handle all incoming calls and requests for information. The Department trained additional customer service representatives during FY 18 and has an additional six staff members trained to handle all incoming calls. During this time period, 68,370 calls were answered of the 77,573 total calls directed to the Telephone Information Center. The calls that were not

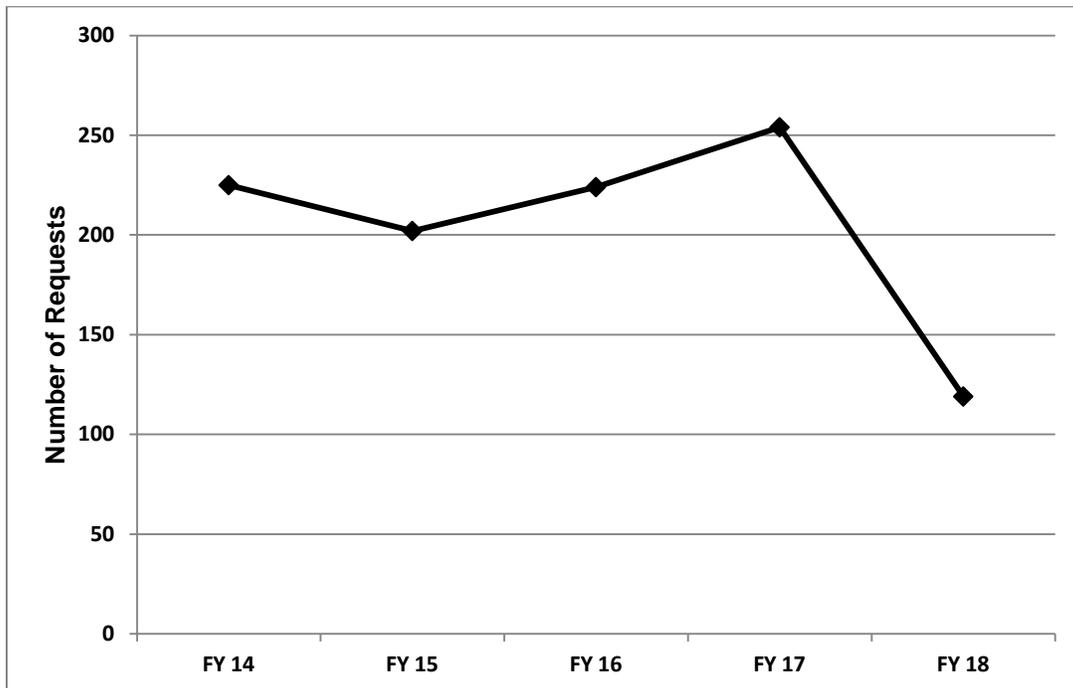
answered were abandoned calls (9,167) where the caller hung up before the customer service representative concluded the preceding call. This represents a level of service of 88 percent. All front counter staff answers calls in the Telephone Information Center and six additional staff members assist throughout 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 68,587 and the average number of mailings has been 313. In FY 18, the telephone information center staff answered 68,370 incoming calls and processed 502 mailing requests for information from customers. As reflected in the performance measure chart, there has been a slight increase from previous years in the number of incoming calls received. The number of requests for materials to be mailed to customers has been consistent for the last five years. The reduced number of mailings to customer is a result of customers using the Department's website to obtain information to apply for or purchase licenses.

**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:**

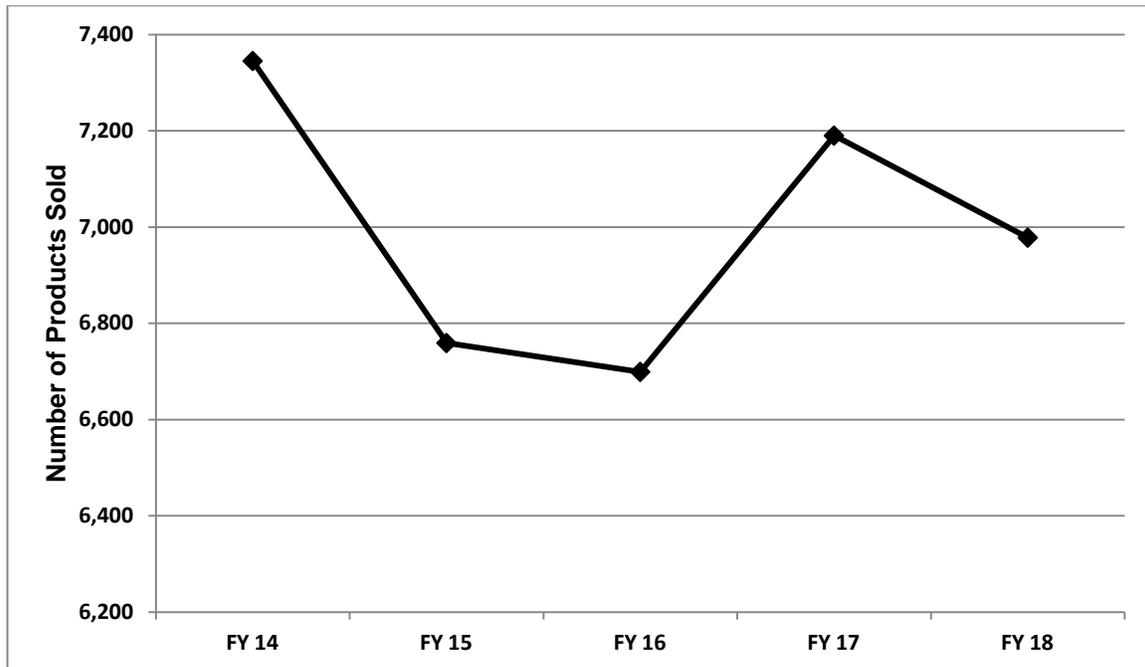
Previously, one customer service employee staffed this section as part-time duties. These part-time duties were transferred to a Help Desk/Procurement position in the Information Technology Program in June 2012 and became effective in the Strategic Plan as of the beginning of FY 13.

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 which 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.

The FY 18 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).

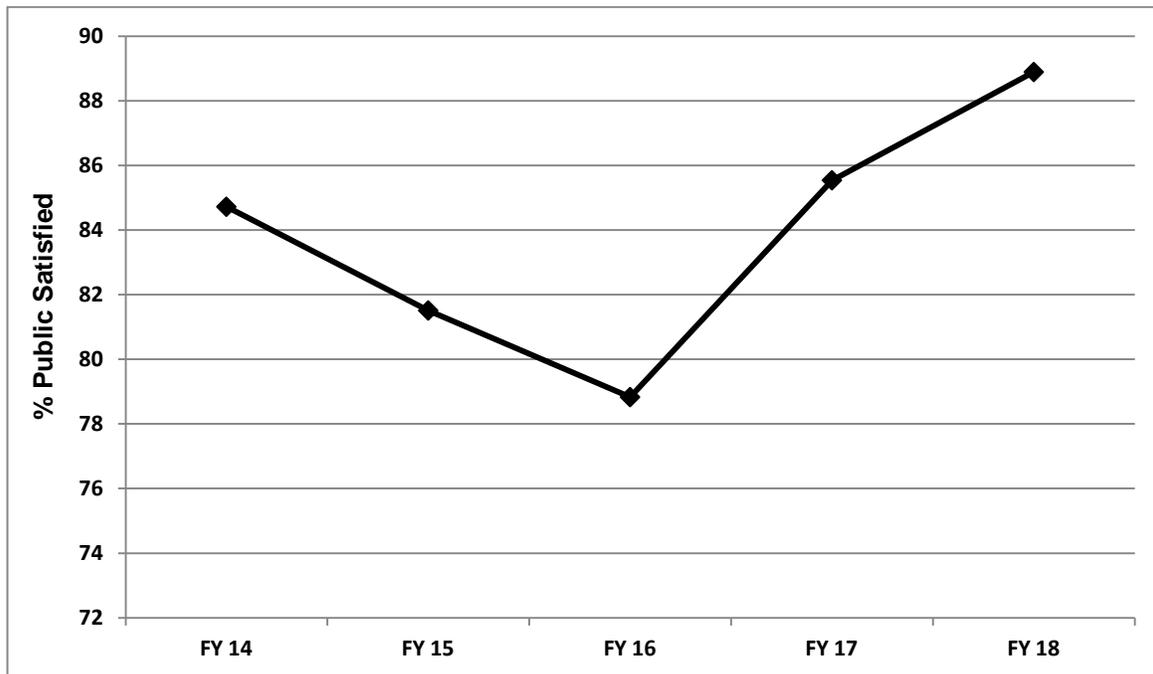


**Story behind the performance:**

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

In FY 17, the number of products sold was 7,190. In FY 18, the number of products was similar at 6,978. 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 18, 344 individuals responded to the survey which included 189 residents and 155 nonresidents. The survey provides the opportunity for the public to evaluate the customer service provided by the Department. Since FY 14, an average of 83.89 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 324 survey participants that responded to the specific survey question on contacting the Telephone Information Center during FY 18, only 66 used the Telephone Information Center for assistance.

**Program:** Department Administration

**Division:** Department-wide

**Mission:** Provide leadership for wildlife conservation in Wyoming.

**Program Facts:**

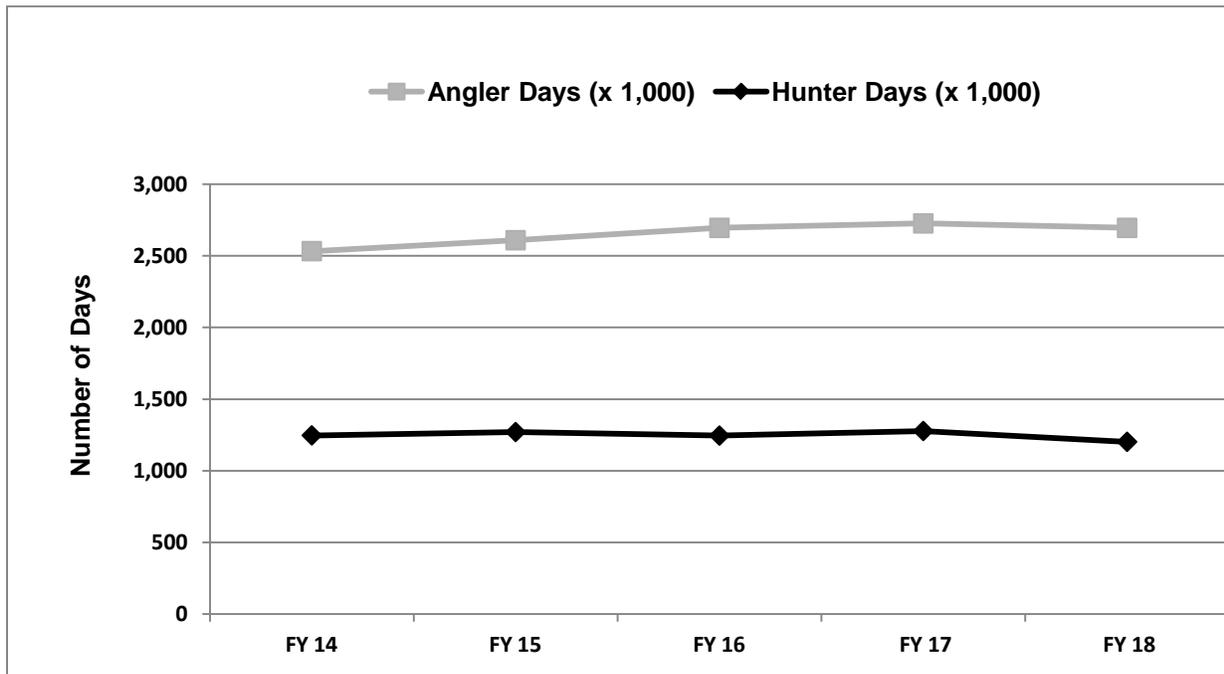
The Department Administration Program is made up of four major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Administration	29.0	\$ 4,290,061
WGFD Vehicle Fleet	0.0	2,318,666
Commission	.8	102,866
TOTAL	29.8	\$ 6,711,593

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 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).



For the period FY 14 - FY 18, Wyoming residents and nonresidents have expended an average of 1,248,355 hunter days and 2,651,653 angler days. In FY 18, 1,201,921 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 18 were 13.5 percent above the target of 1.1 million hunter days. Angler days in FY 18 were 14.7 percent above the target of 2.3 million angler days.

Hunter days decreased approximately 5.9 percent between FY 17 and FY 18. Trophy game (+21,784) and furbearers (+15,471) days increased while big game (-47,381), small game (-12,559), upland game (-16,568), and migratory game bird (-36,337) days all decreased. The decrease in big game days resulted from decreased populations following the severe winter in western Wyoming. Re-instatement of a hunting season for gray wolves helped increase hunter days for trophy game. Decreases in small game, upland game, and migratory game bird hunter days were partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime license hunters participation was calculated<sup>1</sup>. Fluctuations in recreation days for other categories reflected annual variations in game populations, and thus hunter interest.

The number of angler days decreased slightly after five years of increases. The decrease in fishing was due largely to reduced numbers of daily fishing license sales to both resident and nonresident anglers. The number of annual resident licenses sold also decreased. In terms of license sales, the number of all fishing license types sold decreased by 2.4 percent.

### **Major Accomplishments:**

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

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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement in the 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey, and Falconry Harvest.

hunting and fishing access to the public. During 2017, the Access Yes Program experienced many successes, including, but not limited to:

- Providing access to 2,661,439 acres (1,683,329 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 978,110 acres of public lands) for hunting within the boundaries of the WIHA and HMA Programs. This included land in every county within Wyoming.
- Providing additional access to 175,755 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of WIHAs and HMAs which would not have been accessible without the Access Yes Program.
- Providing fishing access to 3,845 lake acres and 88 stream miles through the WIFA Program.
- Worked with Department IT personnel to ensure the online permission slip process continues to be user-friendly for sportsmen and problems associated with obtaining permission slips for HMAs and the National Elk Refuge (NER) are reduced.
- Issued 26,670 online permission slips to 15,072 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 105 emails received through the Access Yes Program website regarding hunting, fishing, or the Access Yes Program. The majority of these emails (74 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 2016 hunting season for harvest results indicated 20 percent of antelope hunters (23 percent of nonresident, 18 percent of resident), 17 percent of deer hunters (15 percent of nonresident, 17 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 9,166 antelope, 10,780 deer, and 8,913 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 2017 hunting season who indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity provided through the WIHA or HMA Programs were 82.3 percent for antelope hunters, 75.4 percent for deer hunters, and 73.7 percent for elk hunters.

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, 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 17 they generated \$622,250.

Donations to Access Yes provide another valuable source of funds. During FY 17, direct donations from conservation groups and organizations totaled \$27,149, 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 \$157,113 in FY 17. Additionally, several private individuals made personal contributions. Overall, during FY 17, the Access Yes Program received \$913,366, which is an increase from FY 16.

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 2017, every dollar spent provided approximately 3.1 acres of access.

**Program:** External Research

**Division:** Office of the Director

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

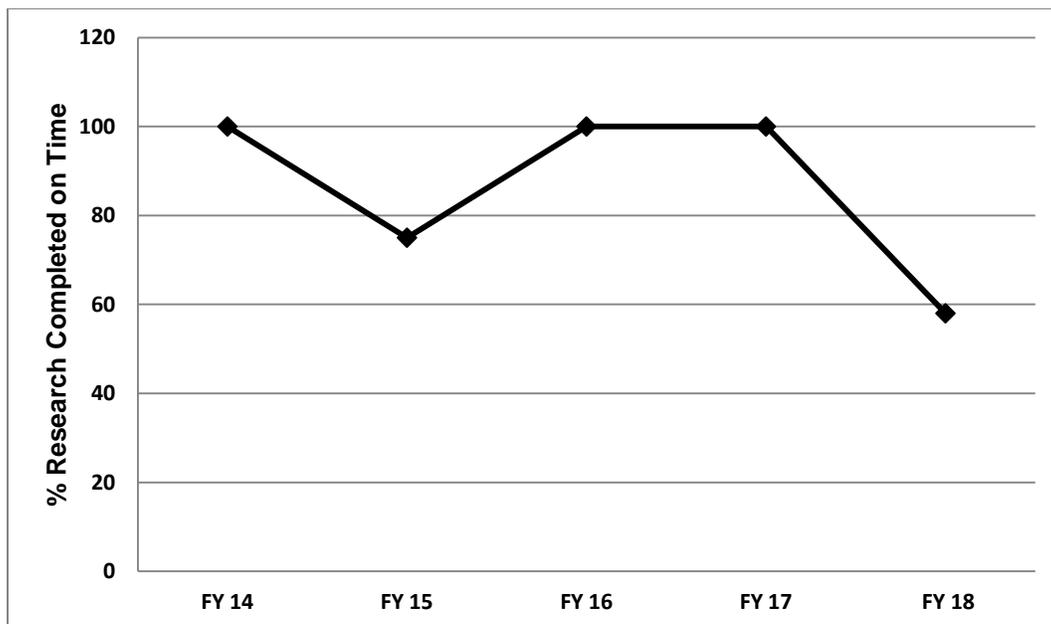
**Program Facts:** Scientific investigations are typically conducted by researchers associated with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit), universities, and independent researchers. The External Research Program funds no Department personnel, but by agreement, \$40,000 per year is used to help fund administration of the Coop Unit. Listed below is the FY 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
External Research	0	\$ 779,743

**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 the 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:**

Wildlife Division funded eight research projects with maintenance and operation (M&O) for FY 18:

- Wyoming Range Mule Deer and Carryover Effects of a Severe Winter, (new FY 18), is evaluating how habitat, climate, nutrition, predation, and disease may affect this highly prized deer herd. Also, the project is investigating the carryover effects of the severe winter in 2017.
- Influence of Beetle Kill on Sierra Madre Elk, (FY 17 carryover), is evaluating elk movement in response to beetle-kill and the presence of hunters. Additionally, the project is determining how hunters respond to downed timber resulting from beetle kill.
- Snowy Range Moose Ecology, (FY 16-17 carryover) is researching movement, nutrition, and demography in the presence of beetle-kill,
- Monitoring Elk Migrations with Remote Photography, (FY 16-17 carryover), is using remote trail cameras to monitor herd composition and migration timing.
- Stable Isotopes to Identify Ungulate Migrations Routes, is trying to identify migration routes using isotopes in ungulate teeth.
- DEER (Deer Elk Ecology Research) Project, (FY 17 carryover), is studying the relative contributions of habitat, climate, predation, disease, and competition with elk on the dynamics of mule deer, along with other research questions.

- Wind Energy Effects on Pronghorn, (new FY 18), will monitor and evaluate pronghorn movements' pre-development of a wind turbine project to evaluate potential influences on migration and habitat use.
- Aerial Infra-red to Estimate Pronghorn Abundance, (new FY 18) is evaluating infrared camera effectiveness for estimating pronghorn abundance.

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.

Other research:

- Eastern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Mule Deer, study continued with Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) funding via the Department's Mule Deer Initiative.
- Bobcat Statistical Reconstruction Modeling, the Wildlife Ecology Institute is using bobcat harvest information to develop a population trend monitoring tool with Commission funds.
- Interstate 80 Pronghorn Study, is ongoing with funding from private donors.

Wildlife Division Projects completed in FY 18 include: Platte Valley Mule Deer and Energy Development Effect on Ungulate Migrations.

The Coop Unit continues to provide reliable, objective science to help guide 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. Fourteen Fish Division research projects were underway or initiated in FY 18. Five of these projects were scheduled for completion in FY 18 and four were completed and final reports received on time. The one incomplete project was delayed due to the student taking a full-time job prior to thesis completion. Three new aquatic projects were initiated in FY 18. New research was funded with the Coop Unit and the University of Wyoming Engineering Department.

At the end of FY 18, eight aquatic research projects were ongoing (three new and five continuing). Projects initiated in FY 18 include: 1) A project conducted by a M.S. student within the University of Wyoming Engineering Department examining the relationship between dam releases and fish spawning habitat conditions in the Shoshone River; 2) A project conducted by a Coop Unit masters student investigating the survival of early life stages of Boreal Toads in relation to land use and disease; and 3) A project conducted by a Coop Unit masters student investigating distribution and habitat usage of Finescale Dace in northeast Wyoming.

Continuing projects at the end of FY 18 include: 1) 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, 2) A project conducted by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) will continue inventories of native freshwater mussels in Wyoming, 3) A project conducted by a Colorado State University masters student to determine if water temperature may be an important variable in determining spawning and recruitment success of sauger, 4) 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, and 5) A project conducted by WYNDD will examine how geology influences differences in amphibian distribution and abundance in western Wyoming.

**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 program, listed below with the number of staff and FY 18 budget:

<u>Program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Feedgrounds	2.6	\$2,614,519

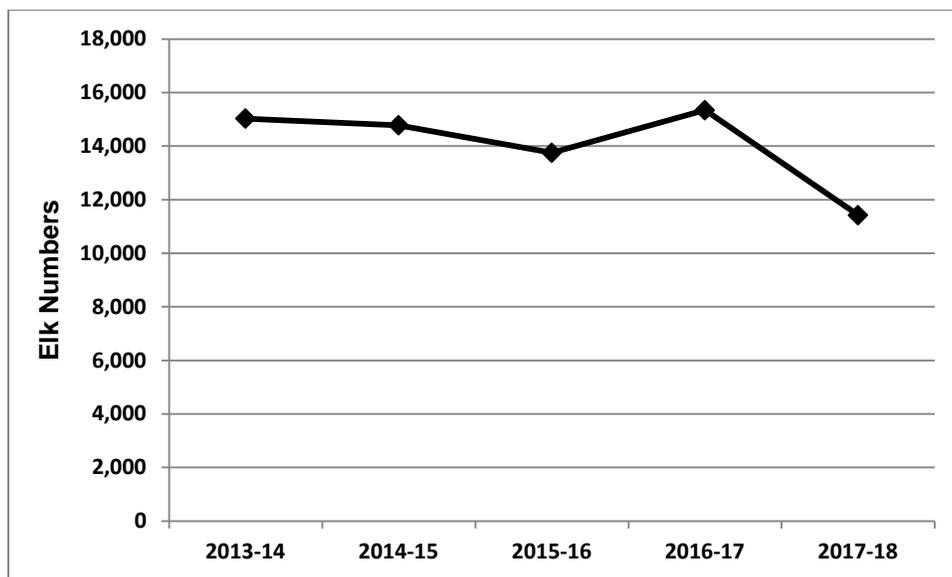
This program is located in the Jackson and Pinedale Regions. Personnel are assigned in Pinedale and Afton. The program is supervised by the Jackson and Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisors.

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 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 14,068 elk.)



**Story behind the performance:**

Elk feedgrounds have been an important management tool since the early 1900s. Elk conflicts with agriculture, such as damage to stored hay and feedlines, risk of cattle exposure to brucellosis because of commingling, deep snow accumulations, and loss of native ranges to development significantly impact the ability of elk to utilize native ranges without conflict. During most winters, elk feedgrounds maintain a significant percentage of the total elk population, while native ranges support relatively few elk. While elk attend feedgrounds, adequate hay (quantity and quality) is fed to reduce starvation and prevent conflict with nearby livestock operations. Wyoming sportsmen have become accustomed to increased elk hunting opportunities afforded by high elk numbers made possible because of feeding.

About 11,433 elk were fed during the winter of 2017-2018. This is 3,779 less than the past 20-year average. In 2017-2018, all winter feeding operations were started by March and finished by mid April. Only 3,624 tons of hay was fed during the 2017-2018 season, significantly below the past 20-year average of 6,615 tons. During the last five winters, the number of elk attending the feedgrounds has ranged between 11,433 elk (winter 2017-2018) and 15,341 elk (winter 2016-2017). No emergency feeding operations took place this season.

Winter conditions during 2017-2018 were very mild and the feeding season was significantly shorter than average. Overall, the feeding season was 94 days, 15 days shorter than the previous season of 109 days. The average feeding season is 123 days. Wolves continue to displace elk from and between feedgrounds. These factors can influence the number of elk counted on feedgrounds and/or fed. All but 12 elk were displaced from the Gros Ventre feedgrounds to the National Elk Refuge and other area feedgrounds for the entire winter. Only 86 elk remained on native winter range in the Gros Ventre area. Five of seven elk herd units (Jackson, Fall Creek, Afton, Hoback, and Piney) had elk numbers below their individual objectives. On average, between 73 percent and 84 percent of the elk in the Jackson and Pinedale regions are fed each year. Long-term average mortality from all causes has not exceeded 1.5 percent on all feedgrounds combined. Mortality resulting from old age, hunter wounding, and predation cannot be prevented by feedground management techniques. Other causes of mortality (goring, some diseases, and malnutrition) may be related to feedground management. Feedground managers should continue to utilize available techniques to minimize these causes of mortality. Winter mortality for 2017-2018 was 0.45 percent, 1.25 percent lower than the previous year.

During winter 2017-2018, no elk were vaccinated. This was the third year that vaccination activities have not taken place (For further details, see Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program).

**What has been accomplished:**

- The overall average feeding season was 94 days.
- 3,624 ton of hay was fed.
- Elk mortality was .45 percent.
- Wolves caused elk mortality at 10 of 22 feedgrounds. There were 28 elk documented by elk feeders that were killed by wolves. This number decreased by 101 from the previous year.
- The shortest feeding operation occurred for only 11 days at Bench Corral and the longest occurred at Dell Creek for 162 days.

- Gros Ventre elk were displaced to the National Elk Refuge and other feedgrounds due to chronic wolf activity.

**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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Revenue Collection & Licensing	16.0	\$ 1,489,190
Asset Management	3.0	\$ 582,116
Disbursements**	5.0	\$440,590
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,511,896

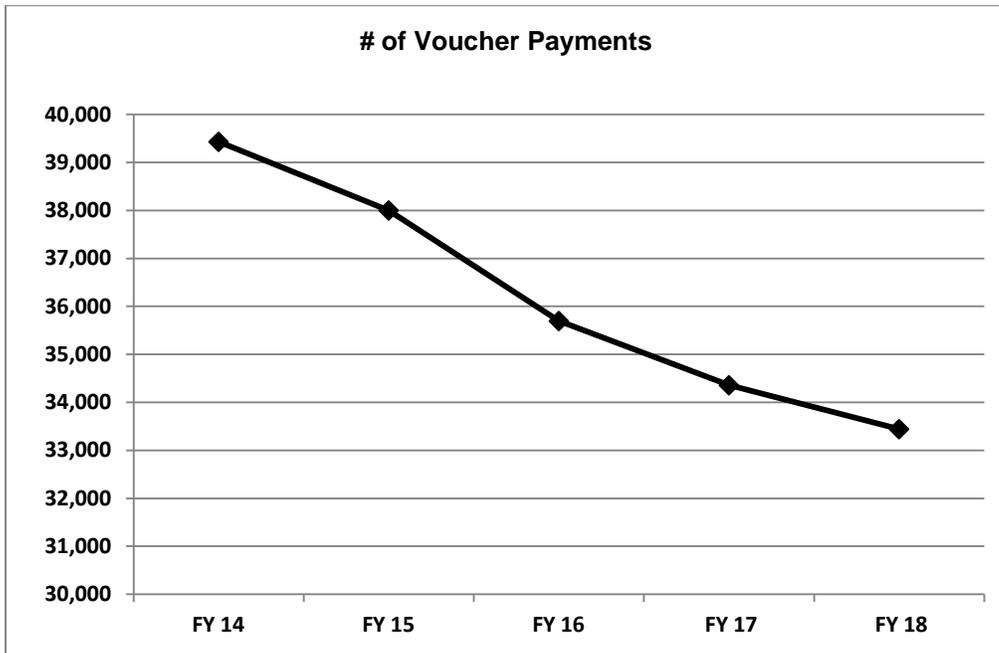
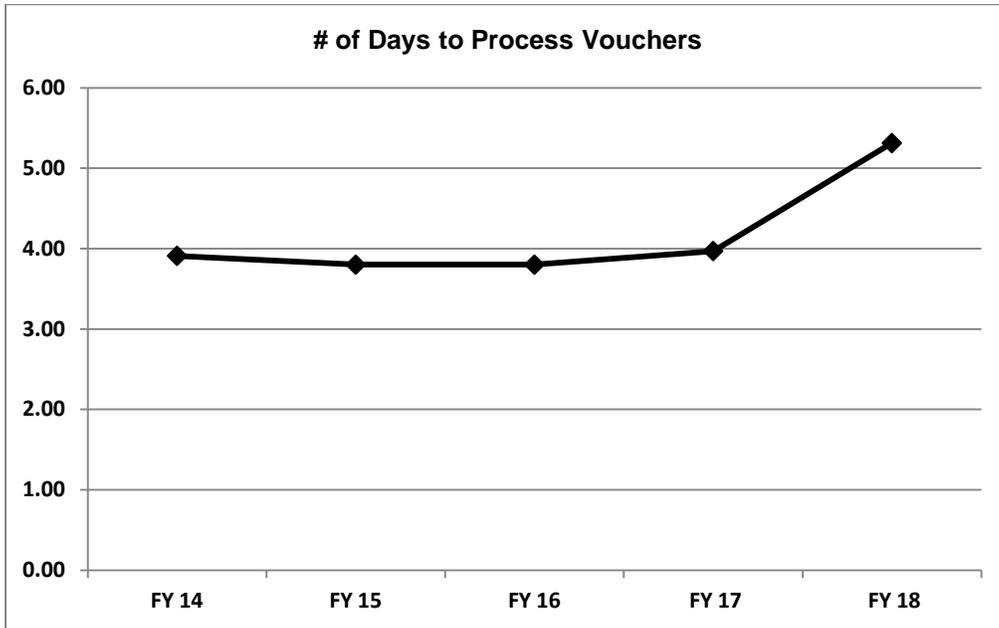
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

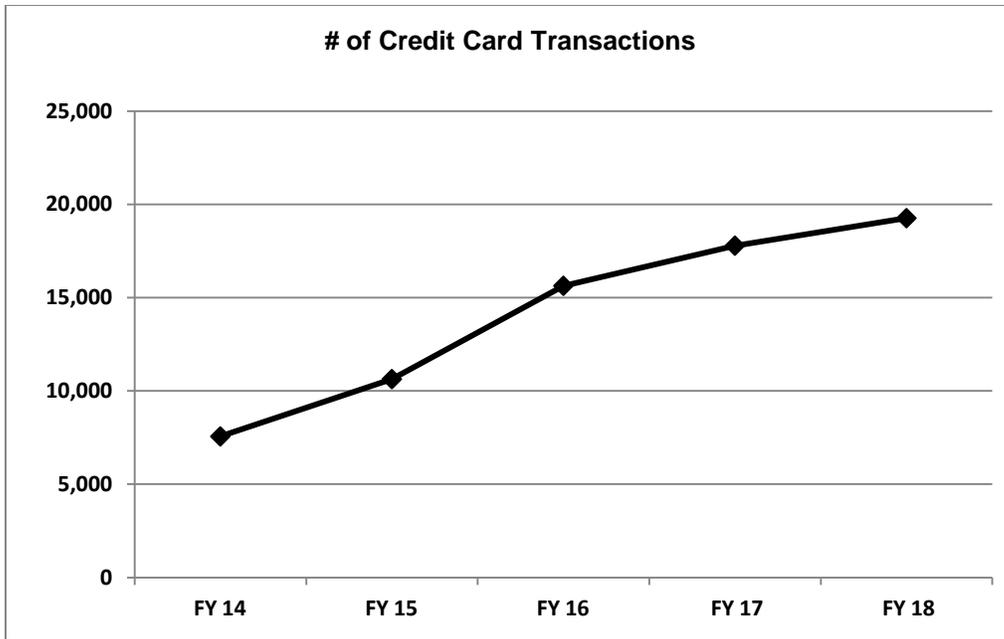
This program is located in the Department’s Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

**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 voucher payments are processed within four working days and receipts are processed within 10 working days).

