

# **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**



**2019**

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

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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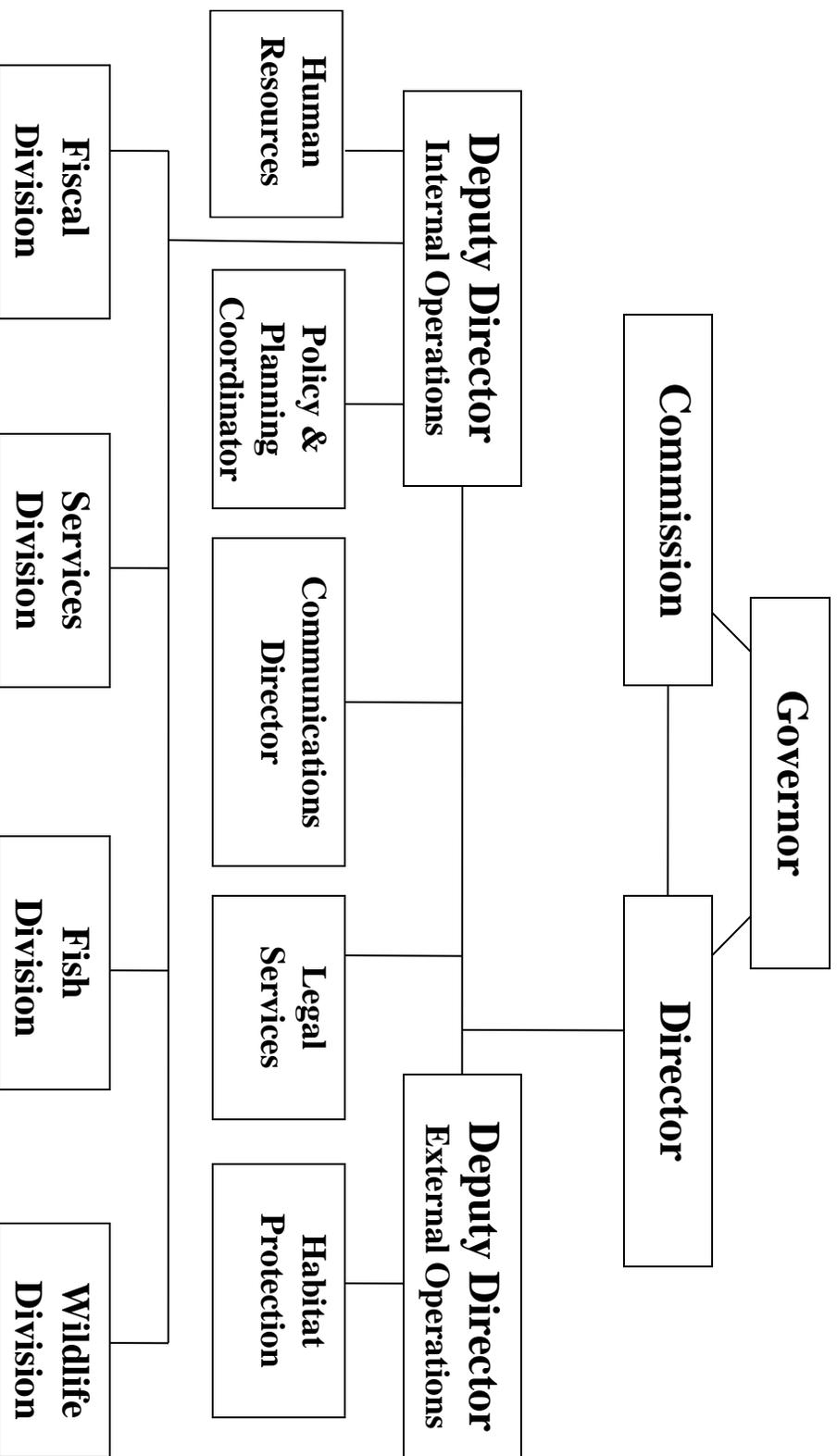
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# Wyoming Game and Fish Department Organization Chart



# **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 eight sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations	42.0	\$6,019,564
Regional Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	34.4	\$3,505,408
Aquatic Invasive Species	24.1	\$1,320,150
Boating Access	0.0	\$1,357,000
Aquatic Nongame (CWCS)	2.2	\$184,376
Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Mgmt.	7.8	\$841,849
Fish Spawning	1.9	\$174,858
Fish Distribution	0.0	\$153,699
TOTAL	112.4	\$13,556,904

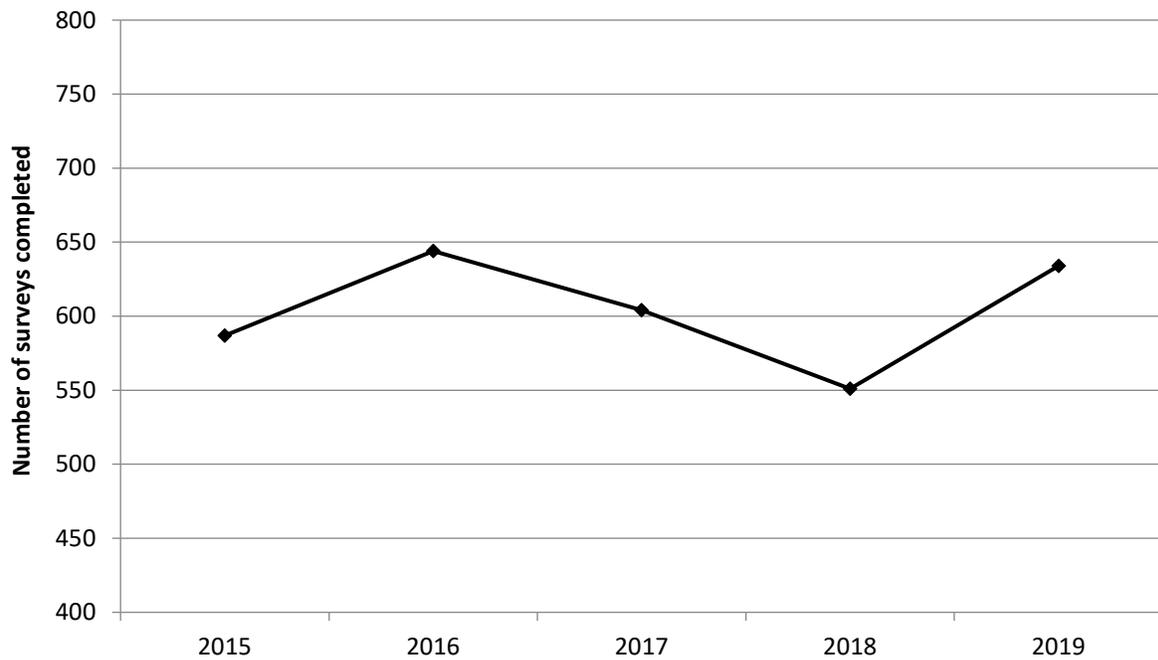
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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:**

In FY 19, a total of 634 stream and lake surveys were completed (446 stream surveys and 188 lake surveys). The number of surveys has exceeded the target of 540 for five consecutive years, averaging 604 per year since 2015. Approximately twice as many stream surveys are conducted each year when compared to lake surveys. In FY 19, 43 percent of stream surveys (n=192) were associated with a roundtail chub project in the Blacks Fork River drainage and an effort to describe the assemblage of small bodied fish in the North Platte River utilizing a benthic trawl and backpack electrofishing in wadeable portions of backwaters, side channels and river margins.

**Major Accomplishments:**

Work continued on a project to assess the distribution and relative abundance of roundtail chub (RTC), describe RTC movements and assess the distribution and predation impact of burbot (BBT) on native fishes in the Blacks Fork drainage. One hundred and eight reaches were surveyed in 2018 via electrofishing in conjunction with seining. There were 72 reaches that contained RTC and 32 contained BBT. A total of 1,491 RTC and 176 BBT were sampled and 560 RTC greater than 4 inches were PIT tagged. Roundtail Chub were located throughout all three drainages, with the highest catch rates in the Blacks Fork. Burbot were common throughout the Blacks Fork, Smiths Fork, and lower Hams Fork, but in the Hams Fork drainage, the data suggest they may be restricted from further colonization by a water diversion 14 miles upstream of the confluence. A detailed administrative report will be available in 2019.

Biologists continued working to develop an effective sampling strategy for sampling small bodied nongame fish in Wyoming’s large, non-wadeable rivers. A modified-Missouri benthic trawl and backpack electrofishing were used in 2018 to sample 94 sites at multiple reaches of the North

Platte River from the river upstream of Treasure Island to sites near the Nebraska state line. A total of 7,344 fish and 29 species were sampled, including five species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). No SGCN were captured above Seminole Reservoir. The lower river, near the Nebraska border supports the greatest diversity of species, including most of the SGCN sampled to date.

Biologists also continued efforts to describe the distribution of SGCN in the Snake River basin. There were 16 sites were sampled in Spread and Buffalo creeks with traditional sampling gears to attempt to identify bluehead sucker (BHS) spawning sites. No BHS were found in either creek; however, Blackrock Creek is known to contain 1-year-old BHS and adults have been documented in the drainage. Therefore, biologists also collected two environmental DNA (eDNA) samples from each stream to test for the presence of BHS DNA. This emerging technique may be able to detect the presence of rare species that have not been captured with traditional techniques such as electrofishing, netting and trapping. Spawning locations for this rare native nongame species remain unknown in the Snake River drainage.

Environmental DNA sampling was also used to attempt to better describe the distribution of leatherside chub (LSC) and BHS in the Gros Ventre River and Fish Creek basins. In 2018, 81 locations were sampled and combined with samples collected in 2017 to determine that LSC inhabit portions of Fish, Cottonwood, Bacon, Breakneck, and Squaw creeks. Samples were also collected from the Salt River after a single adult LSC was captured while conducting a trout population estimate in the “Narrows” section of the Salt River in 2018. This species is known to inhabit Jacknife Creek, an Idaho tributary that enters the river a short distance upstream of Palisades Reservoir. The 11 samples were taken at mainstem sites above the Jacknife Creek confluence. All samples tested negative for LSC DNA, suggesting that this species is probably extremely rare in the Salt River. As this new sampling technique is refined, it is likely to prove valuable for describing distributions of animals that are likely to be missed when sampling with traditional sampling methods.

Additional field work was completed in 2018 to better understand the early life history of shovelnose sturgeon (SNS) in the Bighorn River. Larval drift sampling took place during the last week in June just after the optimal peak daily spawning water temperature of 68°F was reached. No larval sturgeon were captured during drift sampling. Biologists will continue to attempt to determine when and where SNS spawn in the Bighorn River. Once spawning timing and locations are identified, additional larval sampling will be conducted in order to determine whether or not spawning was successful.

Biologists continued to conduct nighttime shoreline electrofishing and overnight gill netting at Buffalo Bill Reservoir in April and May to remove walleye (WAE), in an effort to maintain a low abundance of WAE and reduce predation on trout in this unique wild trout fishery. A total of 2,867 WAE have been removed from the reservoir (304 removed in 2018) since they were first captured in 2008. A formal effort to assess the effectiveness of WAE suppression in Buffalo Bill Reservoir is underway.

The rainbow trout density in Pathfinder Reservoir remains low since falling precipitously between 2013 and 2016 due to WAE predation. However, 2018 sampling data suggest that 32 percent of

WAE between 15 and 20 inches were harvested by anglers. This level of harvest should result in a reduction in the WAE population in the next few years and an improved trout fishery.

Trout abundance has also declined in the Miracle Mile section of the North Platte River (44 percent decline since 2016). However, the average size of trout has increased so significantly that the biomass estimate (lbs of trout per mile) has actually increased by 34 percent during the same period.

Trout population estimates in the North Platte River at Grey Reef and Bessemer Bend have also continued to decline. The waning trout populations can be attributed to poor natural reproduction in the river since 2013. Ongoing issues that negatively impact trout habitat (i.e., high summer water temperatures, variable discharges in late-spring, and increased turbidity) continue to contribute to the trend of low natural recruitment. Despite declining trout abundance, data suggest that angler catch rates have not yet been negatively impacted.

The WAE population in Glendo Reservoir has increased annually since 2014 and reached its highest level since 2005. Gizzard shad continue to overwinter in the reservoir, providing critical forage for the abundant WAE population. An abundant population of 7.5-9.0 inch yellow perch should result in improved perch fishing for large fish at Glendo Reservoir over the next several years.

Tiger muskie (TIM) have been stocked annually since 2015 in Upper North Crow Reservoir in Curt Gowdy State Park in an attempt to reduce the abundance of longnose sucker and white sucker (WHS). There were 57 TIM sampled in 2018, ranging in size from 9.3 to 20.0 inches. Small WHS were a common food item in the stomach contents of TIM.

There were seven sites in the Beaver Creek (tributary to Wind River) drainage assessed in 2018 to better understand the native fish communities. This is a portion of the state where little historic survey work had been previously completed. A total of 12 fish species (7 native and 5 nonnative) were captured in 2017 and 2018, including flathead chub (SGCN).

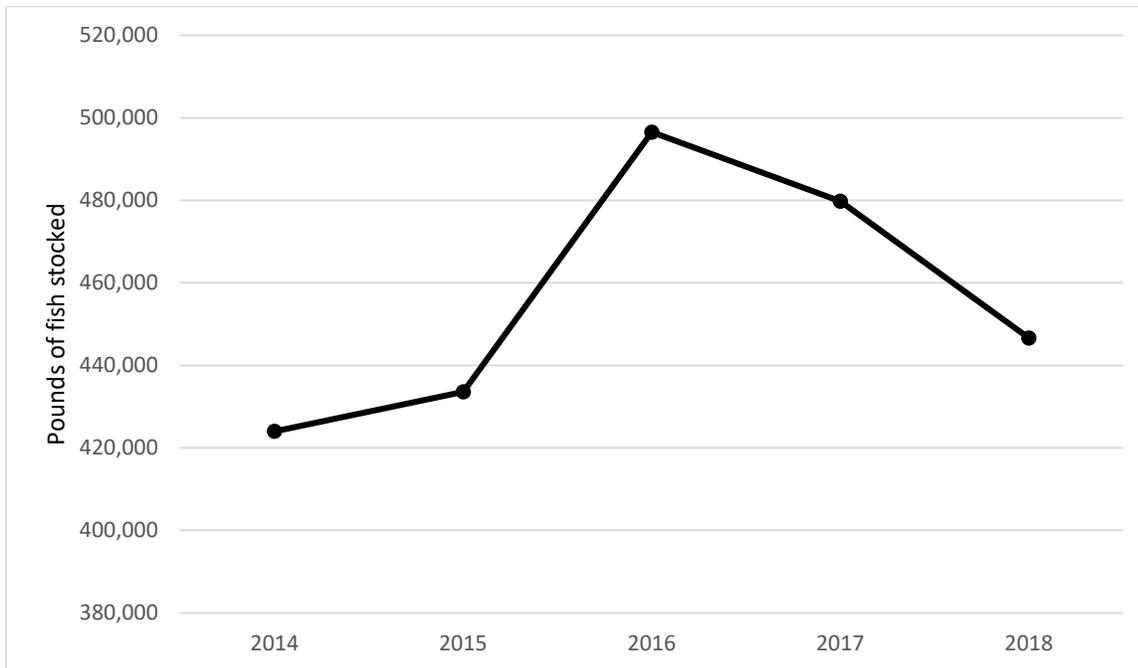
There were 13 burbot (BBT) implanted with radio transmitters in the Green River as part of an ongoing research project into the ecology and behavior of this illegally introduced predator. Fish ranged in length from 17.4 to 24.1 inches. These fish were actively tracked through most of the ice-covered season. Movement data will be integrated into a graduate project that is being conducted by the University of Idaho Cooperative Fish Research Unit.

Monitoring in 2018 revealed that the population of grayling in Meadow Lake (the wild brood population for taking eggs for WGFD hatcheries) remains well above the target population. As a result, the average size of GRL remains more than an inch short of the management objective of 14 inches. If the population continues to remain above objective, biologists will remove 5,000 fish from the population of approximately 13,000 and utilize those fish for transplants to other waters in the state.

The population objective for lake trout (LAT) smaller than 28 inches in Flaming Gorge Reservoir continues to exceed the management objective. A more liberal regulation of 12 LAT per day and

24 in possession with only one allowed over 28 inches was put into effect January 1, 2019 and the public campaign to encourage angler harvest that started in 2018 continues.

**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 2018, 4,501,922 trout, kokanee, and grayling totaling 446,593 pounds were stocked from 10 Wyoming facilities. The five-year rolling average for fish production in Wyoming fish culture facilities is 456,090 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 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 19 budget.

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Bird Farms	5.3	\$761,656

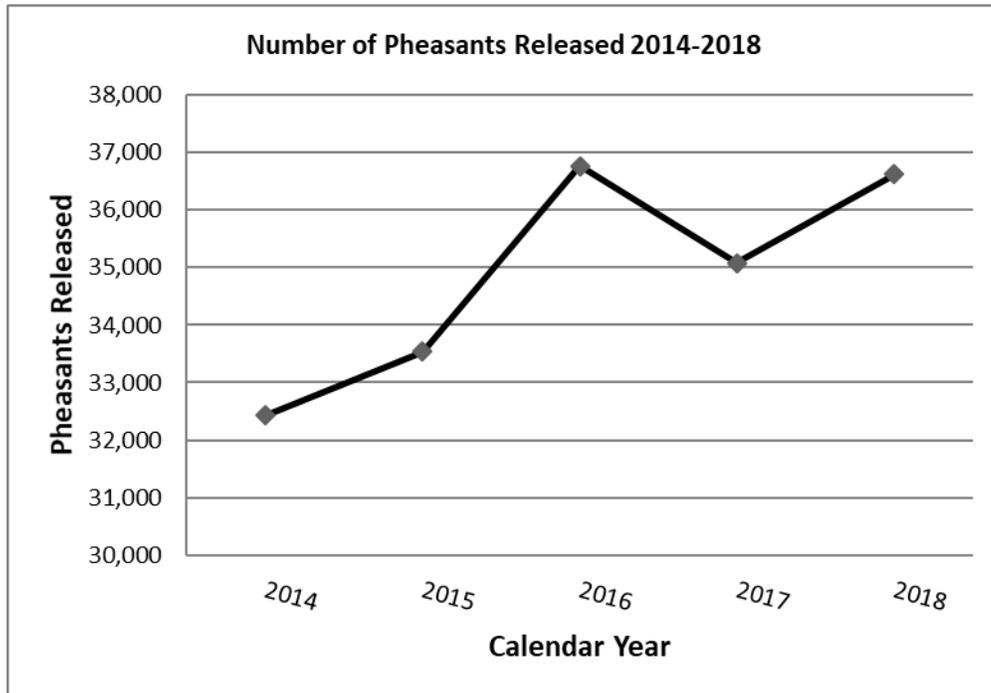
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 2014 and 2018, the number of pheasants released ranged from 32,433 to 36,767 with an average of 34,687. The number released in 2018 was 36,616.

**What has been accomplished:**

The Sheridan Bird Farm (SBF) supervisor and the Downar Bird Farm (DBF) coordinator worked with North Dakota Game and Fish Department to capture ring-necked pheasants in northern and central North Dakota. The SBF assistant and the Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor made several trips to Lake Ilo National Wildlife refuge and the surrounding areas to pre-bait traps and live capture 44 males and six females. Extensive health and wellness testing was done and pheasants were transported to a quarantine facility at SBF on February 6, 2019 and March 4, 2019. After a 30 day quarantine period, wild caught roosters were mated to SBF hens at a ratio of one male per ten hens and allowed to breed. On May 10, 2019, 1,634 viable eggs were incubated and on June 4, 2019, 1,045 ring-necked pheasant chicks hatched. Those chicks were marked with colored blinders and pins and reared to adulthood separate from SBF normal yearly production. It is the program's goal to incorporate this crossed offspring into both SBF and DBF breeding programs to promote the wild attributes and survival skills of the North Dakota captures to provide a heartier stocked bird.

The DBF coordinator implemented cooler designs and equipment options and incorporated them into their new hatching facility. All incubation equipment was moved into new hatching facility and serviced by Nature Form technicians from Jacksonville, Florida. Plumbing and drain lines were installed into the building and egg cooler unit and entryway pads were completed. This hatching facility was fully operational and in use for spring 2019 hatching season.

The DBF converted all its brooding buildings to automated waterers and completed several electrical service upgrades such as hooking domestic and bird water wells to back up generator to ensure water during power outages.

A large pens replacement project took place in the spring and now over half of the flight pens at the Downar farm are new and should be serviceable for many years.

Personnel at the SBF prepared the little brooder house and its associated flight pens for wild-caught North Dakota pheasants. Special structures were constructed using hay and wire to create long shelters built to look like naturally occurring shelter. Birds were very wild so much care was taken to keep them safe and help them adapt to captivity. Birds were fed a mixture of recognizable grains and corn alongside prepared feed they would eat on the farm. Wild birds' wings were clipped to prevent self-injury and monitored daily to ensure health and safety. These birds have adapted well to their new home.

**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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Hunter Education	1.0	\$ 174,806
Conservation Education	3.5	568,762
TOTAL	4.5	\$ 743,568

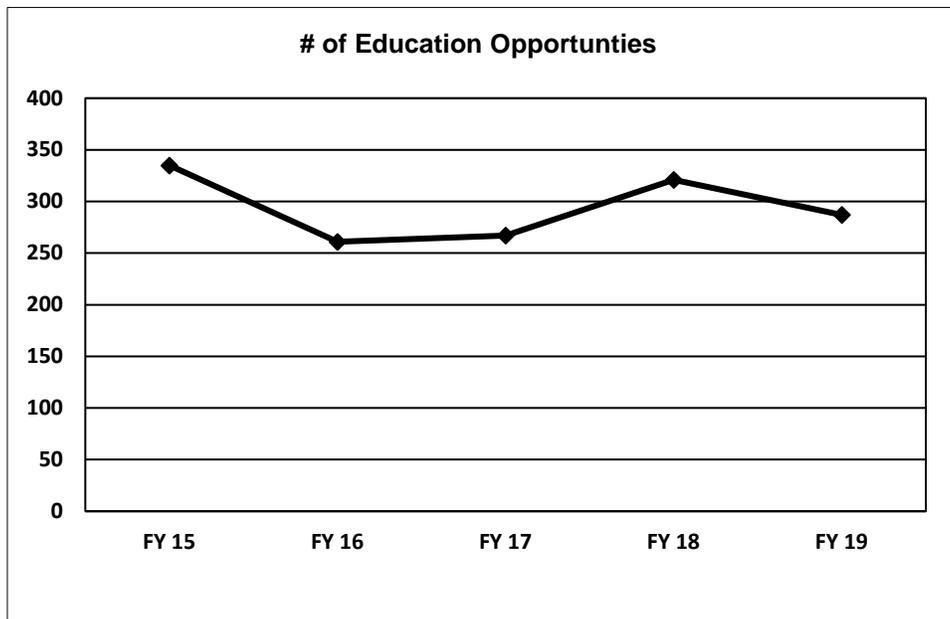
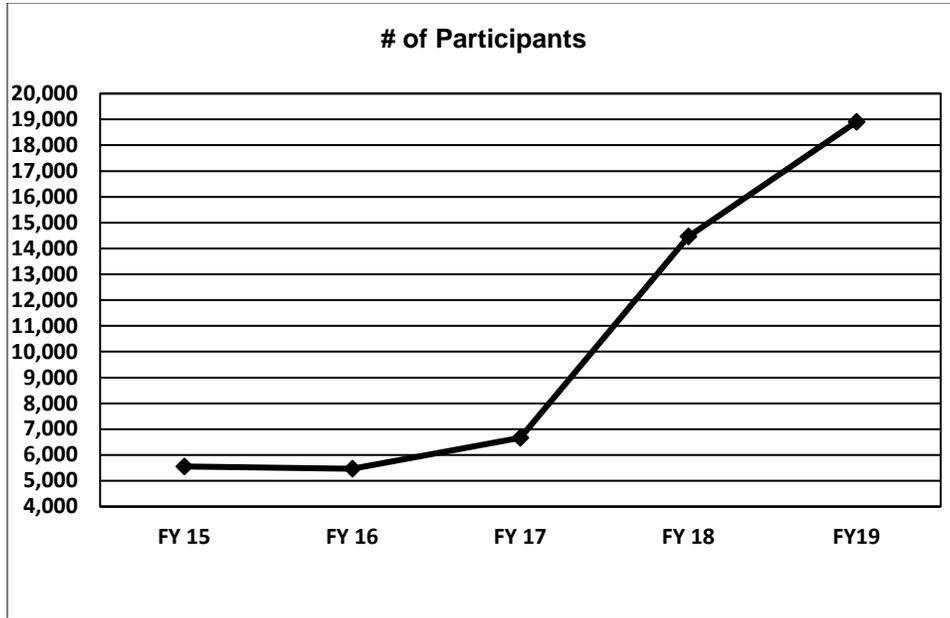
*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants. These programs do require statewide responsibilities, travel, and assistance from regional personnel.*

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.