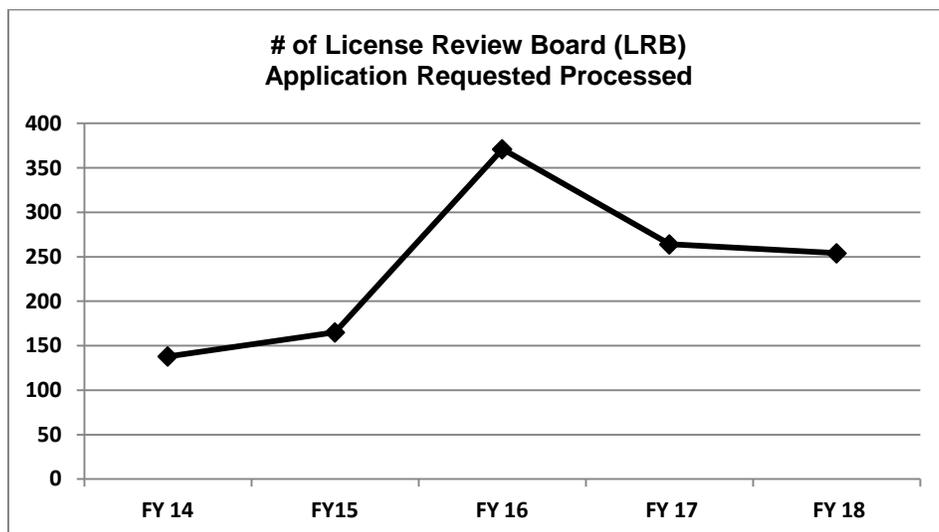


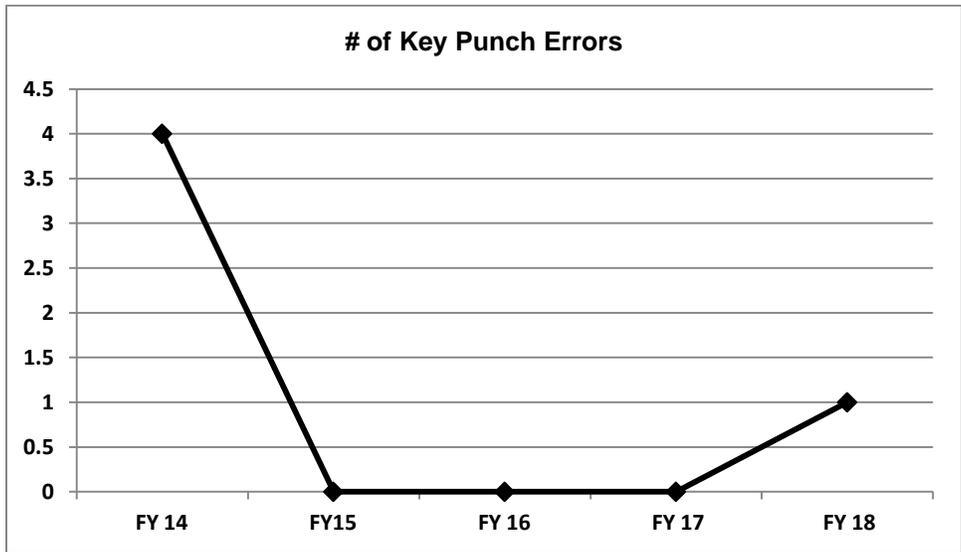


**Story behind the performance:**

With the increased use of the State Visa Card by Department personnel, the number of voucher payment transactions in FY18 declined to approximately 33,500 with an average processing turn-around time of 5.1 days. This slight increase as compared to the past several years is due to the State Auditor's Office mandating that all state agencies conduct vendor management in the WOLFS state accounting system. This change requires five individuals to spend two hours per day on vendor management which includes providing vendor forms to new vendors for the establishment of a vendor number and 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 2017 calendar year license application period, 445,604 applications were submitted for limited quota drawings and preference point purchases. All applications are required to be submitted online except landowner applications. During this 2017 application period, 442,281 applications were submitted online with 3,323 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 2017 application period, the Department had one key punch error. The Department had to issue refunds for five 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Terrestrial Habitat Management	11.5	\$1,456,654
Aquatic Habitat Management	9.7	1,605,068
Fish Passage	2.0	470,696
Water Management	2.4	266,540
Wyoming Landscape Cons. Initiative	1.0	112,504
TOTAL		\$3,911,462

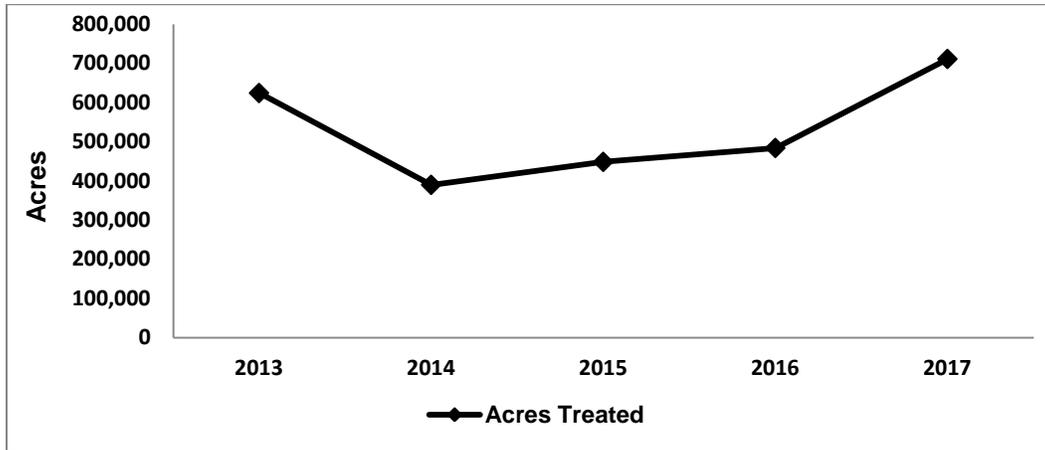
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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.

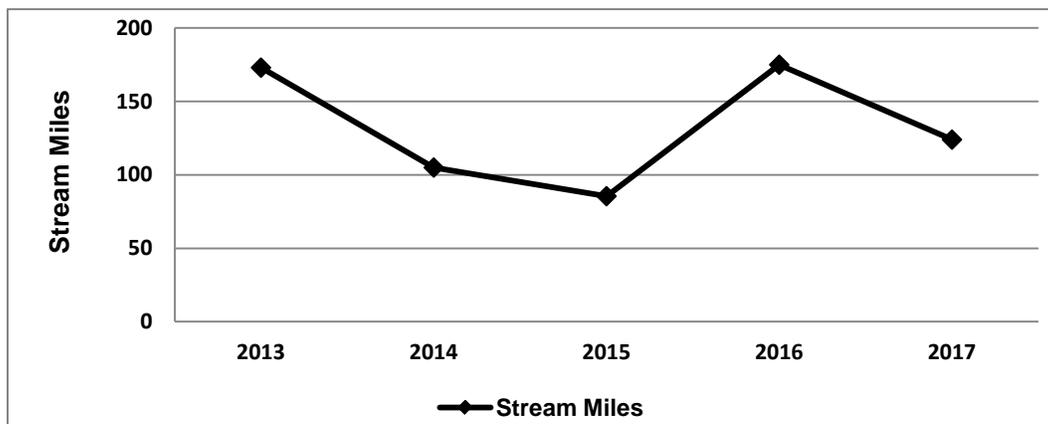
**Performance Measure #1:** Acres of habitat conserved, enhanced and restored annually. Personnel in this program strive to conserve, enhance, and restore 500,000 acres of habitat annually.



**Story behind the performance:**

In calendar year 2017, habitat work directly impacted 711,614 acres. This total includes habitat treatments on public and private lands including Department managed properties. Detailed activity summaries can be found in the 2017 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.



**Story behind the performance:**

In calendar year 2017, aquatic habitat work benefitted 124 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 2017 Strategic Habitat Plan Annual Report.

**Major Accomplishments**

- 5 stream restorations or bank enhancements on 1.4 stream miles
- 36,824 trees or shrubs planted
- 42 stream structures installed
- 5,607 acres of mowing, chopping, or Lawson aeration
- 40,080 acres of herbicide weed treatments
- 92.9 stream miles made accessible via fish passage
- 1,967 acres of wetland development
- 5,448 acres of Department managed lands irrigated

The Department's 2017 Annual Report on Strategic Habitat Plan (SHP) accomplishments provides details on many of these habitat projects.

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<sup>1</sup> For measurement and tracking consistency, acres and miles are calculated annually during compilation of the annual SHP report. All biologists contribute project information related to accomplishments that can include assessments, implementation, and monitoring. Habitat program managers compile and report the summary data in the SHP report.

**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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat and Access	32.5	\$ 4,201,612

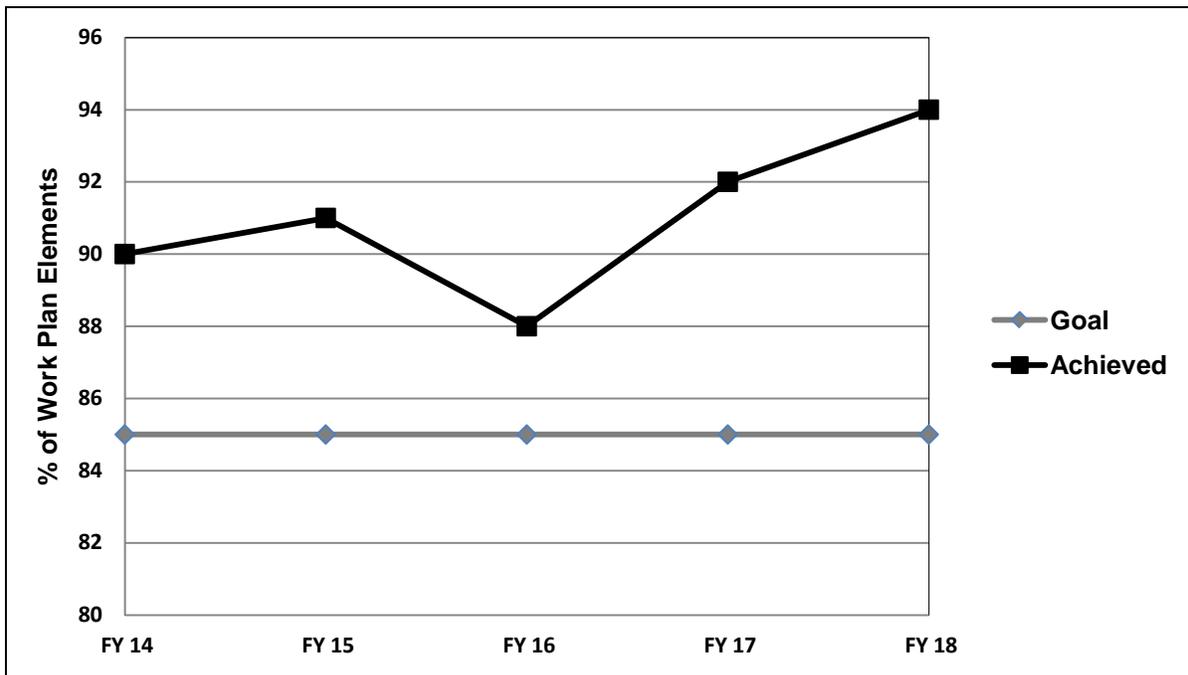
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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:**

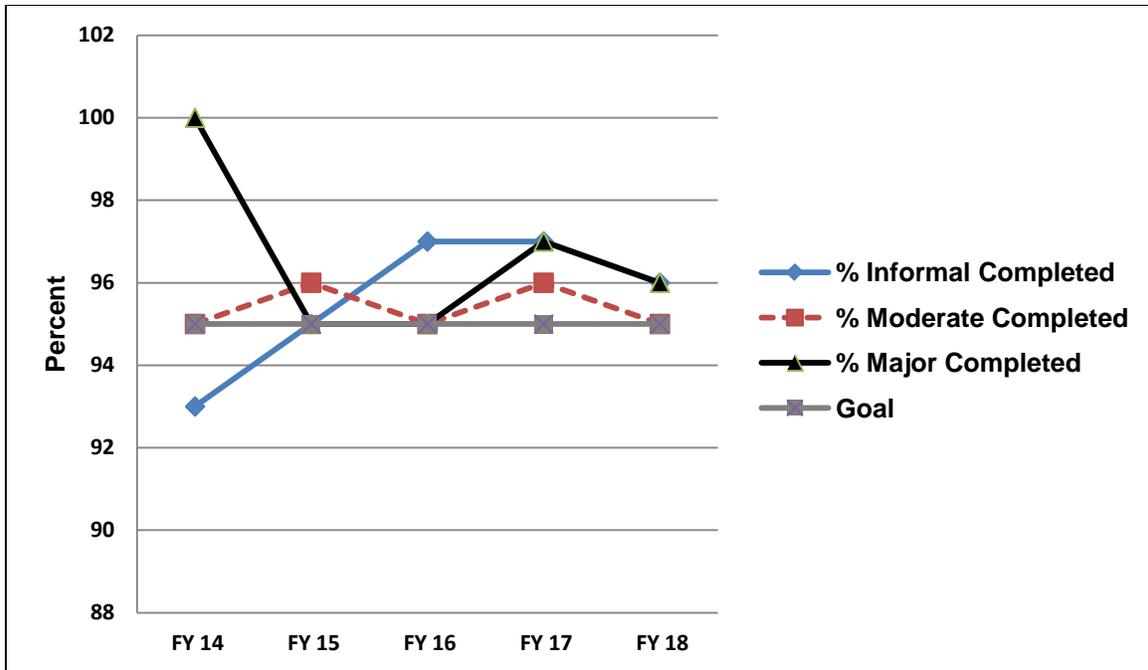
The program is responsible for administering and managing 39 unique WHMAs and 200 Public Access Areas (PAAs). WHMAs and PAAs are managed according to a Managed Land and Access Summary (MLAS) developed for each individual area. Work plans are developed prior to each fiscal year in an attempt to address 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 (91 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 18, 94 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 18, 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 18 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 two open irrigation systems to two center pivots; maintaining over 600 miles of fence; irrigating 4,700 acres;

monitoring grazing on 44,000 acres; developing two new PAAs; developing springs and wells; rebuilding fences; haying 1000 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 200 PAAs, 22 elk feedgrounds, and 39 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.

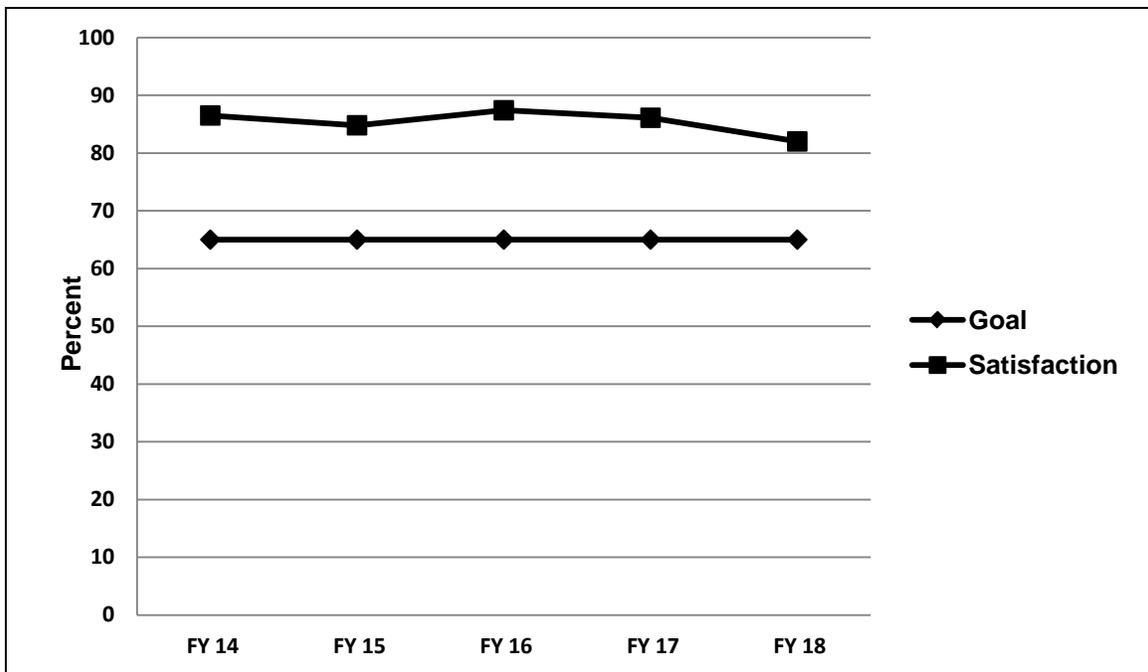
The percent of project requests completed has been excellent within the constraints of employee availability and budget capacity. The percent of project requests completed has been consistent between FY 14 and FY 18 with an average of 96 percent of informal, 95 percent of moderate, and 97 percent of major project requests being completed. Results for 2018 varied minimally

from this average with 96 percent of informal, 95 percent of moderate, and 96 percent of major project requests being completed within the year. However, there are two 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, has permitting issues or is changed by the requestor, it affects the percent of project requests completed.

**What has been accomplished:**

In FY 18, 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 2,500 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 a 6,000 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 85 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 82 percent in FY 18. There was a dip in FY 18 due to flooding in that many access areas required major work to repair the flood damages. Another concern is that neither the general public nor some 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 18, 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 Wyoming's Greater Sage-grouse Executive Order 2015-4.

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

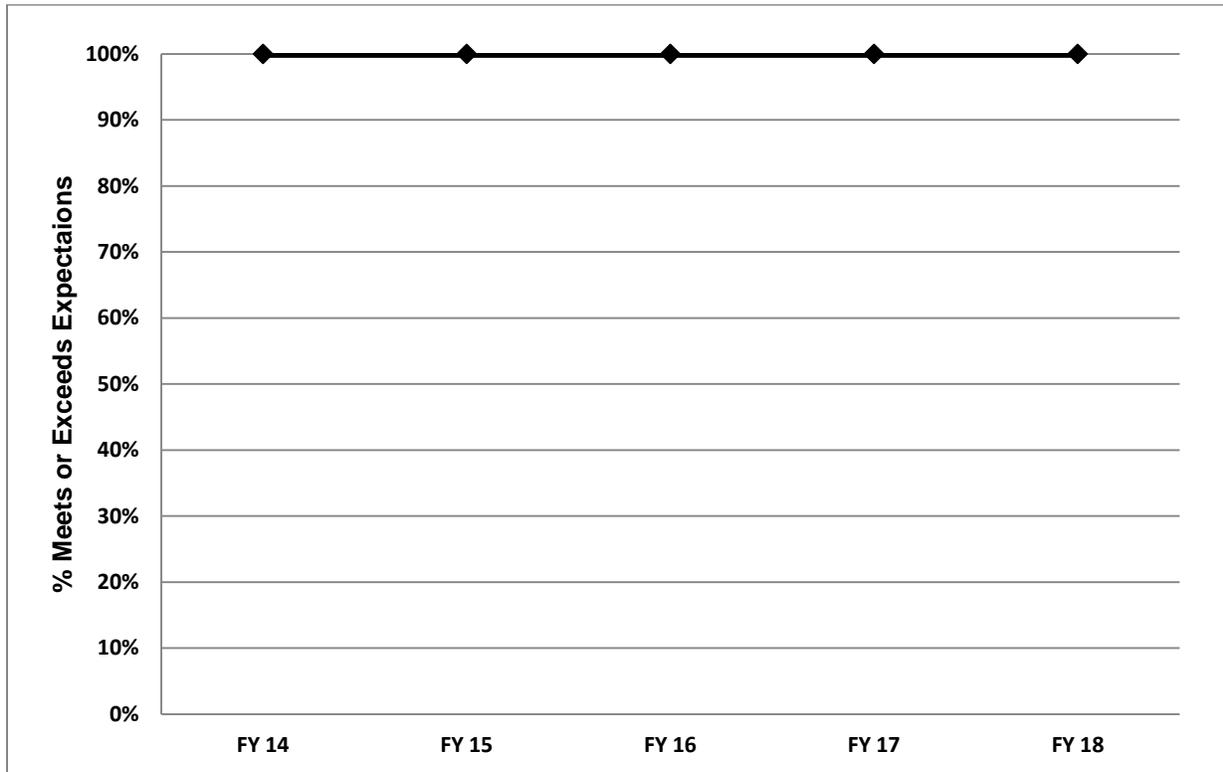
	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat Protection Program	7.0	\$ 737,577

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 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 Greater Sage-grouse Executive Order** which includes review of all federal and state permitted projects within Greater 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 six 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Information	9.0	\$ 940,409
Publications	1.3	596,555
TOTAL	10.3	\$ 1,536,964

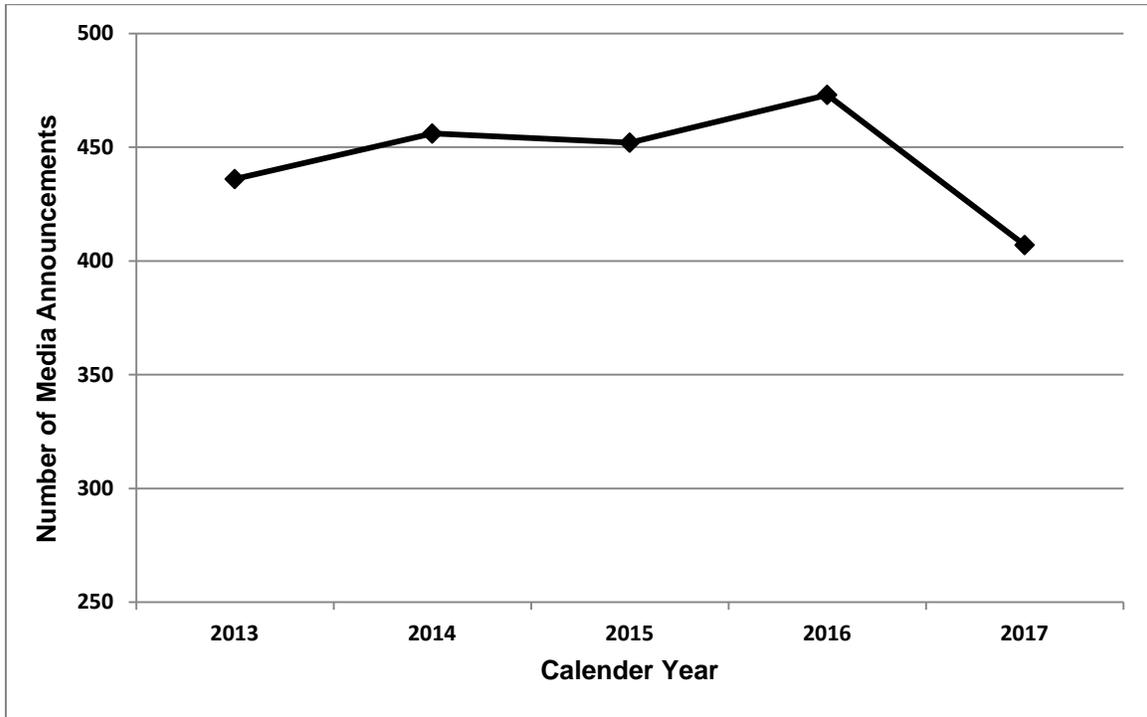
*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 television 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 is used by approximately 17 radio stations around the state, 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 television 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 television stations, online news publications, individuals who sign up for news updates, and 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. Packets 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 2017, the number of news, radio interviews, and public service announcements distributed was 407. The number of news releases distributed fluctuates depending upon the issues and challenges the Department faces each year. The Department has moved to placing less emphasis on the sheer volume of releases and more effort is being directed towards strategic opportunities and consolidation.

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 2018, approximately 35,000 people “Like” and follow the Department’s Facebook page. The Department’s YouTube channel had 2,800 dedicated followers with thousands of views of Department videos. As of September 2018, approximately 3,980 people “Follow” the Department’s Twitter page. The Department also has an Instagram page with 5,980 followers. GovDelivery, the Department’s email outreach software, has more than 560,000 subscriptions as of December 2017. Total impressions delivered via GovDelivery in 2017 was over 5 million. The engagement rate is 61.7%, which is a high number for the industry.

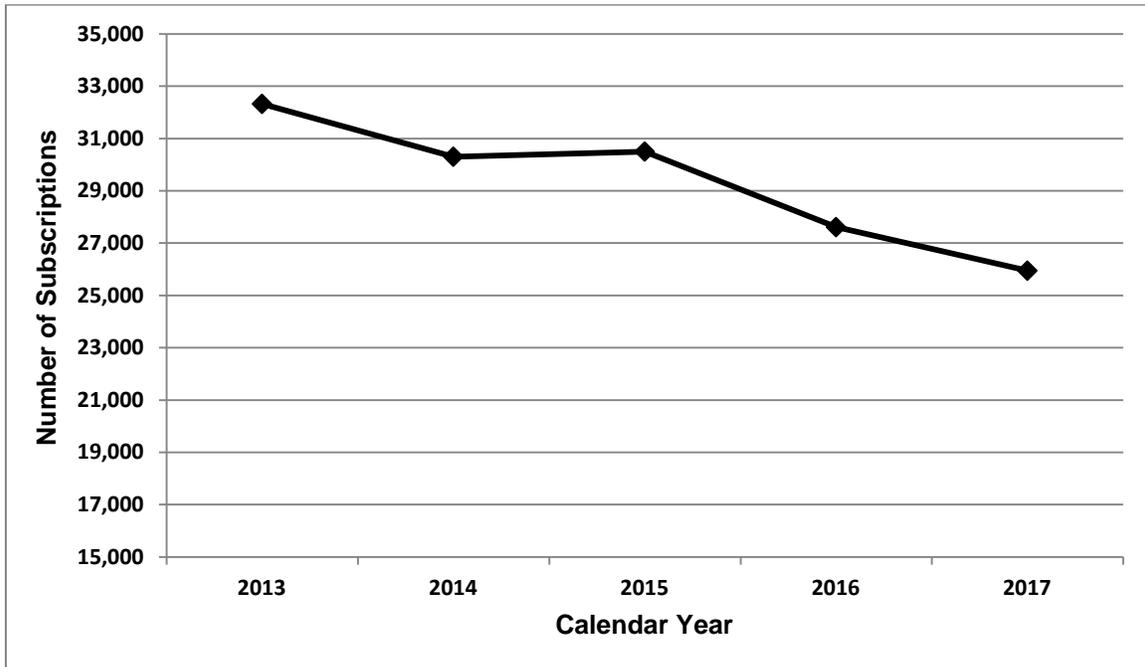
Digital and social media impact and following expands on a daily basis and is expected to continue to grow with new opportunities and challenges.

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 300,000 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 magazines printed in 2017 was 25,946. *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 magazines printed of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine over the last five years is 29,337. Using the magazine industry’s multiplier of four readers for every subscription, it is estimated *Wyoming Wildlife* reaches about 117,348 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 assistant editor in 2018. The magazine

also implemented a design update and is bringing in new content to align with human dimensions data collected from a subscriber survey.

The Facebook page for *Wyoming Wildlife* has also grown in popularity. It now has 5,800 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Information Technology	21	\$ 3,414,284

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

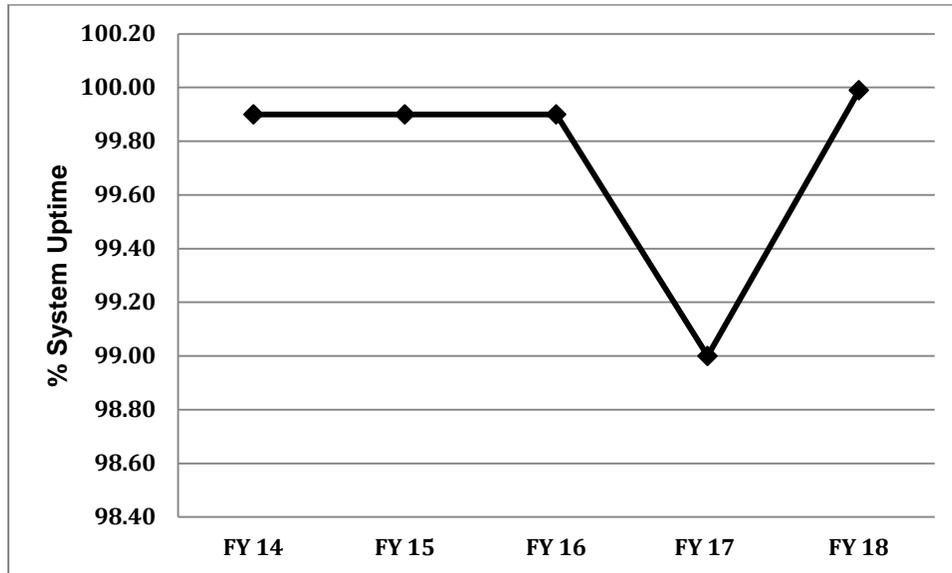
The current program is made up of administration and three sections: Application Development, IT Operations, and GIS.

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 18 physical servers; 88 virtual servers; 9 firewalls; 35 switches; 498 personal computers located in the headquarters office, eight regional offices, ten fish hatcheries/rearing stations, two bird farms, and remote locations throughout Wyoming, as well as 357 Internet Point-of-Sale (IPOS) system touch screen devices located at the Cheyenne Headquarters, regional offices, and license selling agents throughout Wyoming; developing and supporting over 81 mission critical applications; and maintaining approximately 125 layers of authoritative GIS data, 245 Species of Greatest Conservation Need distribution models and ranges, additional derived data layers, and a total of 23 GIS mapping applications such as the black bear bait location reservation application, the Wyoming Hunt Planner and mobile applications such as the Wildlife Observation System (WOS) Data Collector and Rapid Habitat Assessment (RHA) 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 18 was 99.99 percent, up from 99.0 percent in FY 17, well above the 95 percent goal.

One of the critical challenges the IT/GIS program continues to face is a high volume of network traffic, at specific times during the year. These times are concentrated around important licensing functions, including application deadlines, leftover license release for sale, and the draw results releases. During the past year, the IT Branch implemented new processes for load testing (incremental measuring of the network capacity in support of critical business applications and organizational web sites). This load tolerance testing was conducted from an external cloud based environment and helped to identify and mitigate system “bottle necks”, application deficiencies, and web design issues that directly affected the June draw release results. The draw results directly impacted over 110,000 unique sportspeople. Due to these changes, the system was able to meet the ever-increasing demand of technology related resources, better serving sportsmen across the world. Going forward the load testing will be ongoing and help guide other changes to our environments.

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 2018 (FY 18) budget:

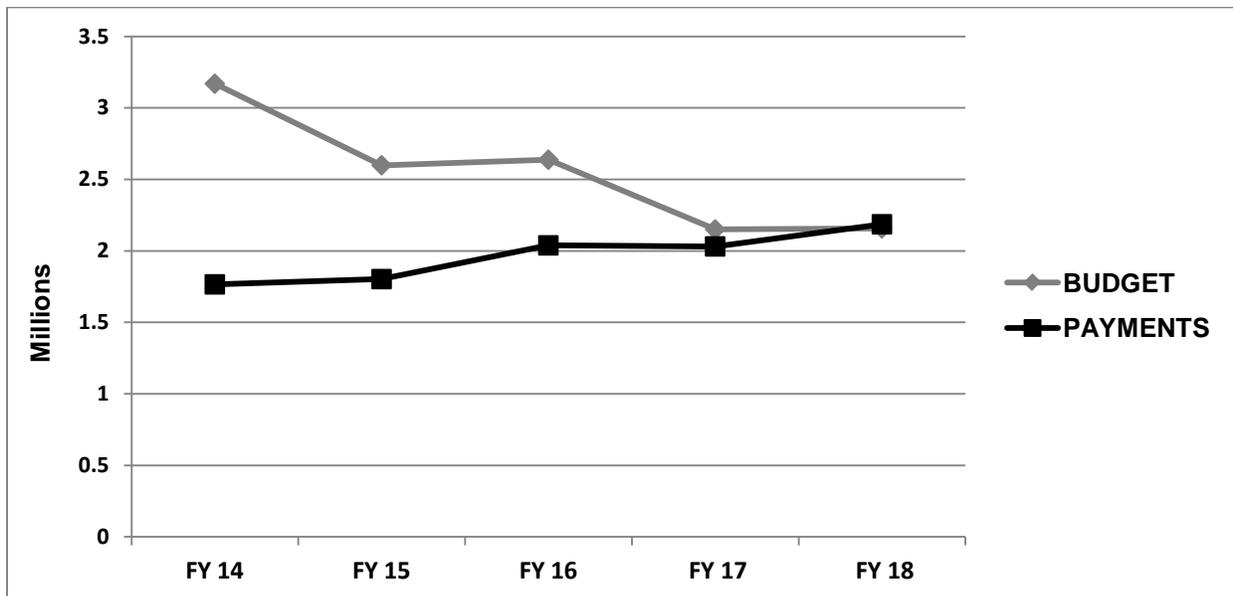
<u>Sub-Program</u>	<u>#FTE's</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Damage Claims	0	\$ 950,000
Landowner Coupons	0	550,000
Retiree Assessment	0	42,000
State Agency Law Enforcement System (SALEC)		185,000
Cost Allocation	0	<u>430,000</u>
TOTAL		\$ 2,157,000

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



**Story behind the performance:**

Between 2004 and 2007, general fund costs escalated 16 percent, from \$1.5 million in FY 04 to \$1.73 million in FY 07. However, in 2008, the State Budget Office, with the approval of the Governor's Office, discontinued the charge for cost allocation, which had increased to over \$600,000 annually by FY 06. The Budget Office began assessing this charge to the Department in the mid 1990s. Normally, these costs are charged to allow agencies to capture additional federal dollars, whereas the majority of federal funds the Department receives are formula based, where additional costs do not result in additional funds being awarded to the Department. This moratorium was lifted in FY 14 and has since been budgeted and paid for from the Commission's budget. For FY 14 through FY 18, only the Enterprise Technology Service's portions of the assessments have been required for reimbursement.

In FY 18, the damage claim budget was \$950,000, which is \$450,000 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 18 budget:

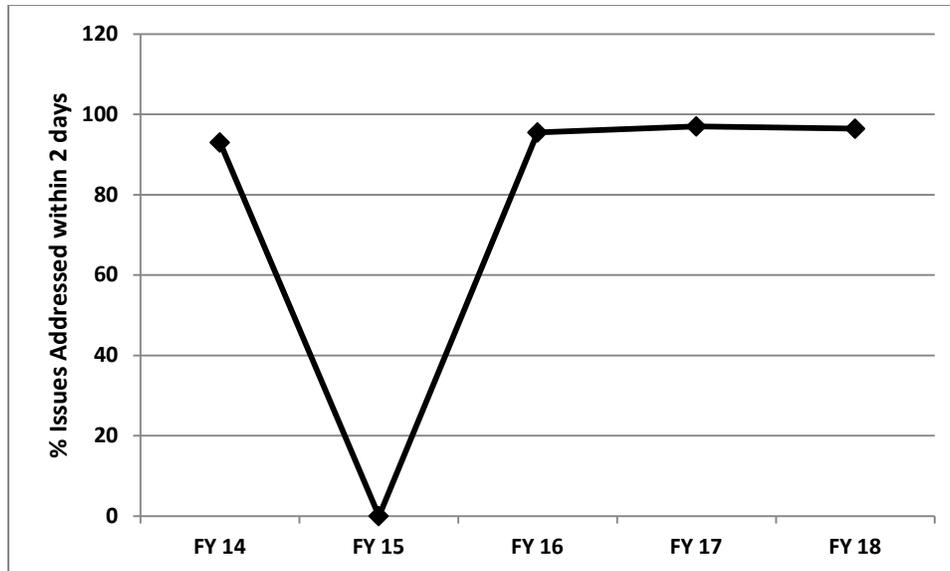
<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Personnel Management	3	\$445,530

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).



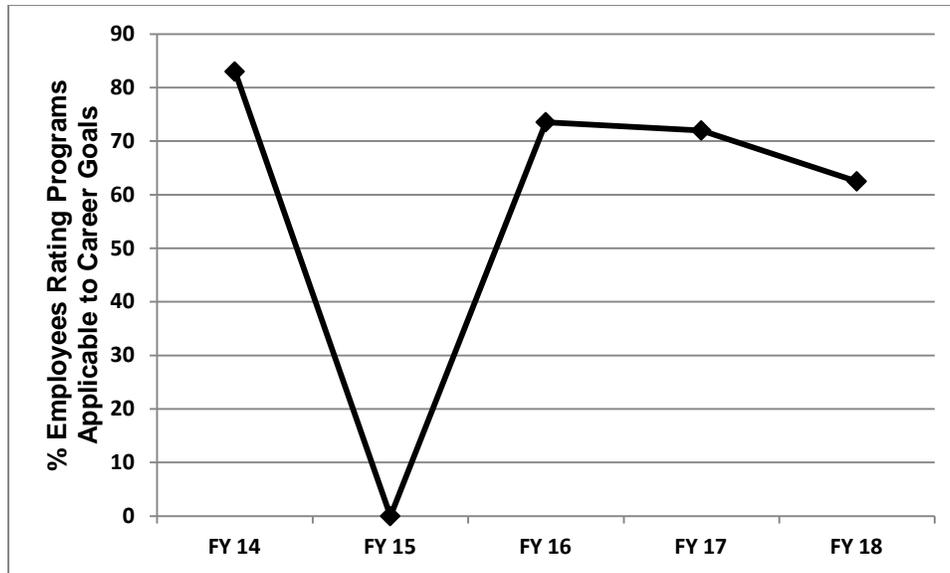
**Story behind the performance:**

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, 95.5 percent of questions and requests were addressed within two days if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 18, 96.3 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, 72.8 percent of employees felt that programs were applicable to their career goals if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 18, 62.5 percent of employees felt programs were applicable to their career goals. Recent decreases in employee satisfaction rates are likely related to the suspension of the Leadership Development Program.

**What has been accomplished:**

During FY 18, the Department worked to revamp its Leadership Development Program with an implementation date for the revised program set for FY 19. In addition to Leadership Development classes 1 and 2 previously offered, Leadership Development classes 3 and 4 will be added for supervisors to teach high-level leadership skills. The Department continues to successfully execute Wyoming’s state Performance Management Program to enhance employee performance and assist supervisors with developing employee work goals. The Department

continues to fund and promote the use of the Employee Assistance Program. Now in its fifth year, the program provides resources for the employees to address issues such as mental health, personal development, parenting, relationships, stress, substance abuse, nutrition and much more.

**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 budgets:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Property Rights (Lands) Admin. **	3.0	\$ 833,713
Access Yes	6.3	1,686,157 ***
TOTAL	9.3	\$ 2,519,870

\* *Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 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.*

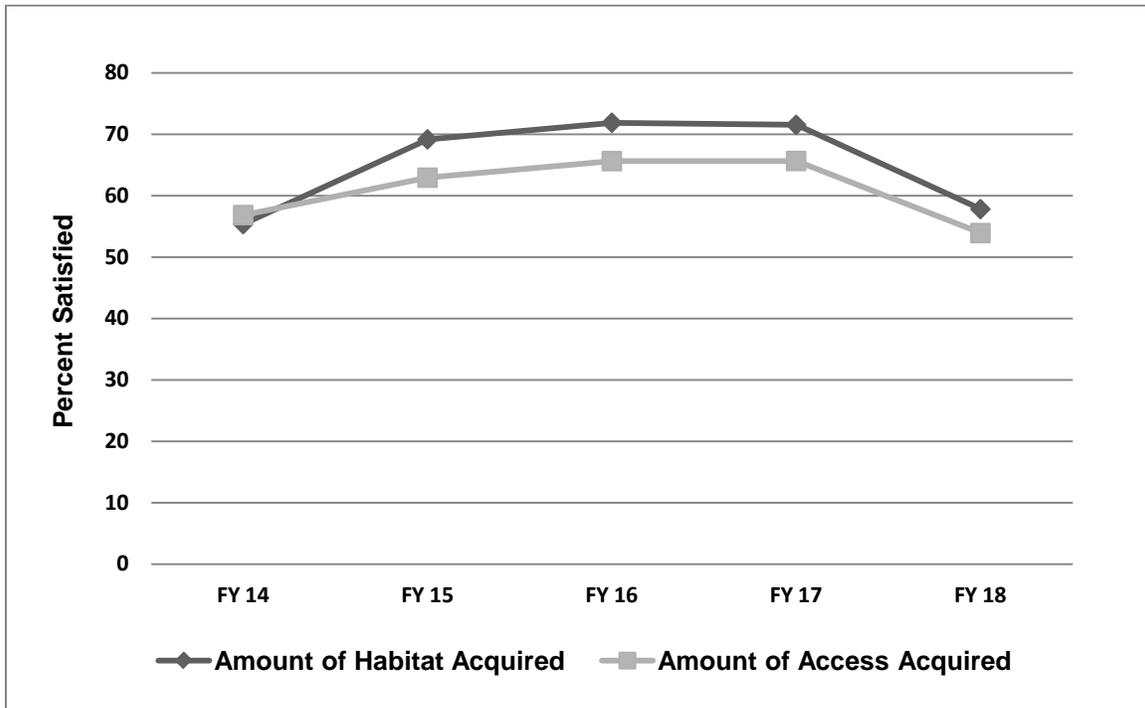
\*\*\* *Includes personnel, operations, and easement payments.*

The Property Rights Administration Program is located in Services Division and is based out of the Department's Headquarters in Cheyenne. The Access Yes Program is located in the Wildlife Division and is based out of five Regional Offices.

**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.

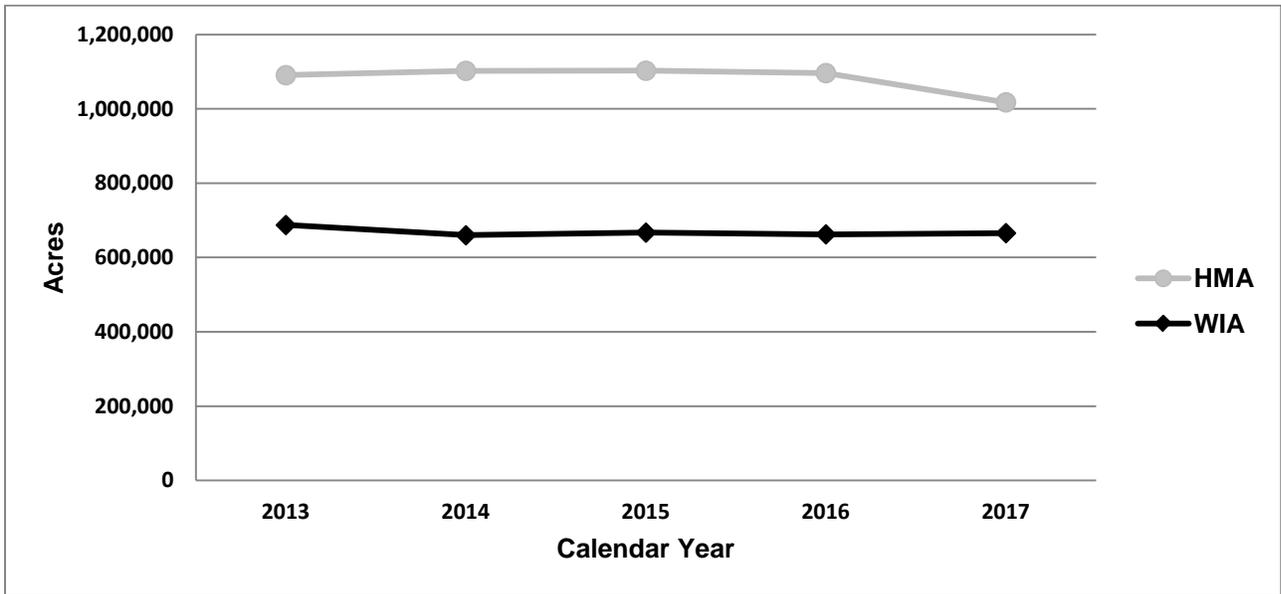
With respects to the kind and amount of habitat acquired, 57.81 percent of the sampled public was satisfied. With respect to the amount of access acquired, 53.91 percent of the public was satisfied. To determine the familiarity of the general public with the Property Rights (Lands) Management Program and the importance of acquiring habitat and access, additional questions were surveyed with the following results:

- 40.06 percent of those surveyed were familiar with the Property Rights (Lands) Management Program;
- 97.52 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire and conserve wildlife habitat in Wyoming; and

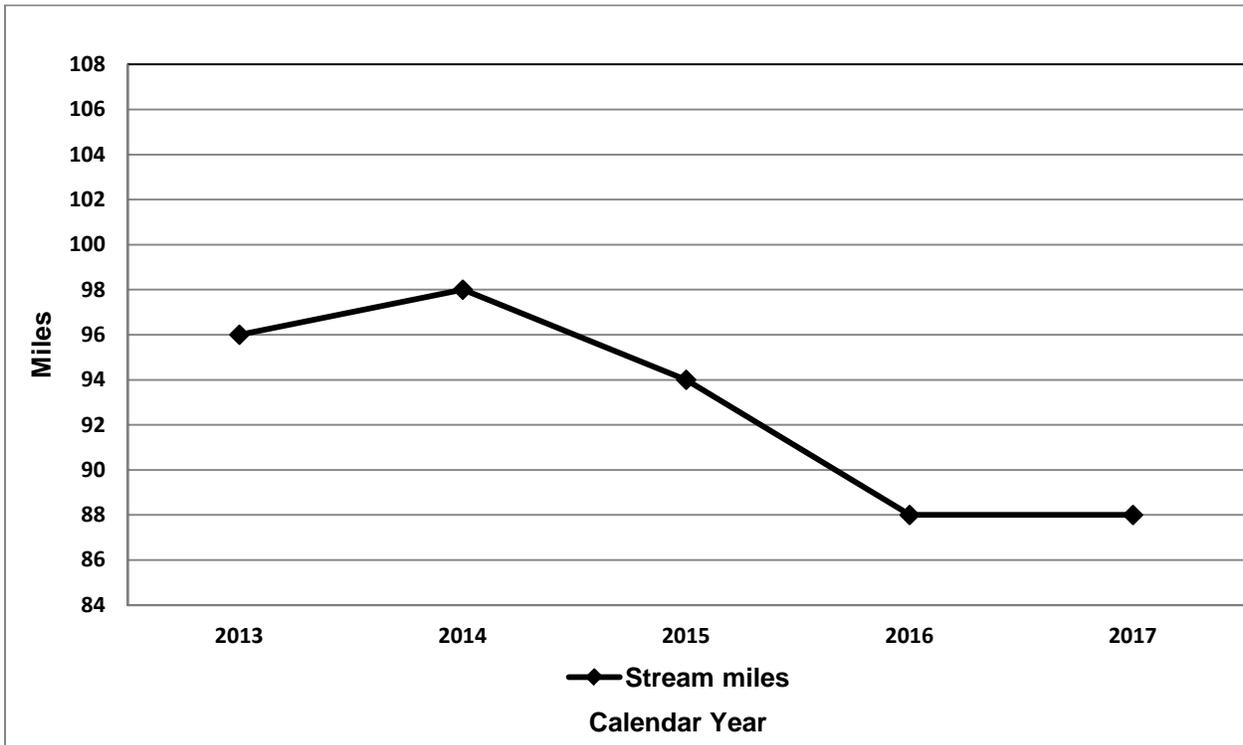
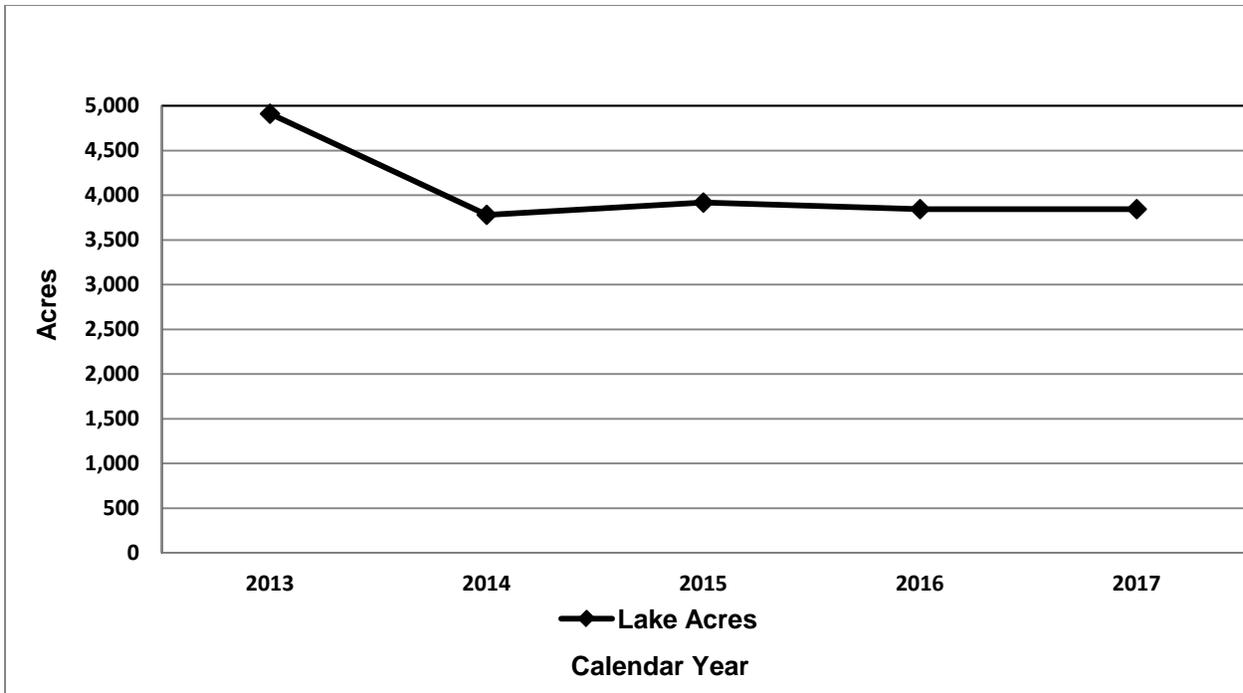
- 96.28 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire public access for recreation in Wyoming.

**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.

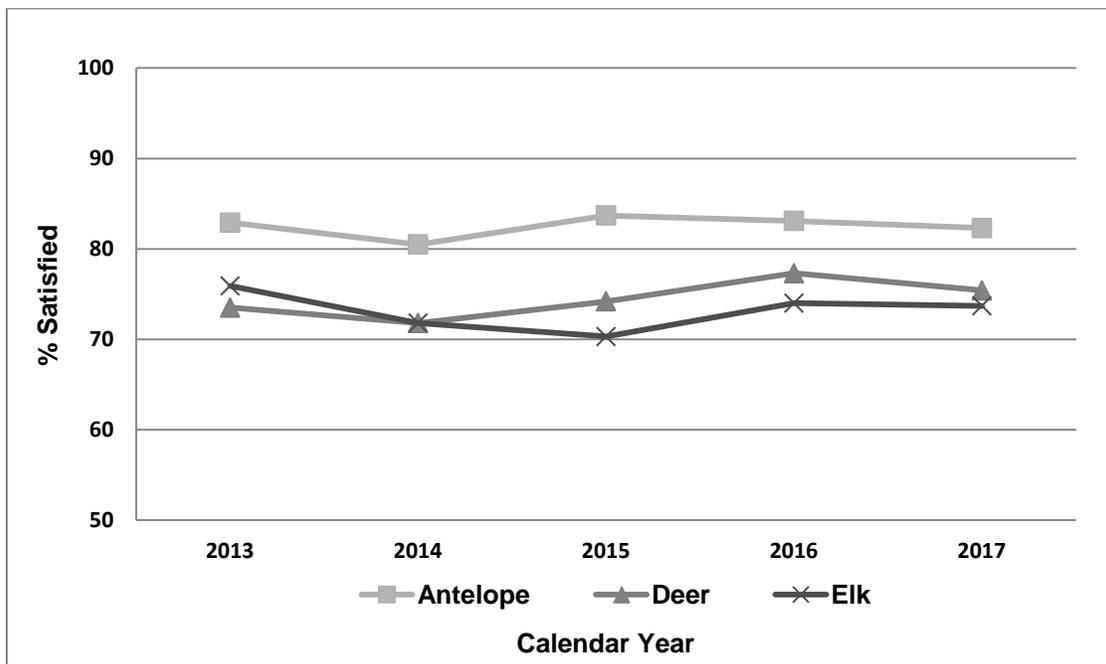
In addition to providing recreational access, Access Yes assists with increasing cooperation between the Department, landowners, and the public for population management of wildlife and decreasing agriculture damage through harvest.

**What has been accomplished:**

The enrollment in each program for 2017 was: Hunter Management Areas (HMA), 1,017,626 acres; Walk-in Areas (WIA) hunting, 665,703 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 3,845 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 88 miles. The average enrollment in each program from 2013-2017 was: HMAs, 1,081,910 acres; WIAs hunting, 668,532 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 4,060 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 92.8 miles. Enrollment in either WIAs or HMAs is dependent upon the amount of available Access Yes funds. During 2017, easement payments were lower than the Access Yes donations collected during fiscal year 2017 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 2.66 million acres of hunting access for the fall 2017/spring 2018 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 11 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 2017 harvest survey data satisfaction rates were: antelope, 82.0 percent (82.4 percent average since 2013); deer, 75.0 percent (74.4 percent average since 2013); and elk, 74.0 percent (73.2 percent average since 2013). 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 decreased slightly in 2017, while elk satisfaction remained constant from 2016.

The 2017 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, 24.2 percent of antelope hunters, 16.3 percent of deer hunters, and 15.8 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Information and Education	7.0	\$692,050

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

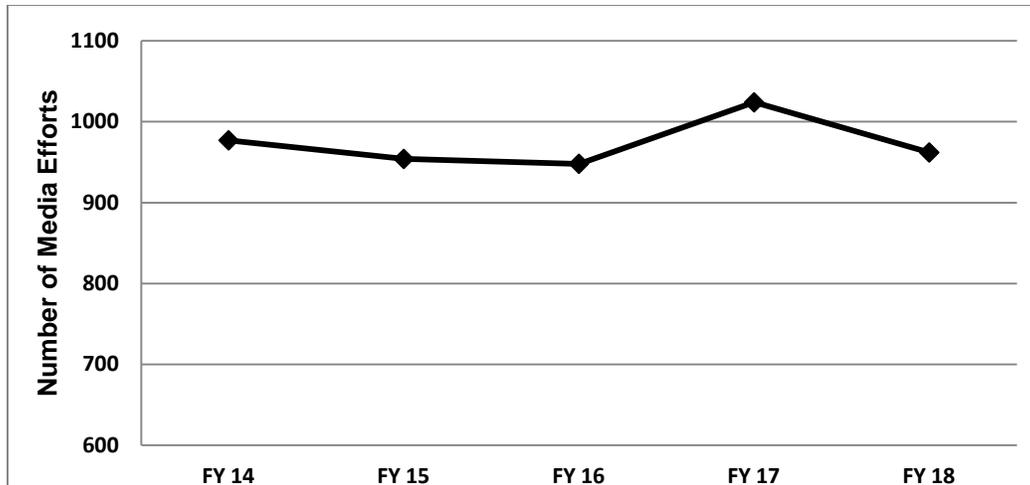
This program is located statewide. One Regional Information and Education Specialist (RIES) is assigned to seven of the eight Department regional offices. The Jackson position is assigned to both the Jackson and Pinedale regional offices. The RIES work unit was reorganized in July 2013 and incorporated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

**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.

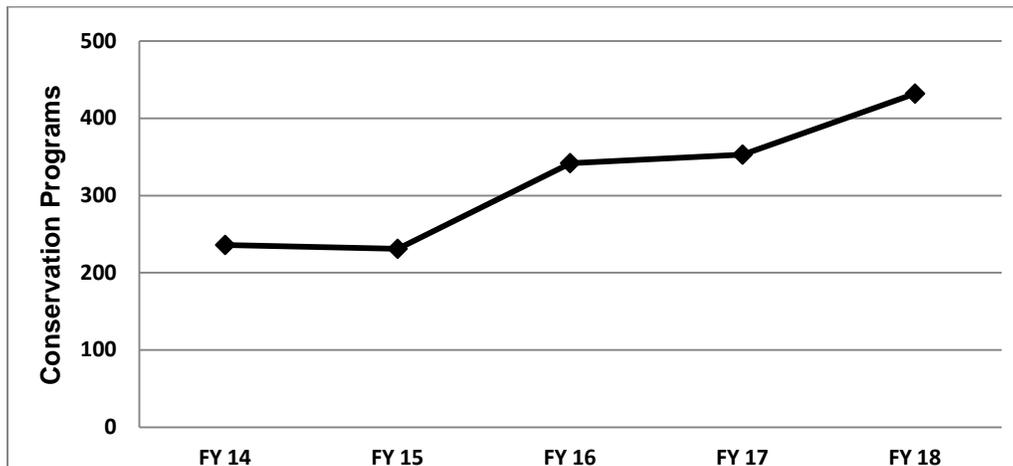
Utilizing formal work plans and RIES assignments, additional effort is put into the development of media outreach using common tools such as news releases, meeting announcements, public service announcements, interviews, and on-site media field trips. This effort is primarily focused on identified Department, 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 these relationships, which helps make the Department more accessible to the public and creates general awareness of the Department’s role in wildlife and fisheries management. The following activities highlight just a few of their accomplishments:

The RIES coordinated with several agencies from law enforcement, emergency management, and tourism to host visitors from across the world for the 2017 total solar eclipse. The focus was both local and statewide and involved numerous education events, planning meetings, and media events.

**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, Project WET and Project Learning Tree workshops; Staying Safe in Bear, Lion, and Wolf Country seminars; youth fishing days, 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 some of their accomplishments:

Planning began for the At Lander Arts and Science (ATLAS) project. ATLAS is a program that combines arts and sciences together and present them to the community and local schools in a way that makes them a hands-on learning experience for all.

The 2018 Wyoming Outdoor Weekend was held in Lander and showed an increase in attendance from past years and continues to be a program that is well-received by the community.

RIES personnel coordinated with Cheyenne's Central High School's AP Environmental Science Class and Laramie Region Wildlife Biologists to implement a mule deer collaring project to teach students about habitat use and migration. Students are currently tracking two collared mule deer and will give a public presentation on their project later this winter. RIES personnel organized both a media field trip and high school biology class field trip to a bighorn sheep capture in December 2018. The RIES and regional personnel participated in the Jackson Hole WILD Science Fair. Radio-telemetry techniques were taught to approximately 100 Wyoming elementary students and more than 100 adults.

Personnel partnered with Medicine Lodge State Archeological Site to host the annual Medicine Lodge Kids Outdoor Day – consisting of outdoor activities for kids ages 8-17. This event attracts approximately 75 kids and their families from across the Bighorn Basin. Participants have the opportunity to participate in activities including macro invertebrate identification, .22 rifle marksmanship, fly casting, and lure building.

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. RIES personnel continue to promote and inform the public on the Wyoming Mule Deer Initiatives located in every Department region.

The Coffee with Game and Fish Program continued this year. Informal gatherings are held at restaurant and outdoor retail shops in the Sheridan region with several Game and Fish personnel in attendance. The gatherings are usually small, with members of the public having time to ask questions and have an unhurried conversation with employees about topics of interest.

Sheridan's annual Third Thursday event attracted hundreds of Sheridan residents and tourists. The event features dozens of food vendors, nonprofits, and agency booths as well as local agricultural producers (who sell at the Farmer's Market which is held in conjunction with the event). RIES and regional personnel operate a booth, enabling them to contact hundreds of people through this venue.

Journalists and photographers in the Jackson region continue to participate in field activities with the RIES and Department personnel, furthering the positive working relationships developed through the years.

RIES play a significant role in the regional webpages which have become very popular with both media outlets and the general public. The webpages are a great tool for letting the public and partner organizations know what regional personnel are doing and, more importantly, why they are doing it.

The Commission held open house meetings throughout the state, giving the public the chance to personally meet and get to know the Commissioners. High public attendance was driven in part by the opportunity to win free lifetime youth bird/small game/fishing licenses and conservation stamps. The RIES spent time assisting the Commission in coordinating and planning the open houses.

**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 18 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration	17.7	\$ 2,364,012**
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists	28.3	\$ 3,905,881
Regional Game Wardens	52.0	\$ 7,341,354
TOTAL	98.0	\$ 13,611,247

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 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.*

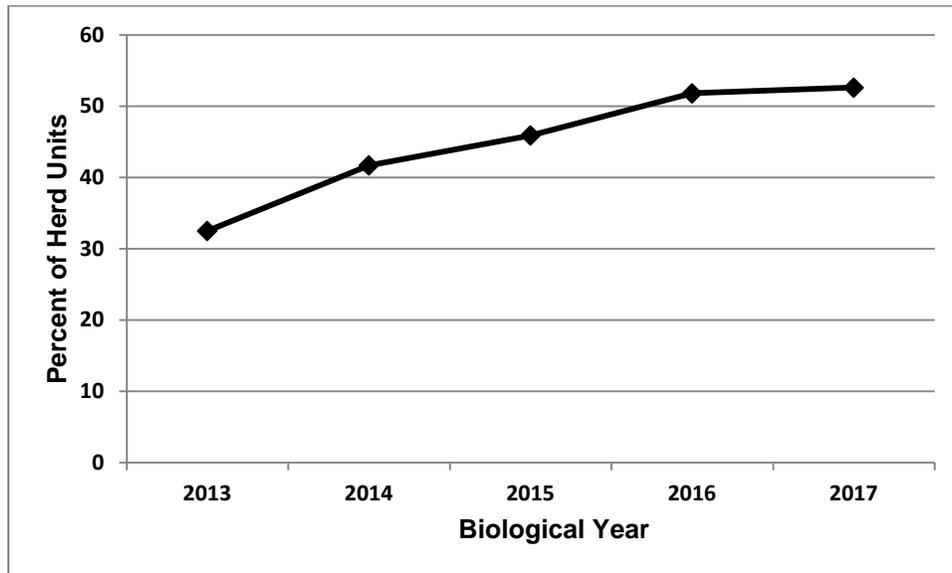
The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is located statewide.

**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 18, 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  $\pm 10$  percent to  $\pm 20$  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 (BY) 17 covers the period June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018.



**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 and decrease adult and juvenile survival. For example, 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. The Department manages some herds below objective in drought years to increase available habitat for wildlife. At best, it will likely take several consecutive years of normal to above normal precipitation before the remaining habitat can support objective levels and, at worst, some areas may never recover to their former productivity. The Department has continued efforts to implement landscape-scale habitat improvements that benefit big game and other wildlife. This effort is a long-term strategy designed to slow habitat loss by improving existing habitats in cooperation with partners such as the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC), private landowners, federal land management agencies, private conservation organizations, and many others.

**What has been accomplished:**

A total of 11 herds had objectives reviewed in BY 17. Of those, three herds had objective changes proposed and accepted, and eight were left unchanged. 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.