**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:

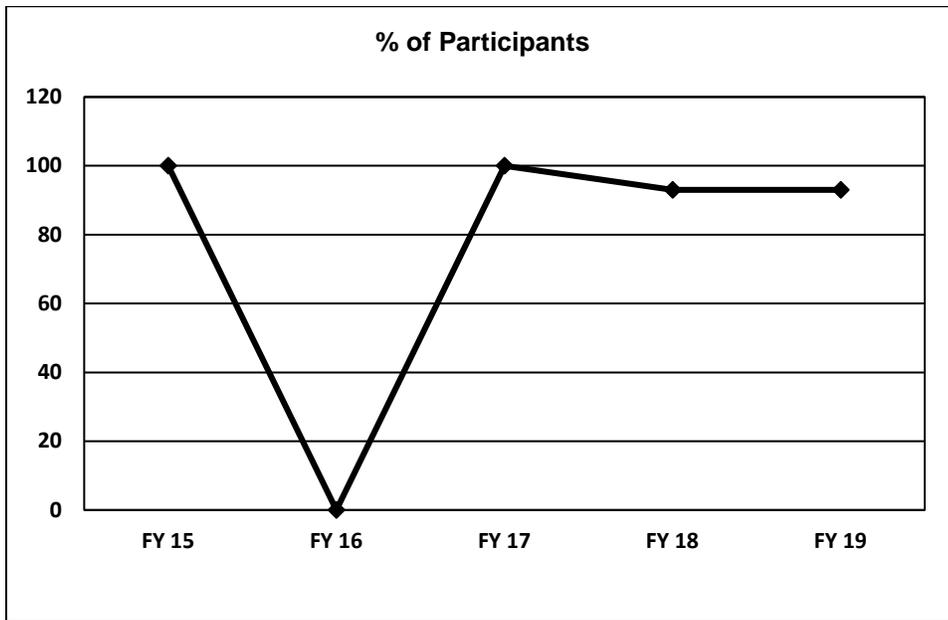
- Increasing engagement and awareness of wildlife and the Department;
- Continuing to build trust in the work, reputation, and expertise of the Department;
- Increasing participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife enjoyment; and
- Continuing to foster external partnerships and increase active partner 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 continues to implement day and overnight camps in each region of the state. Half of these occurred in FY 19. 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) camp. 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. Through the 2019 Expo, the Department reached over 6,300 youth and adults over three days. This was 600 more than the previous year. 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 19 the Hunter Education Coordinator met with dozens of instructors around the state in one-day conferences to provide training and collect recommendations.

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



**Story behind the performance:**

Surveys 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 19 numbers show program satisfaction holding steady at similar rates to FY 18.

**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 programing.

**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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Conservation Engineering	4.0	\$674,402

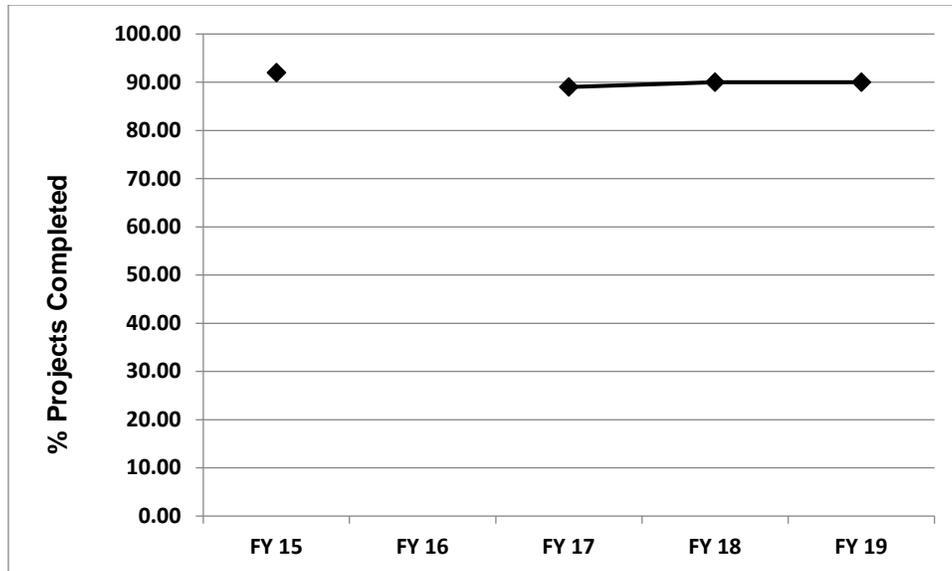
*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 Services, Fish, and Wildlife Division employees and ultimately wildlife and fisheries enthusiasts who enjoy the resource. The program continues to experience a heavy workload that includes providing the design for and construction oversight for the new Octoform circular tanks at the Wigwam Rearing Station, Story Fish Hatchery Superintendent House, Clarks Fork Hatchery spring improvements, and the new Newcastle Warden Station. Surveying services for the above projects were also provided by the Conservation Engineering Branch. 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. 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 19.

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

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Customer Services	3.0	\$ 212,815
Mailroom	1.0	579,347
TOTAL	4.0	\$ 792,162

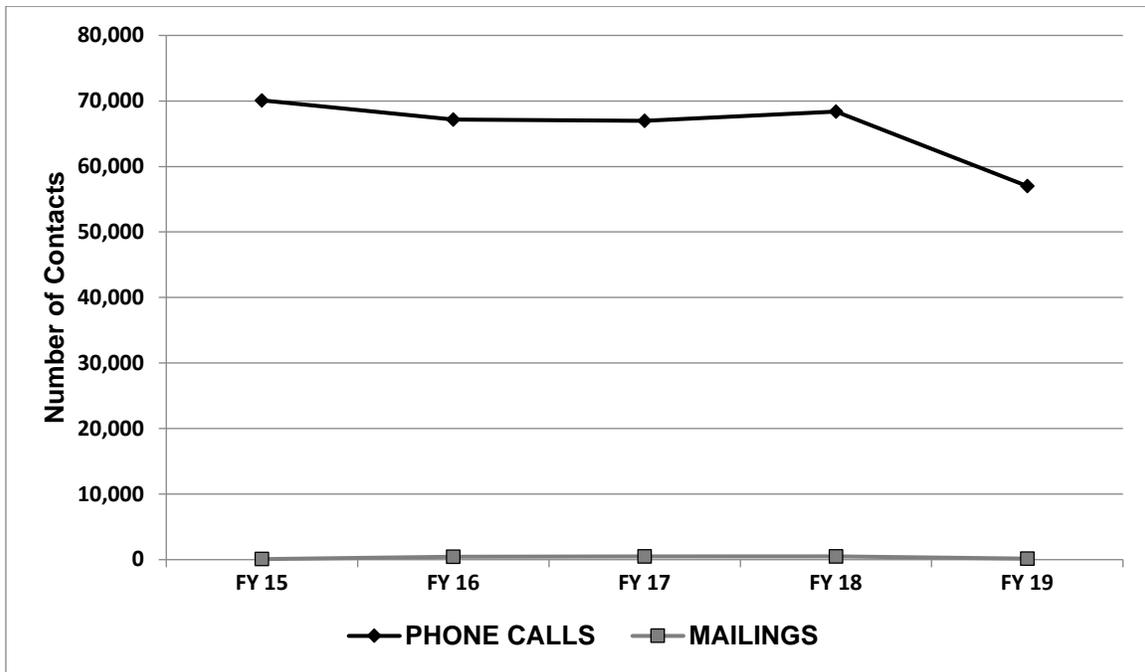
*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 19, there were three customer service representatives trained to handle all incoming calls and requests for information. The Department filled and trained two vacant positions during FY 19. The Department has an additional six staff members trained to handle all incoming calls.

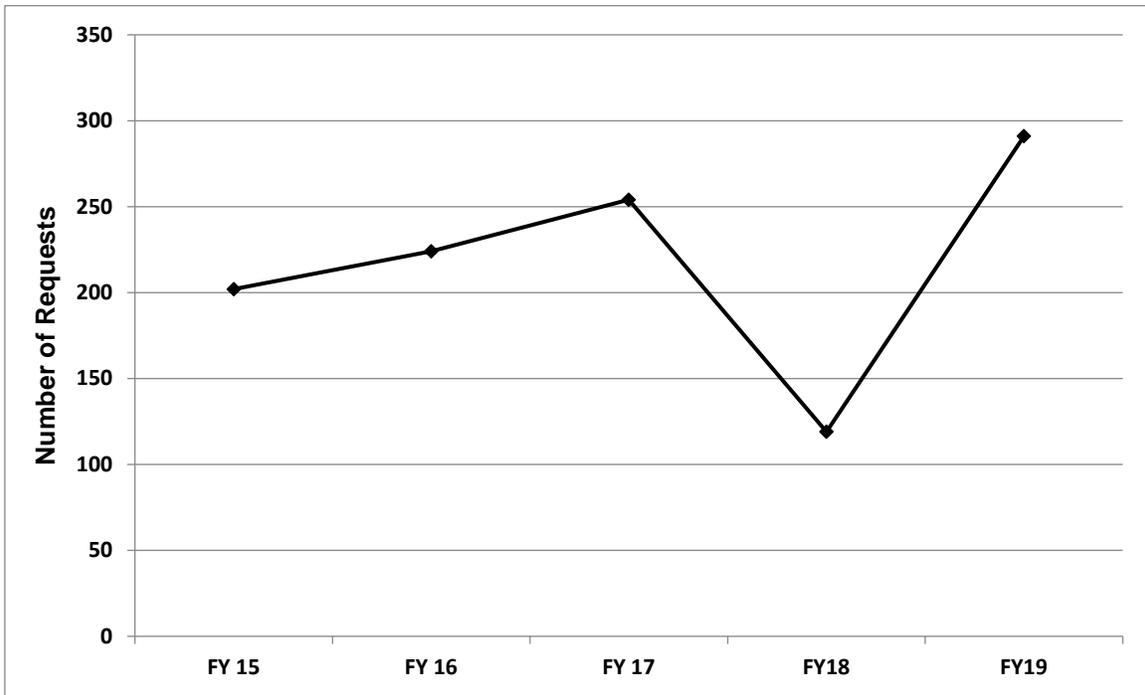
During this time frame, 57,005 calls were answered of the 66,397 total calls directed to the Telephone Information Center. The Department was unable to include the volume of incoming phone calls for the month of July because the call history was not stored in the Avaya IQ telephone system software. The calls that were not answered were abandoned calls (9,392) where the caller hung up before the customer service representative concluded the preceding call. This represents a level of service of 86 percent. 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 65,918 and the average number of mailings has been 334. In FY 19, the telephone information center staff answered 57,005 incoming calls and processed 172 mailing requests for information from customers. As reflected in the performance measure chart, there was a decrease from previous years in the number of incoming calls answered. The month of July is one of the busiest months for calls and therefore the lack of data affects the reporting on this performance measure for 2018. The number of requests to mail materials to customers significantly decreased in FY 19. 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.

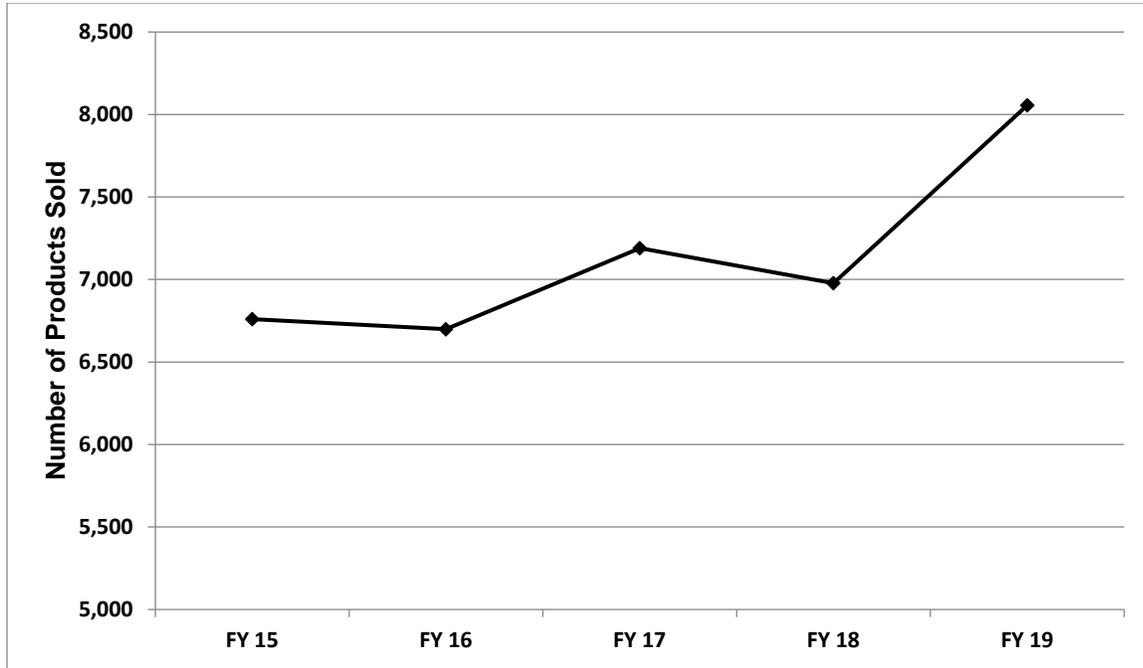
As the Telecommunications Liaison, this employee serves as the point of contact for Department employees with State Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and private vendors for all telecommunication related issues. Telecommunications is growing due to the rapid pace of the cellular environment which 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 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 19 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).

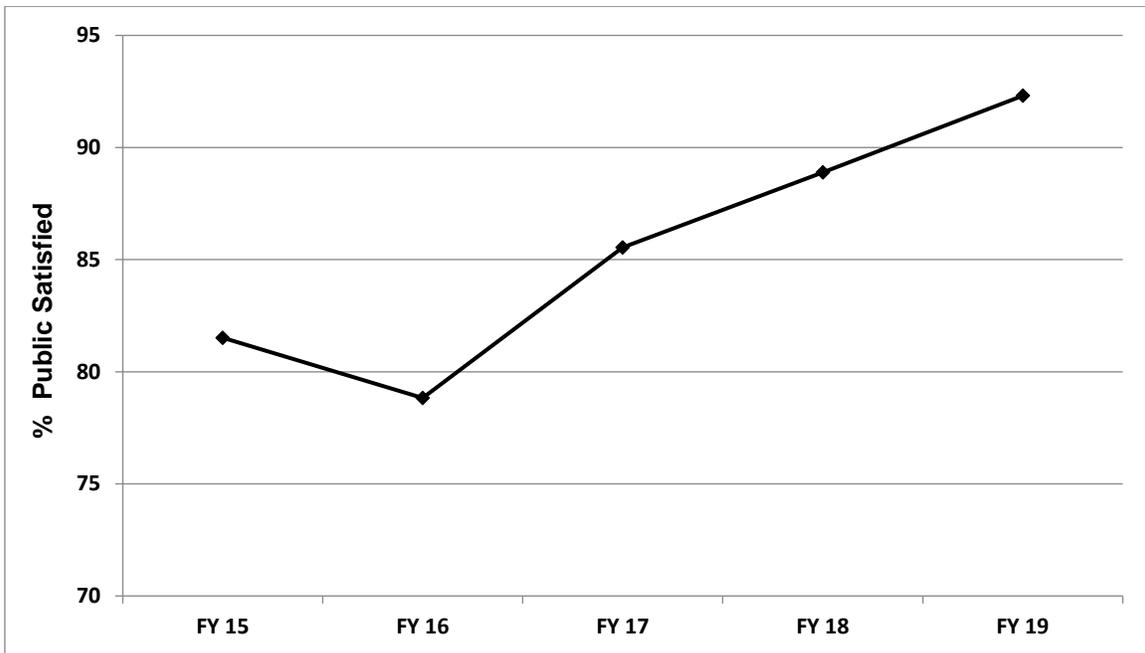


**Story behind the performance:**

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 18, the number of products sold was 6,978. In FY 19, the number of products increased to 8,056. 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 19, 318 individuals responded to the survey which included 163 residents and 155 nonresidents. The survey provides the opportunity for the public to evaluate the customer service provided by the Department. Since FY 15, an average of 85.42 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 300 survey participants that responded to the specific survey question on contacting the Telephone Information Center during FY 19, only 66 used the Telephone Information Center for assistance.

**Program:** Department Administration

**Division:** Department-wide

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

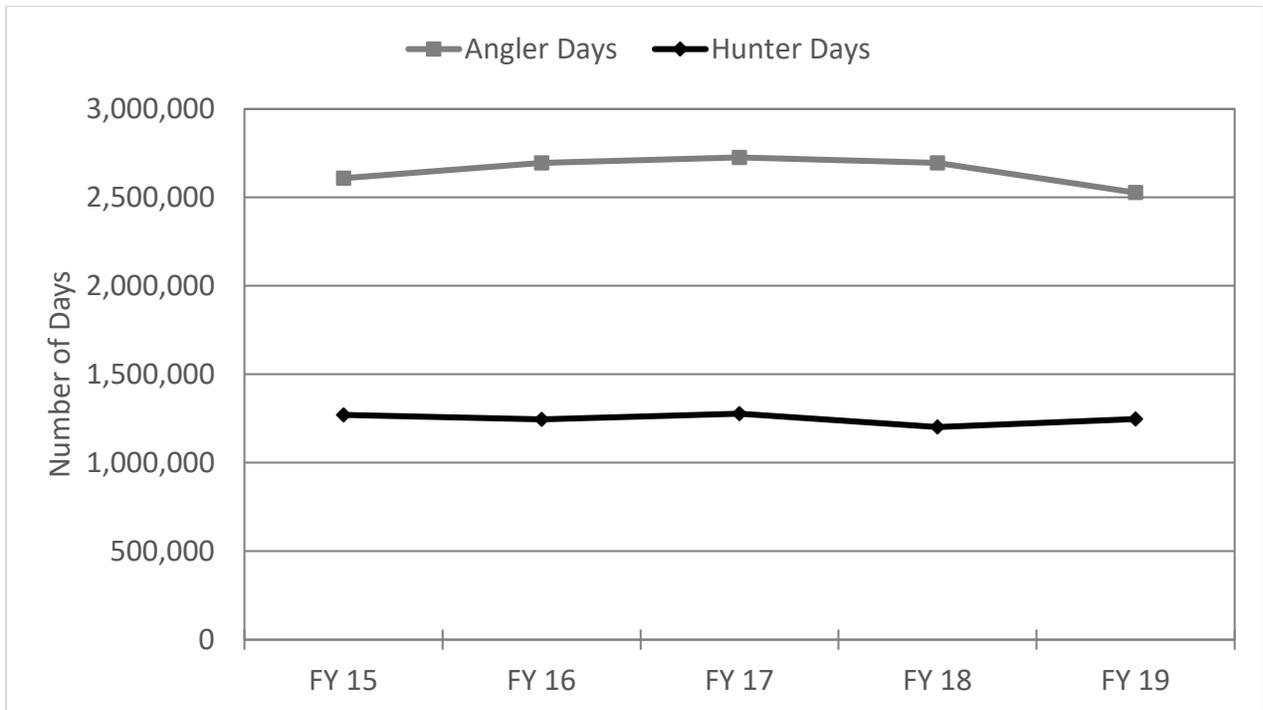
**Program Facts:** The Department Administration Program is made up of three major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Administration	25.0	\$ 4,181,200
WGFD Vehicle Fleet	0.0	2,165,827
Commission	.8	109,070
TOTAL	25.8	\$ 6,456,097

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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

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



**Story behind the performance:**

For the period FY 15 - FY 19, Wyoming residents and nonresidents expended an average of 1,248,068 hunter days and 2,527,082 angler days. In FY 19, 1,245,434 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 19 were 13.2 percent above the target of 1.1 million hunter days. Angling days in FY 16 were 14.7 percent above the target of 2.3 million angler days.

Hunter days increased approximately 3.6 percent between FY 18 and FY 19. Almost all categories of hunted animals had increases in recreation days: big game (+13,761), trophy game (+4,197), small game (+2,016), upland game (+33,370) and migratory game bird (+1,581) days increased while only furbearer (-6,307) days decreased. This reflects the general trend in interest in hunting in Wyoming based on license sales recently.

The number of angler days is trending upwards over the last five years. Good fishing conditions and improved regional economic conditions likely account for this trend. The increase in fishing in 2016 was due largely to increasing numbers of nonresident anglers, with increases in the number of annual and daily fishing licenses sold. In terms of license sales, the number of all license types sold increased by 1 percent overall. The Department is encouraged that this high level of revenue continued to be sustained.