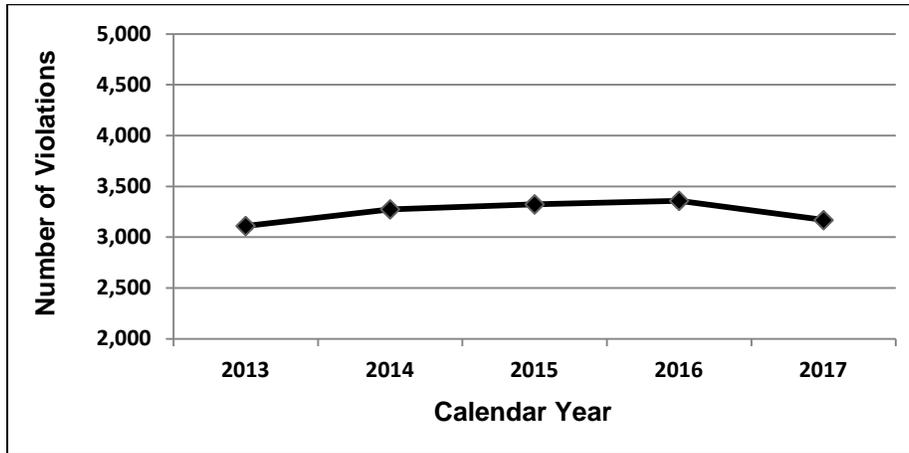
Of the total 140 herds tracked for this report (Table 1), five herds had incomplete data including two herds with no established objective. Of the 140 herds with complete data, 71 herds were at objective (for herds with a population or trend count objective, at objective means the estimate is +/- 20 percent of the objective number), 22 were above objective, and 42 were below objective.

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

<b>Population Objective</b>				
	At Objective	Below Objective	Above Objective	Incomplete Data
Bighorn Sheep	1	2	0	0
Elk	0	0	7	0
Moose	0	1	0	0
White-tailed Deer	1	0	0	2
Mule Deer	18	16	0	0
Pronghorn	22	4	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Trend Count Objective</b>				
Bighorn Sheep	2	0	0	1
Bison	1	0	0	0
Elk	12	2	5	2
Mountain Goat	1	0	1	0
Pronghorn	1	3	2	0
Moose	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Landowner/Hunter Satisfaction Objective</b>				
Pronghorn	3	3	NA	0
Elk	4	3	NA	0
Mule Deer	0	3	NA	0
White-tailed Deer	1	1	NA	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Limited Opportunity Objective</b>				
Moose	1	3	NA	0
Bighorn Sheep	3	1	NA	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>				
Bighorn Sheep	6	3	1	1
Elk	16	5	12	2
Bison	1	0	0	0
Mountain Goat	1	0	1	0
Moose	1	7	2	0
White-tailed Deer	2	1	0	2
Mule Deer	18	19	0	0
Pronghorn	26	7	7	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PERCENT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>16%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> There are 135 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.

In 2017, law enforcement personnel documented 4,403 violations as part of 3,169 LEIRs. This is 98 fewer violations than the number documented in 2016. The ten most common violations for 2017 in order of prevalence are hunting/fishing/trapping/commercial operations without a license/stamp (696); failure to provide proper safety equipment aboard watercraft (356); violations of aquatic invasive species regulations (336); trespass to hunt, fish, or trap (254); wanton destruction/waste of a game animal (182); violation of regulations/rules for Department/state lands (167); hunting after hours or in wrong/closed area (134); failure to tag/register a big/trophy game animal, wild turkey, or bobcat (164); take of wildlife from a public road or highway (128); and take of wrong sex of game animal (117). There were nine arrests for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

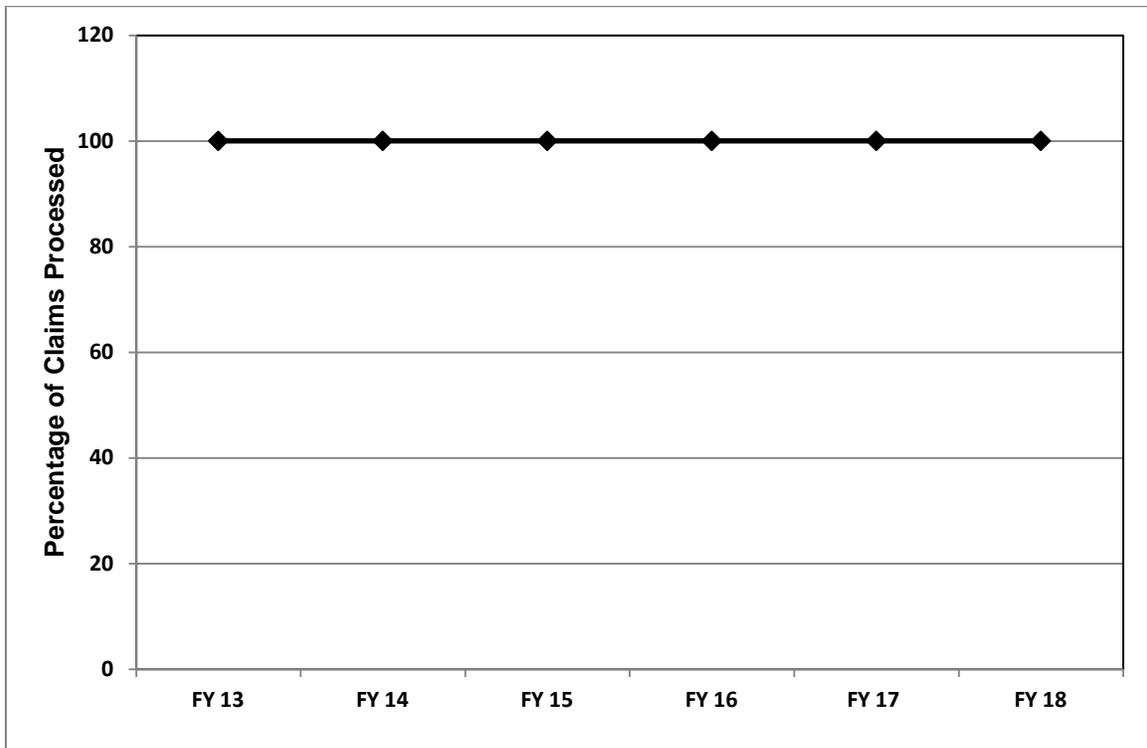
**What has been accomplished:**

- Multiple task forces were utilized in 2017 to address winter-range poaching of big game animals, boating safety issues on major reservoirs, chronic wildlife violations during hunting seasons, shed antler hunting in closed areas/Department-managed lands, and other enforcement issues.
- The Department implemented a task force made up of law enforcement and non-law enforcement personnel to address various potential issues on the weekend of August 18-21,

2017, when the path of totality for a solar eclipse crossed Wyoming. Department personnel addressed boating safety issues and staffed Department-managed lands to minimize potential problems caused by the large influx of people to the state. Overall, compliance with various wildlife laws and regulations by the visiting public was excellent and the Department received positive feedback for its efforts during the eclipse.

- Regional CMS coordinators continued their efforts to bring the CMS database as up-to-date as possible, with an emphasis on updating case information, closing out old cases, and following up on cases where the violator failed to take any action on a violation.

**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 18, the Department received 139 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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Law Enforcement Administration & Boating Safety	3.0	\$ 444,666**
Law Enforcement Investigative Unit	6.0	\$ 733,999
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 1,178,665

\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.

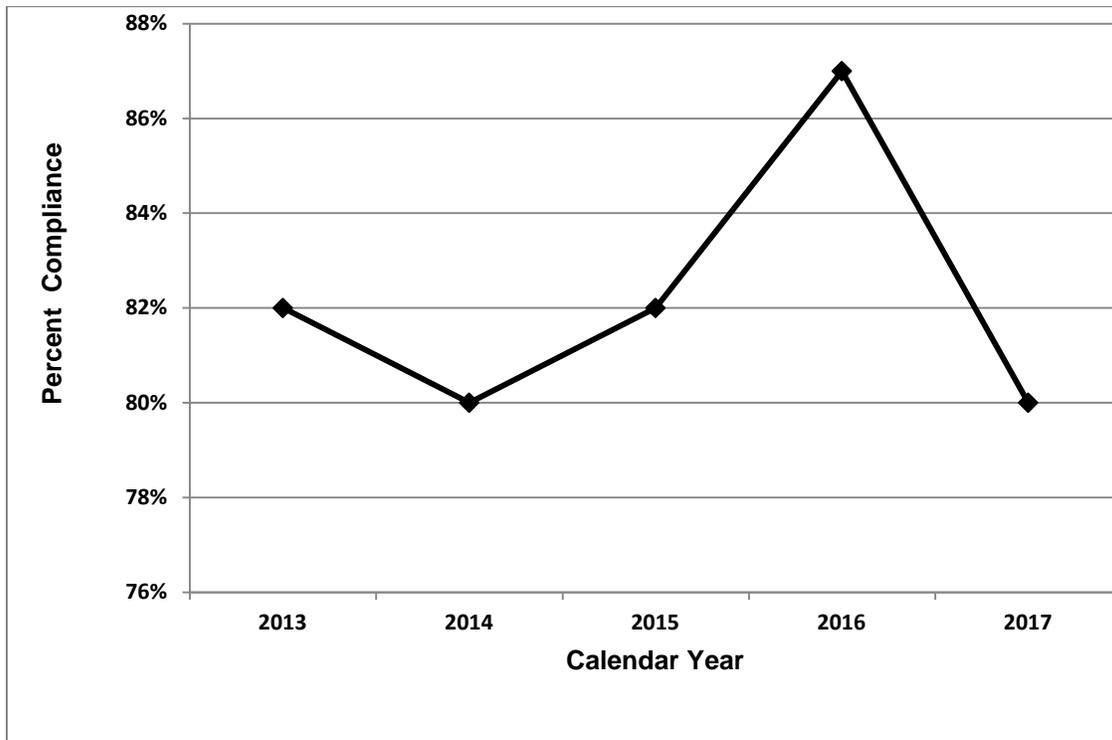
\*\* Does not include federal cost share dollars.

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 2017, 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.

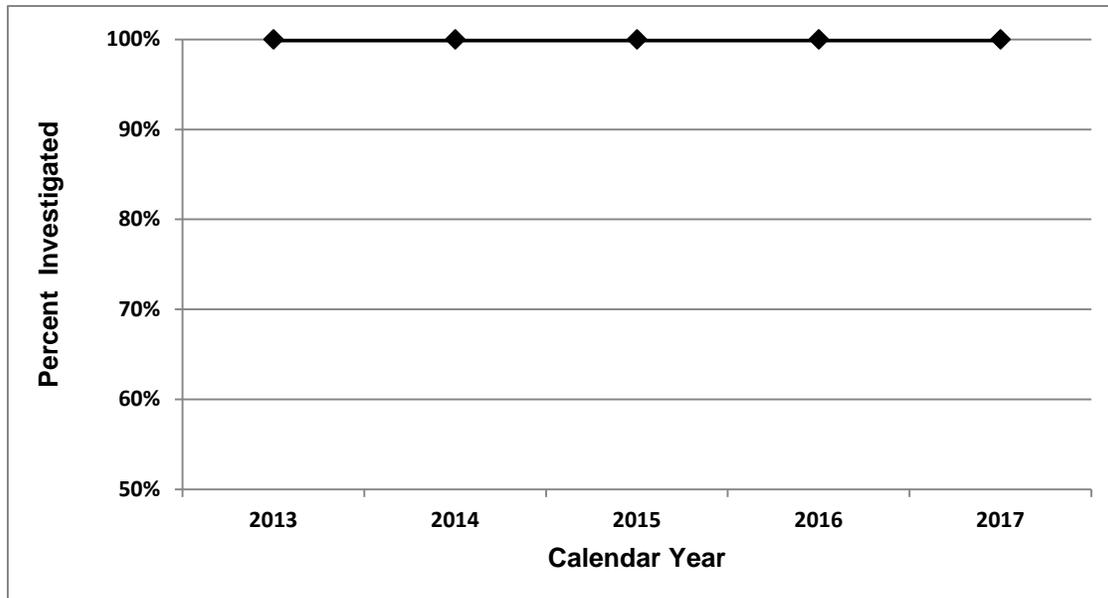
The highest compliance rate during the last five years was achieved in 2016 with an 87 percent compliance rate. The six watercraft regulations with the highest numbers of violations in 2017

were: failure to provide life jackets (171), failure to provide a throwable flotation device (109), failure to provide a fire extinguisher (70), operating an unnumbered boat (56), failure to operate watercraft in accordance with navigation rules (44), and failure to require youth age 12 and under to wear life jackets while underway (29).

**What has been accomplished:**

- Five game wardens were hired in 2017. They attended the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and the Department's watercraft training session before being assigned to watercraft enforcement duties throughout the state.
- The Department continues to provide the Boating America correspondence course and the course has been updated to include regulation changes. The public also has the option to take boating safety courses online through two separate providers. These online courses include information specific to boating in Wyoming.
- Special permit authorization letters were issued for four watercraft events, a sailing regatta, two adventure races with rafting components, 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 6,750 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 15 separate boat accidents that involved 19 vessels and 57 people, resulting in six serious injuries and five fatalities. Officers also arrested 9 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.
- The Department's boating law administrator served on the executive board for the Western States Boating Administrators Association and as a member of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators law enforcement and training committee. These organizations are dedicated to advancing boating safety issues and promoting professional law enforcement and education for the boating public.

**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 2017, there were a total of 384 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 28 warnings to suspects. A total of \$14,185 in fines/restitution was paid (with several cases still pending) and \$6,650 was issued in rewards to informants during 2017.

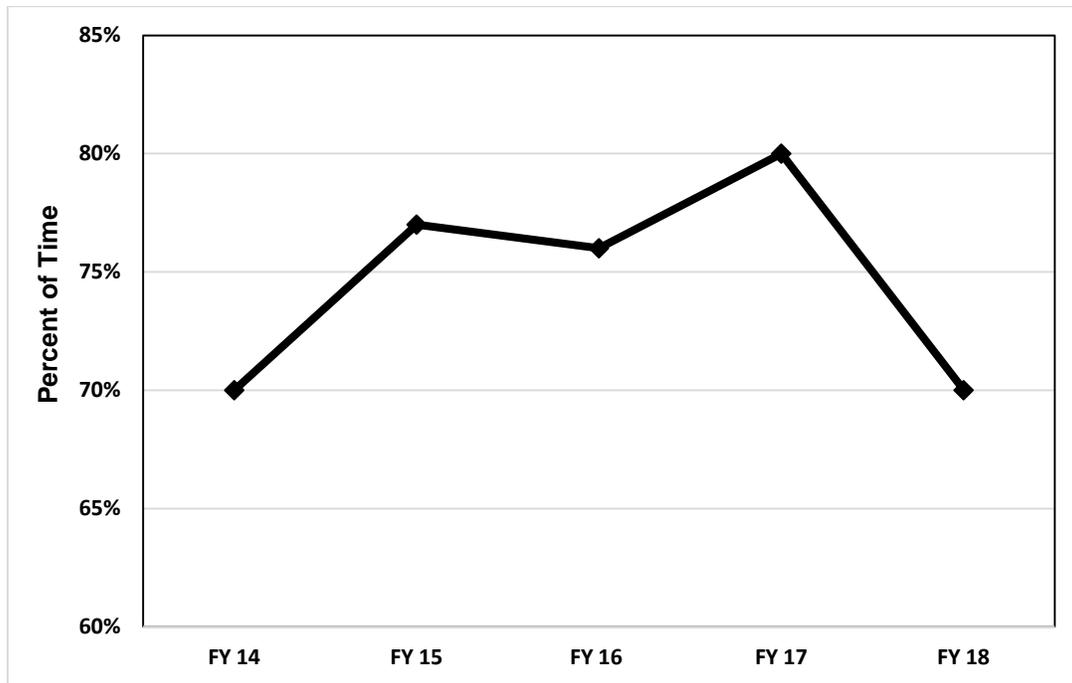
**What has been accomplished:**

A variety of promotional items were purchased and distributed to the public to promote awareness of the program. The various methods for reporting violations were included in all Department regulation brochures, the Department’s website, and various other publications.

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 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 14, an average of 6,965 investigative hours has been completed annually (74 percent). In FY 18, the WIU was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes and spent 7,894 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 7,894 hours working to solve wildlife crime (70 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 18 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Mgt	4.0	\$857,840
Terrestrial Nongame (CWCS)**	8.0	1,192,206
Migratory Game Bird (Waterfowl)	1.5	182,063
Trophy Game Management	12.4	1,278,109
Wolf Management	2.0	703,951
Sage-grouse Conservation	3.0	917,521
Predator Management	0.0	100,000
TOTAL	30.9	\$5,231,690

\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 18 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.

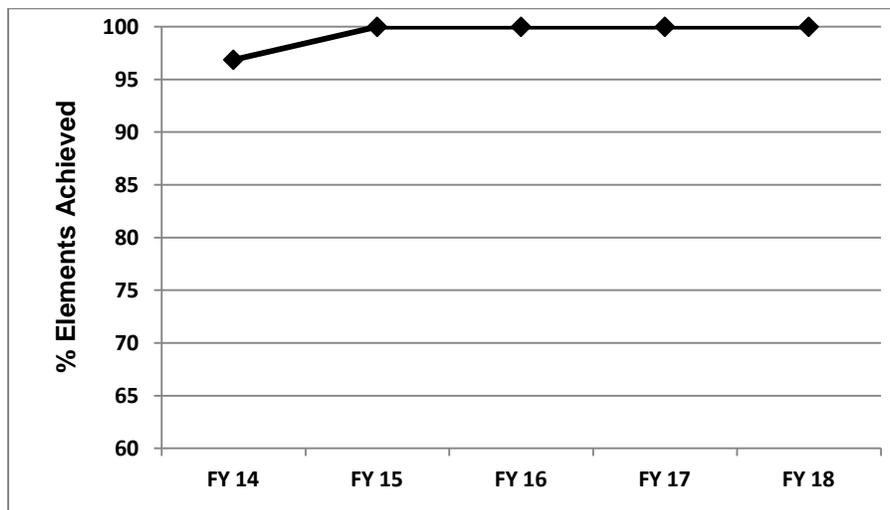
**Primary Functions of the Statewide Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program:**

- 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 (SGCN) 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 and compiling and analyzing harvest information to make 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 14-FY 18), SWaHM has completed an average of 99 percent (175 of 176) of its major work plan elements. In FY 18, 100 percent (38 of 38) 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 18. 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 18, 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 provider 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) and change over to the new updated system housed at Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD), University of Wyoming.
- 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.
- Help with development and updates to wildlife observation and check station smart phone applications used by field personnel.

- 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, gray wolf, 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.

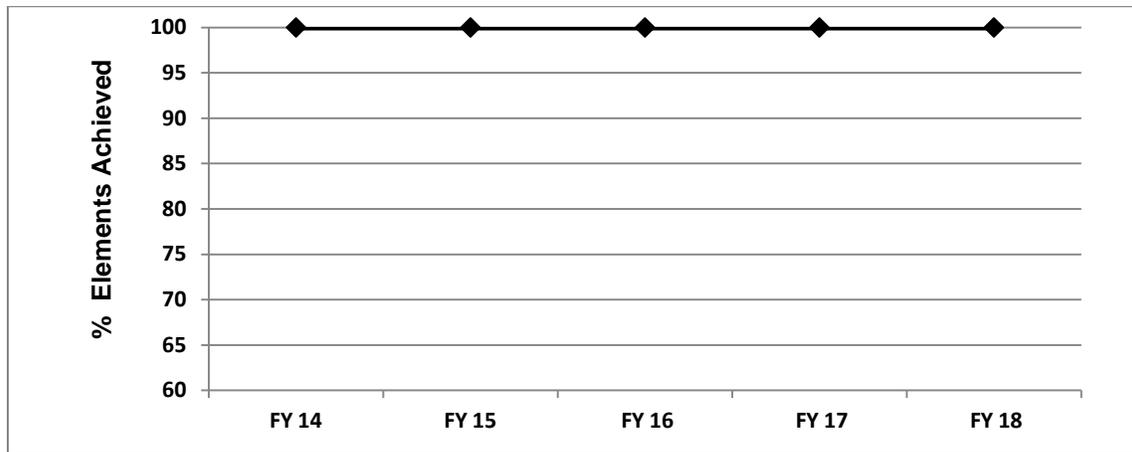
#### Sage-grouse Work Unit

- 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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: conducting population surveys, making hunting season recommendations, fulfilling Central Flyway Technical Committee functions and responsibilities, fulfilling Pacific Flyway Study 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 14, the migratory game bird management sub-program completed 100 percent of its annual major work plan elements. In FY 18, 100 percent (seven of seven) of the major annual work plan elements were completed.

In FY 12, mourning dove banding was added to the list of priority work plan elements 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 provide information necessary for setting waterfowl seasons. Surveys include the March and September crane, 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. In the spring 2018, Wyoming re-engaged with the Pacific Flyway and now sends representation to the Pacific Flyway Study Committee meetings.

**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 Department was also represented at the March Pacific Flyway meeting.

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 and mid-winter waterfowl surveys, as well as participating in the national mourning dove and duck banding program. In FY 18, 600 doves and 1,344 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.

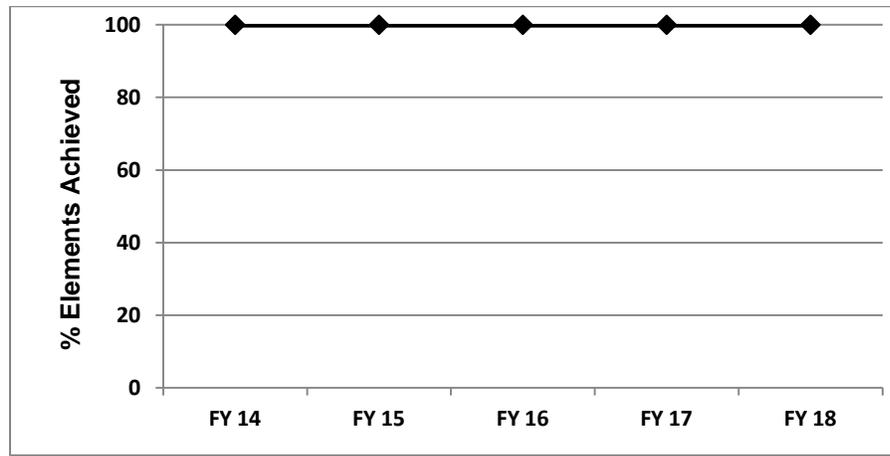
Another spring light goose hunting season was held in the Central Flyway portion of the state in accordance with the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act.

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 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 18 reporting cycle, the sub-program collected survey data on 27 of 51 mammal and 56 of 80 bird SGCN listed in Wyoming’s 2017 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The 2017 SWAP was revised and approved by 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. 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 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 is primarily funded through Commission dollars. During FY 18, there were no personnel changes in this sub-program.

### **What Has Been Accomplished:**

During FY 18, 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; other state agencies; and federal partners to accomplish nongame goals and objectives within the state. The sub-program completed several projects in FY 18 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:

- Multi-state occupancy analysis of wolverine (SGCN). Work for this project was conducted internally. During the winters of 2015-16 and 2016-17,  $\geq 6$  unique wolverines at 6 of 51 camera stations were documented. Individuals were documented in the Wind River and Absaroka Mountains, with detections at the western, southern, and northern extents of the Absaroka Mountains. All detections were in areas where wolverines have been documented either historically or as part of a recent pilot effort (2015) to evaluate techniques to detect wolverines in the state. Interestingly, wolverines were not detected in Yellowstone National Park or the Wyoming, Salt, or Teton Mountains, all of which also have documented historical presence. Results from DNA analysis of wolverine hair samples revealed two unique female wolverines outside the current predicted distribution for breeding populations. Idaho, Montana, and Washington conducted identical surveys within their respective states during the winter of 2016-17; all results from the four-state region will be compiled in an effort to evaluate current distribution and provide a baseline occupancy estimate with which population trends can be monitored over time. This work was funded through legislative funds, Commission funds, Competitive SWG funds, and Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative funds.
- Evaluating distribution and trends of juniper-obligate species (many SGCN). Work for this project has been accomplished internally, and was funded through SWG grants. **Birds:** Surveys were conducted in 2016 and 2017 that detected focal species at 42 of 49 sites. All focal species were detected, but detections varied widely, with Juniper Titmouse recorded at the most sites, while Gray Vireo and Scott's Oriole were recorded at just one site. Despite several species being broadly distributed across the study area, the relative abundance of focal species was low, with none constituting >two percent of all birds detected. Sixteen additional SGCN were detected during surveys, and SGCN were detected at all of the 49 sites visited, which illustrates the value of juniper woodland habitat in supporting a broad array of Wyoming species of conservation concern. **Mammals:** In 2016 and 2017, trapping efforts were conducted targeting small mammals at 59 sites, focusing on canyon deermouse, piñon deermouse, and cliff chipmunk. In 6,156 trap nights, cliff chipmunks were detected at 7 sites, canyon deermouse at 2 sites, and piñon deermouse at 13 sites. The probability of occupancy for both cliff chipmunk and piñon deermouse in suitable habitat was negatively correlated with shrub cover. Adequate data was lacking to model occupancy for canyon deermouse; however, the two sites where this species was detected tended to be rockier, closer to cliffs, and have less sagebrush cover than sites with no detections.
- Statewide swift fox (SGCN) monitoring. This work was conducted and coordinated internally. From September through November 2017, we used remote cameras and scent stations to survey 131 grid cells throughout Wyoming as part of a long-term monitoring program. Additionally, the influence of predators and energy development on the dynamic processes that may underlie changes in occupancy was evaluated. The probability of

occupancy was positively correlated with the percentage of the grid composed of suitable slope and negatively correlated with the presence of roads, energy development, and coyotes. Sites within predicted swift fox distribution had the highest probability of occupancy and those outside the predicted range had the lowest. In general, occupancy increased in 2017, from 0.28 in 2010 and 2013 to 0.42 in 2017, with swift fox detections at 11 sites outside the predicted range of the species in Wyoming. The probability of extinction varied throughout the survey, from 0.20 from 2010 to 2013 and 0.08 from 2013 to 2017. Given the potentially expanding distribution of swift fox in Wyoming, the species appears to be capable of exploiting new areas when conditions are favorable. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.

- Harlequin Duck (SGCN) monitoring and satellite tracking. This work was conducted in coordination with the Department and the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI). Monitoring was coordinated internally, while satellite tracking was granted to BRI. 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 four 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.
- Northern long-eared bat survey – Laramie Peak (federally threatened, SGCN). This work was granted to WYNDD. Northern long-eared bats were tentatively detected in the Medicine Bow National Forest, Laramie Peak Unit, by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). This observation, if confirmed, represents a significant expansion of the species range, as currently understood. The USFS observation did not include any voucher information. Biologists visited suitable sites surrounding the USFS observation. No northern long-eared bats were detected as part of this effort. A final report for this work will be available fall 2018. This work was funded through the Governor's ESA account.
- 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 dogs (WTPD) throughout their range in the state. A survey of WTPD occupancy in Wyoming was conducted in 2016 using a random, spatially balanced sample of 500 × 500 m sites across multiple land ownerships. To assess the impacts of land ownership on occupancy, sites were divided into four strata: public, private, checkerboard, and tribal lands. A total of 440 sites were surveyed, with 62.5% on public, 18.2% on private, 12.5% on checkerboard, and 6.8% on Wind River Indian Reservation land. The sites were surveyed on the ground, aerially, and both on the ground and aerially. For analysis, a suite of habitat, climate, slope and elevation, oil and gas, and anthropogenic disturbance predictors were included in order to: 1) determine the best predictors of WTPD occupancy, 2) assess the effect of oil and gas development on occupancy, and 3) assess the effect of land ownership after controlling for other important drivers of occupancy. The best predictors of detection probability were survey method (ground vs. air), Julian date, temperature, and standard deviation of slope. The odds of

detecting a WTPD were 2.45 times higher for ground than aerial surveys. The top occupancy probability model included a positive effect of a bare ground index and a negative, but insignificant effect of mean slope on WTPD occupancy. The top oil and gas predictor was the presence/absence of active wells within the site, but this did not have a significant effect on WTPD occupancy. WTPD occupancy in the private and checkerboard strata was significantly higher than the public stratum. Tribal land sites were also more likely to be occupied than public sites; however, the difference was not significant. Based on the top model, an estimated 74,265 of the 352,561 sites available for sampling were occupied, equating to an overall occupancy rate of 21.1% across all strata in Wyoming. This study has established a baseline occupancy rate for WTPD in Wyoming, which will be an essential guide for understanding long-term population trends. This project was funded through SWG Grants, and legislative funding.

The sub-program continued several projects in FY 18 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:

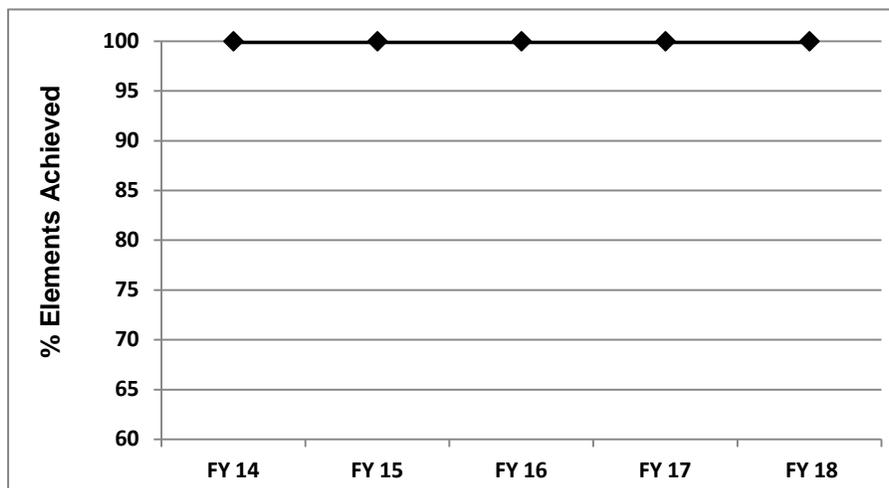
- Integrated monitoring in bird conservation regions (many SGCN). This project is granted to the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. This work is funded through BLM grants and SWG funds.
- Wyoming and Nebraska bat zone of integration survey (many SGCN). Work for this project was conducted internally and funded through a Competitive SWG grant.
- Spotted skunk (petitioned species, SGCN) distribution and genetics. This project was granted to the University of Wyoming using Governor's ESA funds, Commission funds, and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies grants.
- Black-footed ferret (SGCN) recovery assistance. Work for this project is primarily being accomplished internally. In addition to internal efforts, Wildlife Services has been contracted to assist with plague control at the Meeteetse release site. This project has been funded by SWG funds, Department funds, and Section 6 funds.
- Black rosy-finch (SGCN) distribution, abundance, and habitat. Funds for this project were granted to the UW Coop Unit using SWG funds.
- Long-billed curlew (SGCN) reproductive success, migration, and habitat use. Funds for this project were granted to the Intermountain Bird Observatory. This project has been funded through legislative funds, BLM funds, and other NGO donations.
- Green River Standard North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. This project was contracted to a variety of habitat development specialists through a NAWCA grant.
- Native Species Status Unknown (NSSU) small mammals (many SGCN) at risk of energy development. Work for this project was conducted internally. This work is funded through Governor's ESA and SWG funds.
- Thunder Basin National Grassland raptor surveys (many SGCN). This project is conducted and coordinated in conjunction with USFS biologists. This project is funded by the USFS.
- Linking environmental drivers and energy development to the abundance and distribution of the Wyoming pocket gopher (SGCN). Funds for this project were granted to the University of Wyoming. This work is funded through the Governor's ESA account.

- Great gray owl (SGCN) habitat analysis. This work was granted to the University of Wyoming Coop Unit in coordination with the Teton Raptor Center. This project is funded through SWG.

The nongame sub-program initiated several projects in FY 18 that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- Support for the revision of strategic bat plans of Wyoming (many SGCN). This work will be granted to WYNDD to assist the Department in the revision of the Bat Management Plan and the White-nose Syndrome Management Plan. This work is funded through the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition and SWG grants.
- Decadal abundance trends of avian SGCN in Wyoming’s natural gas fields (many SGCN). Work will be conducted by the University of Wyoming Co-op Unit utilizing SWG grants.
- Examination of little brown bat critical roost habitat (SGCN). This project will be conducted internally by the Department. The project is funded by Governor’s ESA funds.
- Examination of northern long-eared bat maternity roosts (SGCN). This project has been granted to WYNDD using Governor’s ESA funds.
- Bird database compilation (SGCN). This project has been granted to WYNND using Governor’s ESA funds.
- Ferruginous hawk/golden eagle monitoring (SGCNs). This project has been granted to WYNDD using Governor’s ESA funds.
- Raptor nest database development (many SGCN). This project has been granted to WYNDD using Governor’s ESA funds.
- Long-term monitoring of grassland bird SGCN (many SGCN). This project will be conducted internally using Department funds, and a SWG grant.

**Performance Measure #4: 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.

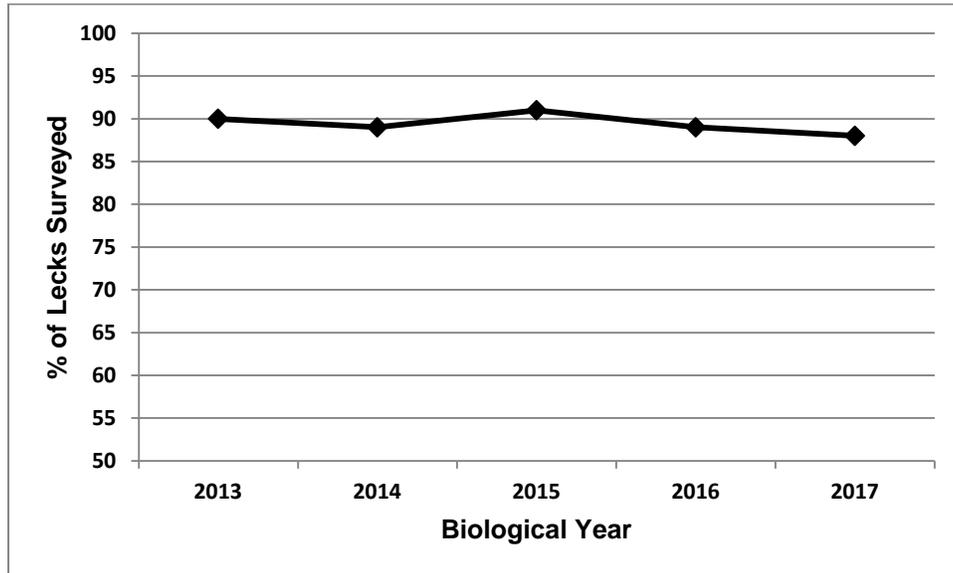
**What has been accomplished:**

- Conducted trapping of grizzly and black bears for monitoring purposes in the Dubois area through Moccasin Basin on the Shoshone National Forest.
- Conducted aerial monitoring of radio-collared grizzly bears.
- Coordinated and conducted observation flights to document grizzly bear reproductive output and distribution to be used toward estimating population abundance.
- Managed a database for telemetry flights.
- Managed grizzly bear location and capture databases for grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions.
- Conducted captures and hair-snare DNA monitoring of black bears in the Sierra Madres.
- 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.
- 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.
- Monitored gray wolves throughout northwest Wyoming and quantified wolf hunting results that were provided in the annual report in spring 2018.
- Developed gray wolf harvest regulations for fall 2018 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.
- 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.
- Prepared the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Job Completion Report.
- Updated the Bear Wise Wyoming webpage on the Department's website to be more interactive and user-friendly.
- 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.
- Held public discussion forums around the state to gather insight into their perspectives regarding grizzly bear management, specifically looking into monitoring, research opportunities, conflict management, outreach and education, and hunting. Provided results to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission who directed developing hunting regulations for fall 2018.
- Through the use of information gathered at public meetings and decades of professional experience and expertise managing grizzly bears, developed grizzly bear hunting regulations

that were approved by the Commission, after a statewide public meeting session, on May 23, 2018 in Lander, WY.

**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 2018 (end of biological year 2017), there were 1,815 known occupied sage-grouse leks in Wyoming. Department personnel, together with personnel from other agencies, volunteers, and consultants, surveyed 88 percent of these leks at least once. The proportion of leks checked in the previous 10 years (biological years 2007-2016) averaged 87 percent. In spring 2018, 1,169 leks were confirmed active, 303 confirmed inactive, and 131 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) 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 spring 2018, the average number of males observed on leks was 26/active lek, 18 percent fewer than the 32/active lek observed in the spring of 2017, 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 2012 bio-year. The specific relationship between climatic conditions and population cycles has not been determined, but drought conditions are generally unfavorable for sage-grouse.

In 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 USFWS 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 over \$7 million from Wyoming general fund appropriations and Department funds, together with other public and private funding sources. Since 2005, nearly 250 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 transferred from the state’s 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 72

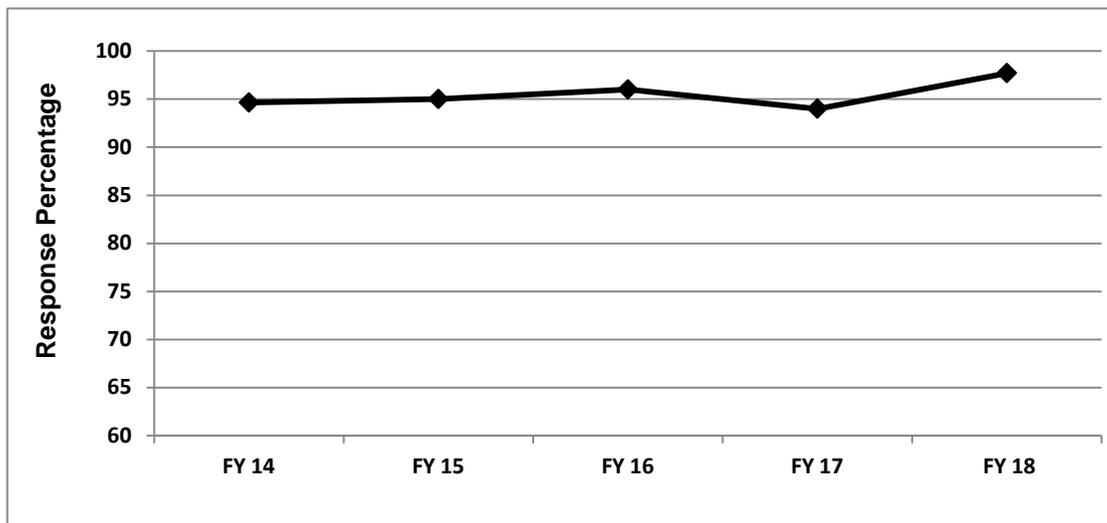
sage-grouse from Wyoming to North Dakota in an effort to prevent extirpation of the North Dakota population, bringing the two-year total to 132. Managers and researchers are determining not only the success of the translocation, but the effects of translocation on the source population near Rawlins, 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 Rangeland Interagency Sage-grouse Conservation Team. This model is now available to use 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 2013-2017, 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 periods. 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 97.7 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.
- Provided an annual update to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission on all large carnivore management activities.
- 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.
- Updated our Bear Wise Wyoming webpage to provide timely and interactive safety information to reduce the potential for conflicts between carnivores and people.
- 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.
- Conducted a “Large Carnivore Trail” at the Wyoming Outdoor Expo in Casper, Wyoming where thousands of people learned about how to reduce conflict potential with large carnivores.
- Continued to evaluate new techniques to increase efficiencies and to 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.
- Conducted a “Large Carnivore Educational Booth” at a University of Wyoming football game.
- 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 a Commission meeting as well as several informational talks as to the “Damage Claim and Verification Process”.
- 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.
- Secured funding and deployed an electric fence along the entirety of the Park County Landfill in Cody, Wyoming.
- 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.
- Conducted law enforcement investigations regarding human/bear encounters, injuries, and self defense shootings throughout northwest Wyoming.

**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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Strategic Management**	1.0	\$435,077

*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

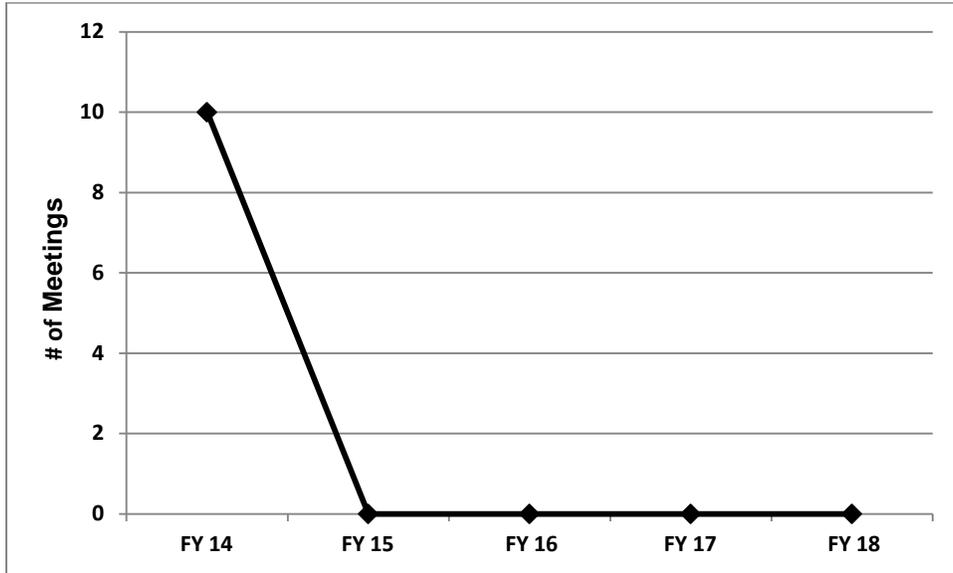
*\*\* The Strategic Management Program and Planning Coordinator have been combined into one program. Budget numbers are also reported in the Department Administration Program Report.*

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.

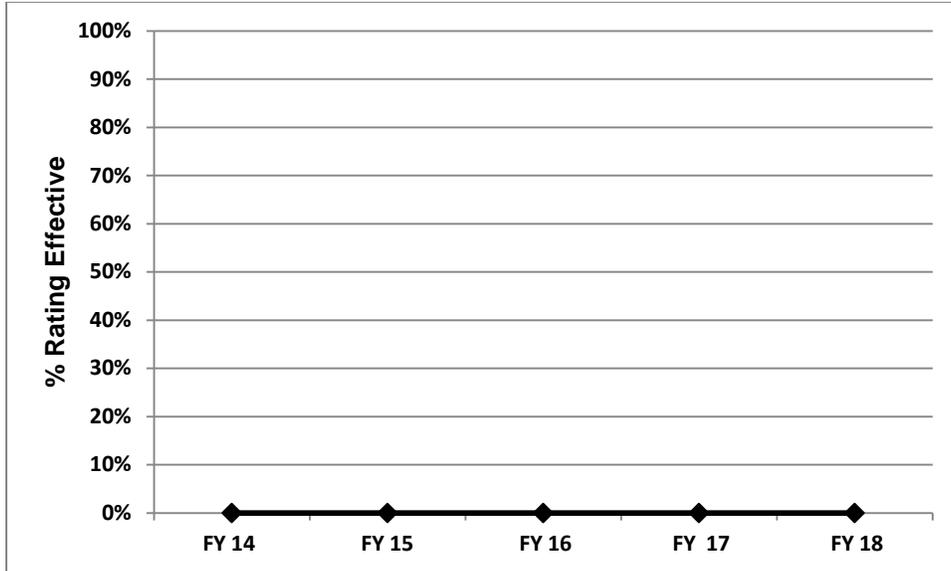
**Performance Measure #1:** Quarterly meetings held with divisions to determine data needs (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 20 meetings are held each year).



**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, FY 17, or FY 18. 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

**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 2018 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Office Management	19.3	\$ 1,540,498
Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings	2.7	1,504,673
TOTAL	22.0	\$ 3,045,171

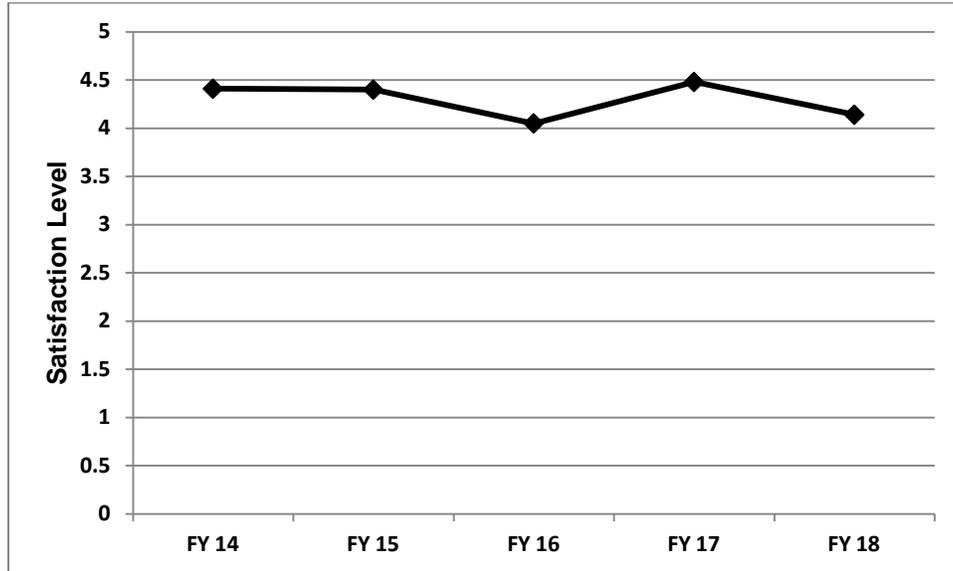
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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.

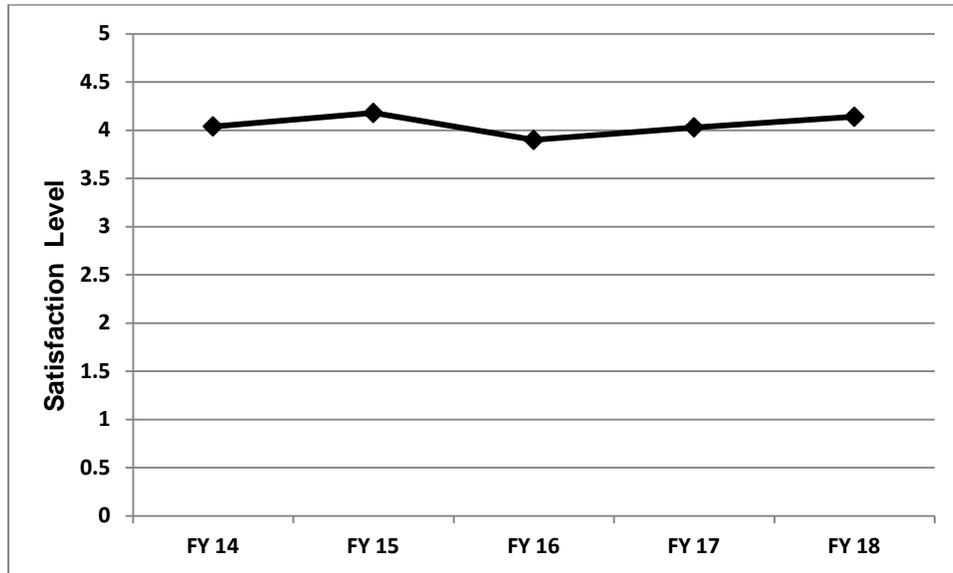


**Story behind the performance:**

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 18, the regional offices received a score of 4.14 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, a security fence was constructed for the office parking area. The second of eight heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units was replaced with a new one. New Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant door openers were installed at the front entrance. New flooring and carpet was installed in common areas. ADA compliant toilets and bathroom stall doors were installed. Roof vents were resealed, additional electrical outlets were installed in front of the building, and the thermostat was moved to a more ideal location in the server room.

The Jackson Regional Office has begun construction on a new security fence around the entire perimeter of the property to protect vehicles, equipment, and horses. Lighting in the shop was switched to a more efficient LED, replacing vapor and fluorescent. The old region office building was demolished. A new ADA compliant entrance door on the south side of the office was installed. The shingles and soffit on the roof were repaired.

At the Green River Regional Office, a new keyless entry security gate was installed for entering the compound. The north and south valleys of the roof were resealed. Four east side windows in the office were replaced. New sheetrock was installed in the bathrooms along with new vanities and faucets. In the shop, tile was repaired and doors/trims were painted.

During FY 18, no improvements were completed at the Cody Regional Office.

At the Casper Regional Office, keyed locks were replaced with keypads. Both bathrooms near the Pronghorn Room were remodeled. Phase 1 of converting t12 lighting to LED was initiated. At the shop, drainage from the building was improved, gutters were installed and trim was

repaired and painted. Landscaping continued around the office building with tree removal, tree trimming, and limited conversion to xeroscape. Work was completed on a new ADA sidewalk with stairs, retaining walls and railings.

The Sheridan Regional Office started work on milling the old parking lot surface with new asphalt to be installed. Eaves, soffit, and trim were painted. The main areas of the office building received new LED lighting.

The Lander Region made a few facility improvements in FY 18. These consisted of a new evaporator coil, condensing unit, and refrigeration piping in the walk-in evidence freezer. The carpets were shampooed in the main building along with replacement of the window shades.

The Laramie Regional Office did not have any major improvements in FY 18 due to the construction and completion of a new regional office and wildlife forensic/fish health laboratory. Minor upkeep and cleaning was completed on the old location.

**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 18 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2018 Annual Budget</u>
Laboratory Services	7.0	\$ 778,200
Veterinary Services	17.8	\$ 1,914,862
TOTAL	24.8	\$ 2,693,062

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 18 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).

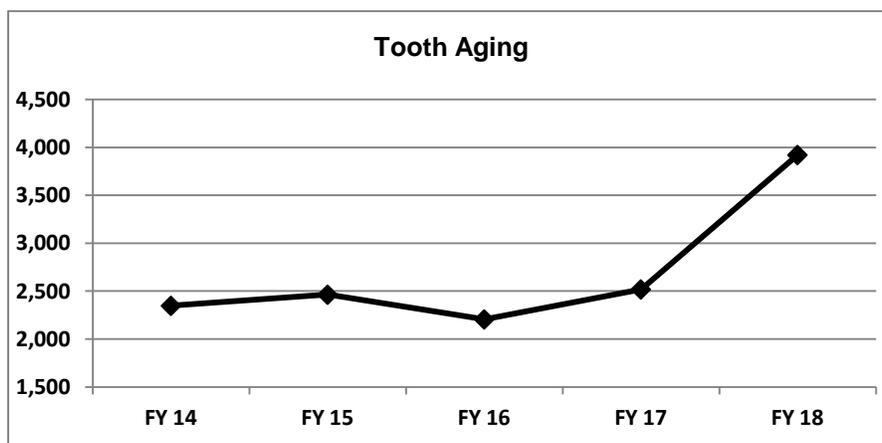
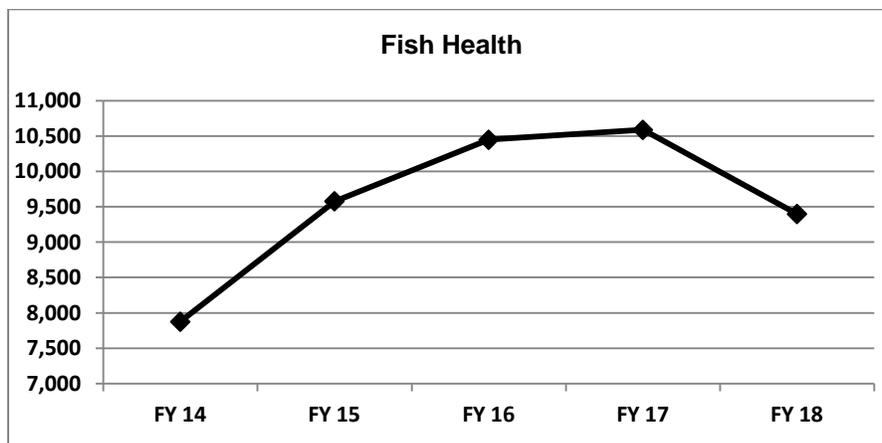
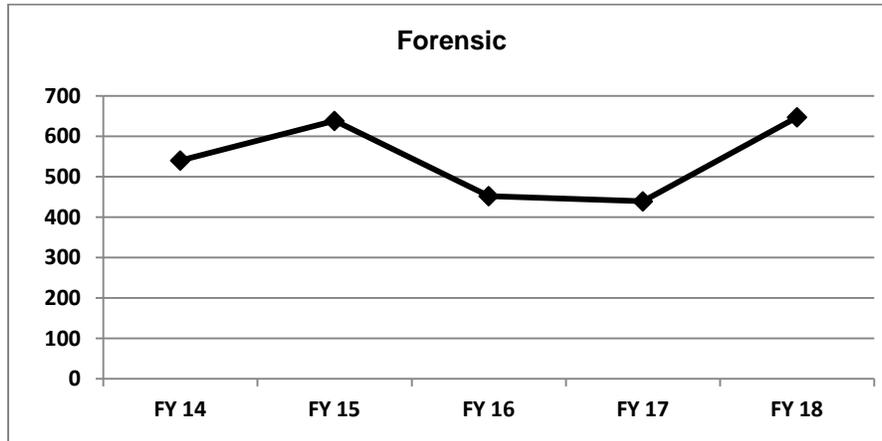
Laboratory Services is located at the Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory. Veterinary Services spans two locations: The Wildlife Health Laboratory is located at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, and the research unit is located at the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille.

**Primary Functions of the Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services Program:**

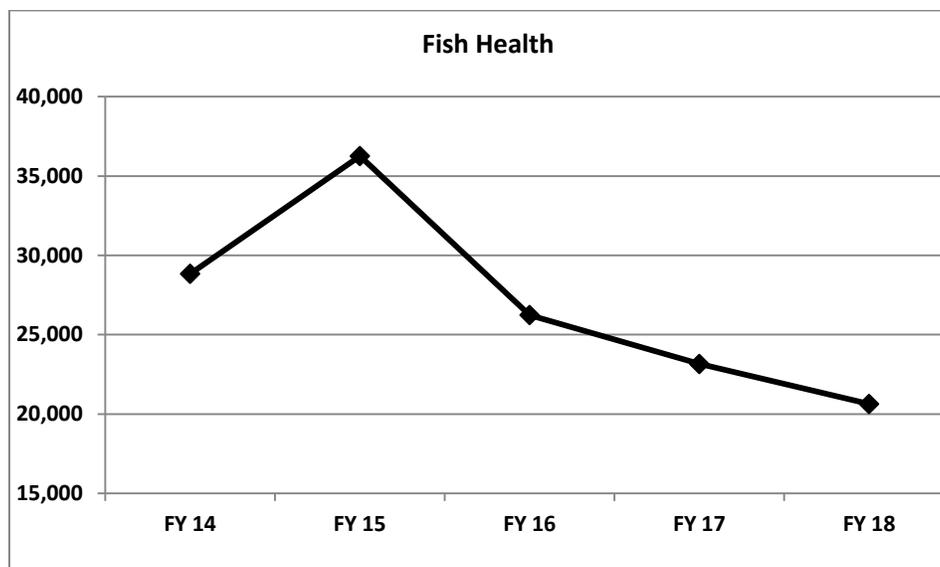
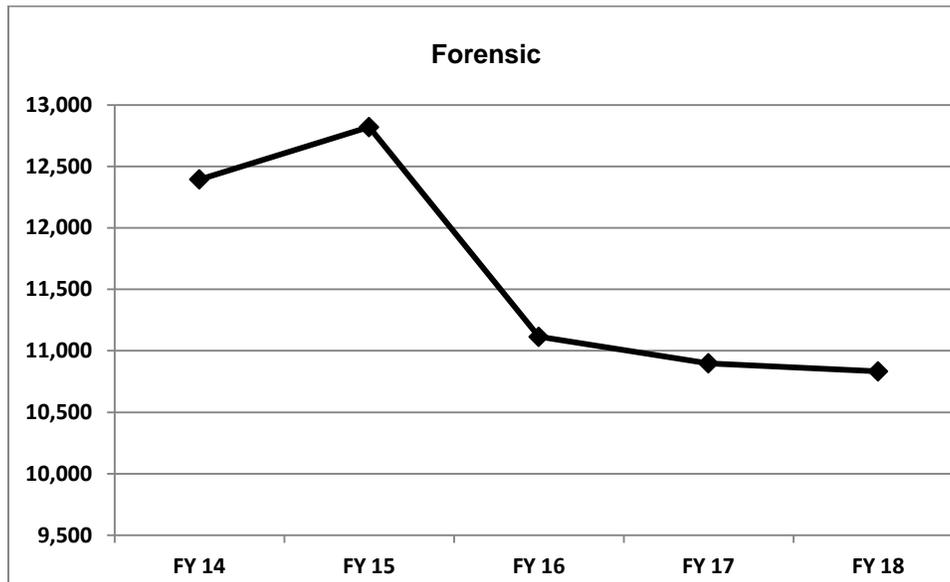
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting on diseases and providing disease management strategies for wildlife and fish species for which the Department has statutory authority to regulate.
- **Enhance and protect the integrity 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, wildlife 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 increase in the number of items submitted in FY 18 when compared with FY 17. 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 New Mexico, Illinois, Louisiana, Montana, Arizona, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and North Dakota; and, there is presently, a contract with the Attorney General's office for Utah. 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 declined to a record low of 27 in FY 17. However, in FY 18, the number of diagnostic cases is back in-line with the five-year average at 40 cases.

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.

**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 serving as the Certification Director and the Forensic Program Manager currently serves as the second Vice President and will take over the duties of President in 2019.

In the fall of 2010, SWFS put together a Scientific Working Group for Wildlife Forensics (SWGWILD). The group has worked 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 two of the first 11 certified scientists. Currently, 26 scientists in the world are certified. The Forensic Program Manager is one of the assessors for the certification scheme as well as the record keeper and the Laboratory Director 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. The Laboratory Director continues to serve on the Technical Working Group and is the chair of wildlife forensics for OSAC.

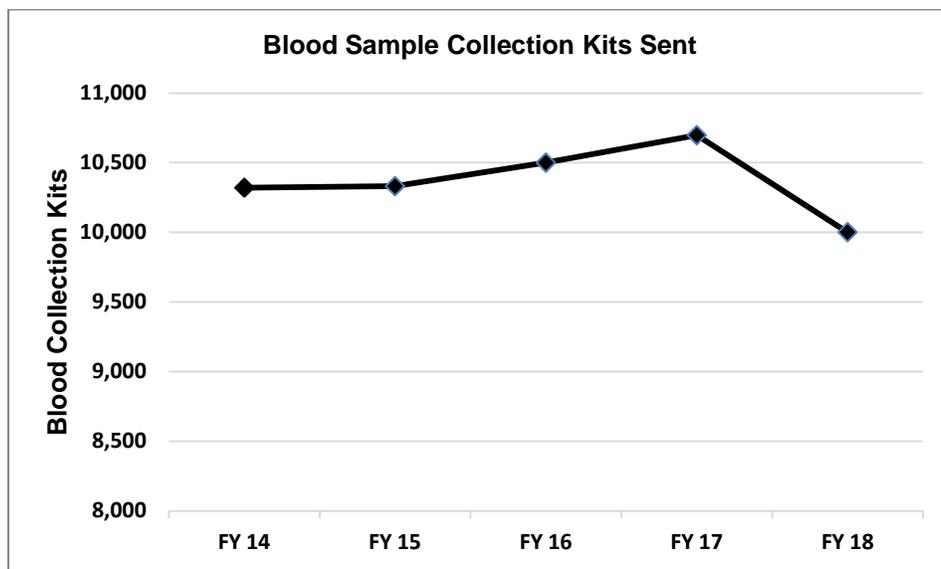
In response to the recent study that found forensics in the United States severely lacking, the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of Justice created a new organization that is dedicated to identifying, developing, and adopting standards and guidelines 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, the Laboratory Director and Forensic Program Manager are part of this federal task force. The Forensic Program Manager is a member of the forensic subcommittee as well as the liaison to the Human Factors Resource Committee. The Laboratory Director is the chair of the wildlife subcommittee. 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 and several other 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 and Wildlife Forensic Scientist 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 two certified inspectors.

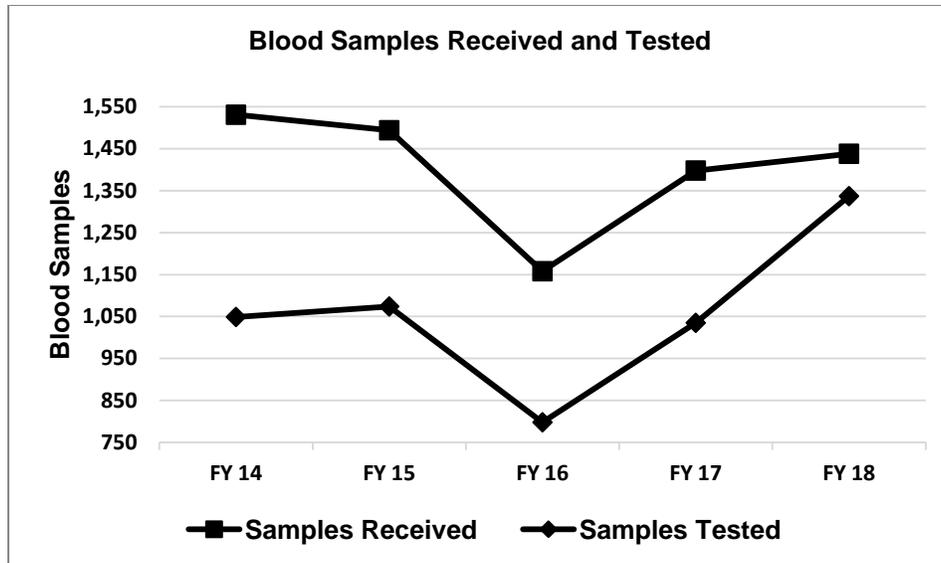
All three sections continue to work on updating all protocols into International Organization for Standardization 17025 format. This is a very time consuming process, but much progress has been made in this area of the laboratory. The Forensic Program Manager and Fish Health and Wildlife Forensic Scientist are working on a quality assurance/quality control manual that will be a part of the accreditation process for all areas of the laboratory.

The laboratory has been through several personnel changes during FY 18. The Laboratory Director was promoted to Services Division Chief, the Forensic Program Manager was promoted to Laboratory Director, and the Forensic Analyst was promoted to Forensic Program Manager leaving a vacancy in Wildlife Forensics. An Aquatic Health Inspector resigned, leaving a vacancy in the Fish Health Program. Both of these positions have been filled and the previous narrative reflects the current personnel in 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 versus the number of samples that were suitable for testing for brucellosis.**

**Story Behind the Performance:**

Brucellosis is caused by the bacterium *Brucella abortus*. This disease occurs in the elk and bison of the Greater Yellowstone Area of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, as well as the northwestern Bighorn Mountains. Brucellosis is typically transmitted by contact with an aborted fetus and causes reproductive failure in infected elk, bison, and cattle. 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 all hunt areas occurring outside of the DSA are surveyed each year; providing coverage of the entire brucellosis nonendemic 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 1,100 and 1,600 blood samples to the laboratory, which equates to a return rate of between 25 percent and 36 percent from successful harvests.