**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 hunting and fishing access to the public. The Access Yes Program experienced many successes (from 2018 Access YES Annual Report):

- Providing access to 2,670,173 acres (1,693,921 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 976,252 of public lands) for hunting within the boundaries of the WIHA and Hunter Management Area (HMA) programs. This included land in every county within Wyoming.
- Providing additional access to 178,448 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of the WIHA and HMA, which would not have been accessible without the Access Yes program.
- Providing fishing access to 4,006 lake acres and 86 stream miles throughout the Walk-In Fishing Area (WIFA) program.
- Continued to work with the 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 the HMAs and the National Elk Refuge (NER) are reduced.
- An additional Cheyenne Game Warden whose duties include assisting the Laramie Region Access Coordinator with the Access Yes Program.
- Issued 27,655 online permission slips to 16,077 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 110 e-mails received through the Access Yes program website regarding hunting, fishing, or the Access Yes Program. The majority of these emails (99%) were responded to within one day of receipt.
- Successfully implemented the third 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 2017 hunting season for harvest results indicated 22% of antelope hunters (24% nonresident, 19% resident), 17% of deer hunters (16% nonresident, 17% resident), and 14% of elk hunters (11% nonresident, 15% resident) used either a WIHA or HMA to hunt on. This would equate to an estimated 10,875 antelope, 10,433 deer, and 8,935 elk hunters having hunted on either a WIHA or HMA.
- Began the Access Yes Patrol Enhancement (AYPE) plan. Regional Access Coordinators provided patrol assistance to each other during busy times on Access Yes areas.
- A 12% funding increase in FY18
- 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 86% for antelope, 77% for deer, and 74% for elk. This is a 3% increase for antelope, while satisfaction for deer and elk stayed the same from 2016.

The Access Yes Program is funded by Department funds and Access Yes donations. Department funds, primarily from license sales, fund the daily operations of the program including personnel. Revenue for the Access Yes Program is generated from the sale of lifetime and annual conservation

stamps, donations from organizations and individual hunters and anglers, state restitution fees from court-imposed fines from wildlife violations, and interest. Besides for a few exemptions, every hunter and angler must purchase an annual conservation stamp, unless a lifetime conservation stamp has been purchased previously. A portion of the sale of these stamps is deposited into the Access Yes account (\$2.50 per annual stamp and half of each lifetime stamp). These two sources generate the majority of the funds each year, and in FY 19 they generated \$650,352.

Donations to Access Yes provide another valuable source of funds. During FY 19, direct donations from conservation groups and organizations totaled \$15,177, 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 \$161,916 in FY 19. Additionally, several private individuals made personal contributions. Overall, during FY 19, the Access Yes Program received \$975,880.

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 2018, 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.

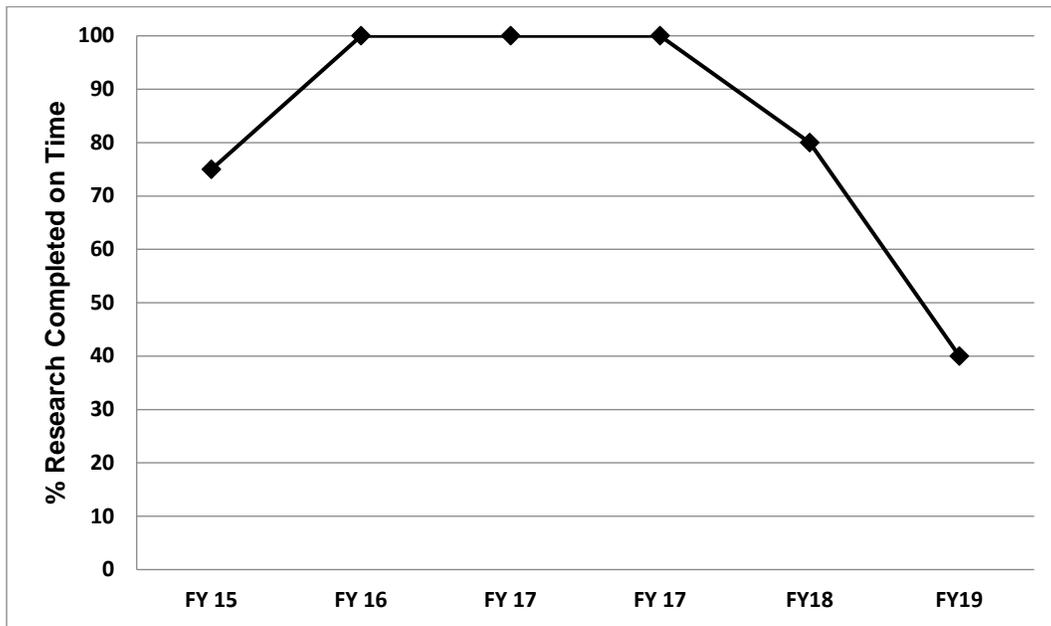
**Program Facts:** Scientific investigations are typically conducted by researchers associated with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit), universities, and independent researchers. The External Research Program funds no Department personnel, but by agreement, \$40,000 per year is used to help fund administration of the Coop Unit. Listed below is the FY 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
External Research	0	\$ 782,508

**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 19:

- Wyoming Range Mule Deer and Carryover Effects of a Severe Winter, (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.
- 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, (continuation from FY 18), will monitor and evaluate pronghorn movements' pre-development of a wind turbine project to evaluate potential influences on migration and habitat use.

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:

- Bobcat Statistical Reconstruction Modeling (completed in FY19), 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 19 include: Bobcat Statistical Reconstruction Model (FY17+ FY18) and Monitoring Elk Migrations with Remote Photography (FY16)

The Department continues to work with the Coop Unit and other university researchers to meet aquatic research needs. A total of 14 Fish Division research projects were underway or initiated in FY 19. Of these projects, five were scheduled for completion in FY 19 and four were completed and final reports received on time. The one incomplete project was delayed due to the loss of a herpetologist at the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database in the first year of the project. There were five new aquatic projects initiated in FY 19. New research was funded with the Wyoming Coop Unit, Montana State University, and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

At the end of FY 19, eight aquatic research projects were ongoing (five new and three continuing). New projects initiated in FY 19 include:

- 1) A project conducted by a Montana State University Coop Unit masters student investigating the life history and movement of Mountain Whitefish in the upper Green River.
- 2) A project conducted by a Wyoming Coop Unit masters student to understand how Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout are persisting in the face of tremendous hybridization with Rainbow Trout in the North Fork Shoshone River.
- 3) A project conducted by a Wyoming Coop Unit masters student to determine if redd counts are a useful tool in determining trends in Snake River Cutthroat Trout abundance in Snake River spring creeks.
- 4) A study by University of Wyoming Coop principle investigator to determine the extent of hybridization between Walleye and Sauger in the Bighorn/Wind Rivers.
- 5) A project conducted by WYNDD researchers will inventory aquatic snails to understand what species occur in the Bear and Powder Rivers.

Continuing projects at the end of FY 19 include:

- 1) A project conducted by a masters 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 Wyoming Coop Unit masters student investigating the survival of early life stages of Boreal Toads in relation to land use and disease.

- 3) A project conducted by a Wyoming Coop Unit masters student investigating distribution and habitat usage of Finescale Dace in northeast 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 19 budget:

<u>Program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Feedgrounds	2.6	\$2,309,414

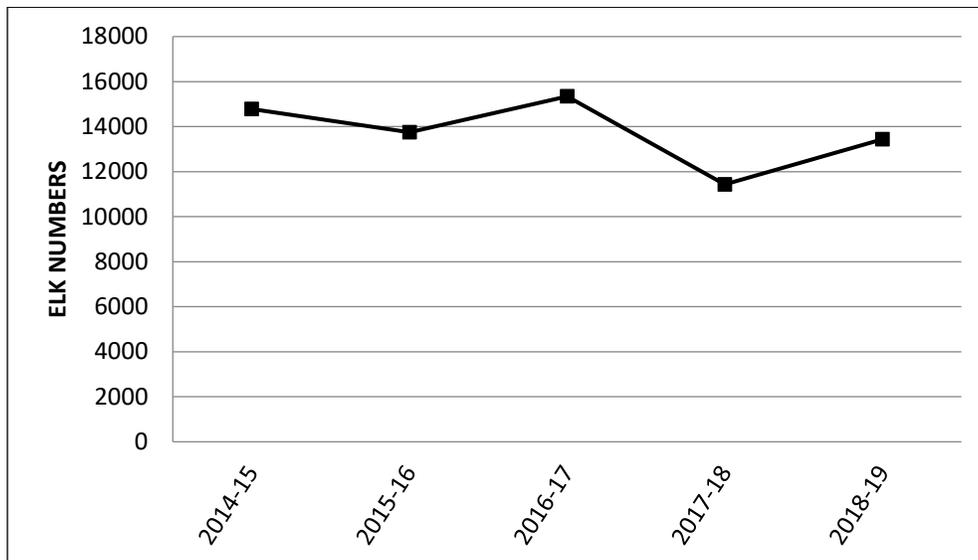
This program is located in the Jackson and Pinedale Regions. Personnel are assigned in Pinedale and Afton. The program is supervised by the Jackson and Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisors.

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 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



**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 support current elk population objectives and hunting opportunities afforded by the supplemental feeding of elk in the winter.

There were 13,445 elk fed during the 2018-2019 winter. This is 1,668 less than the past 20-year average. In 2018-2019, all winter feeding operations were started by mid-January and finished by the end of April. A total of 6,069 tons of hay was fed during the 2018-2019 season, slightly 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 2018-2019 were moderate to start and ended with above average snow depths that lasted later into the spring resulting in an average feeding season. Overall, the feeding season was 122 days, 21 days longer than the previous season of 101 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. The Gros Ventre experienced normal elk numbers this year as compared to last season where all but 12 elk were displaced from the Gros Ventre feedgrounds to the National Elk Refuge and other area feedgrounds for the entire winter. There were five of seven elk herd units (Jackson, Fall Creek, Afton, Hoback, and Piney) that had elk numbers below their individual objectives. On average, 79% 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, disease, 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 2018-2019 was 0.85 percent, 0.4 percent higher than the previous year.

**What has been accomplished:**

Overall, the average feeding season was 122 days and 6,069 tons of hay were fed to 13,445 elk. The shortest feeding operation occurred for 91 days at both Bench Corral and Horse Creek, while the longest occurred at Dell Creek for 155 days. Elk mortality was less than 1 percent. Fifty-five elk were documented to have been killed by wolves at 9 feedgrounds. This number increased by 27 from the previous year. Horse Creek and Camp Creek documented the highest elk mortality by wolves at 16 and 22 elk respectively. Gros Ventre elk remained on feedgrounds in the Gros Ventre valley and were not displaced to the National Elk Refuge and other feedgrounds. There was significantly less wolf activity in the Gros Ventre as compared to wolf activity experienced last year.

**Black Butte:** Black Butte elk feedground fed 580 elk 360 tons of hay for 152 days. Feeding operations began the day after hunting season on November 21, and ended on April 22. Black Butte is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were five elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor, one from wolf predation and four from other causes. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. There are seven hundred fifty tons of large and small, square, hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is loaded with a tractor or by hand and fed with horse drawn sleigh.

**Green River Lake (Upper Green River):** Green River Lake elk feedground fed 626 elk 222 tons of hay for 116 days. Feeding operations began December 12, and ended on April 7. Green River Lake feedground is primarily managed to prevent starvation. There were three elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor, all three mortalities were from wolf predation. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. With the addition of a 100 foot metal hayshed in 2018, 520 tons of large and small, square, hay bales are stored at this feedground. Hay is loaded with a tractor or by hand and fed with horse drawn sleigh.

**Franz:** Franz elk feedground fed 213 elk 149 tons of hay for 135 days. Feeding operations began the day after hunting season on November 25, and ended on April 9. Franz feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were two elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. With the addition of a 150 foot metal hayshed in 2017, 650 tons of small square hay bales are stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

In the Fall of 2018, the Roosevelt wildfire came within half mile of the feedground structures and hay supplies. Previous logging operations on bordering private lands prevented the fire from spreading to the feedground, hay supplies and structures.

**Jewett:** Jewett elk feedground fed 463 elk 273 tons of hay for 140 days. Feeding operations began the day after hunting season on November, 24 and ended on April, 13. Jewett feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. No elk were documented by the elk feeder to have died. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. There are 675 tons of small, square, hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

**Bench Corral:** Bench Corral elk feedground fed 768 elk 289 tons of hay for 91 days. Feeding operations began December 20, and ended on March 21. Bench Corral feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, prevent cattle/elk commingling and starvation. Bench Corral has some of the shortest feeding seasons compared to other feedgrounds. No elk mortalities were documented by the elk feeder. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. There are 1,000 tons of large square hay bales stored at this feedground. Bench Corral is located at lower elevation and is easily accessible in the winter, therefore it is used to store extra hay supplies for emergencies.

**North Piney:** North Piney elk feedground feeds 400-600 elk for one month each year to gather elk above private lands. Feeding operations typically end in late December, or when access with

a vehicle to the feedground is no longer possible. The elk then migrate to Bench Corral feedground to be fed the remainder of the season.

**Finnegan:** Finnegan elk feedground fed 464 elk 201 tons of hay for 134 days. Feeding operations began the day after hunting season on November 21, and ended on April 4. Finnegan feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. No elk mortalities were documented by the elk feeding contractor. Winter snow accumulations were normal to above normal. There are 260 tons of small square hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

**Muddy Creek:** Muddy Creek elk feedground fed 479 elk 190 tons of hay for 143 days. Feeding operations began on November 25 and ended on April 17. Muddy Creek feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were seven elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor. Winter snow accumulations were above normal. There are 360 tons of small square hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

**Scab Creek:** Scab Creek elk feedground fed 700 elk 332 tons of hay for 135 days. Feeding operations began the day after hunting season on November 21, and ended on April 5. Scab Creek feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were two elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor, one from wolf predation and one from other causes. Winter snow accumulations were above normal. There are 430 tons of small square hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

**Fall Creek:** Fall Creek elk feedground fed 641 elk 305 tons of hay for 97 days. Feeding operations began December 20, and ended on March 27. Fall Creek, like Bench Corral, also has some of the shortest feeding seasons. Fall Creek feedground is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were five elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor, three of which were from wolf predation, and two from other causes. Winter snow accumulations were above normal. There are 360 tons of small square hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is fed by hand with a horse drawn sleigh.

**Soda Lake:** Soda Lake elk feedground fed 1,179 elk 496 tons of hay for 109 days. Feeding operations began December 8, and ended on March 27. Soda Lake is primarily managed to prevent damage on private lands, cattle/elk commingling and starvation. There were 10 elk mortalities documented by the elk feeding contractor, seven of which from wolf predation and three from other causes. Winter snow accumulations were above normal. There are 1,000 tons of large, square, hay bales stored at this feedground. Hay is loaded with a tractor and fed with horse drawn sleigh.

**South Park:** This feedground is operated on the South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Feeding was started on December 26, and ended on April 19 for a total of 115 days. A total of 374 tons of hay were fed to 846 elk. Feeding was initiated to reduce damage to private lands, keep elk off the highway and to prevent starvation. Hay is loaded with a tractor and fed with

a horse drawn sleigh. Hay varies from small bales to 3x3 bales, for total of 975 tons of hay stored at this feedground.

Winter snow got deep later in the feeding season. Snow depths got to the point that horses could no longer break new feed lines, at which time several days of hay was spread out at one time with a snow cat. This was done in an effort open up some new feed line but failed to work as the snow got too hard and elk could walk on it. It also would not support the weight of the horses and feed sleigh. Later in the year when the snow started to soften up a small dozer was brought in to open up some new feed lines.

A total of 12 elk died while on the feedground, one of which was killed by wolves. The others died from necrotic stomatitis, injury and/or old age. The presence of wolves was only documented the one day.

**Patrol Cabin:** This is one of the three feedgrounds in the Gros Ventre drainage, and is operated on a Wyoming Game and Fish Commission property. Feeding started on November 26 in order to prevent the downward drift of elk in the drainage and was operated through April 7, for a total of 133 days. Elk numbers fluctuated significantly as elk were being moved around the drainage by the presence of wolves. There was one elk killed by wolves, and one elk died of an unknown cause.

A total of 438 tons of hay in small bales were fed by hand and horse drawn sleigh. Winter was light until February and then became severe for the rest of the season. 596 tons of hay in small bales, is stored at this feedground. Operation of this feedground is intended to prevent starvation, damage to private lands and to hold elk in the drainage.

**McNeel:** This feedground is operated on private property owned by a family in Jackson, WY and operated by a separate family. Feeding began on December 1 and ended on April 17 for a total of 138 days. A total of 347 tons of hay were fed to 551 elk. Feeding is required to prevent damage to private property and to prevent starvation.

A total of 450 tons of hay is stored at this feedground, all in large squares and large round bales and is all fed with a tractor and a bale processor. This area receives significant snowfall, and keeping feed lines open can be very challenging, sometimes requiring the use of a privately owned snow cat. Winter conditions became severe in February and persisted until late in the spring.

There were two elk mortalities documented on the feedground. Wolf sign was seen on several different occasions but no wolf related elk mortalities were documented.

**Horse Creek:** This feedground is operated on the Horse Creek WHMA. Feeding began on January 8, and ended on April 9 for a total of 92 days. A total of 469 tons of hay was fed to 1,258 elk. Feeding started later than normal due to mild conditions. The neighboring private property has recently been fenced off allowing elk to better use the available winter range, potentially delaying the onset of feeding. Feeding is initiated to prevent damage to private lands, prevent starvation and to keep elk off of the highways.

Large bales are stored at this feedground and are fed with a tractor and a bale processor. There was 1,170 tons of hay stored at this feedground, some of which (165 tons) is grown on this unit. Winter was light early in the season, but lasted longer in the spring than normal. Snow depths got to the point that we were no longer able to break new feed lines with the tractor.

A total of 22 elk died while on the feedground, 16 of which were killed by wolves and the others died of necrotic stomatitis and old age. Wolf presence on the feedground was frequent, with three wolves that never left the area and other wolves moving through the area frequently.

**Forest Park:** This feedground is operated on United States Forest Service (USFS) property in the Grey's River drainage. Feeding started on January 1 and ended on April 18 for a total of 98 days. Feeding at Forest Park is intended to prevent excessive winter mortality.

Elk numbers were down as some elk wintered on native range due to early mild conditions and a late onset of winter. A total of 164 tons of hay were fed to 467 elk. There is 600 tons of hay stored at this feedground, all of which is in small bales. All hay is loaded by hand and fed with horses and sleigh.

Deep snow in March prevented new feed lines from being opened up with horses. Some feed lines were opened with a privately owned snow cat but the snow was still unable to support the weight of the horses and feed sleigh, so a small sled with a few bales on it was pulled by a tracked UTV, requiring several trips to get the elk fed.

There were four elk mortalities documented on this feedground from old age and necrotic stomatitis. No wolf sign was observed on this feedground.

**Fish Creek:** This feedground is operated on USFS property and is the upper most feedground of three in the Gros Ventre drainage. Feeding started on December 9, and ended on February 4 for a total of 58 days. Most of the elk (1,700) in the drainage were on this feedground during this time frame.

On February 4, all hay supplies had been diminished and over the next few days all the elk moved down drainage to the Patrol Cabin feedground. A total of 272 tons of hay in small bales were fed all by hand and horse drawn sleigh. Winter conditions were normal during the time elk were on this feedground. There is 300 tons of hay in small bales stored at this feedground. This feedground is operated to prevent starvation and to prevent damage to private lands. No elk died or were killed by wolves while on this feedground, and wolf presence was minimal.

**Dog Creek:** The facilities for this feedground are on USFS property but the actual feeding occurs on private property owned by the Gill and Lockhart families of Jackson, WY. Feeding began on December 13, and ended on April 26 for a total of 135 days. A total of 362 tons of hay were fed to 873 elk. Feeding was initiated to keep elk off the nearby highway, to reduce damage on private properties and to prevent starvation. All hay at this feedground is in small bales and is loaded by hand and fed on a horse drawn sleigh. There is 520 tons of hay stored at this feedground.

Winter conditions became severe in February and lasted until late spring. Snow depths got to the point that horses could no longer break new feed lines and a small dozer was brought in to break open some new feed lines.

A total of four elk died on the feedground from a variety of reasons including old age to necrotic stomatitis. No wolf activity was observed on this feedground.

**Dell Creek:** This feedground is operated on USFS property. Feeding was started on November 24, and ended on April 28 for a total of 156 days. This feedground is very close to several private cattle operations and has to be monitored very closely and feeding needs to be initiated as soon as elk start showing up in order to prevent elk/livestock commingling. Feeding is also needed to prevent starvation, as this area receives significant snowfall annually. Due to deep snow, breaking new feed lines became impossible without the use of large equipment.

A total of 256 tons of hay were fed to 390 elk, which is up from an average of about 300. There is 300 tons of hay stored at this feedground and is all loaded by hand and fed with horses and sleigh. No elk mortalities were documented at this feedground and no wolf activity was observed.

**Camp Creek:** This feedground is operated on the Camp Creek WHMA. Feeding was started on January 7, and ended on April 19 for a total of 103 days. A total of 291 tons of hay were fed to 708 elk. Feeding was initiated to prevent damage to private lands, to keep elk off the highway and to prevent starvation. Small bales are stored at this feedground and are loaded by hand and fed with a horse drawn sleigh. Four hundred thirteen tons of hay, all small bales, were stored at this feedground.

Winter conditions started later in the year and lasted longer into the spring with the overall snow depth getting deep enough that extra time was spent trying to open up new feed lines and feed on clean snow. A total of 27 elk died on the feedground of which 22 were killed by wolves and the others died from necrotic stomatitis. Wolf presence was almost daily with three wolves that never left the area and other wolves frequently passing through the area.

**Alpine:** This feedground is operated on the Alpine WHMA. Feeding began on December 31 and ended on April 19 for a total of 110 days. A total of 237 tons of hay were fed to 519 elk. Feeding is required to prevent damage to private property, to keep elk off the highway, and to prevent starvation.

There is 600 tons of hay is stored at this feedground and is all in small bales. This hay is loaded by hand and fed with horses and sleigh. Winter came later than normal and elk numbers were down due to some elk wintering on native ranges early in the winter. Later in the winter, snow increased and horses could no longer break new feed lines, requiring several days worth of hay to be fed at one time with the use of a snow cat. Later in the year when snow started to soften a small dozer was brought in and used to open some new feed lines.

A total of eight elk died on the feedground, mostly due to necrotic stomatitis. No wolf activity or sign was observed on the feedground.

**Alkali:** This feedground is operated on USFS property and is located in the Gros Ventre drainage and is the lowest feedground of the three in the drainage. Feeding started on December 6, and ended on April 5 for a total of 121 days. A total of 33 tons of hay was fed. With the presence of wolves in the area these elk spend minimal time on the feedground and mostly feed at night, making it very difficult to get accurate counts on the feedground. This feedground is operated to slow the downward drift of elk in order to keep them in Gros Ventre drainage, to prevent starvation and to minimize damage to private lands in the area. There is 300 tons of hay in small bales is stored at this feedground and is fed by hand and horse drawn sleigh.