Since 1991, over 15,684 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 2018, a combined total of 11 elk were identified from Elk Hunt Areas (HAs) 39, 40, 41, and 49 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 18 surveillance program again concentrated on the Bighorn Mountains; particularly in HAs 39, 40, 41, and 49; but was also focused on those HAs surrounding the DSA to ensure continued monitoring of the endemic/nonendemic border. Disease biologists continued to focus on increasing blood sample returns from hunters as well as implementing several measures to preserve blood samples prior to shipment to the laboratory. These efforts have been successful in both the northeastern DSA and the Bighorn Mountains. Surveillance outside of the known brucellosis endemic area occurred in the eastern quadrant of the state.

In FY 18, over 10,000 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 Wildlife Health Laboratory (WHL). Serologic assays for exposure to *B. abortus* were conducted and interpreted using current National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) protocols for the rapid automated presumptive (RAP) and fluorescence polarization assay (FPA) 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. Seroprevalence in elk within the known endemic area is based on yearling and adult females, but males and juveniles are included in surveillance data outside of the known endemic area.

Nearly all serum samples received in FY 18 were tested for exposure to *B. abortus*. This was a departure from previous years, where only the transparent serum samples were retained and tested. As serologic tests have improved and become less subjective, most hemolyzed serum samples are now suitable for testing and can contribute to surveillance data. Research by the WHL found that titers remained detectable even at 100 percent hemolysis, but those individual titers varied depending on the degree of hemolysis. Serum samples were only discarded if FPA delta values varied more than 15 points between duplicate runs on the same assay and could not be confirmed with the RAP, FPA tube, or FPA plate. Samples that had less than 15-point variation, but could not be confirmed with RAP, FPA tube, or FPA plate were submitted to NVSL for testing and classification.

A total of 1,438 elk blood samples were received by the WHL with 1,337 (93 percent) of those being suitable for testing. The majority of the samples were collected from the Bighorn Mountains where 708 useable samples were tested. No seropositive elk were documented in the herd units that comprise the Bighorns. Unfortunately, attempts to obtain a *B. abortus* isolate through culture of lymph nodes collected from hunter killed or movement study animals have thus far been unsuccessful.

Brucellosis surveillance in the combined northern hunt units (HU) (Clark's Fork, Cody, Gooseberry, and Wiggins Fork) of the DSA, documented an increase in seroprevalence over the past five years (15.9 percent; n=862 samples) compared to the previous five-year average of 12.6 percent (n=1,324). Brucellosis seroprevalence in the Gooseberry and Cody HUs has increased

from 11.1 percent in 2008-2012 (n=569) to 14.7 percent in 2013-2017 (n=566), and 17.5 percent in 2008-2012 (n=291) to 22.7 percent in 2013-2017 (n=225) respectively. Sample sizes obtained from the Wiggins Fork and Clarks Fork HUs in 2003 through 2017 were insufficient for accurate estimation of prevalence, and it is important to note that in most hunt areas, the sample sizes achieved through our annual surveillance are insufficient to estimate prevalence with good precision. Therefore, prevalence data is combined into five-year totals to improve sample size and allow for statistical analysis.

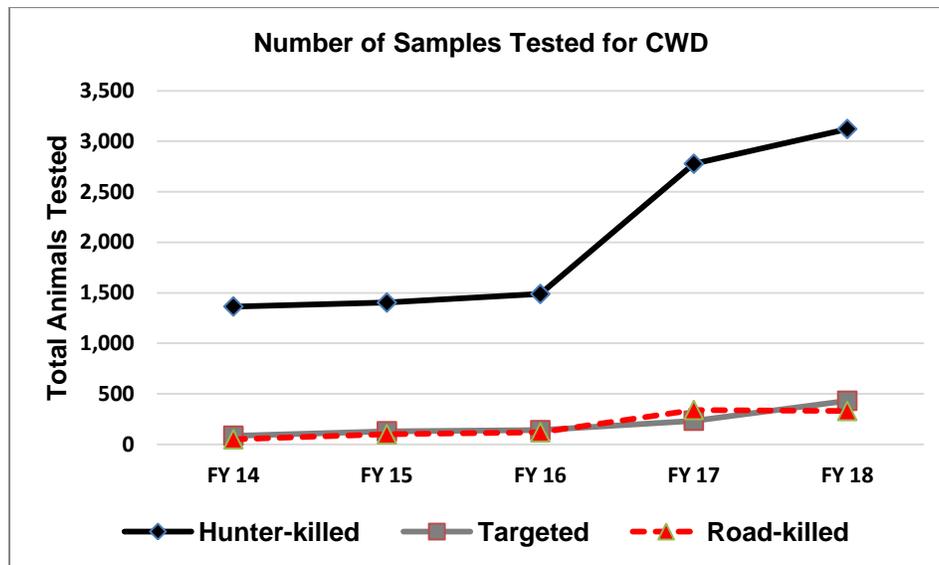
Brucellosis seroprevalence is also monitored within individual elk hunt areas of the DSA. Over the past 24 years, seroprevalence has gradually increased in hunt areas 58-59 and 61-63. Overall, the combined seroprevalence in these areas has averaged 19.5 percent (n=600) over the last five years; a significant increase over the previous five-year average of 14.3 percent (n=735). The steady increase in prevalence in these populations is alarming and may soon mirror prevalence on many of the State's feedgrounds. Continued monitoring of all HAs along the southeastern slope of the Absaroka Range is warranted, as well as exploration of management actions that affect the prevalence of brucellosis in these populations.

A total of 112 useable samples were collected in 2017 in the eastern portion of the state (HAs 3, 6-8, 113, 122, and 126). All samples tested negative for exposure to *B. abortus* on serological tests. In the past 27 years, 5,103 samples from the non-endemic area have been analyzed. To date, this disease has not been documented outside of western half of the state (see Figure 7).

The return rate of blood samples from hunters successful in harvesting an elk has remained quite constant over the past five years. From 2012 to 2016, the average return rate was 1,404 samples with 970 (69 percent) of those being suitable for testing. On a per hunter basis, approximately 32 percent of successful hunters that had received a blood collection kit, voluntarily collected and submitted a sample for surveillance (harvest success of elk in Wyoming averages 44 percent).

The newfound ability to utilize hemolyzed blood samples has greatly increased the number of samples that can now be included in surveillance data. This year, 93 percent of blood samples received were tested, a significant increase over the past five-year average of 69 percent. Further research is planned to determine if filtering or other manipulations can increase the number of useable samples.

**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 2017**

**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 33 years. Surveillance of the deer and elk herds within the core endemic area provides a tremendous opportunity to study populations that have been affected by this disease for over 33 years. Determining the factors that may influence CWD prevalence in a population may provide insight into future disease management strategies.

**What Has Been Accomplished:**

The Department WHL analyzed a total of 3,882 deer, elk, and moose samples in FY 18. Of these samples, 342 tested positive for CWD representing 262 mule deer, 50 white-tailed deer, and 30 elk (see Table 1). All moose tested for CWD were negative. This year’s surveillance effort identified four new deer hunt areas: HAs19 in the northeastern corner of the state, HA 52 north of Lovell, HA 118 south of Meeteetse, and HA 139 near Pinedale. Chronic wasting disease was also documented in elk HA 48 in the southern Bighorn Mountains (see maps below). Of the

3,882 total samples received, 80 percent were derived from hunter-killed animals, 11 percent from targeted, and 9 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
<b>Hunter-kill</b>	1,700	205	350	39	1,048	24	23	0	3,121	268
<b>Targeted</b>	220	46	32	10	160	6	19	0	431	62
<b>Road-kill</b>	243	11	45	1	30	0	12	0	330	12
<b>Total</b>	2,163	262	427	50	1,238	30	54	0	3,882	342

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

The discovery of a CWD positive targeted mule deer doe near the town of Pinedale (HA139) in late February 2017 was of particular concern due to its location in northwest Wyoming, as well as being a significant distance from other known positives. A similar detection occurred last year when a targeted mule deer doe was found in HA 145 in the Star Valley of western Wyoming. These discoveries along with the steady expansion of this disease towards northwest Wyoming continue to motivate the Department to expand CWD surveillance efforts within the Jackson and Pinedale Regions. This included maximizing sample collection from hunter harvested, road-killed, and targeted deer, elk, and moose. The detection of CWD positive deer in HAs 139 and 145 highlight the value of targeted surveillance in detecting this disease in new areas.

Within the core endemic area, a significant decrease in CWD prevalence was observed in the Laramie Mountains mule deer herd. Comparing 2005-2007 aggregated surveillance data to 2015-2017, shows a decrease from 28 percent to 21.2 percent over that time span. Conversely, prevalence in the Goshen Rim and the Bates Hole/Hat Six mule deer herds increased from 12.5 percent (2005-07) to 31.8 percent (2015-17) and 16.4 percent (2008-10) to 35.1 percent (2015-17) respectively. In the South Converse mule deer herd, the 2015-2017 prevalence was 39.1 percent, but insufficient sample sizes hinder analysis. It is important to note that hunter harvest of mule deer is primarily male and therefore prevalence estimates mainly 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.

Trends in CWD prevalence in elk herds within the core endemic area were also examined. Prevalence appears to be increasing in the Laramie Peak/Muddy Mountain elk herd, where prevalence in 2005-2007 was 4.1 percent, but increased to 8.2 percent in 2015-2017. The Iron Mountain elk herd has a higher prevalence of 10.3 percent, but based on sample size, that prevalence was not statistically different than the 2005-2007 level of 7.6 percent.

Although the prevalence of CWD remains low in the majority of hunt areas outside of the core endemic area, it appears to be increasing in deer of the Bighorn Basin as well as hunt areas on the eastern slope of the Bighorn Mountain Range. Other deer areas of concern for elevated CWD prevalence include HAs 82 near Baggs, 119 near Meeteetse, 121 and 122 near Cody, 123 near Lovell, and 157 north of Riverton.

Future surveillance efforts should not only concentrate on those hunt areas where CWD is becoming a concern, but also in hunt areas where very little surveillance data has been collected over the past seven to 10 years. Although many areas were intensively sampled 10 to 15 years ago when federal funds were available to support surveillance, our ability to re-examine these areas has been limited. The WGFD is currently reviewing its CWD surveillance program to improve efficiency while effectively monitoring this disease throughout the state.



**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 2017

**Population:** 6,090<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 6,925<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 175  
**Hunters:** 212  
**Success Rate** 83%  
**Recreation Days:** 1,833  
**Days/Animal:** 10.5  
**Licenses Sold:** 212

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$169,841  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$1,336,129  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$1,505,970  
**Program Costs:** \$2,354,524

<sup>a</sup> Statewide population estimate is calculated from 2 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.

<sup>b</sup> The statewide population objective is based only on the five herds with population and trend count objectives.

The estimated statewide population of bighorn sheep remained the same as 2016. 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 2017 bighorn sheep harvest increased from 2016, and rose above the five-year average (170). 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 was higher than 2016 and was slightly higher than the five-year average. Hunter effort decreased in 2017, and was below the five-year average (10.7 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>169,841</b>	<b>2,354,524</b>

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$2,100), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## BISON

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 567  
**Population Objective:** 500  
**Harvest:** 70  
**Hunters:** 111  
**Success Rate:** 63%  
**Recreation Days:** 1,183  
**Days/Animal:** 16.9  
**Licenses Sold:** 112

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$224,009  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$45,667  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$269,676  
**Program Costs:** \$163,848

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 increased slightly from 2016. 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 at objective, and the 2017 season was designed to maintain the herd at objective.

Bison hunting in 2017 was more difficult than in the recent past. Bison harvest decreased 74 percent from 2016, and was much lower than the five year average (217). Hunter success in 2017 decreased greatly, and was below the five-year average (79 percent). Hunter effort was 16.9 days/bison harvested, much higher than in 2016, and higher than the five-year average (8.6 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>224,009</b>	<b>163,848</b>

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

## ELK

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 104,800<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 79,125<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 24,535  
**Hunters:** 56,505  
**Success Rate:** 43%  
**Recreation Days:** 441,933  
**Days/Animal:** 18.0  
**Licenses Sold:** 70,764

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$10,765,394  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$10,934,895  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$21,700,289  
**Program Costs:** \$18,272,292

<sup>a</sup> Statewide population estimate is calculated from 8 herds with population models, 20 herds based on trend counts, and field personnel estimates of 7 herds with landowner/hunter satisfaction objectives.

<sup>b</sup> The statewide population objective is based only on the eight herds with post hunt population objectives and the twenty 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, 5 of 33 elk herds with complete data are below objective, the rest are at or above objective.

Harvest decreased to 24,535 elk in 2017, and was lower than the five-year average harvest of 25,402. Hunter success decreased to 43 percent, and was slightly below the five-year average. Hunter effort (days/animal) decreased in 2017 to 18.0 days, and remained below the five-year average (18.6 days/animal). Recreation days decreased, and were slightly below the five-year average (471,159).

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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>24,535</b>	<b>441,933</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>70,764</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>10,765,394</b>	<b>18,272,292</b>

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$41,736), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## MOOSE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>3,175<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$181,935</b>
<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>3,710<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$1,135,575</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,317,510</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$1,260,490</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>94%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>2,603</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>8.8</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>322</b>		

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> 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 2017 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 2017, but hunter success increased slightly, and hunter effort (days per animal) decreased again. The 2017 hunter success was higher than the five-year average (91 percent), and hunter effort was below the average (9.0 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>181,935</b>	<b>1,260,490</b>

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

## MULE DEER

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 389,800<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 476,600<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 27,134  
**Hunters:** 50,264  
**Success Rate:** 54%  
**Recreation Days:** 235,366  
**Days/Animal:** 8.7  
**Licenses Sold:** 69,805

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$7,984,734  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$10,532,177  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$18,516,911  
**Program Costs:** \$13,451,146

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

<sup>b</sup> The statewide population objective is based only on the thirty-four herds with post hunt population objectives.

Wyoming's estimated mule deer population declined after a severe winter in western Wyoming affected two of the largest herds. 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 decreased for the first time in four years and dropped below the five-year average of 27,637. Hunter success decreased to 54 percent, and dropped below the five-year average of 55 percent. Hunter effort increased in 2017, but remained below the five-year average (9.0 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 <sup>1</sup>	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>27,134</b>	<b>235,366</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>69,805</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>7,984,734</b>	<b>13,451,146</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 (\$2,386), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## PRONGHORN

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 436,800 <sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 429,200 <sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 42,294  
**Hunters:** 44,940  
**Success Rate:** 94%  
**Recreation Days:** 149,211  
**Days/Animal:** 3.5  
**Licenses Sold:** 56,481

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$5,460,577  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$7,766,493  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$13,227,070  
**Program Costs:** \$4,030,867

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> 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 2017, Wyoming's total estimated statewide pronghorn population was 436,800 animals compared to the objective of 429,200. The estimated state population increased in 2017, and was above the state-wide objective for the first time in a number of years. Much of the state had improved precipitation and habitat conditions in 2017. 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 2017; 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 2017 harvest of 42,294 animals was an increase from the previous year, and rose above the five-year average (38,699). Hunter effort remained steady at 3.5 days per animal harvested, which remained below the five-year average of 3.8 days/animal, while the success rate increased slightly and remained 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>42,294</b>	<b>149,211</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>56,481</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5,460,577</b>	<b>4,030,867</b>

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$649), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 340<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 295<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 39  
**Hunters:** 42  
**Success Rate:** 93%  
**Recreation Days:** 276  
**Days/Animal:** 7.1  
**Licenses Sold:** 43

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$29,120  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$46,006  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$75,126  
**Program Costs:** \$216,732

<sup>a</sup> Statewide population estimate is calculated from two herds with trend count estimates.

<sup>b</sup> 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>29,120</b>	<b>216,732</b>

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

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>92,400<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$414,328</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>55,000<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$14,179</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>17,956</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$428,507</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>28,584</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$1,408,008</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>63%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>122,032</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>6.8</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>11,622</b>		

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> 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 2017 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 <sup>1</sup>	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>17,956</b>	<b>122,032</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>11,622</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>414,328</b>	<b>1,408,008</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, and interest earned on Department cash balances.

# TROPHY GAME

Black Bear  
Grizzly Bear  
Mountain Lion  
Gray Wolf



## BLACK BEAR

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$367,846</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$383,968</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$751,814</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$1,032,056</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>11.4%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days</b>	<b>25,960</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>55.6</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>4,646</b>		

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 2017 harvest was the highest on record, and was well above the five-year average (432.8). Harvest statistics demonstrate that 2017 was an excellent year for hunting black bear, despite recent increased mortality limits. The 2017 hunter success rate was in line with the five-year period, and the days per animal effort index is lower than the five-year average. We are seeing an increased interest in black bear hunting opportunities throughout the state of Wyoming.

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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>25,960</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>367,846</b>	<b>1,032,056</b>
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$422), and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## GRIZZLY BEAR

### OBJECTIVES:

**To meet those parameters identified in the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan and 2016 Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (consisting of 3 separate Recovery Criteria).**

**To maintain a recovered grizzly bear population in those portions of the Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA) and address conflicts with humans and grizzly bears in a professional and timely fashion.**

**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 50% 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 continued to act as the management lead for this population until recently and the Department continued 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 the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were recovered and therefore no longer listed as a threatened population. The Department regained management authority of grizzly bears in 2017. At the end of 2017, the population was conservatively estimated at 718 individuals in the DMA. During fall 2017, the Department facilitated public discussions across the state to gather insight and to solicit feedback as to the public’s views toward future grizzly bear management in Wyoming. These ideas and suggestions, including support for a hunting season, were taken to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in January 2018, where the Commission directed the Department to develop grizzly bear hunting regulations for fall 2018. Draft hunting regulations (Chapter 68) were developed and again taken throughout the state at public information meetings before final draft regulations were taken to the Commission in May 2018. Grizzly bear hunting regulations were approved by the Commission and the Department conducted draws for grizzly bear hunting licenses that were completed toward the end of FY 18, 2018. (It should be noted, while not during this reporting period, prior to initiation of hunting on September 1, 2018, a federal judge placed a temporary restraining order on hunting for 14 days while he made his decision on whether grizzly bears should be protected or under state management authority based on multiple lawsuits filed against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s grizzly bear program.	
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)
2014	1,793,556
2015	2,278,218
2016	2,606,261
2017	1,713,088
2018	3,007,192

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 18, the total revenue received from grant funding was \$158,839.

## MOUNTAIN LION

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$173,585</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not applicable	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$217,311</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	282	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$390,896</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	1,287	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$785,246</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	21.9%		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	12,177		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	43.2		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	2,499		

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 2017 mountain lion harvest was an increase from 2016, and above the five-year average of 271. 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, including monitoring efforts in the Black Hills and in the Green River Regions.

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 (\$)
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%	26.9	2,477	2017	162,737	670,527
<b>2017</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>12,177</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>173,585</b>	<b>785,246</b>

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

## GRAY WOLF

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** 238<sup>1</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 160  
**Harvest:** 44 (in WTGMA)  
**Hunters:** 2003  
**Success Rate:** 2.2%  
**Recreation Days:** 13,231  
**Days/Animal:** 300.7  
**Licenses Sold:** 2,527

### Fiscal Year 2018

**License Revenue:** \$97,254  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$630,956  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$728,210  
**Program Costs:** \$1,747,459

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 was implemented in the fall of 2017.

At the end of 2017, the gray wolf population in Wyoming remained above minimum delisting criteria; making 2017 the 16th consecutive year Wyoming has exceeded the numerical, distributional, and temporal delisting criteria established by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At least 347 wolves in  $\geq 53$  packs (including  $\geq 23$  breeding pairs) inhabited Wyoming on December 31, 2017. Of the total, there were  $\geq 97$  wolves and  $\geq 11$  packs (including  $\geq 3$  breeding pairs) in Yellowstone National Park,  $\geq 12$  wolves and  $\geq 2$  packs ( $\geq 1$  breeding pair) in the Wind River Reservation, and  $\geq 238$  wolves and  $\geq 40$  packs (including  $\geq 19$  breeding pairs) in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation.

In 2017, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department instituted a wolf hunting season with the biological objective to reduce the wolf population by approximately 24 percent in the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area. A mortality quota of 44 wolves was divided between 12 hunt areas in Wyoming. Wolf hunting seasons were open from October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 with the exception of hunt area 12, which opened on October 15, 2017. Individual hunt areas closed if the mortality quota for that hunt area was reached prior to the December 31, 2017 closing date. A total of 43 wolves were legally harvested and 1 wolf was illegally killed during the hunting season. Wolves could also be taken in any legal manner in Wyoming where they are designated as predatory animals. Thirty-three wolves were taken under predatory animal status in 2017.

<sup>1</sup>238 wolves in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation; including all jurisdictions in Wyoming: 347 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>44***</b>	<b>13,321</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>300.7</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>97,254</b>	<b>1,747,459</b>

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, general funds (\$320), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

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

\*\*\*Harvest reported is specific to the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area; an additional 33 wolves were harvested as predators.

# **SMALL GAME**

Cottontail  
Snowshoe Hare  
Squirrel



## COTTONTAIL RABBIT

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>22,492</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>5.0</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>14,736</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>0.7</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>		

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 2017 harvest statistics may not be telling the whole story of the status of cottontail rabbit populations. The decrease in small game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Overall harvest decreased in 2017 by 70%, and was well below the five-year average (40,205). Hunter numbers and recreation days both decreased from 2016, and were below the five-year averages of 5,449 hunters and 19,445 days. The number of animals harvested per hunter decreased from 2016, and dropped below the five-year average (6.9 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal increased in 2017, and is higher 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>22,492</b>	<b>14,736</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## SNOWSHOE HARE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,206</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>5.3</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>		

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 2017, the snowshoe hare harvest decreased, but this may not be indicative of population trends. The decrease in small game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Harvest and recreation days were the lowest of the five-year period, but the number of hunters was the third highest. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2017 was the lowest of the five years, and the 2017 effort rate increased and was above average (4.4 days/animal) but was the second highest of the five-year period.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## SQUIRREL

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>3.2</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,477</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>1.1</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>		

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 harvest, hunter numbers and recreation days all decreased in 2017. The decrease in small game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Although the harvest was below that in 2016, it was still above average (1,313). The 2017 recreation days and hunter numbers fell below the five year averages of 1,893 days and 452 hunters. Hunter success in 2017 was lower than in 2016 but was higher than the five-year average (2.9 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.



# UPLAND GAME

Pheasant

Gray Partridge

Chukar

Sage-Grouse

Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Blue Grouse

Ruffed Grouse

Mourning Dove

Turkey



## PHEASANT

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$764,165</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$1,729,836</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>41,478</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$2,494,001</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$3,956,070</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>3.4</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>36,813</b>		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.9</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>26,338</b>		

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 Downar and Sheridan Bird Farms, which tend to stabilize the number of pheasants available each year, along with hunter numbers and success rates.

The 2017 pheasant season had an increase in harvest and recreation days, and the number of hunters remained essentially the same as the previous year. The harvest was the highest of the five-year period and above the average (37,317), while recreation days were also the highest and above average (33,017). The number of pheasant hunters was the highest of the last five years. Hunter effort remained the same in 2017 and equaled the five-year average (0.9 days/bird). Hunter success increased in 2017, but 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>41,478</b>	<b>36,813</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>764,165</b>	<b>3,956,070</b>

\*\*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 (\$207), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## GRAY PARTRIDGE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>1.8</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>2,899</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>2.0</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

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 2017 season saw lower numbers for harvest, hunters, and recreation days. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> All three measures were also the lowest of the five-year period and below the averages (3,072 harvest, 4,571 recreation days, and 1,084 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## CHUKAR

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.9</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>4,650</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.1</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

The chukar partridge, which is native to Europe and Asia, was first released in Wyoming in the 1930s. Small populations of chukars are scattered throughout Wyoming in rocky, steep habitats; but the largest concentrations are found in the Bighorn Basin.

All numbers for hunting chukars decreased from 2016 and were below the five-year averages. The 2017 season was below the five-year average for harvest (6,406), number of hunters (1,651), and recreation days (6,247). Hunter success and effort figures show the wide swings that environmental conditions can produce on chukar hunting. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup>

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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## SAGE-GROUSE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$568,770
<b>Harvest:</b>	7,817	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$568,770
<b>Hunters:</b>	3,576	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$3,344,918
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	2.2		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	8,646		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	1.1		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**		

Wyoming's sage-grouse populations are considered to be below historic levels, and recent numbers in harvest and lek attendance show no specific trends either up or down, just yearly fluctuations. 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 2017.

In 2017, harvest numbers had large decreases. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Harvest, recreation days, and the number of hunters decreased and was below the five-year averages (8,332 harvest, 9,333 recreation days, and 3,892 hunters). The 2017 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 (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>7,817</b>	<b>8,646</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3,576</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>3,344,918</b>
<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 (\$312,831), and interest earned on Department cash balances.</p>								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>1.8</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>2,215</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.7</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

Sharp-tailed grouse occur primarily in eastern Wyoming, but there is also a small population in south-central Wyoming that is not hunted. 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 beneficial effects of this conversion were short-lived as most CRP land is now dominated by less desirable plant species. The Department's Walk-In Access Program, begun in 1998, has greatly improved sharp-tailed grouse hunting opportunities.

Sharp-tailed grouse harvest numbers for 2017 were the lowest since 2013. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Harvest was well below the five-year average (2,069), as were recreation days (3,167), and hunters (880). Success was lower than the average (2.2), but effort measured in days per bird equaled the average.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## BLUE GROUSE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>5,306</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.0</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>11,520</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>2.2</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

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 2017 hunting season had lower harvest, recreation days and hunter numbers than the previous four years. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2017 blue grouse season was below the five-year average for harvest (8,364), recreation days (14,788), and hunters (3,457). The 2017 harvest rate and effort figures were not as good as the previous year and were also worse than the most recent five-year average (2.4 birds/hunter, 1.8 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>5,306</b>	<b>11,520</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## RUFFED GROUSE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue</b>	\$	**
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.3</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>8,414</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>2.1</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

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 2017 was much lower than 2016 and dropped below the averages in all categories. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2017 season was below the five-year average for harvest (6,368), recreation days (10,352), and hunters (2,057). The success rate, measured in birds per hunter, was lower than the previous year and was lower than the five-year average (3.0). Hunter effort increased and was higher than the average (1.7 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## MOURNING DOVE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>18,242</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$	**
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>9.6</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>5,201</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.3</b>			
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>			

The mourning dove is the most abundant and widespread game bird in North America. More mourning doves are harvested throughout the country than all other game birds combined. The mourning dove occupies a wide variety of native habitats in Wyoming, as well as farmlands and urban areas.

Mourning dove harvest decreased in 2017 to the lowest level in five years. The decrease in upland game harvest was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> Harvest remained below the five-year average (23,662), as did recreation days (6,495 days). The number of hunters decreased and dropped below the average (2,160). The success rate decreased and was less than the five-year average (10.9). 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 is 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>18,242</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**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.								

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of this calculation change see project statement of 2017 Annual Report of Small Game, Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl, Furbearer, Wild Turkey and Falconry Harvest.

## TURKEY

### Calendar Year 2017

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>3,521</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>5,957</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>.6</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>21,900</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>8,108</b>

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$204,286</b>
<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$608,982</b>
<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$813,268</b>
<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$148,520</b>

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 2017, the harvest and number of hunters decreased from 2016 but only hunters dropped below the five-year average (6,238). The 2017 harvest remained above the average (3,333). Recreation days increased from 2016 and remained above the average of 20,842 days. The success rate was the same as in 2016 and just above the five-year average, and the number of days to harvest a turkey increased but remained just 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 (\$)
2013	2,778	18,055	0.5	6.5	5,703	2014	169,772	174,284
2014	2,958	20,405	0.5	6.9	6,079	2015	177,565	155,879
2015	3,531	22,331	0.5	6.3	6,633	2016	188,704	188,245
2016	3,879	21,518	0.6	5.5	6,817	2017	196,632	181,384
<b>2017</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>204,286</b>	<b>148,520</b>

\*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 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>47,092</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>5,625</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>27,957</b>		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>0.6</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>**</b>		

A variety of duck species migrate through the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Wyoming during spring and fall. 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.

In Wyoming, the 2017-2018 continued to see good water conditions. Hunter numbers decreased slightly, and were the lowest seen in the last five years (5,625). Harvest also decreased and was the second lowest seen in the last five years (47,092). The harvest rate in 2017 was above the average for the last five years (8.4 birds/hunter). 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>47,092</b>	<b>27,957</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5,625</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**All small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.							

## GOOSE

### Calendar Year 2017

**Population:** Not available  
**Population Objective:** Not available  
**Harvest:** 34,880  
**Hunters:** 5,077  
**Bird/Hunter:** 6.9  
**Recreation Days:** 26,073  
**Days/Bird:** 0.7  
**Licenses Sold:** \*\*

### Fiscal Year 2018

**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 regulations 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 2017, harvest decreased slightly, and was the second highest seen in the last five years. Recreation days increased, and were also the second highest seen in the last five years (26,073). Hunter numbers decreased, and were slightly below the five-year average (5,077). 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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>34,880</b>	<b>26,073</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5,077</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

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

## SANDHILL CRANE

### Calendar Year 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Harvest:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>193</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>318</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Bird/Hunter:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>814</b>		
<b>Days/Bird:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.5</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>			

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 2017 season, harvest was significantly higher than the previous year. Recreation days saw a 22 percent increase, and hunter numbers increased 12 percent. The success rate stayed the same, and was at the five-year average (0.6 birds per hunter). Hunter effort in 2017 was at a five-year low (2.5 days/bird harvested).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes program. <sup>1</sup>							
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 (\$)
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	**	**
<b>2017</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1100</b>		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.8</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	**		

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 (\$)
2013	750	450	3.8	0.6	200	**	**
2014	400	650	1.6	1.6	250	**	**
2015	800	500	4.0	0.5	200	**	**
<b>2016</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
**All small game and small game/game bird and migratory bird license revenue and expenditure information is shown on the pheasant schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.							
** Because program costs were negligible, they are included with other waterfowl management costs.							

# **FISHERIES**

Sport Fisheries  
Commercial Fisheries



## SPORT FISHERIES

### Calendar 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Recreation Day Objectives:</b>	<b>2,778,000</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$6,982,896</b>
<b>Recreation Days:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,680,111</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$10,724,268</b>
<b>Fish/Day:</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$17,707,164</b>
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>346,720</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$29,217,042</b>
<b>Economic Return Per Day:</b>	<b>\$74.00</b>		

In 2017, nearly 2.7 million angler days of sport fishing recreation were estimated. Overall license sales were down 2.4% 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 the current estimate was derived).<sup>1</sup> The Department anticipates being able to better estimate annual participation rates 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.<sup>2</sup>

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sport fisheries program.						
Calendar Year	Rec. Days <sup>1</sup>	Fish/Day	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>2,680,111</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>346,720</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>\$6,982,896</b>	<b>\$29,217,042</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup>Costs do not include general fund capital construction dollars for hatchery renovations.



# **FURBEARERS**

Bobcat  
Other Furbearers



## BOBCAT

### Calendar 2017

**Bobcat Harvest<sup>1</sup>:** 2,189  
**Bobcat Trappers<sup>3</sup>:** 472  
**Bobcats per Trapper<sup>2</sup>:** 4.6  
**Recreation Days:** 15,526  
**Days/Animal:** 7.1

### Fiscal Year 2018

**Licenses Sold:** \*\*  
**License Revenue:** \$\*\*  
**Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$\*\*  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$\*\*  
**Program Costs:** \$501,953

Bobcat harvest data comes from information collected as part of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) requirements for bobcat pelt tagging. The Department relies on agency personnel who tag bobcats with CITES tags to collect information on age and sex of each bobcat and on harvest effort values. This information is available for the annual CITES report and for Department use. It most accurately reflects harvest.