**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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Revenue Collection & Licensing	16.0	\$ 1,505,564
Asset Management	4.0	\$ 705,030
Disbursements	4.0	\$384,288
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,594,882

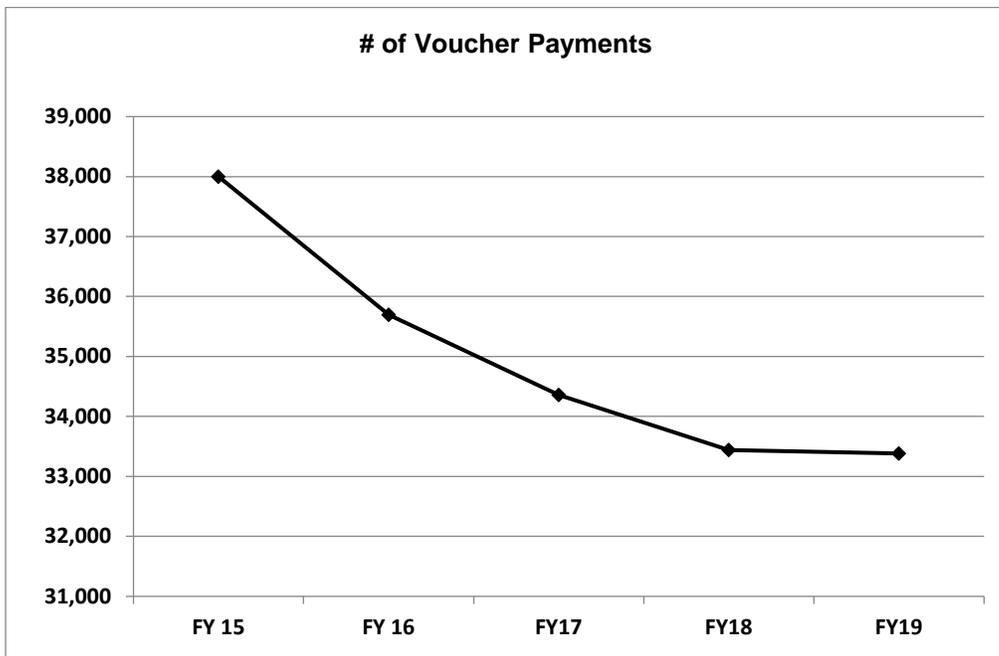
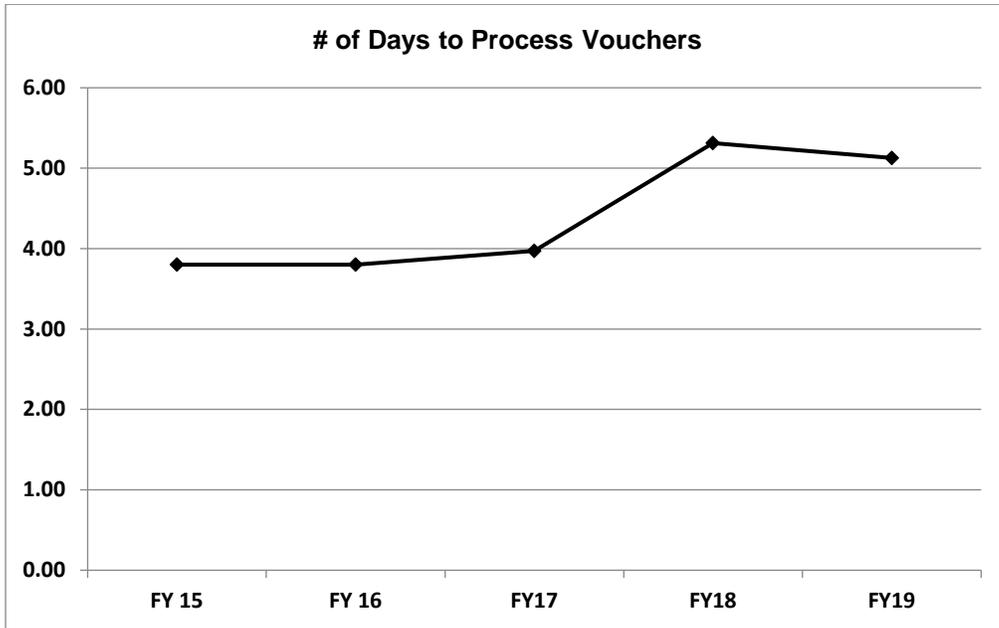
*Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

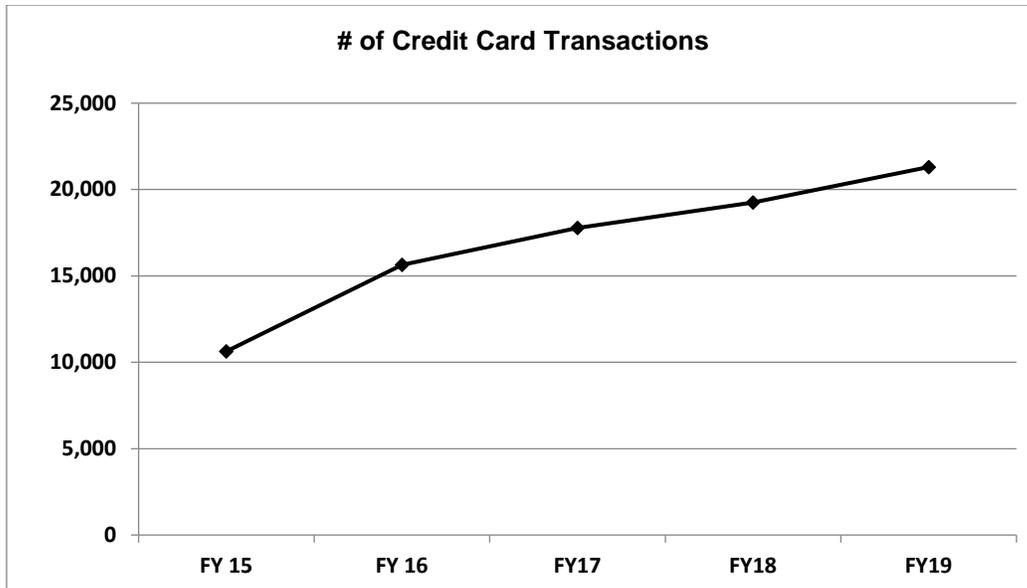
This program is located in the Department’s Headquarters Office in Cheyenne.

**Primary Functions of the Financial Management Program:**

- **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.
- **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).
- **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, 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).

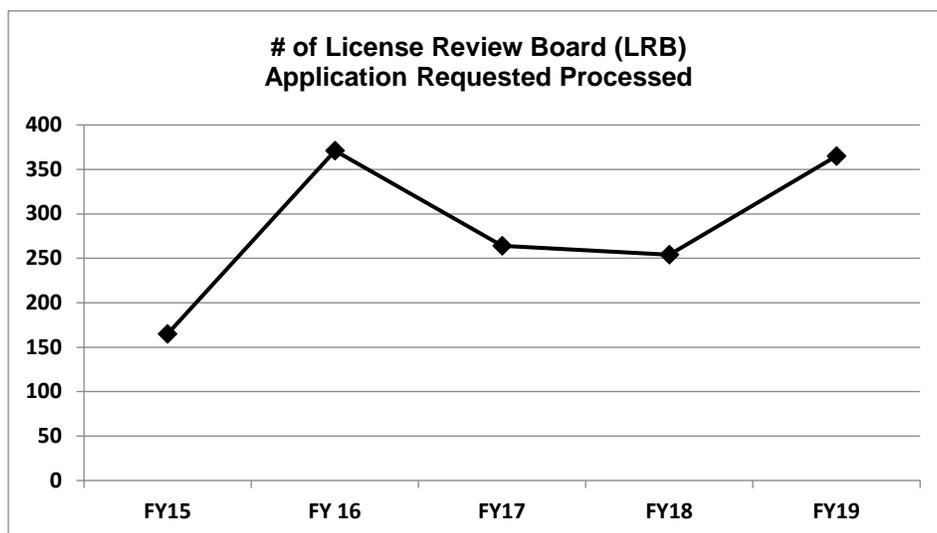


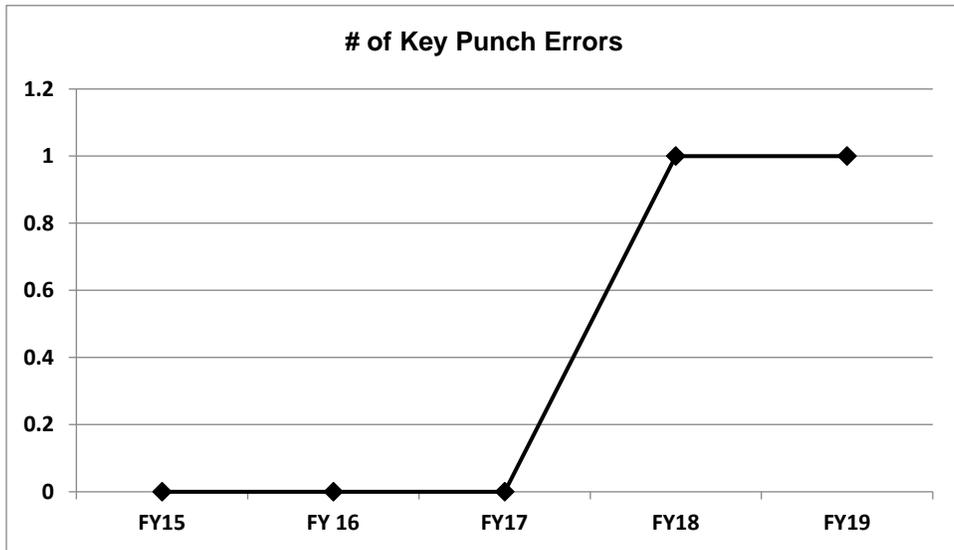


**Story behind the performance:**

With the increased use of the State Visa Card by Department personnel, the number of voucher payment transactions in FY19 was just about the same as FY18 at approximately 33,500 with an average processing turn-around time of 5.1 days. The increase in processing time from FY15 to FY19 is directly related to the State Auditor's Office (SAO) changes in process for vendor management in WOLFS, the state accounting system and requiring that all state agencies complete these processes rather than the SAO. This change requires a full time employee equivalent 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 2018 calendar year license application period, 475,803 applications were submitted for limited quota drawings and preference point purchases. All applications are required to be submitted online except landowner applications. During this 2018 application period, 472,341 applications were submitted online with 3,462 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 2018 application period, the Department had one key punch error. The Department had to issue refunds for six 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 five major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Terrestrial Habitat Management	10.5	\$1,493,351
Aquatic Habitat Management	10.1	1,492,177
Fish Passage	2.0	427,397
Water Management	2.4	284,195
Wyoming Landscape Cons. Initiative	1.0	115,898
TOTAL		\$3,813,018

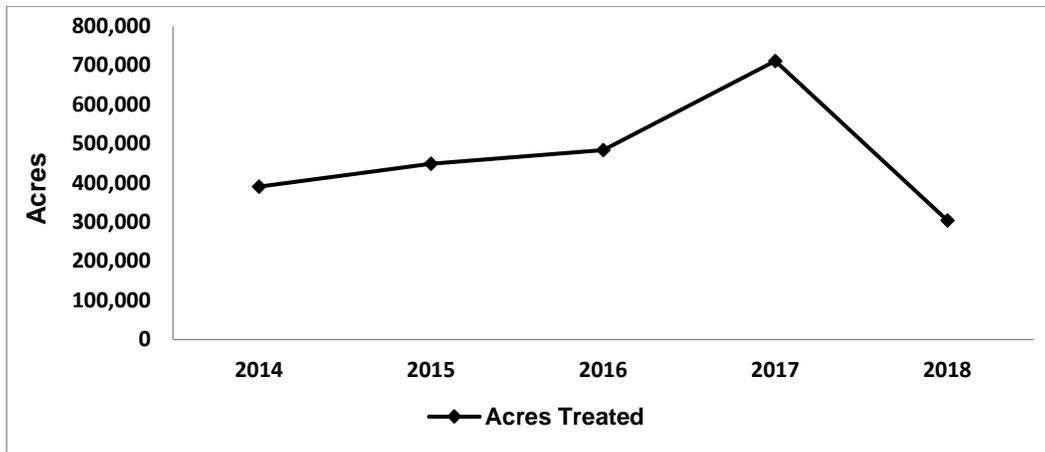
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

The Habitat Program has statewide responsibilities. Permanent personnel are located in Buffalo (1), Casper (4), Cheyenne (6), Cody (2), Green River (2), Jackson (1), Lander (2), Laramie (2), Pinedale (3), 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.

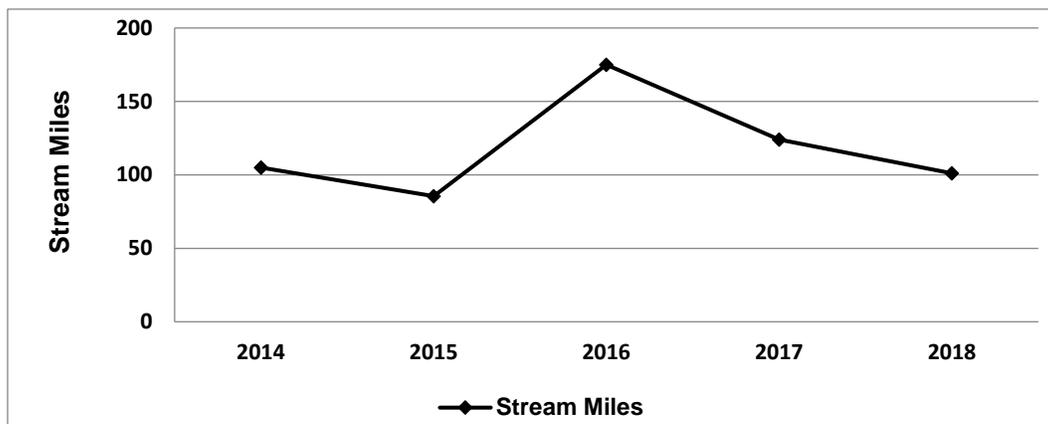
**Performance Measure #1:** Acres of habitat conserved, enhanced, and restored annually. Personnel in this program strive to conserve, enhance, and restore 500,000 acres of habitat annually.



**Story behind the performance:**

In calendar year 2018, habitat work directly impacted 304,038 acres. This total includes habitat treatments on public and private lands including Department managed properties. Detailed activity summaries can be found in the 2018 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 2018, aquatic habitat work benefitted 101 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 2018 SHP Annual Report.

## **Major Accomplishments**

- Nine stream restorations or bank enhancements on 1.4 stream miles
- 2,763 acres of mowing, chopping, or Lawson aeration
- 42,205 acres of herbicide weed treatments
- 48.6 stream miles made accessible via fish passage
- 303 acres of wetland development

The Department's 2018 SHP Annual Report 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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat and Access	33.8	\$ 4,668,712

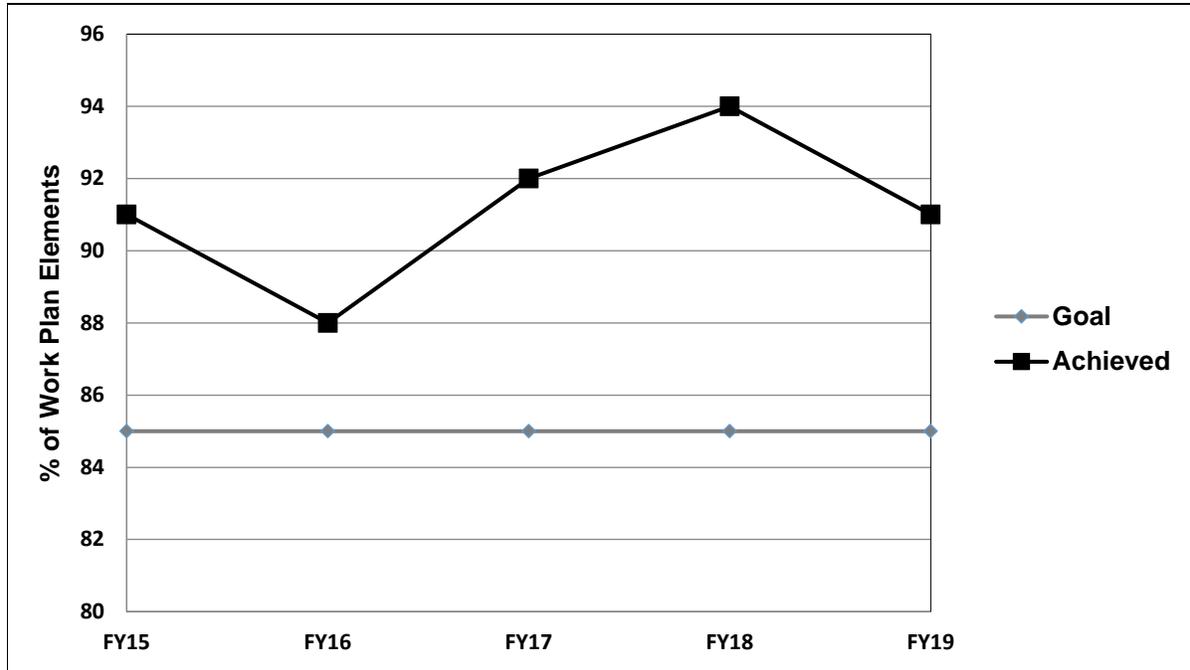
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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). 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 Plan, 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:**

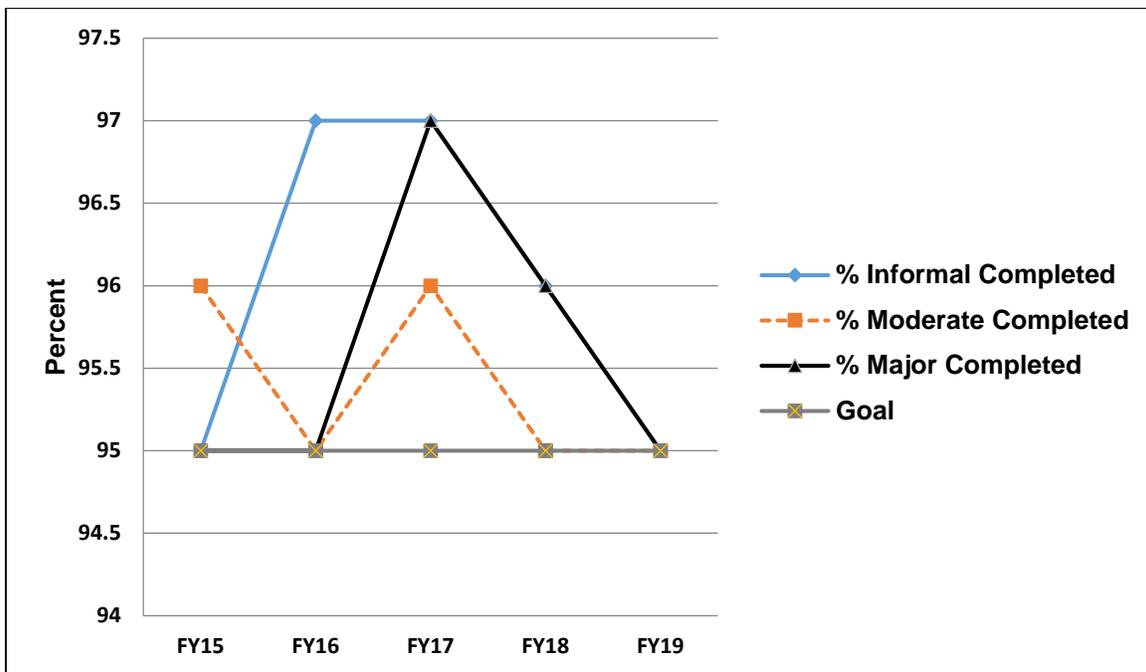
The program is responsible for administering and managing 42 unique WHMAs and 199 Public Access Areas (PAAs). WHMAs and PAAs are managed according to a Managed Land and Access Summary (MLAS) developed for each individual area. Work plans are developed prior to each fiscal year in an attempt to address 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 19, 91 percent of work plan elements were achieved because the program addressed Department priorities foremost and not necessarily program priorities. The reduction from the previous year was due to some un-accounted project request that had to be done causing others to get moved to the next FY. Focusing on Department priorities 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 19, work units were able to focus on high priorities. Habitat and Access crews spent more time working on stream restoration, mule deer initiative work, 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 19 include: stream restoration work on Sunlight WHMA, mule deer initiative work on the Red Rim Grizzly WHMA, 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 open irrigation systems to six center pivots; maintaining over 600 miles of fence; irrigating 4,700 acres; monitoring grazing on 44,000 acres; 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 199 PAAs, 22 elk feedgrounds, and 42 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:**

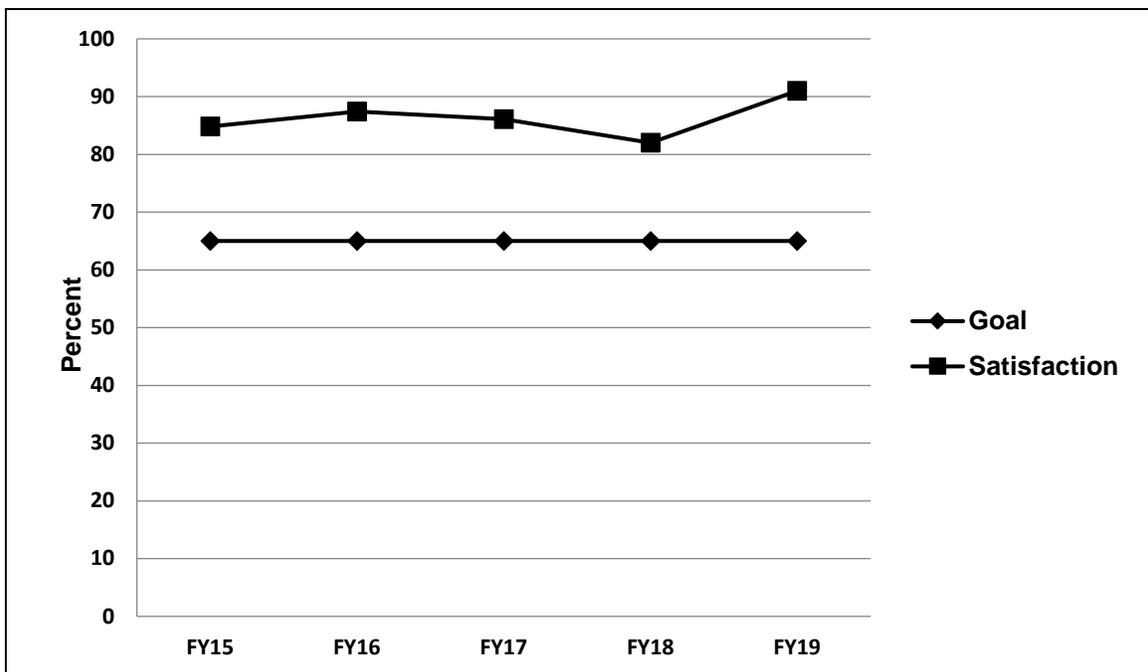
The Habitat and Access Program is requested to assist or provide services for other programs within the Department. On average, 125 (95 percent) of these requests will be completed yearly. In order to track, schedule, and complete these requests, they are separated into three categories: informal, moderate, 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 Plan or 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 streams or 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 15 and FY 19 with an average of 96 percent of informal, 95 percent of moderate, and 96 percent of major project requests being completed. Results for 2019 varied minimally from this average with 95 percent of informal, 95 percent of moderate, and 95 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 19, the Habitat and Access Program completed 95 percent of project requests. Some of the major projects were habitat treatments for the Sublette mule deer herd and Platte Valley mule deer herd. Over 3,000 acres were treated with mowing, seeding, dixie harrowing, and aspen exclosures. Other projects included Sunlight Creek stream restoration, installing pipelines, cleaning major irrigation canals, repairing dams and dikes, performing riverbank stabilization, creating and removing fish barriers, working on feedground facilities, and rebuilding PAA roads.

**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 in FY19 was 91 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 91 percent in FY 19. 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 19, 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:

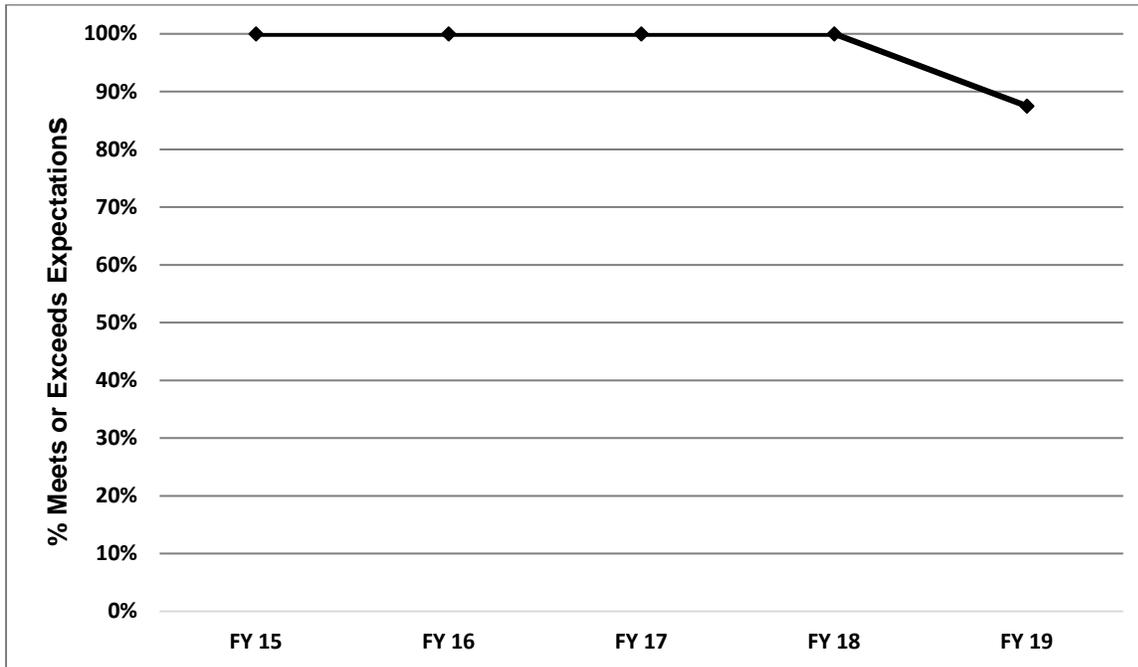
	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Habitat Protection Program	8.0	\$ 846,226

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 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 eight 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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Information	6.0	\$ 921,363
Publications	2.3	648,187
TOTAL	8.3	\$ 1,569,550

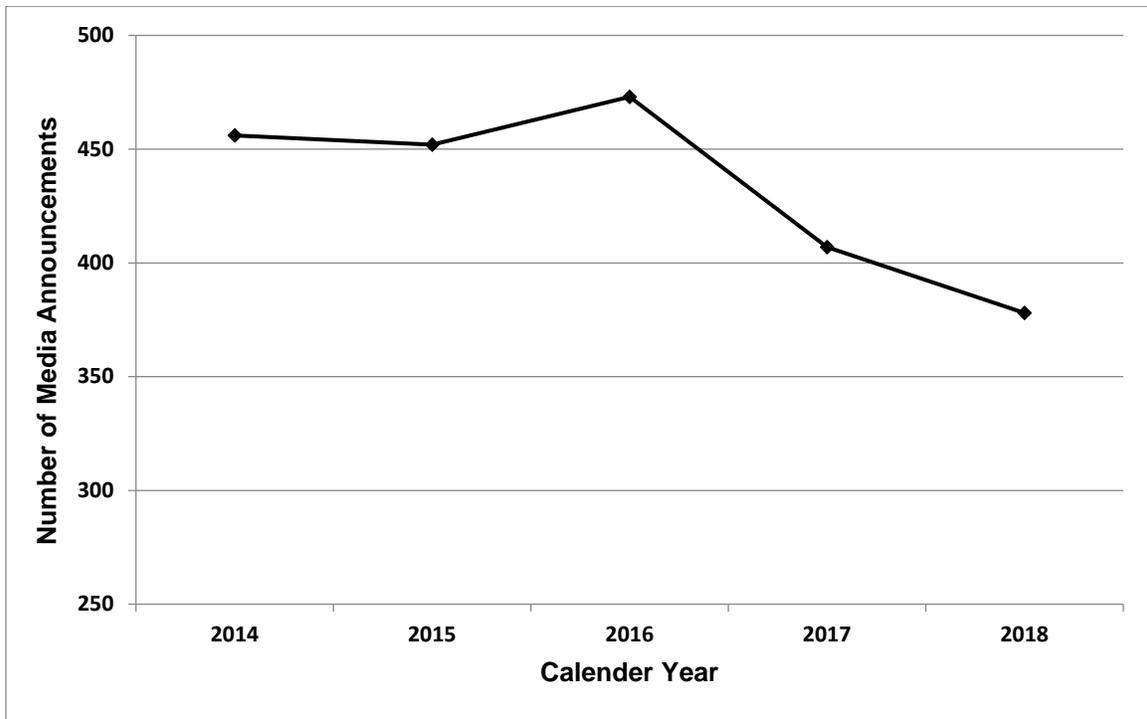
*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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 125,000 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 42 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 433 individual print, radio, or television news releases, or public service announcements. In 2018, the number of news, radio interviews, and public service announcements distributed was 378. 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, Instagram and Twitter) and GovDelivery (now Granicus), is maximizing efficient delivery and distribution of information whether in digital, audio, print, or video form. As of September 2019, approximately 45,000 people “Like” and follow the Department’s Facebook page. The Department’s YouTube channel had 5,800 dedicated followers with thousands of views of Department videos. As of September 2019, approximately 4,400 people “Follow” the Department’s Twitter page. The Department also has an Instagram page with 10,000 followers. Granicus, the Department’s email outreach software, has more than 360,000 subscriptions as of September 2019. Total impressions delivered via GovDelivery in FY 19 was almost 4.5 million. The engagement rate is 61.7 percent, 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.

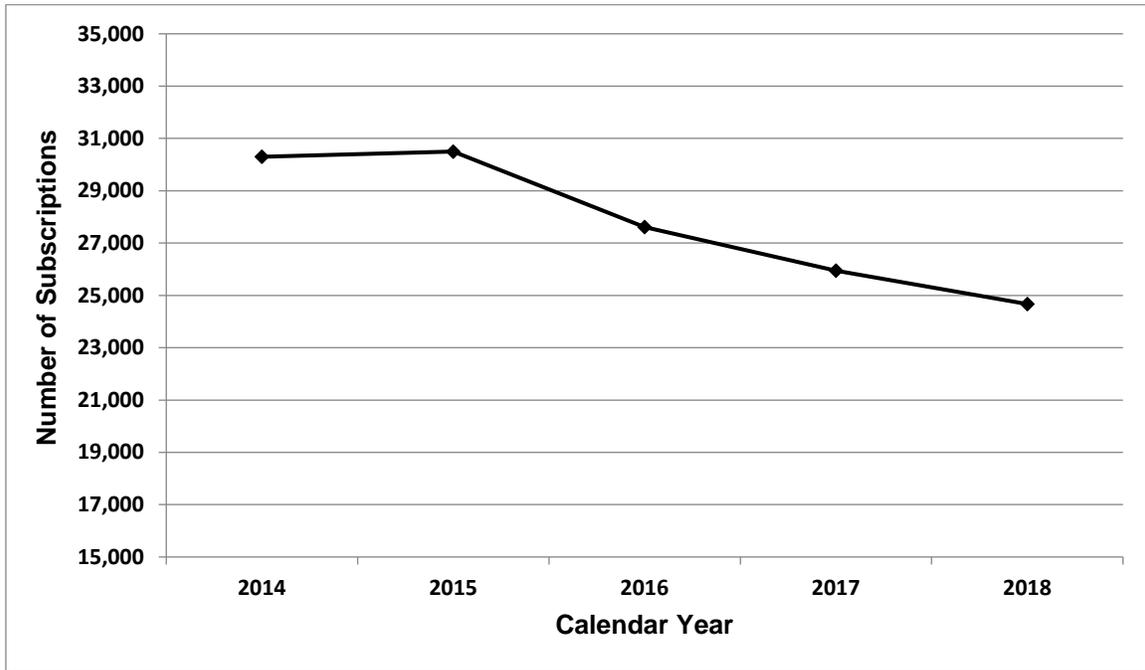
The Department website is the department’s largest mechanism for information delivery. In 2018, the website recorded 14,327,630 page views.

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. The Department reworked a position to create a dedicated public information officer to work on strategic news dissemination to media. Social media interaction has grown significantly and the information section also added monthly e-newsletters to hunters and anglers. These reach over 360,000 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 2019 (up to September) was 24,670. *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 27,806. Using the magazine industry’s multiplier of four readers for every subscription, it is estimated *Wyoming Wildlife* reaches about 111,224 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. The magazine hired a new editor and assistant editor in 2019. The magazine also implemented a design update and is bringing in new content to align with human dimensions data collected from a subscriber survey. Starting in late 2018, the department began offering the magazine as an additional purchase when using the license system. After a year in place, the magazine has gained more than 2,000 subscribers through the license system checkout process.

The Facebook page for *Wyoming Wildlife* has also grown in popularity. It now has 6,800 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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Information Technology	22	\$ 3,451,792

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

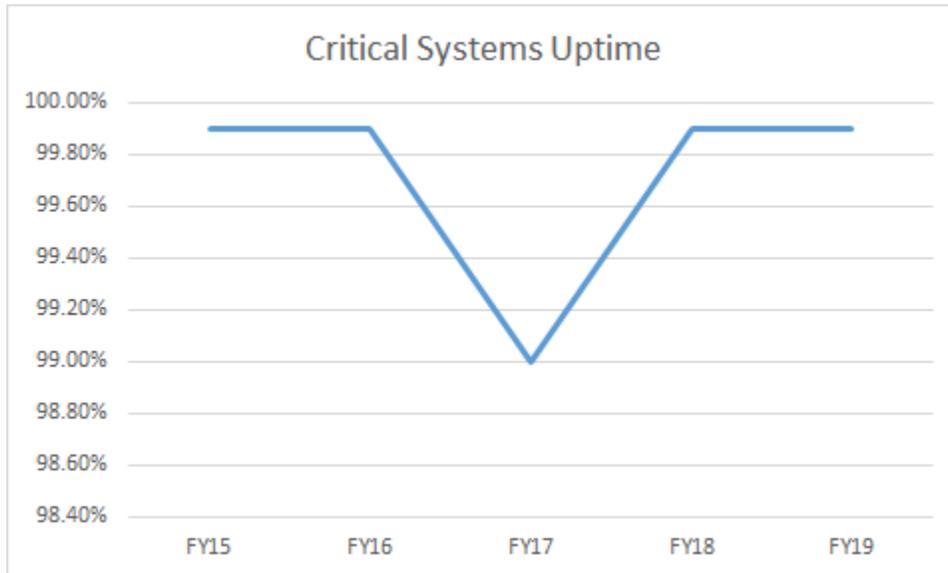
The current program is made up of administration and three sections: Application Development, IT Operations, and GIS.

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 approximately 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 agent locations throughout Wyoming; developing and supporting over 80 mission critical applications; and maintaining approximately 147 layers of authoritative GIS data, 245 Species of Greatest Conservation Need distribution models and ranges, additional derived data layers, and a total of 30 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, email 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 19 was 99.90 percent, equal to 99.90 percent in FY 18, 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 migrated the license draw application and the agencies primary web site to the Azure cloud based platform. By making these changes the team was able to dynamically expand needed resources, on critical license draw days, increasing availability and reducing latency. The performance improvement of the license draw application directly impacted over 110,000 unique sportspeople. Going forward the IT Branch will continue to evaluate the feasibility and the associated benefits of migrating additional agency applications to the cloud.

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 FY19 budget:

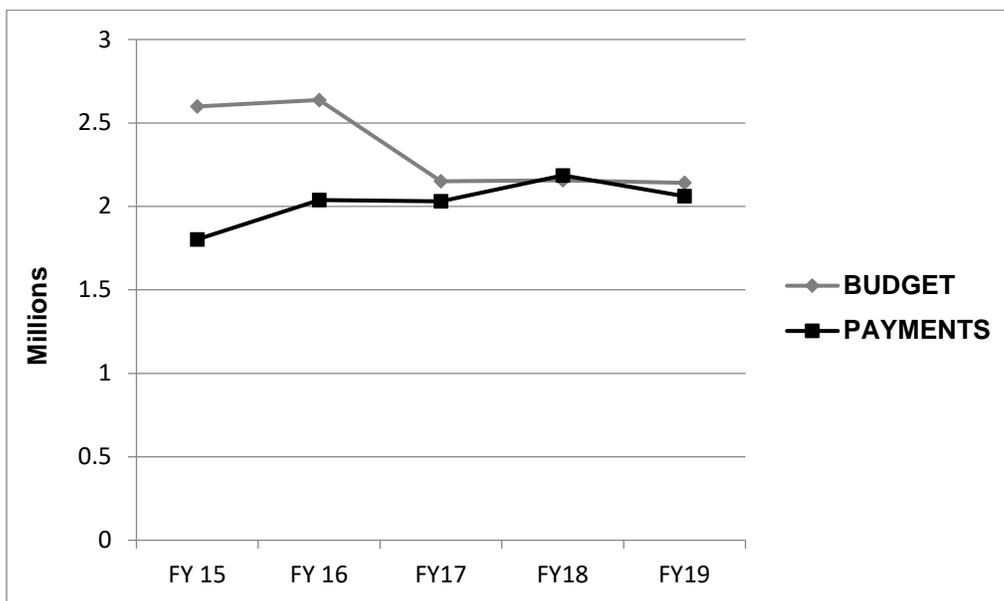
<u>Sub-Program</u>	<u>#FTE's</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Damage Claims	0	\$ 915,000
Landowner Coupons	0	550,000
Retiree Assessment	0	36,000
State Agency Law Enforcement System	0	200,000
Cost Allocation	0	<u>440,000</u>
TOTAL		\$ 2,141,000

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. 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. Since then, the Enterprise Technology Service's portion has been budgeted and paid for from the Commission's budget.

In FY 19, 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 the State Agency Law Enforcement System) 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 19 budget:

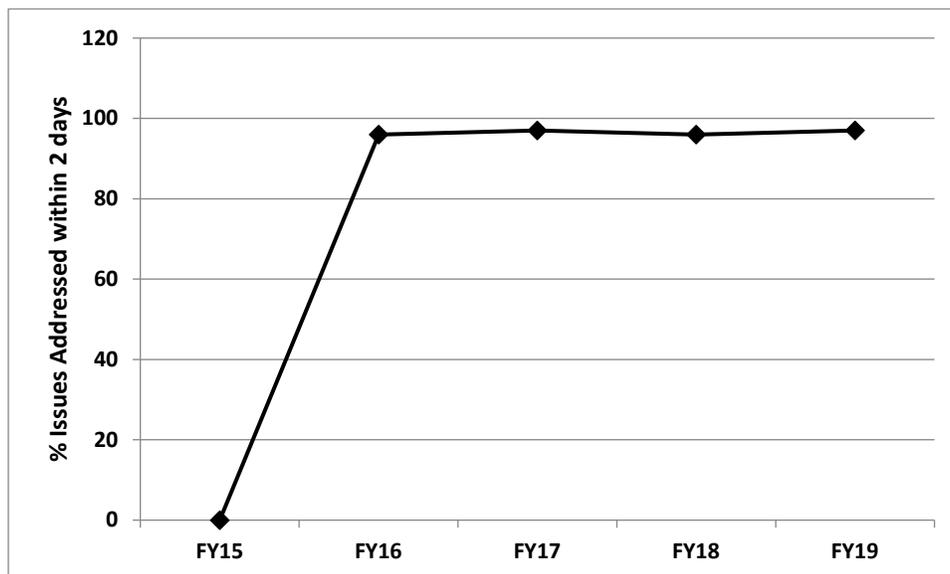
<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Personnel Management	3	\$439,536

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, trainings, and practices developed with employee and managerial input.

**Performance Measure #1:** Questions and requests are addressed and completed within a two 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).



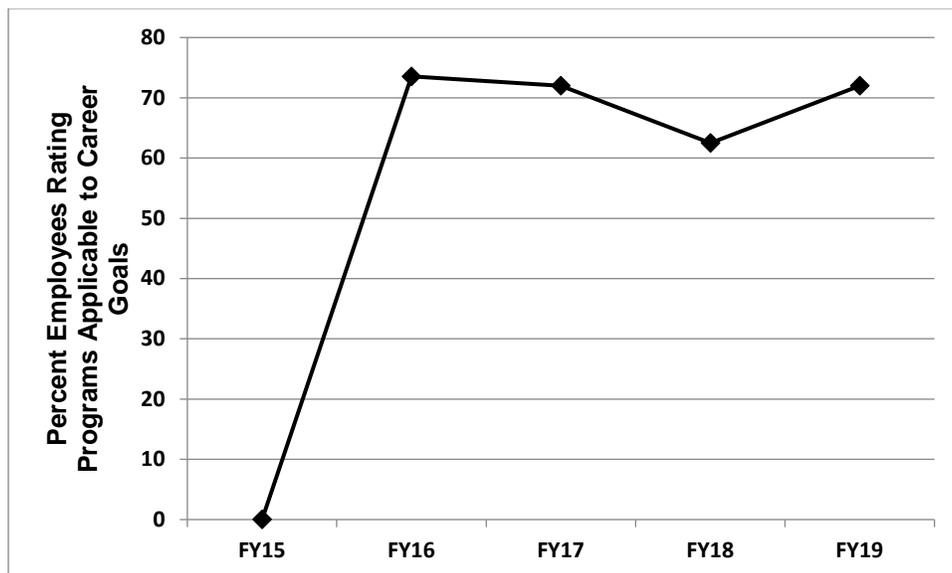
**Story behind the performance:**

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, 96.5 percent of questions and requests were addressed within two days if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 19, 97 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 the exception of a 2.5 percent increase in FY 19 but there are currently no anticipated increases in the near future. As such 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, 70 percent of employees felt that programs were applicable to their career goals if FY 15 is excluded. In FY 19, 72 percent of employees felt programs were applicable to their career goals which was a 10 percent increase from FY 18. Recent increases in employee satisfaction rates are likely related to the reintroduction of the Leadership Development Program.

**What has been accomplished:**

During FY 19, the Department continued to revamp its Leadership Development Program with an implementation date for the revised program beginning early in FY 20. 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. During the last half of FY19, the Employee Assistance Program utilization report indicated 4 employees had used the Employee Assistance Program. Promoting this service so that employees are aware of the resources available to them will continue to be a priority moving into FY 20.

**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 FY19 budgets:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u>#FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Property Rights (Lands) Admin. **	4.0	\$ 898,349
Access Yes	6.3	1,683,154 ***
TOTAL	9.3	\$ 2,581,503

\* *Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 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.*

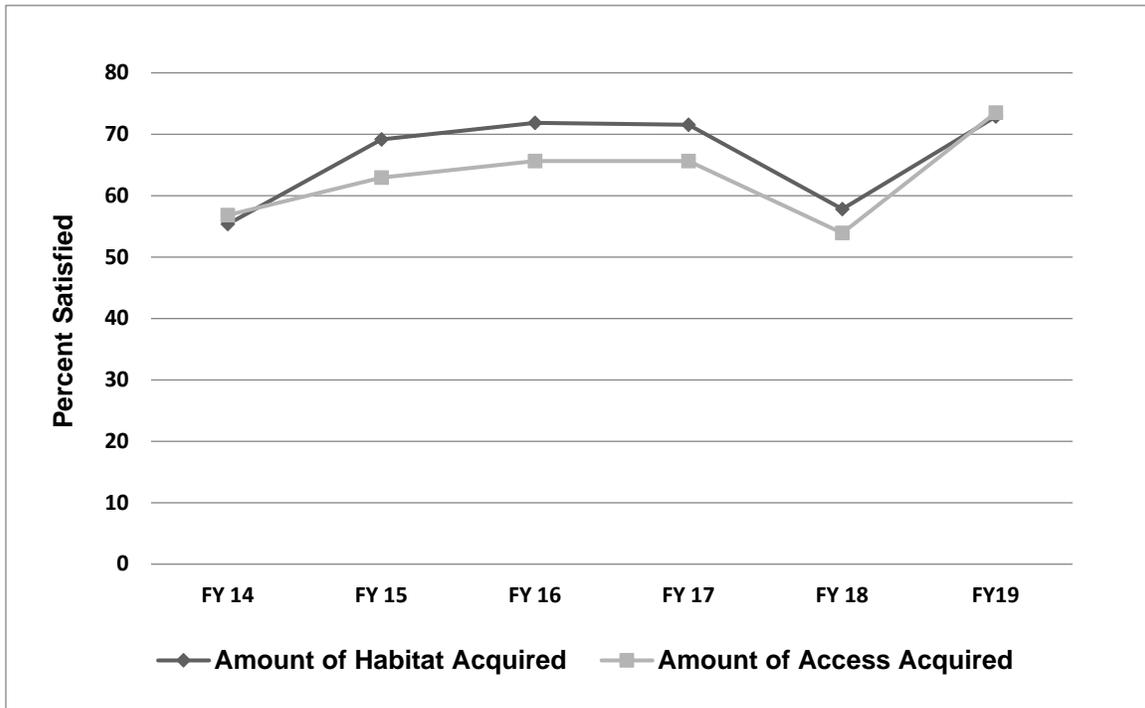
\*\*\* *Includes personnel, operations, and easement payments.*

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 178,852 acres and administers another 307,372 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.