The number of licenses sold has been largely increasing over the last five years, while bobcat harvest success has varied. The 2017 harvest was the highest of the last five years and above the five-year average (1,492). The harvest rate increased and was higher than the five-year average (3.8). The number of successful trappers increased, and rose above the five-year average (385). Bobcat harvest tends to follow rabbit population levels, which have rebounded the last couple of years.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's Furbearer Program.							
Bobcat Statistics				Entire Furbearer Program			
Calendar Year	Reported Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Bobcats/Trapper <sup>2</sup>	Number Trappers <sup>3</sup>	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2013	1,571	3.0	522	**	2014	**	309,848
2014	1,140	4.0	287	**	2015	**	264,253
2015	1,164	3.6	295	**	2016	**	246,895
2016	1,397	4.0	350	**	2017	**	280,334
<b>2017</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>501,953</b>

<sup>1</sup>The number of bobcats tagged in Wyoming.  
<sup>2</sup> The number of bobcats per successful trapper.  
<sup>3</sup> The number of trappers who had bobcats tagged.

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.  
 \*\*All furbearer licenses sold and license revenue information is shown on the other furbearer schedule as separate information is not available due to combination licenses.

## OTHER FURBEARERS

### Calendar 2017

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Furbearer Harvest:</b>	<b>8,842</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$122,070</b>
<b>Furbearer Trappers<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$312,165</b>
<b>Furbearers per Trapper:</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$434,235</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>20,817</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$268,301</b>
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>2.4</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold <sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>2,299</b>		

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 a 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/snare 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 <sup>3</sup>	Furbearers/ Trapper	Number Trappers <sup>1</sup>	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Rev. (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
<b>2017</b>	<b>8,842</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>122,070</b>	<b>268,301</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The total number of furbearer licenses sold.

<sup>3</sup> 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 and interest earned on Department cash balances.

# **RAPTORS**



## RAPTORS

### Calendar Year

### Fiscal Year 2018

<b>Captures:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$3,599</b>
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$37,965</b>
		<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$41,564</b>
		<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$615,802</b>

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 2017, 31 resident licenses were issued and nine birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 29 percent. Nine nonresident licenses were issued and seven birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 78 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 <sup>1</sup>	Licenses Sold <sup>2</sup>	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$) <sup>3</sup>
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
2017	16	39%	40	2018	3,599	615,802

<sup>1</sup>Based on capture licenses sold.

<sup>2</sup>Includes only licenses to capture falcons; 93 licenses to hunt with falcons were issued in 2017. General fund revenue received was \$911.

<sup>3</sup>Includes program costs for raptors, including bald eagle and peregrine falcon.



**NONGAME PROGRAMS  
AND  
NON-LICENSED USES**



## **NONGAME PROGRAMS AND NON-LICENSED USES OF WILDLIFE**

The Terrestrial Nongame Bird and Mammal Program includes activities such as 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 2017 State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (SWAP). Priorities and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in Wyoming's SWAP direct the section's inventory monitoring and survey activities.

The Terrestrial Nongame Program was previously funded through Wyoming legislative general funds in the amount of approximately \$865,000 for the FY 17/18 biennium. Due to statewide budget constraints, the legislature no longer funds the Terrestrial Nongame Program, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission began funding this work in FY 18. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has funded the Program at similar levels, \$466,250 for FY 18. 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 18, the Terrestrial Nongame Program received \$10,000 to assist with plague control at the Meeteetse black-footed ferret recovery site.



**APPENDIX B:**

**BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL  
SUMMARIES**



**Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2019 Budget**

Budget	Name	Revised Budget	Proposed FY 2019 Changes	Preliminarily Approved FY 2018 Budget	M&O	Personnel	FY 2018 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change
Director	0A10 Director Office Admin	1,345,904		1,345,904	214,506	1,131,399	1,649,229	(303,325)	-18.39%
	0A10 Director Office-Contingency	100,000		100,000	100,000		100,000		
	0J11 Public Information Admin	375,325		375,325	78,071	297,254	375,172	153	0.04%
	0A20 WGFC Vehicle Fleet	2,165,827	15,000	2,150,827	2,165,827		2,318,666	(152,839)	-6.59%
	0A30 Commission	109,070		109,070	86,382	22,688	102,866	6,203	6.03%
	0E10 Conservation Educ-R3	345,446		345,446	227,742	117,704	358,887	(13,441)	-3.75%
	0E11 Conservation Educ-Volunteers	159,266		159,266	60,704	98,562	148,942	10,324	6.93%
	0E20 Hunter Education	174,806		174,806	91,978	82,828	197,401	(22,595)	-11.45%
	0J10 Media/Customer Outreach	545,927		545,927	48,020	497,907	565,237	(19,311)	-3.42%
	0J20 Publications	648,187		648,187	451,428	196,759	596,555	51,632	8.66%
	0P10 Personnel	439,536		439,536	148,438	291,098	445,530	(5,994)	-1.35%
0S10 Strategic Planning	93,675		93,675	4,535	89,140	435,077	(341,402)	-78.47%	
0U10 Cooperative Research	440,000		440,000	440,000		440,000			
0W10 Statewide Habitat Protection	846,226		846,226	36,903	809,323	737,577	108,649	14.73%	
<b>Director's Office Total</b>		<b>7,789,195</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>7,774,195</b>	<b>4,154,533</b>	<b>3,634,662</b>	<b>8,471,141</b>	<b>(681,946)</b>	<b>-8.05%</b>
Fiscal	2A10 Fiscal Administration	512,240		512,240	19,578	492,663	497,341	14,900	3.00%
	2F11 Cashier						72,735	(72,735)	-100.00%
	2F12 Licensing	1,084,922		1,084,922	210,549	874,373	1,080,137	4,784	0.44%
	2F13 General Accounting	420,643		420,643	13,144	407,499	336,317	84,325	25.07%
	2F20 Accounts Payable	384,288		384,288	28,532	355,756	440,590	(56,302)	-12.78%
	2F31 Asset Management	705,030		705,030	381,949	323,081	582,116	122,914	21.11%
	2V10 Customer Service	212,815		212,815	6,758	206,057	210,485	2,329	1.11%
	2J50 Mailroom	579,347		579,347	519,040	60,307	616,822	(37,474)	-6.08%
	2Z1X Regional Office Management	1,550,936		1,550,936	300,621	1,250,316	1,540,498	10,438	0.68%
	2X10 Legislated Expenses	2,141,000		2,141,000	2,105,000	36,000	2,157,000	(16,000)	-0.74%
<b>Fiscal Total</b>		<b>7,591,220</b>		<b>7,591,220</b>	<b>3,585,169</b>	<b>4,006,051</b>	<b>7,534,041</b>	<b>57,179</b>	<b>0.76%</b>
Services	4A11 Services Administration	421,031		421,031	33,405	387,626	258,015	163,016	63.18%
	4D10 Feedground Maintenance	421,567		421,567	397,500	24,067	326,330	95,238	29.18%
	4H10 Habitat Access/Maintenance	4,121,712		4,121,712	1,538,073	2,583,640	3,706,288	415,424	11.21%
	4H20 Property Rights Development	332,000		332,000	332,000		290,000	42,000	14.48%
	4K10 Conservation Engineering	674,402		674,402	236,762	437,640	869,626	(195,224)	-22.45%
	4L20 Game and Fish Lab	952,121		952,121	144,212	807,909	778,200	173,921	22.35%
	4R01 Property Rights-Administration	838,349		838,349	499,349	339,001	773,713	64,637	8.35%
	4R1X Property Rights-Acquisition	60,000		60,000	60,000		60,000		
	4Y10 Information Technology	3,082,091		3,082,091	1,300,111	1,781,980	3,414,284	(332,193)	-9.73%
	4Y11 Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	369,701		369,701	50,316	319,385		369,701	
4ZXX Support Facilities	1,451,823		1,451,823	1,291,275	160,548	1,504,673	(52,850)	-3.51%	
4Z2X Support Facilities-Contingency									
4Z30 Support Facilities Cheyenne									
<b>Services Total</b>		<b>12,724,796</b>		<b>12,724,796</b>	<b>5,883,002</b>	<b>6,841,795</b>	<b>11,981,129</b>	<b>743,668</b>	<b>6.21%</b>
Fish	5A10 Fish Administration	438,982		438,982	47,144	391,838	428,115	10,867	2.54%
	5H40 Habitat Coordinator (WLCI)	115,898		115,898	6,790	109,109	112,504	3,394	3.02%
	5C10 Hatchery & Rearing Stations	6,019,564		6,019,564	2,374,499	3,645,065	6,493,956	(474,392)	-7.31%
	5C20 Fish Spawning	174,858		174,858	36,367	138,491	180,474	(5,616)	-3.11%
	5C30 Fish Distribution	153,699		153,699	153,699		149,186	4,513	3.03%
	5H10 Regional Aquatic Habitat	1,030,177		1,030,177	112,389	917,788	999,101	31,076	3.11%
	5H20 Water Management	284,195		284,195	30,672	253,522	266,540	17,655	6.62%
	5H30 Fish Passage	427,397		427,397	230,277	197,120	470,696	(43,300)	-9.20%
	5O1B Aquatic Sensitive Species						239,437	(239,437)	-100.00%
	5Q10 Regional Aquatic Mgmt	3,505,408		3,505,408	403,752	3,101,656	3,465,921	39,488	1.14%
	5Q1B Aquatic Invasive Species	1,320,150		1,320,150	240,286	1,079,863	1,319,460	689	0.05%
5Q30 Statewide Aquatic Mgmt	841,849		841,849	252,733	589,115	528,089	313,760	59.41%	
5Q40 Boating Access	1,357,000		1,357,000	1,357,000		1,691,344	(334,344)	-19.77%	
<b>Fish Total</b>		<b>15,669,176</b>		<b>15,669,176</b>	<b>5,245,608</b>	<b>10,423,567</b>	<b>16,344,823</b>	<b>(675,647)</b>	<b>-4.13%</b>

**Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2019 Budget**

Budget	Name	Revised Budget	Proposed FY 2019 Changes	Preliminary Approved FY 2018 Budget	M&O	Personnel	FY 2018 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change
Wildlife	6A10 Wildlife Administration	1,363,043		1,363,043	445,915	917,129	1,357,361	5,682	0.42%
	6B1X Bird Farms	761,656		761,656	339,489	422,166	774,154	(12,499)	-1.61%
	6D10 Feedgrounds	1,887,847		1,887,847	1,666,838	221,009	2,288,189	(400,342)	-17.50%
	6H10 Terrestrial Habitat Mgmt	323,326		323,326	41,090	282,236	319,033	4,293	1.35%
	6H30 Terrestrial Regional Habitat	746,265		746,265	72,751	673,514	825,551	(79,286)	-9.60%
	6H20 Terrestrial Habitat Extension	-		-					
	6L1B Veterinary Services Program	1,575,522		1,575,522	800,758	774,764	1,295,294	280,228	21.63%
	6L1C CWD Research	-		-			87,364	(87,364)	-100.00%
	6L2B Veterinary Services - Brucellosis	75,564		75,564	14,825	60,739	532,204	(456,640)	-85.80%
	6N10 Special Enforcement-Investigators	745,871		745,871	63,093	682,779	733,999	11,872	1.62%
	6NX0 Poaching, Administration	447,034		447,034	129,271	317,764	444,666	2,369	0.53%
	6N30 Special Enforcement-Stop Poaching	\$ -		\$ -					
	6N40 Special Enforcement-Administration	\$ -		\$ -					
	6O1B Terrestrial Sensitive Species	808,940		808,940	315,346	493,594	867,703	(58,763)	-6.77%
	6R10 Property Rights-Statewide PLPW	104,880		104,880	20,825	84,055	105,821	(941)	-0.89%
	6R30 Property Rights-Regional PLPW	551,119		551,119	70,893	480,226	553,181	(2,062)	-0.37%
	6R2X Property Rights-PLPW Access (F06)	1,027,155		1,027,155	1,027,155		1,027,155		
	6T1X Wildlife Biologists	4,422,728		4,422,728	1,137,329	3,285,399	3,905,881	516,847	13.23%
	6T2X Wildlife Wardens	7,638,311	175,000	7,463,311	1,826,715	5,811,597	7,341,354	296,958	4.04%
	6T3X Regional Wildlife Supervisors	2,454,210		2,454,210	544,976	1,909,234	2,364,012	90,198	3.82%
6T3B Wolf Management	-		-			703,951	(703,951)	-100.00%	
6T4B Sage Grouse Planning & Protection	840,632		840,632	643,941	196,691	917,521	(76,889)	-8.38%	
6T50 Biological Services	880,400		880,400	433,768	446,633	857,840	22,560	2.63%	
6T71 Trophy Game and Conflict Resolution	2,247,202		2,247,202	782,336	1,464,866	1,278,109	969,093	75.82%	
6T80 Waterfowl	203,973		203,973	90,016	113,957	182,063	21,911	12.03%	
6T90 Predator Management	100,000		100,000	100,000		100,000			
6G10 Regional Information & Education	704,731		704,731	50,221	654,510	692,050	12,680	1.83%	
<b>Wildlife Total</b>		<b>29,910,409</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>29,735,409</b>	<b>10,617,549</b>	<b>19,292,860</b>	<b>29,554,457</b>	<b>355,952</b>	<b>1.20%</b>
<b>WGFC Operating Budget Subtotal</b>		<b>73,684,796</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>73,494,796</b>	<b>29,485,861</b>	<b>44,198,935</b>	<b>73,885,591</b>	<b>(200,795)</b>	<b>-0.27%</b>
<b>Wildlife Trust Fund Interest Total</b>		<b>1,164,810</b>		<b>1,164,810</b>	<b>1,164,810</b>		<b>1,199,526</b>	<b>(34,716)</b>	<b>-2.89%</b>
<b>State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Total</b>		<b>890,061</b>		<b>890,061</b>	<b>674,217</b>	<b>215,844</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>90,061</b>	<b>11.26%</b>
<b>Reimbursable Grants:</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>5,925,982</b>	<b>74,018</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>		
<b>Total WGFC Standard Budget</b>		<b>81,739,667</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>81,549,667</b>	<b>37,250,870</b>	<b>44,488,797</b>	<b>81,885,117</b>	<b>(145,450)</b>	<b>-0.18%</b>

	Preliminary Approved FY2019 Budget	Proposed FY 2019 Changes	Revised FY 2019 Budget
<b>WGF Commission One-time Projects Budget</b>			
3C5A Boulder Rearing Station Engineering	175,000		175,000
3T6B Chokecherry Wind Research Project	105,000		105,000
3O6A Chain Lakes Nongame Monitoring Proj.	20,000		20,000
3Y4A GIS Database	100,000		100,000
3Z4D Land Acquisition/Land Feasibility	100,000		100,000
Wildlife Foundation Support		250,000	250,000
3T6Z Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep		350,000	350,000
3F20 Plant Moran Feasibility Study		285,500	285,500
3U0C WY Range Mule Deer		263,000	263,000
<b>Total One-time Projects Budget</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>1,148,500</b>	<b>1,648,500</b>
<b>Commission Approved Spending Authority</b>			
<b>Total WGFC Standard Budget</b>	<b>81,549,667</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>81,739,667</b>
<b>Total WGFC One-time Projects Budget</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>1,148,500</b>	<b>1,648,500</b>

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, 2018**

	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>% CHNG FY 15 to FY 18</b>
<b>ASSETS:</b>					
PETTY CASH	\$ 18,250	\$ 18,250	\$ 17,850	\$ 17,450	5%
CASH - OPERATIONS	45,141,765	54,624,102	51,969,021	51,414,908	-12%
CASH- WLDLFE TRUST INTEREST	3,249,156	3,350,363	3,757,182	3,229,021	1%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	2,358,253	2,069,437	1,941,671	1,965,771	20%
	<u>50,767,424</u>	<u>60,062,152</u>	<u>57,685,724</u>	<u>56,627,150</u>	-10%
CASH - WLDLFE TRUST CORPUS	29,886,915	28,861,281	27,962,314	27,069,276	10%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	5,834,297	5,617,429	5,466,932	5,251,819	11%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	45,416	36,430	25,162	32,813	38%
CASH - APPS/UNDISTRIBD IN PROCESS	17,992,638	14,655,007	12,625,812	11,627,939	55%
CASH-AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	114,810	571,884	444,795	444,795	-74%
RETURNED CHECKS	12,698	2,184	480	541	2247%
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>104,654,198</u>	<u>109,806,367</u>	<u>104,211,218</u>	<u>101,054,332</u>	<u>4%</u>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	381,473	303,852	118,411	11,546	3204%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	925	55	0	500	85%
APP/UNDIST PENDING DRAW	17,992,638	14,655,007	12,625,812	11,627,939	55%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	0	3,180	701	4,165	-100%
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAIN/LOSS	(668,605)	(470,965)	(119,564)	0	
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	371	13,905	5,986	144,928	-100%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>17,806,802</u>	<u>14,605,034</u>	<u>12,731,346</u>	<u>11,889,077</u>	<u>50%</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>					
<b>RESTRICTED</b>					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES	15,089,227	28,739,413	10,278,565	7,792,419	94%
WLDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS (F08)	29,960,427	28,861,281	27,962,314	27,069,276	11%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST (F07)	2,535,524	2,538,620	3,051,420	2,860,318	-11%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS (F06)	2,358,253	2,069,437	1,941,671	1,965,771	20%
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	114,810	571,884	444,795	444,795	-74%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND (F02)	5,905,693	5,639,833	5,472,180	5,251,819	12%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	45,620	36,497	25,192	32,813	39%
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>					
G&F OPERATING FUND(F01)	30,837,842	26,744,369	42,303,735	43,748,043	-30%
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>86,847,395</u>	<u>95,201,333</u>	<u>91,479,872</u>	<u>89,165,255</u>	<u>-3%</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>104,654,198</u>	<u>109,806,367</u>	<u>104,211,218</u>	<u>101,054,332</u>	<u>4%</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

<b>EXPENDABLE FUNDS only:</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>FY 17</b>	<b>% Change from FY 17</b>
<b>REVENUE RECEIVED</b>			
Hunting & Fish Lic	33,683,077	30,644,316	10%
Conservation Stamps	979,420	817,880	20%
Boating Registration	621,745	395,990	57%
Other license revenue (pp points)	9,305,784	8,658,998	7%
Pooled Interest Opr	1,701,745	1,731,598	-2%
Pooled Interest Trt (1)(2)	992,428	691,776	43%
Income from Inv&Land	1,074,928	797,507	35%
100% Reimbursable	7,206,351	6,113,395	18%
Application Fees	2,505,500	2,228,929	12%
Publication Sales	218,077	217,332	0%
Access Yes donations/cstamp(3)	1,036,675	913,361	14%
Federal Aid & Grants	22,813,591	19,833,225	15%
License Recoupment	807,125	844,500	-4%
General Funds	569,104	5,648,645	-90%
Other Items	120,375	229,098	-47%
<b>TTL REVENUE EARNED</b>	<b>83,635,925</b>	<b>79,766,552</b>	<b>5%</b>

**EXPENDITURES MADE**

<b>Maintenance &amp; Ops</b>			
Office of Director	6,352,896	6,162,002	3%
Fiscal Division	4,692,984	4,630,158	1%
Services Division	10,008,069	9,395,759	7%
Fish Division	14,023,516	14,470,305	-3%
Wildlife Division	26,647,435	25,551,729	4%
<b>TOTAL M&amp;O EXPENSES</b>	<b>61,724,900</b>	<b>60,209,953</b>	<b>3%</b>

Access Fund	744,377	781,891	-5%
Wyoming wildlife trust (1)(2)	700,308	504,388	39%
Legislated Expenses	2,185,805	2,031,031	8%
<b>Pr yr encmbrd m/o exp</b>	<b>4,755,026</b>	<b>3,803,482</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>TTL OPERATING EXP</b>	<b>70,110,416</b>	<b>67,330,744</b>	<b>4%</b>

Reimbursable Contracts	6,711,401	5,773,849	16%
Statewildlife Grants	439,795	438,230	0%
Property Rights			
Nonrecurring Projects	140,016	2,648,921	-95%
<b>Pr yr encmbrd other xp</b>	<b>15,974,895</b>	<b>931,638</b>	<b>1615%</b>
<b>TTL NONOP EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,266,107</b>	<b>9,792,638</b>	<b>138%</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>93,376,523</b>	<b>77,123,382</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>DEFICIT OF REVENUE OVER EXP</b>	<b>(9,740,598)</b>	<b>2,643,170</b>	

<b>NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS only:</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>FY 17</b>	<b>% Change from FY 17</b>
<b>Wildlife Conservation Trust &amp; Lifetime License Fund(s)</b>			
Corpus, July 1	34,478,710	33,429,246	3%
Prior year adj for increase in value of investments	22,404	5,247	
Current year adj for increase in value of investments			
Change in unrealized investments	(144,907)	(22,404)	
Interest earned	152,245	122,738	24%
Transfer from operations	(368,095)	(355,083)	
Donations	22,424	4,178	437%
Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses	481,710	399,998	20%
Lifetime conservation stamps	98,520	76,983	28%
Annual conserv stamp 37 1/2%	978,201	817,807	20%
<b>Corpus, June 30</b>	<b>35,721,212</b>	<b>34,478,710</b>	<b>4%</b>

All Department revenue/expenditures is recognized above excepting:

- 1) \$633,955 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 \$98,520 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp \$978,201 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 \$186,950 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, 2018**

	Total WGFC Expenditures	General Fund (non capital construction) Expenditures	Total FY 2018 Expenditures	% of Total Expenditures
Aquatic Wildlife Management	\$ 7,031,085	15,750	7,046,835	7.5%
Bird Farms	754,259		754,259	0.8%
Cooperative Research	907,169		907,169	1.0%
Conservation Engineering	2,108,579		2,108,579	2.3%
CWCS (Sensitive Species)	535,660	217,607	753,268	0.8%
Department Administration	5,726,281		5,726,281	6.1%
Education	622,735		622,735	0.7%
Feedgrounds	2,101,163		2,101,163	2.3%
Financial Management	2,343,372		2,343,372	2.5%
Fish Culture	6,727,300		6,727,300	7.2%
Habitat	11,387,450		11,387,450	12.2%
Information	1,736,517		1,736,517	1.9%
Legislated Expenses	2,057,514		2,057,514	2.2%
Customer Services	209,760		209,760	0.2%
Management Information Systems	3,055,504		3,055,504	3.3%
Personnel Management	352,259		352,259	0.4%
Property Rights	2,346,213		2,346,213	2.5%
Regional Information/Education	693,884		693,884	0.7%
Specialized Law Enforcement	1,510,691		1,510,691	1.6%
Human Dimensions/Strategic Management	355,175		355,175	0.4%
Support Facilities/Personnel	17,739,038		17,739,038	19.0%
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	19,108,077	285,376	19,393,452	20.8%
Wildlife Habitat Protection	842,265		842,265	0.9%
Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services	2,555,467	50,371	2,605,838	2.8%
<b>Total Amount Expended</b>	<b>92,807,419</b>	<b>569,104</b>	<b>93,376,523</b>	<b>100%</b>

**STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES**

<b>LICENSES</b>						
<b>Antelope <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	197	202	206	230	230
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	58	58	76	96	91
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$20.00	155	146	149	178	202
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$18.00	47	40	38	44	66
Resident Antelope	\$33.00	15,839	14,644	14,712	15,560	16,184
Resident Antelope Carryover	\$10.00					3
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$33.00	8	8	6	7	8
Resident Antelope Super Tag	\$33.00			1		
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$33.00			2	1	4
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$33.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$22.00	5,840	5,186	5,570	6,673	6,999
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,342	2,271	2,368	2,437	2,604
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	571	546	598	688	784
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$15.00	1		1	1	2
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00	1	1			
<b>Total Resident Antelope</b>		<b>25,059</b>	<b>23,102</b>	<b>23,727</b>	<b>25,915</b>	<b>27,177</b>
Nonres Antelope	\$272.00	10,377	8,964	8,187	7,823	7,991
Nonres Antelope Commissioner	\$272.00	2				
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$272.00	72	71	73	71	72
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$272.00		1		1	1
Nonres Antelope w/Preference Point	\$272.00	2,490	2,225	2,205	2,918	3,737
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$272.00	19	39	36		
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* <sup>16</sup>	\$33.00				28	34
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$272.00	1	1		4	5
Nonres Antelope Yth One Shot Hunt	\$110.00		1	1	2	
Nonres Antelope Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	256	239	201	289	308
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$34.00	17,384	11,694	11,322	12,106	13,655
Nonres Special Antelope	\$512.00	555	515	565	686	705
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$512.00	970	867	1,007	1,246	1,525
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	678	584	489	505	503
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$110.00		5	6		
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* <sup>16</sup>	\$15.00				2	4
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00		5	5	2	4
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00	1,181	724	628	738	760
<b>Total Nonresident Antelope</b>		<b>33,985</b>	<b>25,935</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>26,421</b>	<b>29,304</b>
<b>Total Antelope Licenses</b>		<b>59,044</b>	<b>49,037</b>	<b>48,452</b>	<b>52,336</b>	<b>56,481</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonresident Archery	\$30.00	4,849	4,751	4,886	4,998	5,102
Nonresident Youth Archery	\$12.00	125	99	130	157	139
Resident Archery	\$16.00	14,062	14,852	15,273	15,082	14,765
Resident Youth Archery	\$6.00	1,169	1,256	1,277	1,293	1,211
<b>Total Archery Licenses</b>		<b>20,205</b>	<b>20,958</b>	<b>21,566</b>	<b>21,530</b>	<b>21,217</b>
<b>Bighorn Sheep</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,252.00	52	50	48	50	51
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00	5	5	5	5	4
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$2,252.00			1	1	
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$2,252.00		1		1	
Nonresident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$240.00	2	1			
Nonresident Yth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$100.00					

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$117.00	158	147	140	144	151
Resident Bighorn Sheep Carryover	\$10.00					4
Resident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00					1
Resident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$117.00		1	1		
Resident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$117.00					1
Resident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$36.00	5	3			
Resident Youth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$20.00	1				
<b>Total Bighorn Sheep Licenses</b>		<b>223</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonres Black Bear	\$362.00	417	436	405	417	455
Nonres Black Bear Super Tag	\$362.00		1			
Resident Black Bear	\$45.00	3,716	3,955	4,103	4,188	4,190
Resident Black Bear Super Tag	\$45.00					1
<b>Total Black Bear Licenses</b>		<b>4,133</b>	<b>4,392</b>	<b>4,508</b>	<b>4,605</b>	<b>4,646</b>
<b>Deer <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	354	398	449	464	500
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	88	79	89	122	115
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$23.00	284	348	367	396	425
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$18.00	53	49	39	40	72
Resident Deer	\$38.00	38,146	39,080	41,435	42,715	40,655
Resident Deer Carryover	\$10.00					66
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$38.00	4		3	2	1
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	7,768	6,718	6,993	7,232	7,558
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	5,671	5,984	6,409	6,703	6,511
Resident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00		1	1		
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	772	659	680	765	801
<b>Total Resident Deer</b>		<b>53,142</b>	<b>53,317</b>	<b>56,469</b>	<b>58,442</b>	<b>56,704</b>
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$552.00	925	899	1,205	1,328	1,434
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$312.00	3,274	3,144	3,446	3,979	4,171
NonRes Deer Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	211	231	241	273	283
Nonresident Deer	\$312.00	12,740	11,440	10,769	10,914	10,122
Nonresident Deer Carryover	\$10.00					24
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$312.00	5		10	7	7
Nonresident Deer Governor	\$0.00	3	2	2	3	
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$312.00	20	28	25	24	23
Nonresident Deer Super Tag	\$312.00		1		1	1
Nonresident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$312.00	2	1		2	4
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$34.00	5,651	5,020	5,458	5,976	6,442
Nonres Special Deer	\$552.00	800	945	1,164	1,403	1,437
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	604	523	540	549	450
Nonresident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	3	6	4	1	4
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00	328	282	340	363	321
<b>Total Nonresident Deer</b>		<b>24,566</b>	<b>22,522</b>	<b>23,204</b>	<b>24,823</b>	<b>24,723</b>
<b>Total Deer Licenses</b>		<b>77,708</b>	<b>75,839</b>	<b>79,673</b>	<b>83,265</b>	<b>81,427</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

<b>Elk <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	157	195	219	213	202
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	431	484	527	524	583
Pioneer Elk Commissioner	\$5.00	1				
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$27.00	161	163	175	185	198
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$32.00	392	430	434	475	518
Pioneer Heritage Elk Commissioner	\$32.00					
Res Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$52.00			1	1	
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$43.00	13,490	13,215	13,115	12,480	12,598
Resident Elk	\$52.00	38,554	39,058	39,080	39,584	38,566
Resident Elk <sup>19</sup>	\$57.00					1
Resident Elk Carryover	\$10.00					6
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$52.00	12	8	12	6	10
Resident Elk Governor	\$0.00	3	4	2	2	2
Resident Elk Military Combat	\$0.00	1			1	
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$52.00		1		1	
Resident Elk Youth Commissioner	\$25.00	1	1			
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	4,002	4,047	4,148	4,150	4,194
Resident Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$25.00		1		1	
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	1,118	1,107	1,170	1,062	1,234
<b>Total Resident Elk</b>		<b>58,323</b>	<b>58,714</b>	<b>58,883</b>	<b>58,685</b>	<b>58,112</b>
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$288.00	4,585	4,980	5,065	4,696	4,605
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$577.00	2,982	2,789	2,617	2,734	2,680
Nonres Elk & Fishing Carryover	\$10.00					3
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$577.00	47	46	47	40	60
Nonres Elk & Fishing Governor	\$0.00	4	3	4	3	7
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$577.00	1	2	1	3	1
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,057.00	1,444	1,684	1,679	1,641	1,750
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$577.00	2,375	2,239	2,195	2,170	2,151
NonRes Elk Super Tag	\$577.00			1		1
NonRes Elk Trifecta	\$577.00				1	
NonRes Elk Yth w/Preference Point	\$275.00	58	81	79	69	96
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,057.00	896	1,038	1,120	1,076	960
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00	223	236	271	239	268
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$100.00				1	
Nonres Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$275.00	4	4	5	1	5
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	72	74	71	70	64
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing Commissioner	\$275.00				1	1
<b>Total Nonresident Elk</b>		<b>12,691</b>	<b>13,176</b>	<b>13,155</b>	<b>12,745</b>	<b>12,652</b>
<b>Total Elk Licenses</b>		<b>71,014</b>	<b>71,890</b>	<b>72,038</b>	<b>71,430</b>	<b>70,764</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Resident Daily Fish	\$6.00	35,893	34,196	35,685	33,071	30,254
Resident Daily Fish Military Combat	\$0.00			2		
Resident Fishing Annual	\$24.00	79,888	79,735	80,634	80,386	76,594
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	7,295	7,493	7,613	7,677	7,598
<b>Total Resident Fishing</b>		<b>123,076</b>	<b>121,424</b>	<b>123,934</b>	<b>121,134</b>	<b>114,446</b>
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$14.00	187,986	191,241	206,949	212,643	209,835
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$92.00	14,991	15,803	17,049	17,520	18,270
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,587	3,777	4,057	4,302	4,169
<b>Total Nonresident Fishing</b>		<b>206,564</b>	<b>210,821</b>	<b>228,055</b>	<b>234,465</b>	<b>232,274</b>
<b>Total Fishing Licenses</b>		<b>329,640</b>	<b>332,245</b>	<b>351,989</b>	<b>355,599</b>	<b>346,720</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