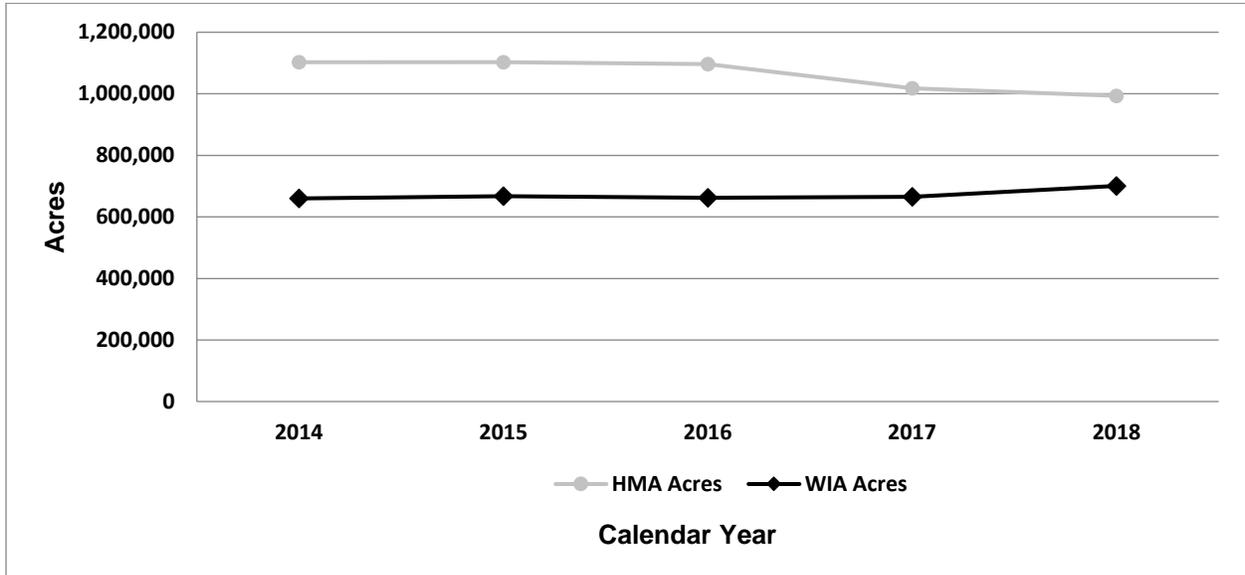
With respects to the kind and amount of habitat acquired, 72.88 percent of the sampled public was satisfied. With respect to the amount of access acquired, 73.51 percent of the public was satisfied. To determine the familiarity of the general public with the Property Rights (Lands) Management Program and the importance of acquiring habitat and access, additional questions were surveyed with the following results:

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

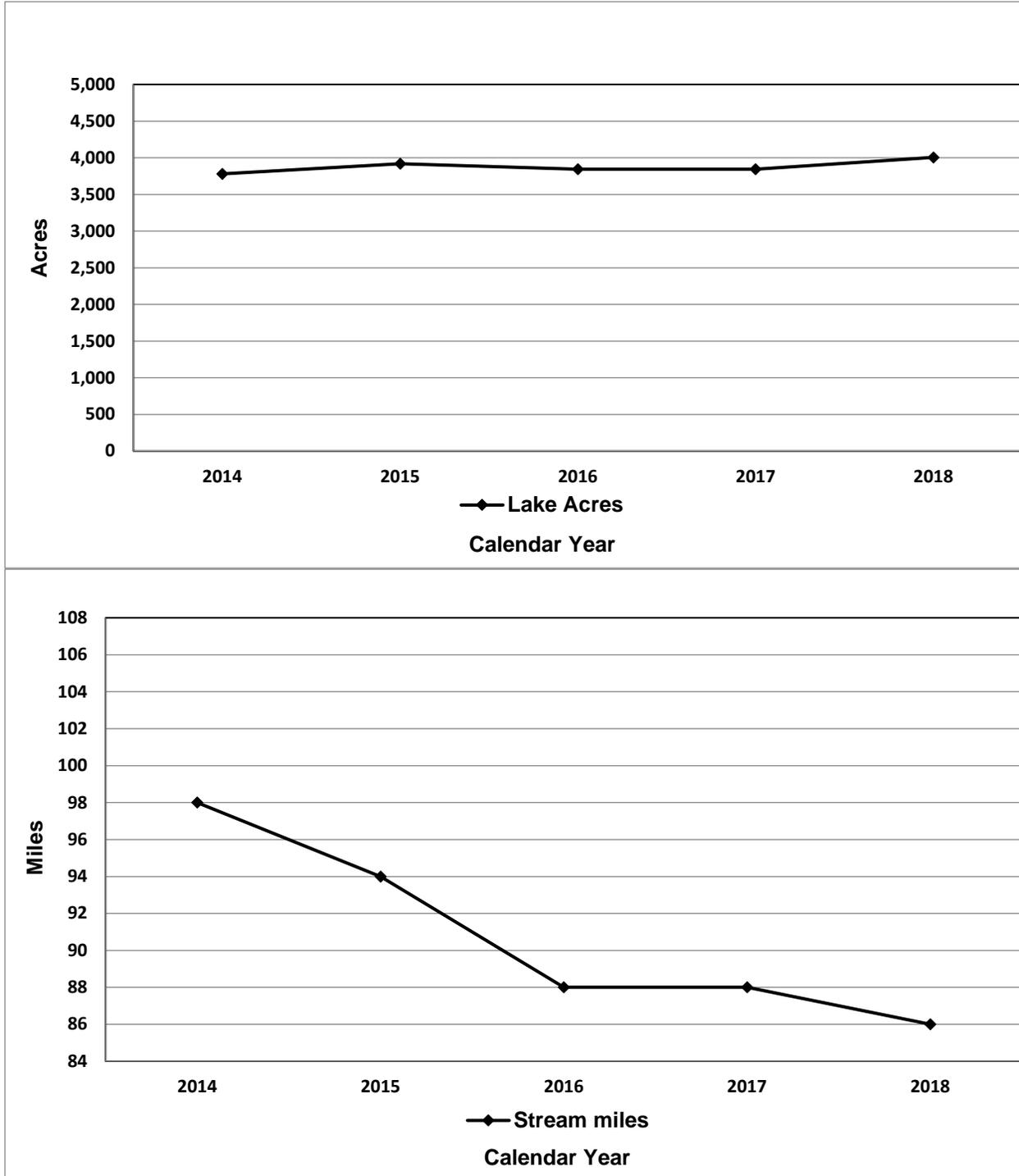
- 95.30 percent of those surveyed indicated that it is important to acquire public access for recreation in Wyoming.

**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.

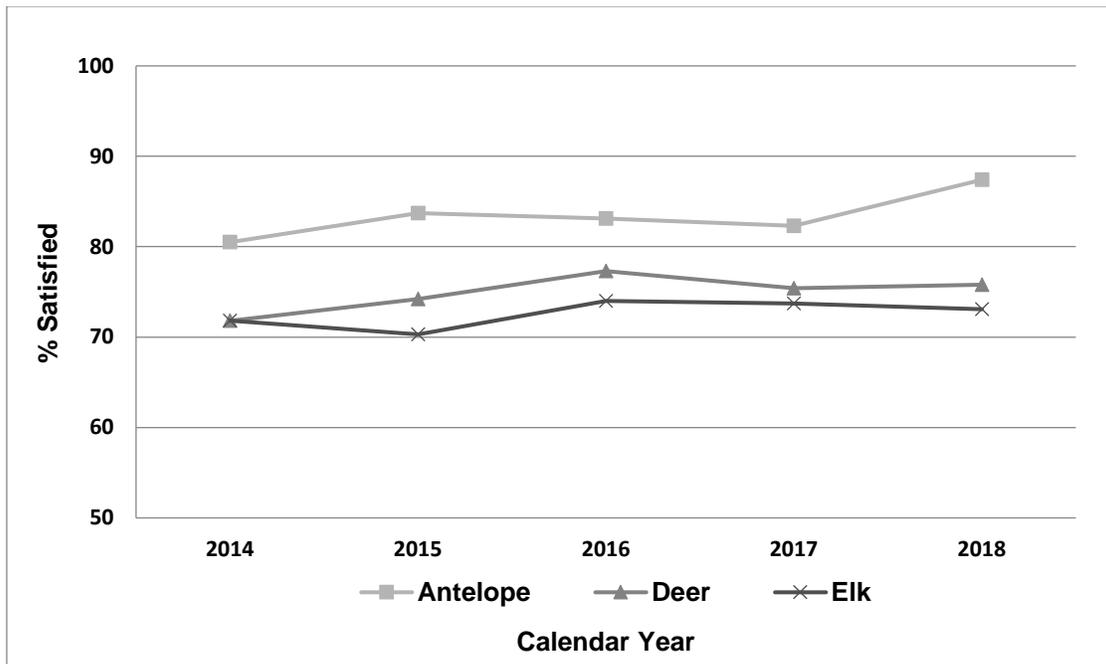
In addition to providing recreational access, Access Yes assists with increasing cooperation between the Department, landowners, and the public for population management of wildlife and decreasing agriculture damage through harvest.

**What has been accomplished:**

The enrollment in each program for 2018 was: Hunter Management Areas (HMA), 993,233 acres; Walk-in Areas (WIA) hunting, 700,688 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 4,006 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 86 miles. The average enrollment in each program from 2014-2018 was: HMAs, 1,062,428 acres; WIAs hunting, 671,174 acres; WIA fishing lake acres, 3,879 acres; and WIA fishing stream miles, 90.8 miles. Enrollment in either WIAs or HMAs is dependent upon the amount of available Access Yes funds. During 2018, easement payments were lower than the Access Yes donations collected during fiscal year 2018 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 2.67 million acres of hunting access for the fall 2018/spring 2019 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 2018 harvest survey data satisfaction rates were: antelope, 87.4percent (83.4 percent average since 2014); deer, 76.0 percent (75.0 percent average since 2014); and elk, 73.0 percent (72.6 percent average since 2014). 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 increased from 2017. Deer satisfaction also increased in 2018, while elk satisfaction has remained constant since 2016.

The 2018 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, 22 percent of antelope hunters, 17 percent of deer hunters, and 14 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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Information and Education	7.0	\$704,731

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

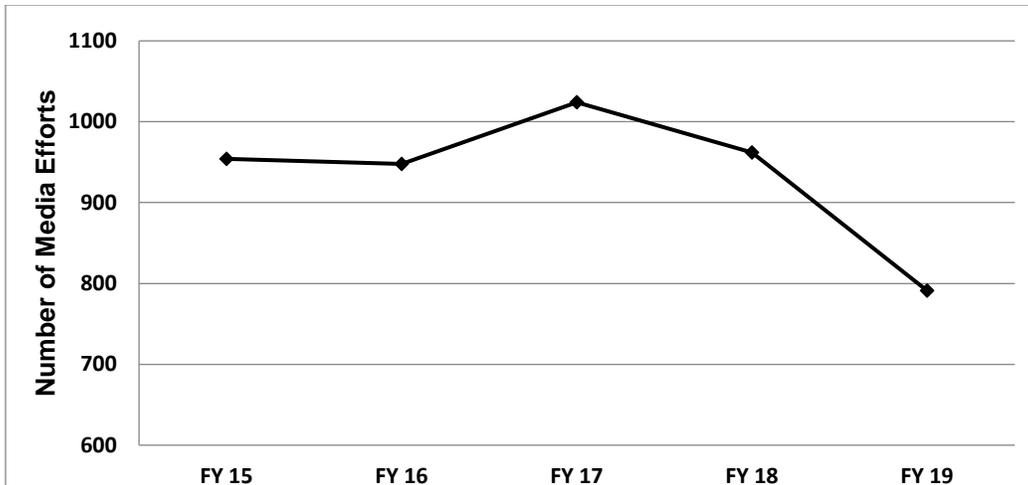
This program is located statewide. There is one Regional Information and Education Specialist (RIES) assigned to each of seven of the eight Department regional offices. The Jackson position is assigned to both the Jackson and Pinedale regional offices. The RIES work unit was reorganized in July 2013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

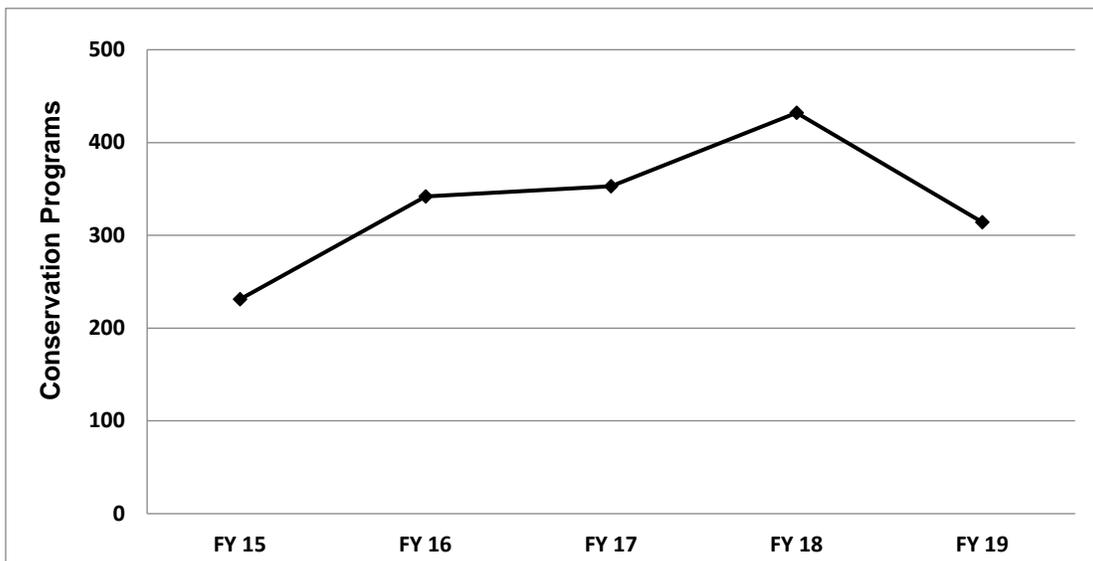
The RIES coordinated with the agency and the public on the chronic wasting disease (CWD) collaborative process. This focus has been statewide and will continue through 2020.

The first documented occurrence of CWD in a mule deer hunt area with elk feedgrounds occurred upon the discovery of this disease in Grand Teton National Park . This generated significant public interest and necessitated a coordinated public outreach effort among RIES personnel, the

Department, Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge, and Bridger Teton National Forest.

Personnel handle multiple requests for photos for area print and social media outlets and produce regional monthly newsletters for each RIES region. Personnel assist with radio programs, interviews, and television public service announcements each year. RIES personnel create and assist with regional webpages of the Game and Fish website.

**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:

The Cody RIES worked with the Cody Middle School to incorporate Hunter Education into the curriculum of their student enrichment program. There were 35 students who received hunter education certificates and two teachers who were certified as instructors so the school could continue to offer Hunter Education independently in the future.

The Green River RIES worked to promote wildlife conservation education to thousands of students of all ages via workshops, Department summer camps, and hunter education classes. In addition, a great deal of time and energy was spent teaching formal and non-formal educator how to use the Project WILD, Project WET, NatureScope, and Project Learning Tree conservation education curricula, in order to train those who will provide educational curriculum to their staff and students.

The Jackson/Pinedale RIES assisted with creating wildlife interpretive sites primarily in the Pinedale Region. This included a new nature trail with 12 interpretive signs completed at the Soda Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) five miles north of Pinedale. Additional interpretive signs have been created for the new Luke Lynch WHMA, which is adjacent to the Soda Lake WHMA north of Pinedale. These interpretive signs highlight the renowned Red Desert to Hoback mule deer migration path, the longest big game migration in the continental United States at over 200 miles one way.

As a part of the Atlas Popo Agie Gold project, the Lander RIES assisted 4th and 5th-grade students in learning about their local watershed. Those lessons were then made into short films that were premiered for free at the local movie theater. Part of that project assisted middle school students in drafting a *Popo Agie Watershed Guide*. Students wrote and illustrated the guide, which was distributed across the community as a resource for all to use.

The Casper RIES continues to work with the BLM to plan six outdoor education day camps with the Boys and Girls Club of Casper.

The Laramie RIES coordinated with Pine Bluffs Pheasants Forever for an education activity at the Days in the Wild event. Approximately 450 elementary students learned about wildlife migration during the event.

The Sheridan RIES gave 24 educational programs in the Sheridan Region. These programs included presentations in school classrooms, at outdoor field labs, at mountain camps and in the Sheridan Region Visitor Center. Audiences ranged from homeschool groups to 4H participants to college students. The RIES strengthened the Department's partnership with the local library this year and provided five educational programs there for children and adults.

**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 19 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Administration	18.5	\$ 2,454,210**
Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Biologists	32.3	\$ 4,422,728
Regional Game Wardens	54.0	\$ 7,638,311
TOTAL	104.8	\$ 14,515,249

\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 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.

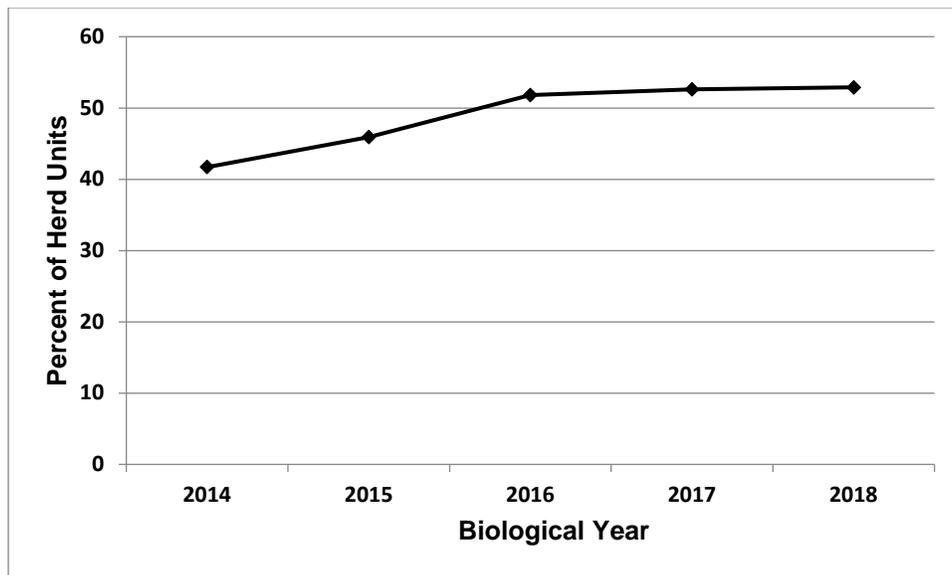
The Regional Terrestrial Wildlife Management Program is located statewide.

**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 19, 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, all big game herds have had their objectives reviewed. Many had their objectives revised or changed to an objective other than post-hunt population. Biological years run from June 1 to May 31. Biological Year (BY) 18 covers the period June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.



**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 are based on objective evaluations for each species presented in the final big game Job Completion Reports (2014-2018).

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, two of the last three winters in parts of western Wyoming have been severe enough to reduce big game numbers, especially in pronghorn and mule deer herds. 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 35 herds had objectives reviewed in BY 18. Of those, one herd had an objective change proposed and accepted, and 34 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.

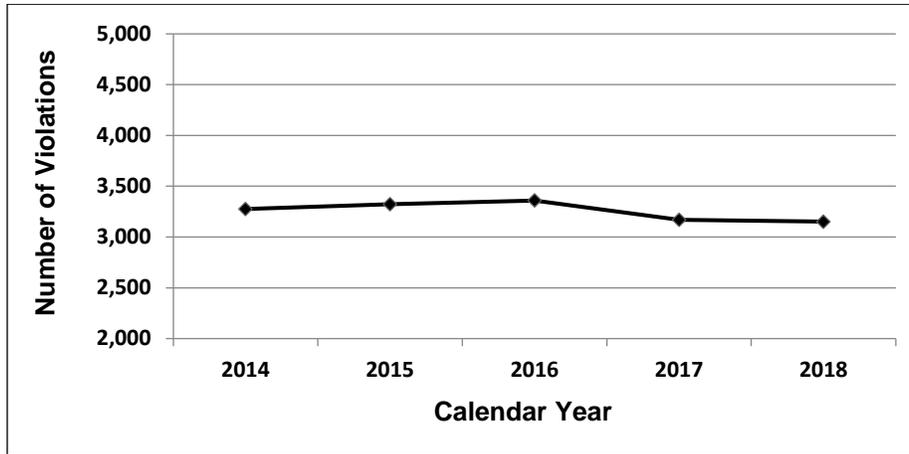
Of the total 140 herds tracked for this report (Table 1), four herds had incomplete data including two herds with no established objective. Of the 136 herds with complete data, 72 herds were at objective (for herds with a population or trend count objective, at objective means the estimate is +/- 20 percent of the objective number), 24 were above objective, and 40 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	2	0	0	1
Elk	1	0	6	0
Moose	0	1	0	0
White-tailed Deer	0	0	1	2
Mule Deer	13	21	0	0
Pronghorn	23	4	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Trend Count Objective</b>				
Bighorn Sheep	3	0	0	0
Bison	1	0	0	0
Elk	11	1	8	1
Mountain Goat	1	0	1	0
Moose	2	1	2	0
Pronghorn	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Landowner/Hunter Satisfaction Objective</b>				
Pronghorn	4	2	NA	0
Elk	4	3	NA	0
Mule Deer	0	3	NA	0
White-tailed Deer	1	1	NA	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Limited Opportunity Objective</b>				
Moose	2	2	NA	0
Bighorn Sheep	3	1	NA	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>				
Bighorn Sheep	8	1	0	1
Elk	16	4	14	1
Bison	1	0	0	0
Mountain Goat	1	0	1	0
Moose	4	4	2	0
White-tailed Deer	1	1	1	2
Mule Deer	13	24	0	0
Pronghorn	28	6	6	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PERCENT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>18%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> There are 136 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.

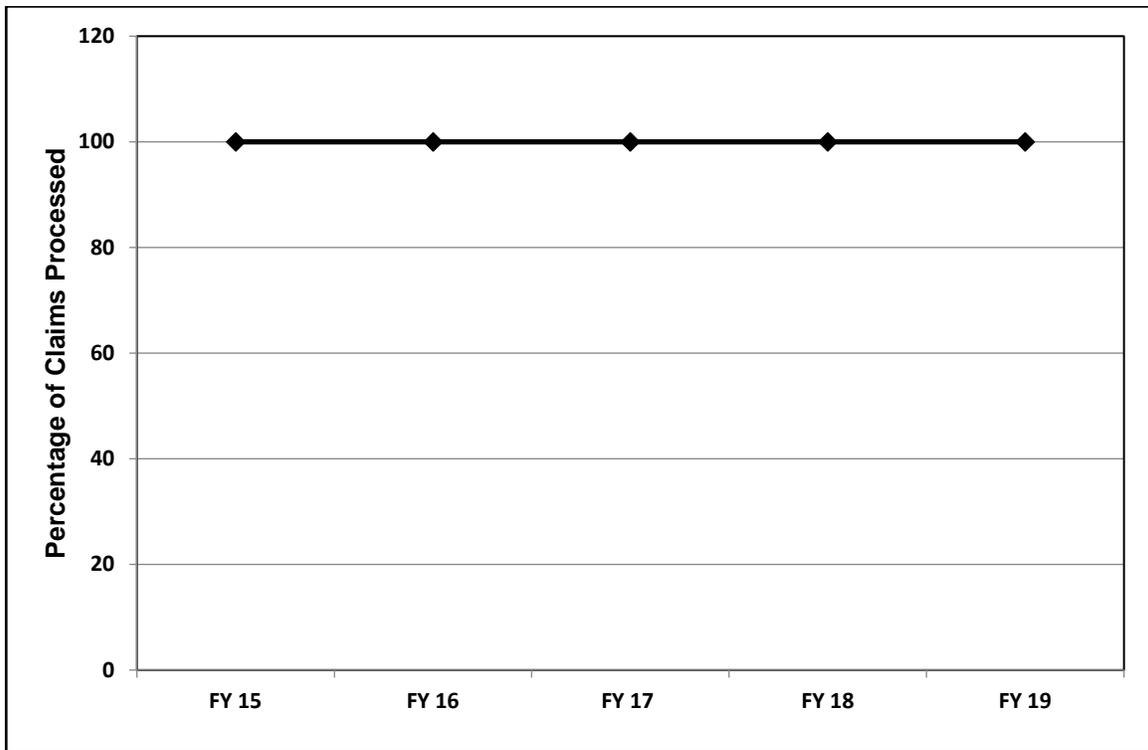
In 2018, law enforcement personnel documented 4,228 violations as part of 3,159 LEIRs. This is 175 fewer violations than the number documented in 2017. The ten most common violations for 2018 in order of prevalence are hunting/fishing/trapping/commercial operations without a license/stamp (594); failure to provide proper safety equipment aboard watercraft (356); violations of aquatic invasive species regulations (307); trespass to hunt, fish, trap, or collect shed antlers (291); wanton destruction/waste of a game animal (210); violation of regulations/rules for Department/state lands (199); hunting after hours or in wrong/closed area (198); failure to tag/register a big/trophy game animal, wild turkey, or bobcat (164); take of wildlife from a public road or highway (142); ; and take of wrong sex of game animal (111). There were 10 arrests for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**What has been accomplished:**

- Multiple task forces were utilized in 2018 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.