<b>Furbearing/Trapping</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$242.00	46	50	46	40	38
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$44.00	2,308	2,189	2,051	2,016	2,110
Res Youth Furbearing Trapping	\$6.00	206	165	177	169	151
<b>Total Furbearing/Trapping Licenses</b>		<b>2,560</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>2,299</b>
<b>Game Bird/Small Game</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$24.00	8,891	9,617	10,573	10,687	9,797
Res Bird/Small Game Military Combat	\$0.00		2	1	1	1
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$9.00	1,073	932	979	907	837
Resident Game Bird	\$16.00	6,945	6,792	7,001	6,145	5,804
Resident Small Game	\$16.00	1,653	1,735	2,459	2,353	1,733
<b>Total Resident Game Bird/Small Game</b>		<b>18,562</b>	<b>19,078</b>	<b>21,013</b>	<b>20,093</b>	<b>18,172</b>
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$72.00	1,898	2,110	2,313	2,371	2,473
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$20.00	4,186	4,687	5,515	5,183	5,523
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	100	128	164	160	170
<b>Total Nonresident Game Bird/Small Game</b>		<b>6,184</b>	<b>6,925</b>	<b>7,992</b>	<b>7,714</b>	<b>8,166</b>
<b>Total Game Bird/Small Game Licenses</b>		<b>24,746</b>	<b>26,003</b>	<b>29,005</b>	<b>27,807</b>	<b>26,338</b>
<b>Gray Wolf <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$180.00	140	12			
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$182.00					195
Resident Gray Wolf	\$18.00	2,013	604			
Resident Gray Wolf	\$20.00					2,341
<b>Total Gray Wolf Licenses</b>		<b>2,153</b>	<b>616</b>			<b>2,536</b>
<b>Lifetime</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Archery <sup>15</sup>	\$202.00				419	195
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$482.00	93	53	77	57	101
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$662.50	436	372	447	412	536
Bird/Small Game	\$302.00	10	15	12	22	27
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	6	9	12	6	11
Conservation Stamp	\$180.50	94	115	77	132	189
Fishing	\$302.00	79	73	78	61	83
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	314	263	284	305	359
<b>Total Lifetime Licenses</b>		<b>1,032</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,501</b>
<b>Moose</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonresident Moose	\$1,402.00	85	84	79	73	63
Nonresident Moose Carryover	\$10.00					2
Nonresident Moose Governor	\$0.00	2	5	4	5	4
Nonresident Moose Trifecta	\$1,402.00		1		1	
Nonresident Moose Super Tag	\$1,402.00				1	
Resident Moose	\$112.00	397	369	344	311	248
Resident Moose Carryover	\$10.00					3
Resident Moose Governor	\$0.00	3		1		
Resident Moose Trifecta	\$112.00					1
Resident Moose Super Tag	\$112.00		1	2		1
<b>Total Moose Licenses</b>		<b>487</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>322</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

<b>Mountain Goat</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,152.00	6	7	8	9	10
Nonres Mountain Goat Carryover	\$10.00					1
Nonres Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$2,152.00		1		0	
Nonres Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$2,152.00				1	1
Resident Mountain Goat	\$122.00	22	21	24	30	30
Resident Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$122.00		1	2		
Resident Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$122.00					1
<b>Total Mountain Goat Licenses</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Mountain Lion</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$362.00	222	224	234	256	226
Nonres Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$362.00		1			1
Nonres Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$92.00	9	4	2	4	3
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	2,154	2,169	2,126	2,186	2,191
Resident Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$20.00	96	83	29	31	78
<b>Total Mountain Lion Licenses</b>		<b>2,481</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>2,499</b>
<b>Wild Bison <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$2,502.00	19	19	8	10	14
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$1,002.00	9	42	52	44	6
Nonres Wild Bison Governor <sup>10</sup>	\$0.00	5	1	3	5	4
Nonres Wild Bison Super Tag	\$2,502.00				1	
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$402.00	82	70	32	38	54
Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$252.00	211	183	211	184	32
Resident Wild Bison Governor <sup>10</sup>	\$0.00		3	2		1
Resident Wild Bison Super Tag	\$402.00		1	1		1
<b>Total Wild Bison Licenses</b>		<b>326</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Wild Turkey <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Resident Fall Turkey	\$16.00	1,688	1,789	2,251	2,191	2,077
Resident Pio Heritage Fall Turkey	\$10.00	13	28	21	26	24
Resident Pio Heritage Spring Turkey	\$10.00	38	37	52	43	31
Resident Pioneer Fall Turkey	\$2.00	3	1	19	26	25
Resident Pioneer Spring Turkey	\$2.00	1	6	13	29	35
Resident Spring Turkey	\$16.00	3,854	3,829	4,343	4,409	4,390
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>5,597</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>6,699</b>	<b>6,724</b>	<b>6,582</b>
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$72.00	219	183	246	228	246
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$72.00	1,256	1,094	1,116	1,122	1,280
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,526</b>
<b>Total Wild Turkey Licenses</b>		<b>7,072</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>8,108</b>
<b>Other Licenses</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$182.00	9	9	9	9	8
Deal in Live Bait	\$67.00	57	62	76	83	75
Duplicate Commercial	\$5.00	6	12	9	6	7
Duplicate Disabled Hunter Companion	\$5.00					2
Duplicate Lifetime	\$5.00	294	324	323	326	285
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$5.00	3,062	3,309	3,744	3,687	3,566
Duplicate with Coupon	\$5.00	2,907	2,866	3,196	3,793	3,979
Duplicate without Coupon	\$5.00	207	197	260	272	261
Fishing Preserve	\$132.00	45	46	41	41	34
Game Bird Farm	\$132.00	102	104	95	88	83
License to Capture Furbearing Animal	\$20.00	1				1
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$16.00	72	77	85	89	93

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$242.00	10	8	18	11	9
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$277.00	9	9	10	10	11
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$702.00	5	3	3	4	3
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$38.00	23	19	23	30	31
Resident Fur Dealer	\$52.00	15	13	15	13	13
Resident Taxidermist	\$67.00	171	184	192	199	213
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$20.00	811	827	807	857	732
<b>Total Other Licenses</b>		<b>7,806</b>	<b>8,069</b>	<b>8,906</b>	<b>9,518</b>	<b>9,406</b>

## STAMPS, PERMITS, & TAGS

	PRICE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Central Visual Acuity Permit <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00		10	6	4	9
Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit <sup>2</sup>	\$12.50	148				
Conservation Stamps	\$12.50	176,037	174,579	177,229	182,680	179,339
Disabled Veteran 100% Bird/Sm Game & Fish	\$0.00	41	50	66	82	92
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00	246	245	311	342	292
Disabled Hunter Permit	\$0.00	248	297	369	338	303
Disabled Veteran 50% Fishing	\$0.00	176	197	247	250	225
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$12.50	12,111	12,393	12,697	11,996	12,045
Harvest Information Permits (HIP)	\$0.00	8,616	8,039	8,039	8,031	7,301
Hunter Safety Exemption <sup>3</sup>	\$0.00		108	221	245	194
Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities (SFV)	\$0.00	149	175	199	169	170
Hunting Season Extension Permit <sup>17</sup>	\$0.00					359
Interstate Game Tags	\$8.00	13,616	5,047	4,090	3,446	3,083
Nonres Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	58	56	68	50	71
Nonres Marten Permit	\$0.00					
Nonres Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	23	14	28	38	57
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	123	127	125	158	194
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	24	23	15	12	17
Nonresident Beaver Permit	\$0.00			1	0	2
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50		49	46	45	52
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$12.50	5,141	5,283	5,442	5,563	5,848
Purple Heart Medal Bird/Small Game & Fish <sup>18</sup>	\$0.00					39
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	9,523	8,525	8,087	9,001	8,774
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50		163	111	125	143
Res Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	139	137	121	119	119
Resident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	19	17	10	11	11
Resident Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	716	742	618	629	613
Resident Guide <sup>4</sup>	\$0.00	453	523	507	479	543
Resident Marten Permit	\$0.00	5	5			
Resident Pioneer Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$0.00	1,539	1,592	1,709	1,807	1,877
Resident Pioneer Veteran Bird/Fish/Sm Game	\$0.00	247	274	288	283	217
Resident Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	158	149	188	343	403
Resident Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	1,016	1,050	1,068	1,052	1,060
Sandhill Crane General Permit <sup>14</sup>	\$0.00		334	519	600	585
Temporary Hunter With Disability (SFV) <sup>5</sup>	\$0.00		49	56	59	50
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00	84	83	94	75	73
<b>Total Stamps, Permits, &amp; Tags</b>		<b>230,656</b>	<b>220,335</b>	<b>222,575</b>	<b>228,032</b>	<b>224,160</b>

**STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES**

<b>DONATIONS</b>						
	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Access Yes		\$125,915	\$130,025	\$139,810	\$143,864	\$154,621
Search and Rescue		\$175,323	\$213,301	\$228,074	\$230,434	\$243,137
<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>\$301,238</b>	<b>\$343,326</b>	<b>\$367,884</b>	<b>\$374,298</b>	<b>\$397,758</b>

<b>WATERCRAFT &amp; AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DECALS <sup>9</sup></b>						
	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00		690	756	719	490
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00		5,346	5,801	5,595	4,761
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00		533	589	676	456
Combo One-Year Dealer & AIS	\$25.00					30
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00		1,186	1,234	1,134	1,390
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00		3,761	4,372	4,078	5,073
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00		687	779	769	967
Nonresident AIS Motorized Decal	\$30.00	6,538	6,911	7,354	7,274	7,178
Nonresident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$15.00	4,679	5,303	5,967	6,994	7,772
Resident AIS Motorized Decal	\$10.00	17,753	7,864	3,879	2,663	2,147
Resident AIS Motorized Decal Three-Year	\$30.00	4,861				
Resident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$5.00	8,942	9,980	11,424	13,379	14,811
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$5.00		112	208	241	232
Watercraft Dealer	\$15.00	62	38	50	34	3
Watercraft Duplicate	\$5.00	254	161	75	26	21
Watercraft Government Renewal Three-Year	\$0.00	32	40	81	34	31
Watercraft New One-Year	\$15.00	979	273	269	199	108
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$40.00	1,292	157	142	75	69
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$15.00	6,182	1,070	862	606	444
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$40.00	4,245	554	543	314	274
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$15.00	685	158	158	97	60
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$40.00	733	72	66	40	38
<b>Total Watercraft &amp; AIS</b>		<b>57,237</b>	<b>44,896</b>	<b>44,609</b>	<b>44,947</b>	<b>46,355</b>

<b>SUPER TAG &amp; SUPER TAG TRIFECTA RAFFLE <sup>7</sup></b>						
	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Antelope Super Tag	\$10.00		2,029	2,067	2,360	2,842
Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$10.00		10,572	11,741	11,161	13,106
Black Bear Super Tag	\$10.00		220	238	318	381
Deer Super Tag	\$10.00		4,216	4,356	4,750	5,612
Elk Super Tag	\$10.00		7,791	7,615	7,896	10,626
Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$10.00		529	-	-	-
Moose Super Tag	\$10.00		8,307	8,514	7,980	9,163
Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$10.00		4,312	4,526	4,590	5,239
Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$10.00		214	392	427	548
Super Tag Trifecta	\$30.00		8,217	6,855	7,486	9,731
Wild Bison Super Tag	\$10.00		3,859	4,181	4,477	5,303
<b>Total Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta</b>			<b>50,266</b>	<b>50,485</b>	<b>51,445</b>	<b>62,551</b>

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

PREFERENCE POINTS						
	PRICE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nonresident Antelope	\$30.00	28,965	33,040	38,255	45,301	51,527
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$100.00	6,638	7,092	7,547	8,212	8,902
Nonresident Deer	\$40.00	28,225	32,503	37,829	44,407	50,692
Nonresident Elk	\$50.00	36,750	41,480	47,191	54,062	61,976
Nonresident Moose	\$75.00	7,784	8,194	8,676	9,393	9,926
Nonresident Youth Antelope	\$10.00	2,606	3,015	3,439	3,868	4,101
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$10.00	2,062	2,394	2,855	3,362	3,697
Nonresident Youth Elk	\$10.00	2,032	2,337	2,837	3,255	3,666
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	4,464	4,814	4,978	4,857	5,071
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Point Purchase	\$7.00	4,228	4,244	4,540	5,179	5,559
Resident Moose - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	8,787	9,435	10,158	9,634	10,265
Resident Moose - Point Purchase	\$7.00	5,643	5,672	5,831	6,843	7,071
<b>Total Preference Points</b>		<b>138,184</b>	<b>154,220</b>	<b>174,136</b>	<b>198,373</b>	<b>222,453</b>
DRAW APPLICATION FEES						
	PRICE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bison Application Fee	\$6.00	5,468	3,430	3,971	3,746	4,095
Nonresident Application Fee	\$14.00	94,760	92,977	98,924	102,468	108,361
Resident Application Fee	\$5.00	121,666	124,971	134,892	135,594	142,375
Withdrawal Fee	\$5.00	1,059	1,085	867	843	1,107
<b>Total Fees</b>		<b>222,953</b>	<b>222,463</b>	<b>238,654</b>	<b>242,651</b>	<b>255,938</b>
		<b>1,560,926</b>	<b>1,638,324</b>	<b>1,729,161</b>	<b>1,780,940</b>	<b>1,843,846</b>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Prior to 2013, Resident Guide permits were manually issued in the field.

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

<sup>6</sup> Gray Wolves were placed under federal protection in September of 2014. Federal Protection lifted March 2017 and Wolf licenses were sold in 2017. 2013-2014 Wolf Pricing did not include the \$2.00 commission.

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

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

## STATEWIDE FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSE SALES

<sup>9</sup> Began issuing Combined Watercraft and AIS in 2014.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>15</sup> Began issuing Lifetime Archery Licenses in 2016

<sup>16</sup> 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

<sup>17</sup> On July 8, 2016, WGF Commission amended Chapter 35 Hunting Permit Regulations for Persons with Disabilities to include a new Season Extension Permit. Beginning January 2017, Hunting Season Extension Permits were issued

<sup>18</sup> During the 2016 Legislative Session, W.S. 23-1-705 (d) was changed to include recipients of the U.S. Military Purple Heart Medal. The change was effective January 2017

<sup>19</sup> During the 2016 Legislative Session W.S. 23-2-101(J) was changed, increasing license fees for licenses sold in 2018

## EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 18

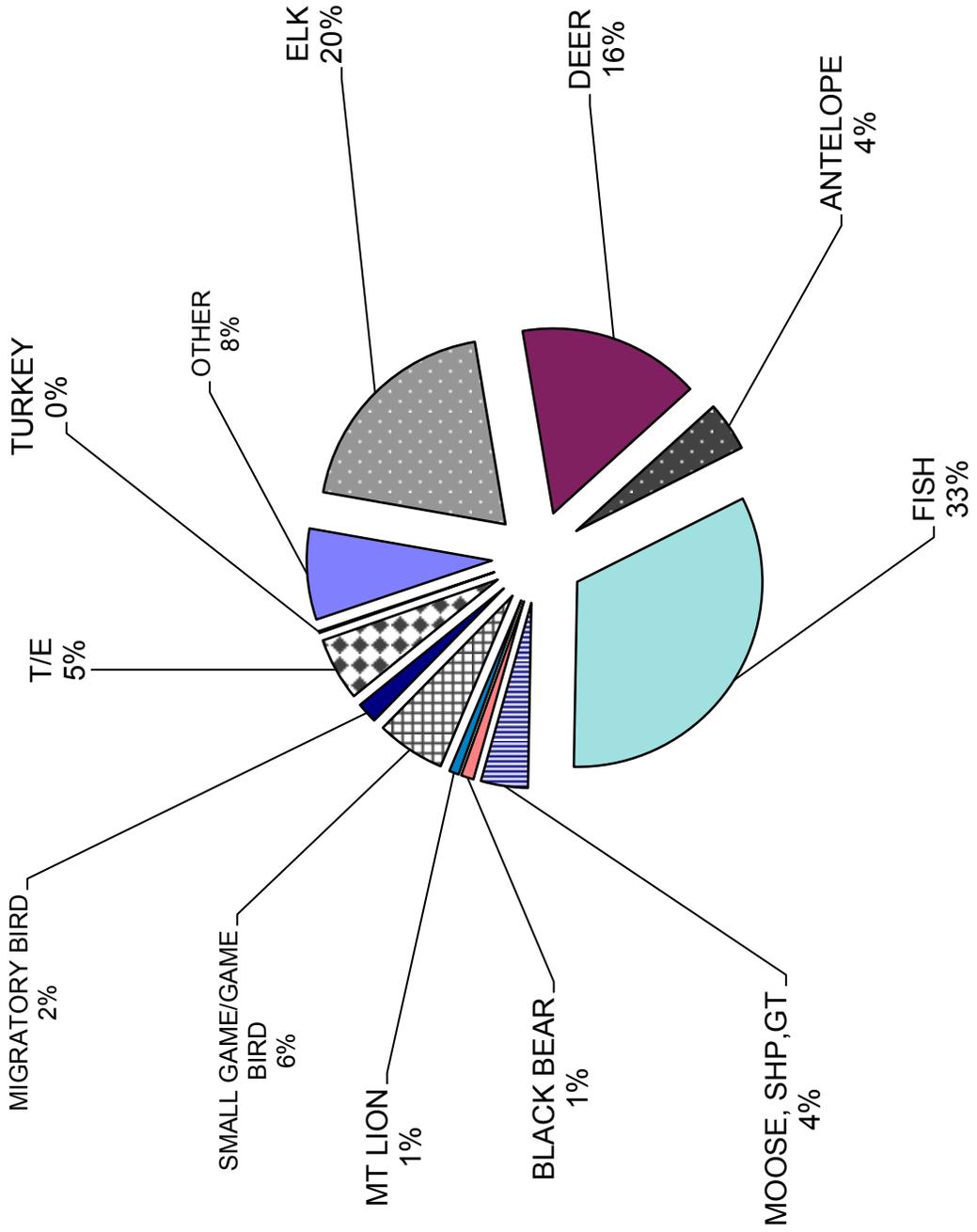
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$29,167,619		
BC	ANTELOPE (PRONGHORN)	\$2,758,329	\$1,272,538	\$4,030,867
BD	ELK	\$12,503,761	\$5,768,532	\$18,272,292
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,611,204	\$743,319	\$2,354,524
BF	MOOSE	\$862,556	\$397,935	\$1,260,490
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$148,310	\$68,422	\$216,732
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$537,345	\$247,901	\$785,246
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$706,238	\$325,818	\$1,032,056
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$2,057,827	\$949,365	\$3,007,192
BM	MULE DEER	\$9,204,642	\$4,246,504	\$13,451,146
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$963,502	\$444,506	\$1,408,008
BP	BISON	\$112,122	\$51,727	\$163,848
BW	WOLF	\$1,195,789	\$551,670	\$1,747,459
CA	SMALL GAME	\$42,039	\$19,394	\$61,433
CC	PHEASANTS	\$1,411,394	\$651,138	\$2,062,531
CF	TURKEY	\$101,632	\$46,887	\$148,520
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$736	\$339	\$1,075
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$10,073	\$4,647	\$14,720
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$2,288,933	\$1,055,985	\$3,344,918
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$80,688	\$37,225	\$117,912
DB	GEESE	\$276,934	\$127,762	\$404,696
DC	DUCKS	\$524,885	\$242,152	\$767,037
DD	SWANS	\$203,399	\$93,837	\$297,235
DE	DOVES	\$49,046	\$22,627	\$71,673
DF	CRANES	\$107,954	\$49,804	\$157,758
FX	SPORT FISH	\$19,993,271	\$9,223,770	\$29,217,042
HB	BOBCAT	\$343,487	\$158,466	\$501,953

## EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 18

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
HC	BEAVER	\$183,599	\$84,702	\$268,301
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$15,192	\$7,009	\$22,201
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$1,300,245	\$599,860	\$1,900,104
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$1,158,555	\$534,492	\$1,693,048
NC	RAPTORS	\$374,601	\$172,820	\$547,421
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$911,074	\$420,318	\$1,331,393
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$851,407	\$392,791	\$1,244,198
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$7,284	\$3,361	\$10,645
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$9,309	\$4,295	\$13,604
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$30,200	\$13,932	\$44,132
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$220,240	\$101,606	\$321,846
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$3,831	\$1,767	\$5,599
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$2,114	\$975	\$3,089
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$33,050	\$15,248	\$48,298
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$8,003	\$3,692	\$11,694
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$7,477	\$3,449	\$10,926
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$10,436	\$4,815	\$15,251
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$469	\$216	\$685
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$985,723		\$985,723
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$93,376,523	\$29,167,619	\$93,376,523

\*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 18 (includes general fund non capital construction)**



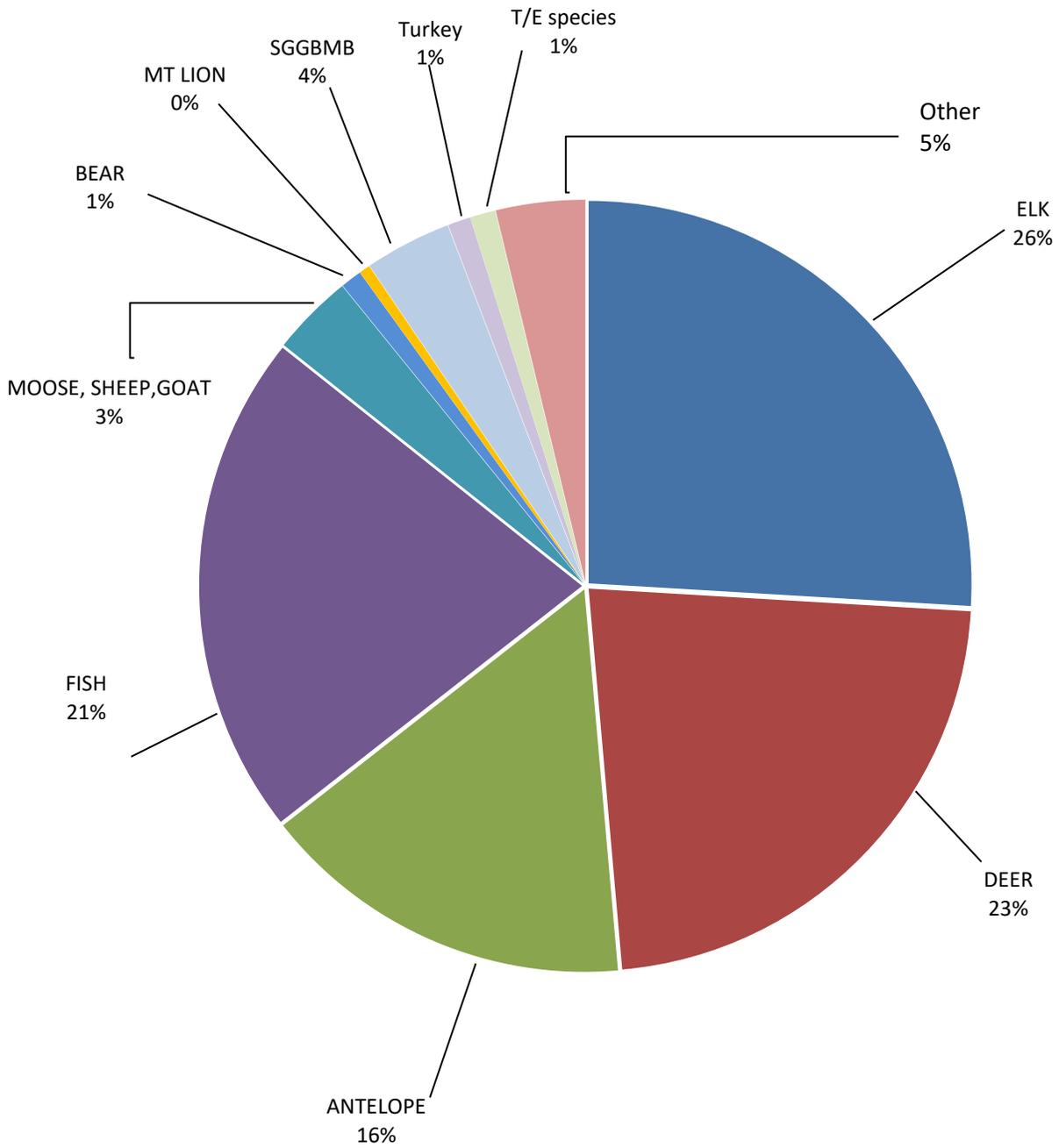
REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM – FY 18

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$2,736,163		
BC	ANTELOPE	\$12,789,383	\$437,688	\$13,227,070
BD	ELK	\$20,982,220	\$718,069	\$21,700,289
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,456,137	\$49,833	\$1,505,970
BF	MOOSE	\$1,273,913	\$43,597	\$1,317,509
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$72,640	\$2,486	\$75,126
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$377,961	\$12,935	\$390,896
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$726,937	\$24,878	\$751,814
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$153,583	\$5,256	\$158,839
BM	MULE DEER	\$17,904,181	\$612,730	\$18,516,911
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$414,328	\$14,179	\$428,507
BP	BISON	\$260,752	\$8,924	\$269,676
BW	WOLF	\$704,114	\$24,097	\$728,210
CA	SMALL GAME	\$2,307,984	\$78,985	\$2,386,969
CC	PHEASANTS	\$82,978	\$2,840	\$85,818
CF	TURKEY	\$786,357	\$26,911	\$813,268
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$549,949	\$18,821	\$568,770
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DB	GEESE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DC	DUCKS	\$0	\$0	\$0
DD	SWANS	\$20,512	\$702	\$21,214
DE	DOVES	\$0	\$0	\$0
DF	CRANES	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM – FY 18

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
FX	SPORT FISH	\$17,121,229	\$585,935	\$17,707,164
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
HC	BEAVER	\$419,866	\$14,369	\$434,235
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$31,770	\$1,087	\$32,857
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$615,868	\$21,077	\$636,945
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$339,884	\$11,632	\$351,516
NC	RAPTORS	\$40,188	\$1,375	\$41,564
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$96,441	\$3,300	\$99,742
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$173,757	\$5,946	\$179,704
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$246	\$8	\$255
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$3,101	\$106	\$3,207
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$152,898	\$5,233	\$158,131
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$849	\$29	\$879
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$0	\$0	\$0
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$91,604	\$3,135	\$94,739
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$0	\$0	\$0
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$0	\$0	\$0
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$948,132		\$948,132
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>		<b>\$83,635,925</b>	<b>\$2,736,163</b>	<b>\$83,635,925</b>

# WGF Revenue Collected by Species FY 18 (includes general fund noncapital construction )



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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>
Antelope	3,458,135	5.47%	2,998,057	4.37%	4,009,107	5.31%	590,294	0.77%	4,030,867	4.32%
Elk	14,759,617	23.36%	16,748,041	24.44%	16,626,500	22.01%	3,848,622	5.01%	18,272,292	19.57%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	2,211,924	3.50%	2,782,695	4.06%	2,448,326	3.24%	39,151	0.05%	2,354,524	2.52%
Moose	784,133	1.24%	994,976	1.45%	1,041,230	1.38%	399,549	0.52%	1,260,490	1.35%
Rocky Mountain Goat	86,367	0.14%	160,227	0.23%	151,775	0.20%	242,143	0.31%	216,732	0.23%
Mountain Lion	489,861	0.78%	525,015	0.77%	741,888	0.98%	853,520	1.11%	785,246	0.84%
Black Bear	706,665	1.12%	682,209	1.00%	1,090,904	1.44%	253,781	0.33%	1,032,056	1.11%
Grizzly Bear	1,793,556	2.84%	2,278,218	3.32%	2,606,261	3.45%	12,174	0.02%	3,007,192	3.22%
Mule Deer	6,745,783	10.68%	7,688,862	11.22%	8,884,624	11.76%	9,424	0.01%	13,451,146	14.41%
White-tailed Deer	420,029	0.66%	399,531	0.58%	686,664	0.91%	279,462	0.36%	1,408,008	1.51%
Bison	200,479	0.32%	177,968	0.26%	179,328	0.24%	4,520	0.01%	163,848	0.18%
Wolf	1,134,343	1.80%	882,375	1.29%	836,104	1.11%	22,274	0.03%	1,747,459	1.87%
Small Game	32,515	0.05%	29,468	0.04%	101,232	0.13%	282,424	0.37%	61,433	0.07%
Game Birds	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pheasants	1,161,946	1.84%	1,324,189	1.93%	1,551,083	2.05%	99,959	0.13%	2,062,531	2.21%
Turkey	174,284	0.28%	155,879	0.23%	188,245	0.25%	940,724	1.22%	148,520	0.16%
Partridge	3,144	0.00%	2,164	0.00%	2,058	0.00%	16,123,033	20.97%	1,075	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	8,592	0.01%	8,825	0.01%	16,807	0.02%	2,817	0.00%	14,720	0.02%
Sage Grouse	2,532,519	4.01%	2,534,741	3.70%	2,770,262	3.67%	217,187	0.28%	3,344,918	3.58%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	21,775	0.03%	31,531	0.05%	43,550	0.06%	1,707,758	2.22%	117,912	0.13%
Geese	810,294	1.28%	1,043,518	1.52%	724,219	0.96%	1,232,158	1.60%	404,696	0.43%
Ducks	173,983	0.28%	360,682	0.53%	315,219	0.42%	668,441	0.87%	767,037	0.82%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>
Swans	348,402	0.55%	289,442	0.42%	341,914	0.45%	10,464,396	13.61%	297,235	0.32%
Doves	104,996	0.17%	220,018	0.32%	122,869	0.16%	1,086,600	1.41%	71,673	0.08%
Cranes	128,998	0.20%	103,023	0.15%	167,290	0.22%	618,924	0.80%	157,758	0.17%
Sport Fish	19,787,933	31.32%	20,133,253	29.38%	22,542,029	29.84%	1,882,279	2.45%	29,217,042	31.29%
Bobcat/Lynx	309,848	0.49%	264,253	0.39%	246,895	0.33%	856,147	1.11%	501,953	0.54%
Beaver	200,312	0.32%	505,545	0.74%	528,082	0.70%	2,823	0.00%	268,301	0.29%
Commercial Fisheries	15,179	0.02%	30,441	0.04%	27,540	0.04%	9,482	0.01%	22,201	0.02%
Nongame Mammals	902,922	1.43%	1,098,116	1.60%	1,183,371	1.57%	1,580,681	2.06%	1,900,104	2.03%
Nongame Birds	790,310	1.25%	1,035,194	1.51%	1,362,803	1.80%	16,089	0.02%	1,693,048	1.81%
Raptors	472,082	0.75%	199,192	0.29%	440,348	0.58%	25,663	0.03%	547,421	0.59%
Nongame Fish	453,361	0.72%	724,219	1.06%	1,132,000	1.50%	45,326	0.06%	1,331,393	1.43%
Amphibians/Reptiles	659,918	1.04%	849,841	1.24%	675,137	0.89%	328,276	0.43%	1,244,198	1.33%
Predatory Birds	3,703	0.01%	3,181	0.00%	15,711	0.02%	100,591	0.13%	10,645	0.01%
Peregrine Falcon	31,853	0.05%	25,816	0.04%	24,105	0.03%	2,191,289	2.85%	13,604	0.01%
Bald Eagle	29,563	0.05%	24,557	0.04%	34,478	0.05%	2,689,251	3.50%	44,132	0.05%
Black-Footed Ferret	139,022	0.22%	72,849	0.11%	265,107	0.35%	53,886	0.07%	321,846	0.34%
Canadian Lynx	3,240	0.01%	13,117	0.02%	8,209	0.01%	94,136	0.12%	5,599	0.01%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	98,115	0.16%	106,425	0.16%	25,376	0.03%	24,507,477	31.88%	3,089	0.00%
Predatory Mammals	39,635	0.06%	43,667	0.06%	54,255	0.07%	165,577	0.22%	48,298	0.05%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	7,855	0.01%	7,438	0.01%	332,764	0.44%	180,819	0.24%	11,694	0.01%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	118,403	0.19%	43,232	0.06%	112,558	0.15%	942,140	1.23%	10,926	0.01%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>
Wyoming Toad	7,317	0.01%	14,074	0.02%	12,366	0.02%	15,348	0.02%	15,251	0.02%
Exotic Game	306	0.00%	2,443	0.00%	2,529	0.00%	1,192,741	1.55%	685	0.00%
Nonwildlife	825,126	1.31%	915,633	1.34%	861,188	1.14%	6,757	0.01%	985,723	1.06%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>	<b>63,188,338</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>68,534,139</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>75,534,309</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>76,886,114</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>93,376,523</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