- 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 15, 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 19, the Department received 153 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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Law Enforcement Administration & Boating Safety	3.0	\$ 447,034**
Law Enforcement Investigative Unit	6.0	\$ 745,871
TOTAL	9.0	\$ 1,192,905

*\* Includes permanent positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

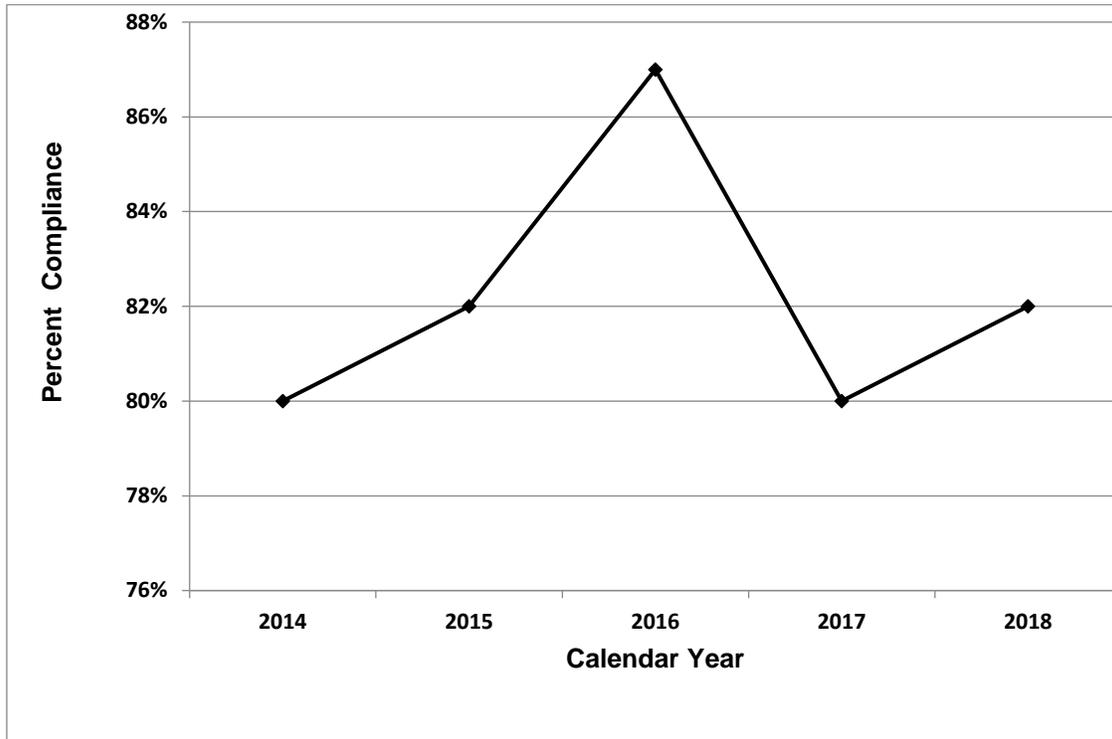
*\*\* Does not include federal cost share dollars.*

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 2018, six 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 2018 were: failure to provide life jackets (166), failure to provide a throwable flotation device (106),

failure to provide a fire extinguisher (68), operating an unnumbered boat (60), failure to operate watercraft in accordance with navigation rules (48), and failure to require youth age 12 and under to wear life jackets while underway (40).

**What has been accomplished:**

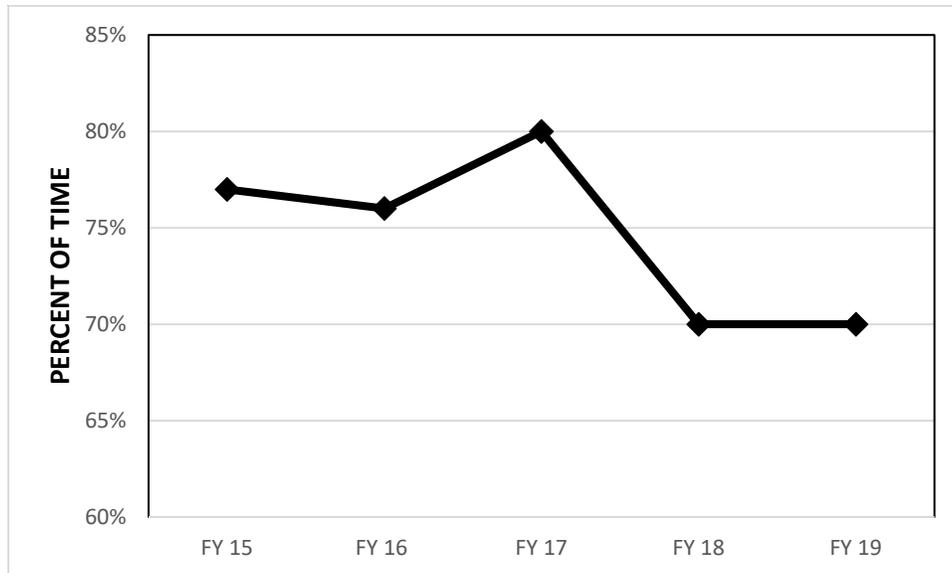
- There were two game wardens hired in 2018. They attended the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and the Department's watercraft training session before being assigned to watercraft enforcement duties throughout the state.
- The Department continues to provide the Boating America correspondence course 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 three watercraft events, a sailing regatta and two poker runs. The boating safety of both the participants and the public was evaluated before granting these requests.
- Department personnel spent a total of 5,836 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 11 separate boat accidents that involved 15 vessels and 29 people, resulting in 11 injuries and one fatality. Officers also arrested 10 boat operators for boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI).

**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 2018, there were a total of 349 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 47 citations and 25 warnings to suspects. A total of \$10,730 in fines/restitution was paid (with several cases still pending) and \$16,100 was issued in rewards to informants during 2018.

**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, Casper, Laramie, Lander, and Green River. The WIU is supervised by one supervisor/investigator stationed at the Cody Regional Office. The Green River Investigator position was vacant for roughly half of FY 19 resulting in a lower total number of hours reflected in this report. 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 15, an average of 7,899 investigative hours has been completed annually. In FY 19, the WIU was involved in hundreds of cases of all sizes and spent 7,512 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 7,512 hours working to solve wildlife crime (71 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 seven major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 19 budget.

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Mgt	4.0	\$880,400
Terrestrial Nongame (CWCS)**	7.6	1,172,118
Migratory Game Bird (Waterfowl)	1.5	203,973
Trophy Game Management***	17.8	2,247,202
Wolf Management	0.0	0
Sage-grouse Conservation	2.0	840,632
Predator Management	0.0	100,000
TOTAL	32.9	\$5,444,325

\* *Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

\*\* *Includes funding from State Wildlife Grants (SWG).*

\*\*\* *Combined with Trophy Game Management in FY19.*

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.

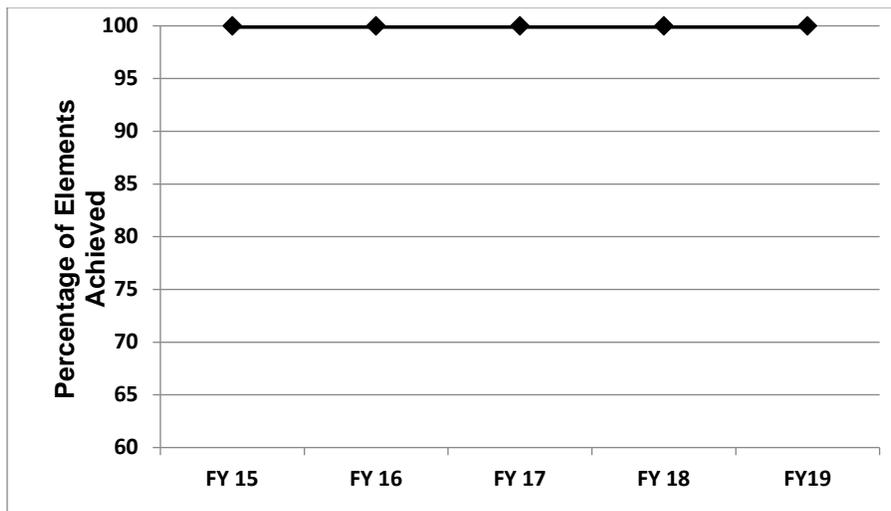
The Trophy Game Management sub-program is responsible for the statewide monitoring and management of mountain lions, black bears, grizzly bears, and wolves including conflict resolution and investigation.

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 .



**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 15-FY 19), SWaHM has completed an average of 99 percent (175 of 176) of its major work plan elements. In FY 19, 100 percent (38 of 38) of major work plan elements were completed. Unplanned assignments are a critical function of SWaHM.

**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.

For FY 19 elements:

SWaHM Administrative Work Unit

- 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.
- 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.
- Write statewide species job completion reports and Bobcat CITES report.
- Conduct internal surveys and publish harvest reports for all hunted or trapped species and coordinate with harvest survey contractor for deer elk and antelope surveys.
- Maintain and run black bear, gray wolf, and mountain lion hotlines.
- 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.

Sage-grouse Work Unit

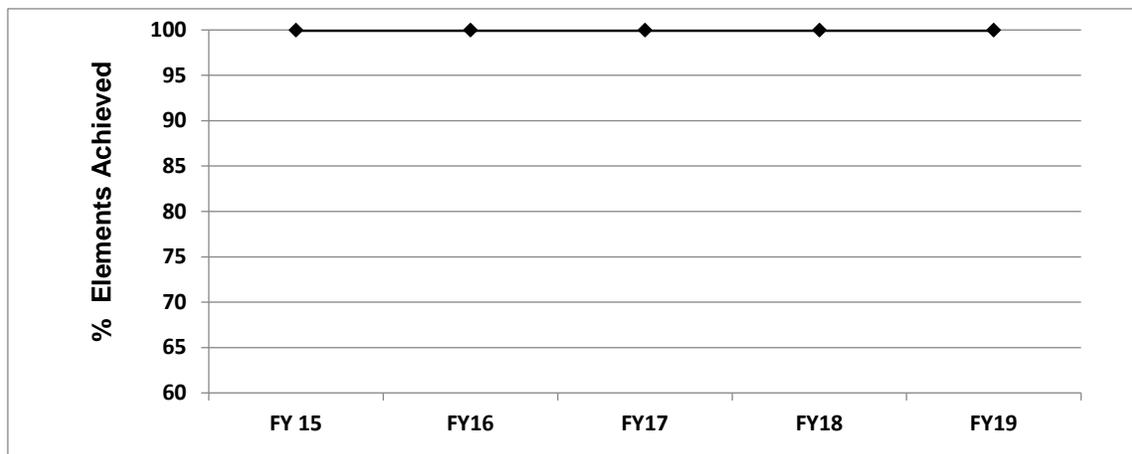
- Prepare and administer the annual budget.
- Participate in multi-state sage-grouse conservation efforts.
- Implement Governor Mead's Executive Order (Greater Sage-grouse Core Area Protection) and other in-state duties including interacting with the Governor's Sage-grouse Implementation Team (SGIT).
- Assist the eight Local Sage-grouse Working Groups (LWG) in implementing their conservation plans by facilitating LWG meetings and administering the \$548,000 annual Commission allocation 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 Rocky Mountain Population 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 15, the migratory game bird management sub-program completed 100 percent of its annual major work plan elements. In FY 19, 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 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 19, 771 doves and 1,604 ducks were banded.

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

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

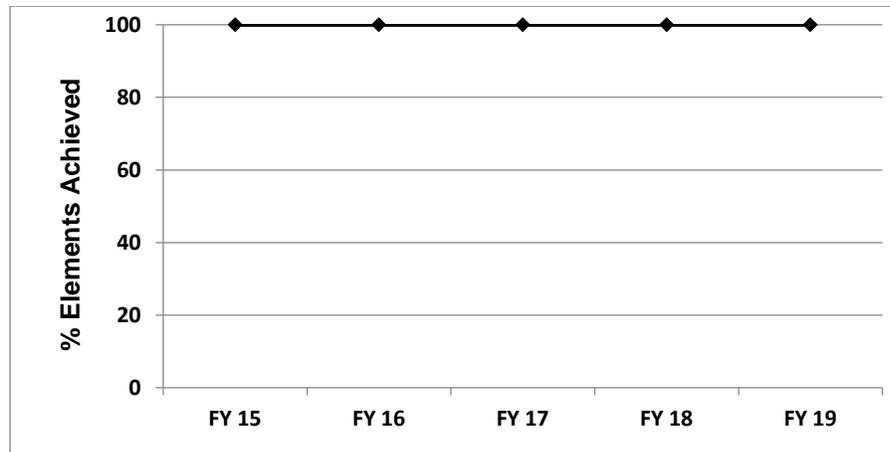
The sub-program pursued conservation of migratory game bird habitat through its involvement in the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership.

**Data development agenda:**

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

recreation days is only one of the outputs that might be important to external customers of this sub-program. Personnel will continue to investigate alternative performance measures for the sub-program.

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



**Story behind the performance:**

This sub-program is responsible for the monitoring, management, and dissemination of information on over 400 species of birds and 100 species of mammals.

Major work plan elements include planning and strategy administration; monitoring abundance trends of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, common loons, long-billed curlews, American bitterns, and colonial nesting waterbirds; coordinating with Partners in Flight and the Wyoming Bird Records Committees; monitoring black-footed ferrets; inventorying bats and associated habitats; surveying raptor nests; completing SWG projects; and reporting and disseminating information. During the FY 19 reporting cycle, the sub-program collected survey data on 27 of 51 mammal and 76 of 80 bird SGCN listed in Wyoming’s 2017 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). An approved SWAP is mandatory in order to receive federal state wildlife grant (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 sub-program consistently faces a 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 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 the sub-program is limited by restrictions on permanent personnel and short-term or inconsistent nature of funding.

During FY 19, there were several personnel changes in the nongame sub-program. The Jackson / Pinedale nongame biologist retired. This position was removed from the sub-program and work was distributed among the regional wildlife managers. The sagebrush / sage-grouse program lead also retired during this reporting cycle. This position, along with the associated sage-grouse geographic information system analyst were placed into the nongame sub-program.

**What Has Been Accomplished:**

During FY 19, 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 19 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:

- Wyoming and Nebraska bat zone of integration survey (many SGCN).
- Long-billed curlew (SGCN) reproductive success, migration, and habitat use (SGCN).
- Green River Standard North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant.
- Native Species Status Unknown (NSSU) small mammals (many SGCN) at risk of energy development.

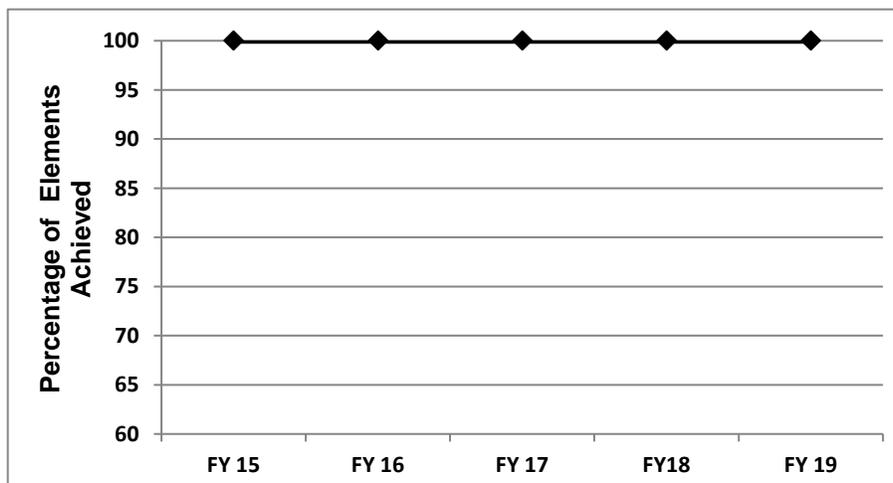
The sub-program continued several projects in FY 19 that were initiated in prior reporting cycles that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- Integrated monitoring in bird conservation regions (many SGCN).
- Spotted skunk (petitioned species, SGCN) distribution and genetics.
- Black-footed ferret (SGCN) recovery assistance.
- Black rosy-finch (SGCN) distribution, abundance, and habitat.
- Thunder Basin National Grassland raptor surveys (many SGCN).
- Linking environmental drivers and energy development to the abundance and distribution of the Wyoming pocket gopher (SGCN).
- Great gray owl (SGCN) habitat analysis.
- Support for the revision of strategic bat plans of Wyoming (many SGCN).
- Decadal abundance trends of avian SGCN in Wyoming's natural gas fields (many SGCN).
- Examination of little brown bat critical roost habitat (SGCN).
- Examination of northern long-eared bat maternity roosts (SGCN).
- Bird database compilation (SGCN).
- Ferruginous hawk/golden eagle monitoring (SGCNs).
- Raptor nest database development (many SGCN).
- Long-term monitoring of grassland bird SGCN (many SGCN).

The nongame sub-program initiated several projects in FY 19 that were designed to determine abundance, habitat associations, life history, distribution, and potential threats to SGCNs. These projects include:

- Fire Impacts on bird and mammal SGCN (many SGCN)
- Before and after impacts of the BPL gas field on songbirds (many SGCN)
- Preble’s meadow jumping mouse recovery assistance (listed as threatened, SGCN)
- Monitoring pocket gophers with eDNA (many SGCN)
- Monitoring Wyoming Pikas (SGCN)
- Conducting NABat monitoring within Wyoming (many SGCN)

**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:**

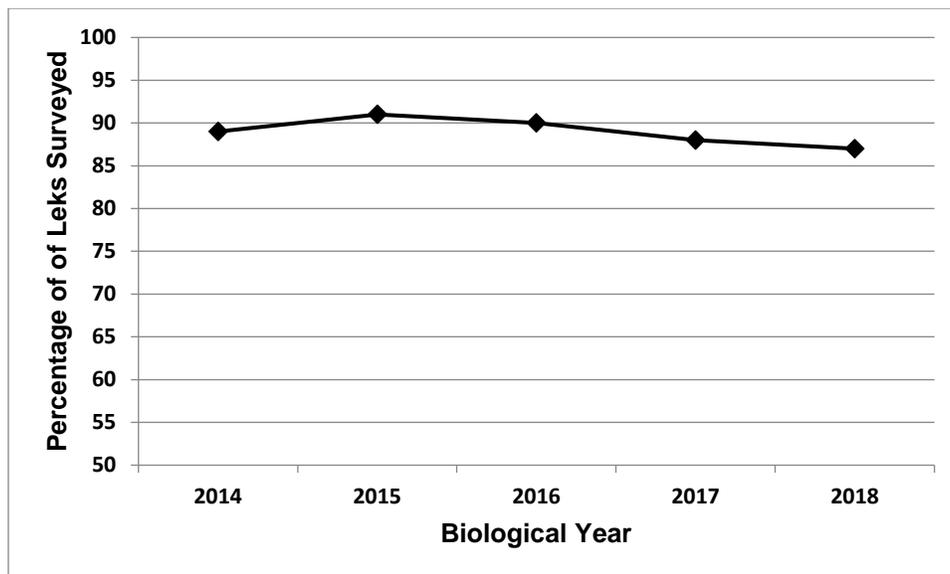
The primary measure of this sub-program’s performance has been the number of major work plan elements achieved annually. These work plan elements include: continuing annual grizzly bear observation surveys, aerial monitoring radio collared bears, capturing and marking bears for monitoring, continuing 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 bears for monitoring purposes in the Sunlight Basin, area on the Shoshone National Forest, 13 grizzly bears were captured in 14 capture events.
- In collaboration with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes, captured two grizzly bears for monitoring purposes on the Wind River Reservation.
- Captured and collared one grizzly bear for monitoring purposes during backcountry capture efforts in the upper Gros Ventre area of the Bridger-Teton 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.

**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 2019 (end of biological year 2018), there were 1,794 known occupied sage-grouse leks in Wyoming. Department personnel, together with personnel from other agencies, volunteers, and consultants, surveyed 87 percent of these leks at least once. The proportion of leks checked in the previous 10 years (biological years 2008-2017) averaged 88 percent. In spring 2019, 1,126 leks were confirmed active, 296 confirmed inactive, and 138 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 2019, the average number of males observed on leks was 20/active lek, 21 percent fewer than the 26/active lek observed in the spring of 2018, suggesting a population decrease. While 20/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 and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) plan 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 current federal administration issued a secretarial order (SO3353) requiring review of all federal sage-grouse management plans. Federal sage-grouse management plans were finalized and are generally more in line with individual plans of western states.

**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, about 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.

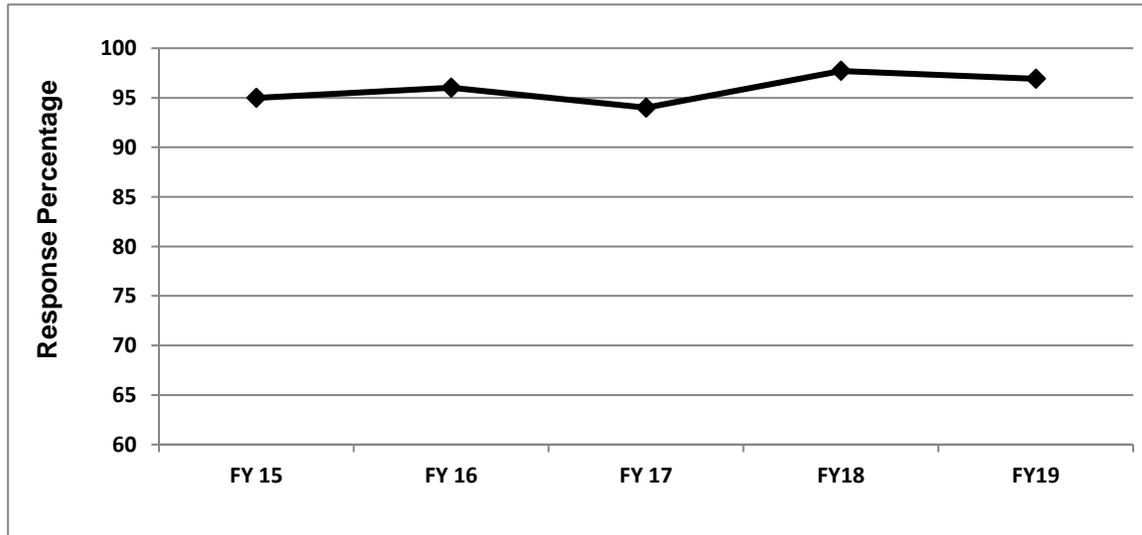
- Annual Job Completion Reports for sage-grouse were prepared. These reports provide sage-grouse population status and management updates from the eight conservation planning areas along with a statewide analysis. These documents aid in the analysis, interpretation, and distribution of sage-grouse population 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 40 sage-grouse from Wyoming to North Dakota in an effort to prevent extirpation of the North Dakota population, bringing the three-year total to 172. 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 Rangewide Interagency Sage-grouse Conservation Team. This model is now available for testing 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 96.9 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 ( $n=17$ ), 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:

- During 2018, the Department captured 53 individual grizzly bears in 59 capture events in an attempt to prevent or resolve conflicts. Of the 59 capture events, 35 captures were a result of bears killing livestock (primarily cattle), 13 were captured for obtaining pet, livestock food, garbage, or damaging fruit trees. Nine bears were captured for frequenting developed sites or populated areas unsuitable for grizzly bear occupancy. Two bears were captured as a result of a human fatality.
- Provided an annual report of grizzly bear conflicts and relocations as per statutory requirement.
- 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 and conflict resolution activities.

**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 19 budget:

<u>Sub-program</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Strategic Management**	1.0	\$93,675

*\* Includes permanent and contract positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

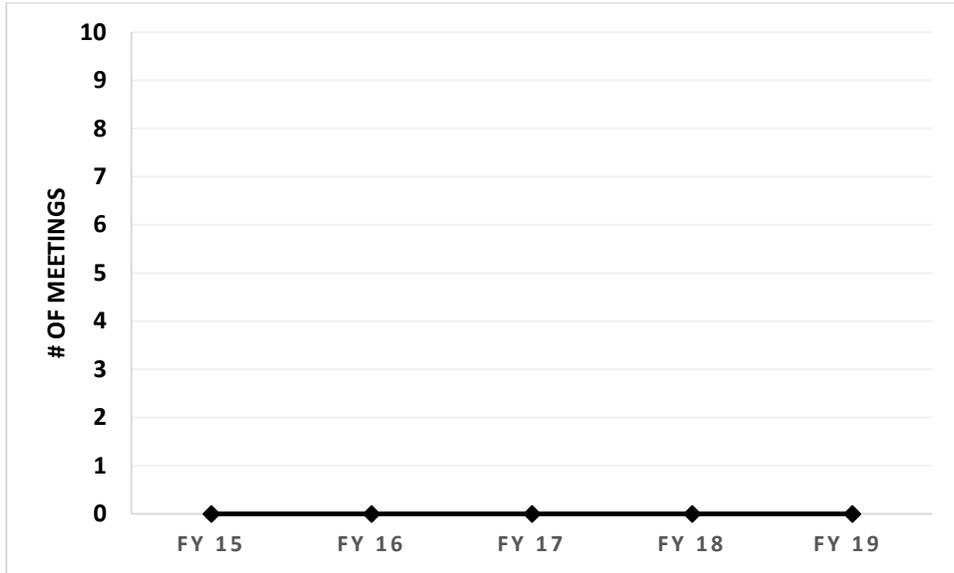
*\*\* The Strategic Management Program and Planning Coordinator have been combined into one program. Budget numbers are also reported in the Department Administration Program Report.*

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.

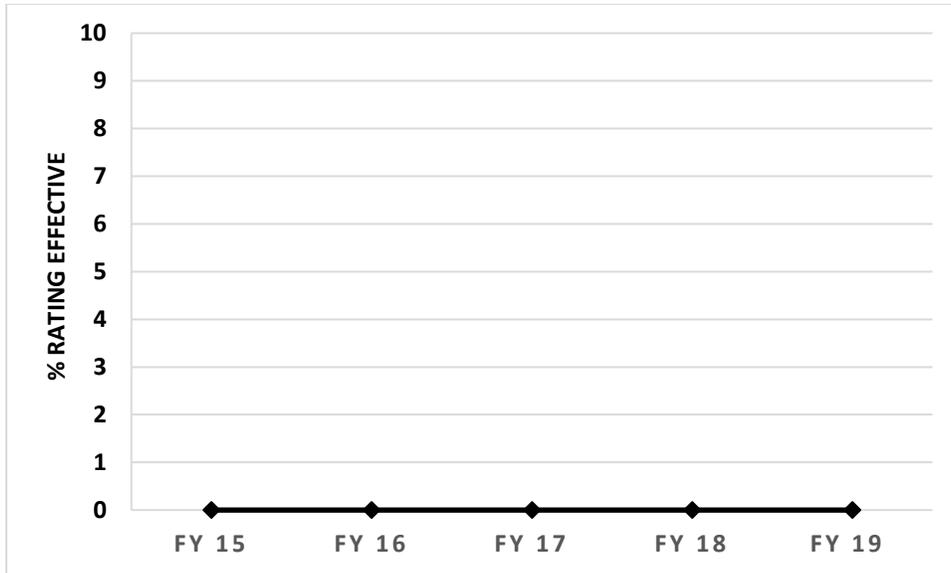
**Performance Measure #1:** Quarterly meetings held with divisions to determine data needs (Personnel in this program will work to ensure that at least 20 meetings are held each year).



**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 and the position is currently vacant.

**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 through FY 19. The HDC resigned from her position in June 2014 and the position is currently vacant.

**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 FY19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Regional Office Management	19.3	\$ 1,550,936
Headquarters and Regional Office Buildings	2.5	1,451,823
TOTAL	21.8	\$ 3,002,759

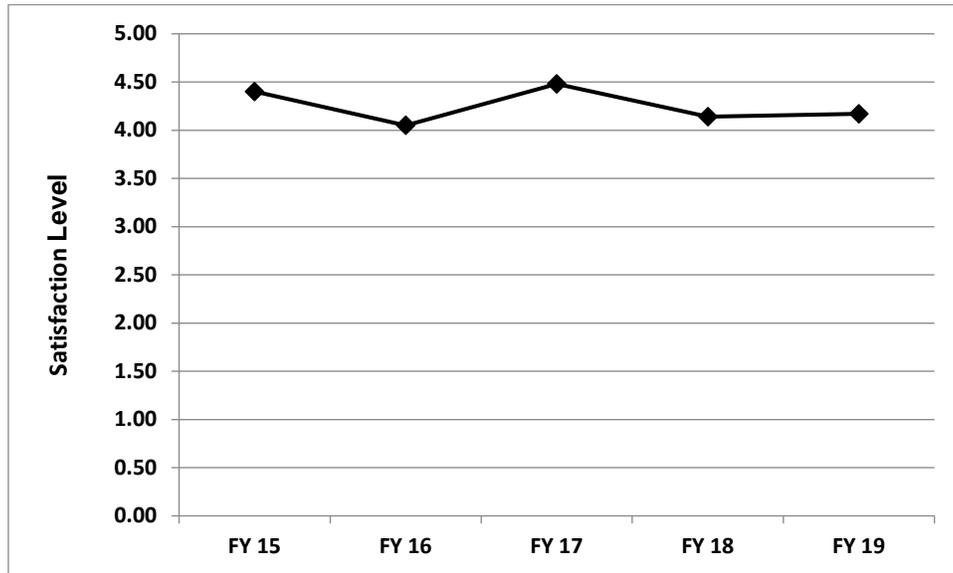
*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 budget. Any positions added during the budget cycle require Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authorization or must be funded from supplemental grants.*

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.

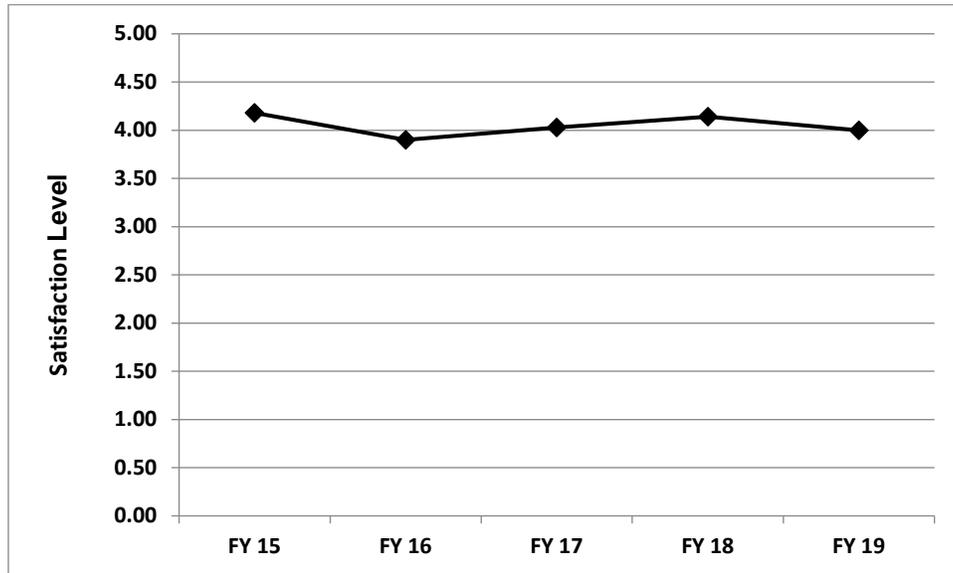


**Story behind the performance:**

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 19, the regional offices received a score of 4.17 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 an increase of three hundredths of one 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:**

Regional Office facilities continue to be an integral part of employee job performance and satisfaction. In FY 19, overall satisfaction with the workspace provided received a score of four on a scale of one (Very Dissatisfied) to five (Very Satisfied). Based on these survey results, overall satisfaction for the workspace provided dropped fourteen hundredths of a point between FY18 and FY 19. The following measures were taken in FY 19 to help improve the Regional Office facilities.

In Pinedale, the security fence installed in FY 18 was repaired and replaced. The third of eight **heating, ventilation, and air conditioning** (HVAC) units was replaced. The chain-link fence around the shop facility was replaced. Flooring was replaced in the break room and main entryway. The bathrooms and break room were repainted and additional electrical outlets were installed in rear of the building. A new garage door opener was installed on the overhead door at the shop.

The Jackson Regional Office completed the construction and gate installation of a new security fence around the entire perimeter of the property to protect vehicles, equipment, and horses. The HVAC system was flushed again and the continued maintenance of the system has resulted in less overall maintenance concerns of the system.

At the Green River Regional Office, two windows in the front reception area were replaced, all HVAC ducts and intakes were cleaned, and the majority of the interior of the office was repainted (to be completed in calendar year 2019).

At the Cody Regional Office, a remodel to the reception area was completed to provide better customer service, and the existing walk-in cooler was fitted with ultraviolet lighting to help prevent bacteria growth, during FY19.

At the Casper Regional Office, a new water line to the fish shed was installed and the shed was insulated. The asphalt parking lot patching was completed. Exterior lighting fixtures were upgraded to LED fixtures. Carpet cleaning of 2,593 square feet of offices was completed as well as the Pronghorn Room floor and associated hallways were re-waxed and polished. The front office reception floor area and all restroom floors on the main floor were steam cleaned. Five offices and the Pronghorn room hallway were repainted. 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 repainted the exterior eaves, trim and soffit of the main office.

The Lander Region made a few facility improvements in FY19. The outside lights and bulbs around the main office were replaced. The lock on the shop door to the Quonset was upgraded to a keyless combination lock. A stand-alone walk-in cooler to contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples was installed. A new roll-up shop door for the large carnivore section was installed at the shop. The stairs for the “nongame” storage area were repaired and new flooring for the storage areas was installed.

The Laramie Regional Office renovations were completed in FY19, however there were a number of improvements and repairs made to the facility that were not included in the new office construction project. The exhaust for the emergency generator was extended so it did not conflict with the air intake areas. A new High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter system was installed for the laboratory clean room. Also in the laboratory, the electrical work for the fish tank room was completed. A French drain system was installed around the cold storage building to relieve drainage issues.

**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 (Veterinary Services) and Laboratory Services Program is made up of two major sub-programs, listed below with the number of staff and FY 19 budget:

<u>Sub-programs</u>	<u># FTEs*</u>	<u>2019 Annual Budget</u>
Laboratory Services	8.7	\$ 952,121
Veterinary Services	15.3	\$ 1,651,086
TOTAL	24.0	\$ 2,603,207

*\* Includes permanent, contract, and temporary positions authorized in the FY 19 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).

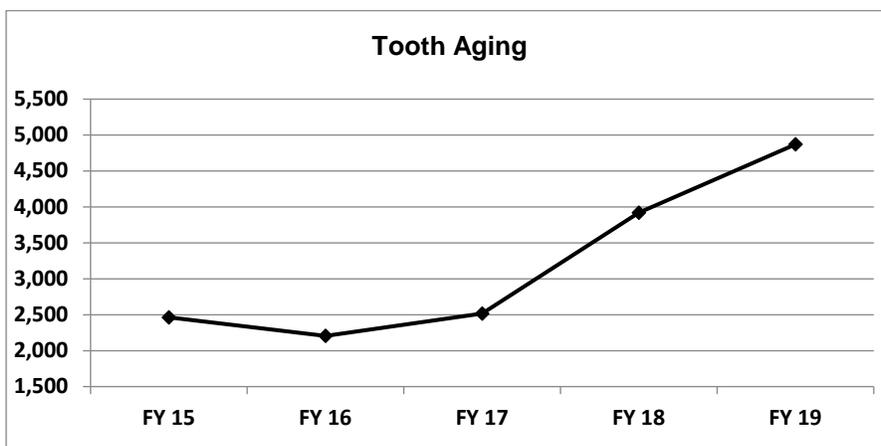
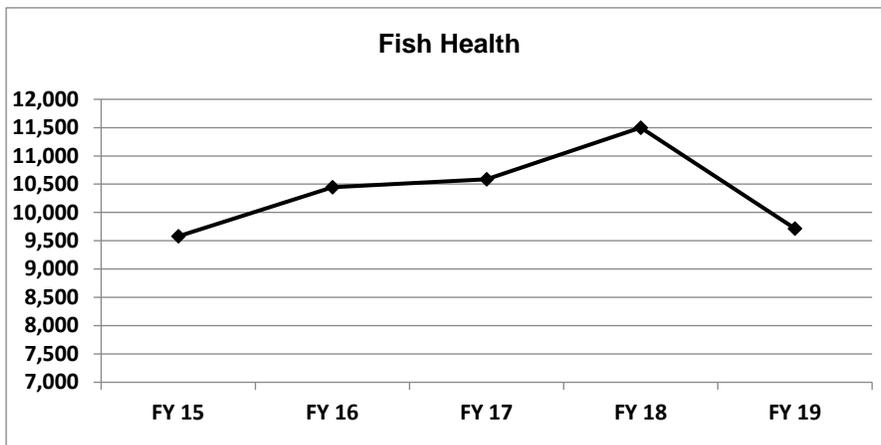
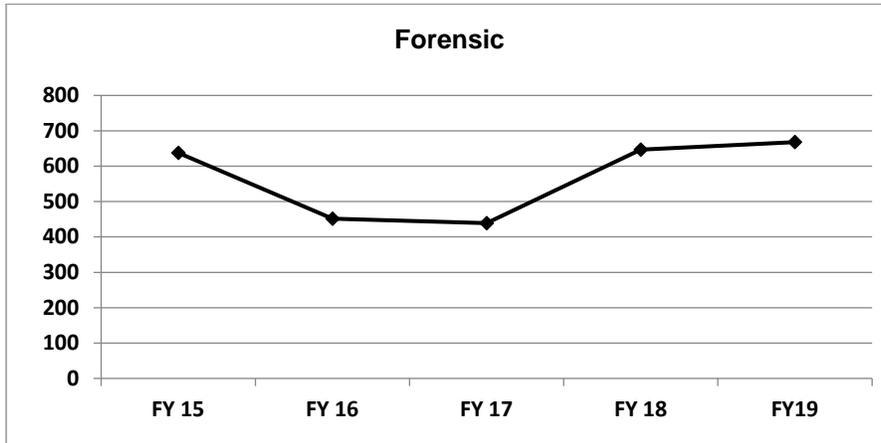
Laboratory Services is located at the Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory. Veterinary Services spans two locations: The Wildlife Health Laboratory, located within the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory complex, and the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center located in Sybille Canyon on State Highway 34 approximately 45 miles north of Laramie.

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

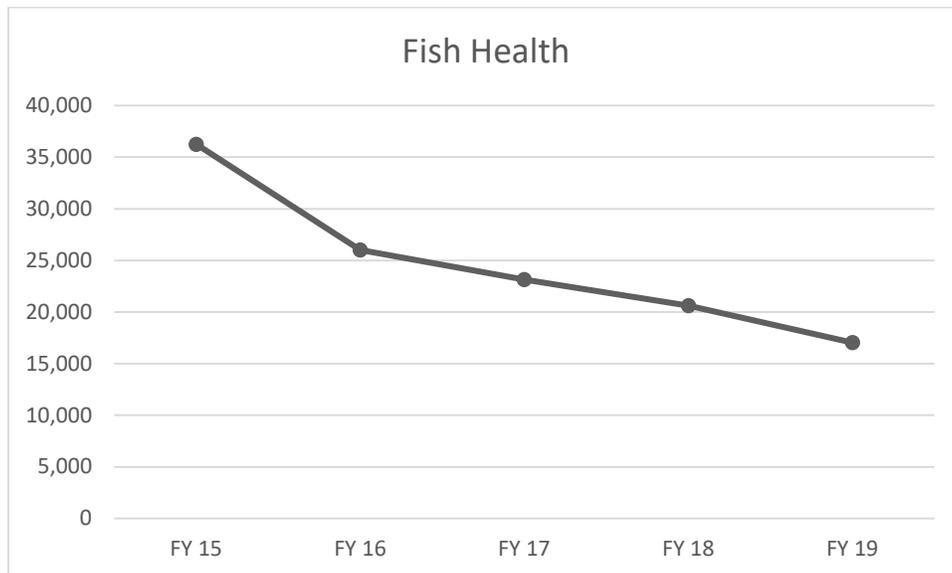
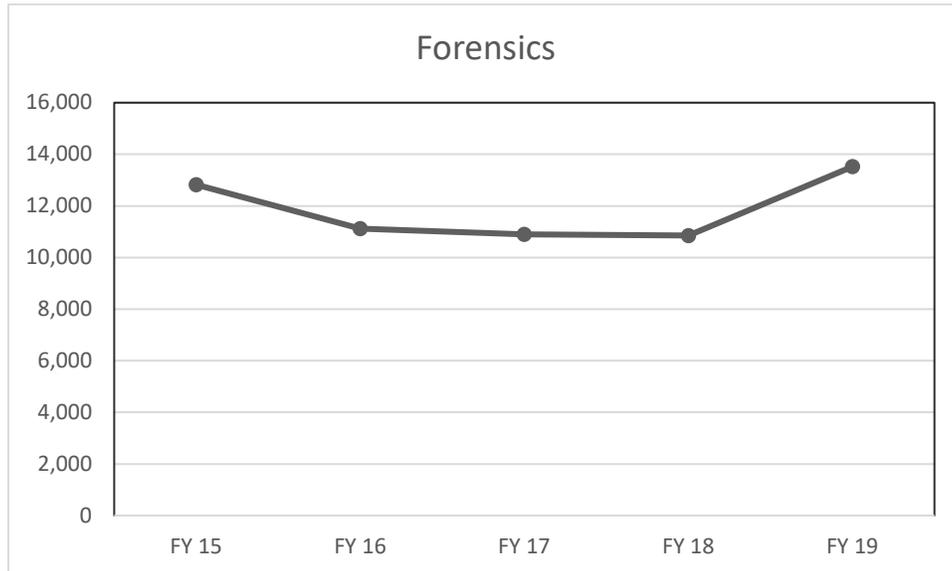
- **Enhance and protect the integrity of Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources** by monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting diseases in wildlife and providing disease management strategies for wildlife and fish species for which the Department has statutory authority to regulate.
- **Enhance and protect 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, 9,718 fish health samples, and 5,000 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 19 when compared with FY 18. 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 Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, New Mexico, Minnesota, Louisiana, Illinois, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa; 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 average around 40 cases a year.

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. The number of teeth submitted to the laboratory increased significantly from FY 18 to FY 19. This is due to Department biologists submitting teeth with chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples to determine a possible age correlation with positive CWD samples. Hunters and Department biologists submit the majority of these samples. However, the Tooth Aging Section does age teeth submitted by hunters and/or outfitters with a contract and for a fee.

**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 President.

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 subcommittee for OSAC.

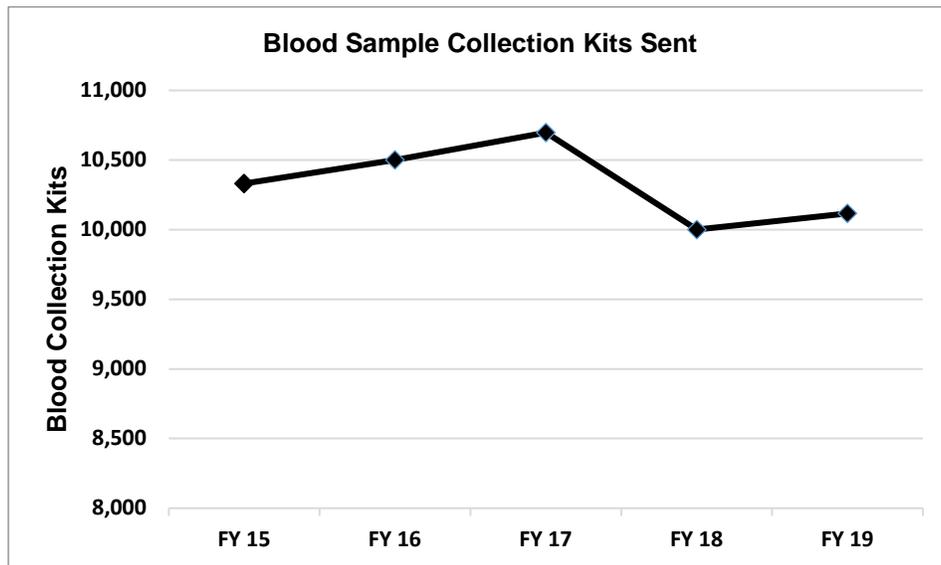
In response to the recent study that found forensics in the United States severely lacking, the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of Justice created a new organization that is dedicated to identifying, developing, and adopting standards and guidelines 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 American Fisheries Society (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 Laboratory Director has passed her national boards and is currently certified through AFS as an Aquatic Animal Health Inspector. This means that

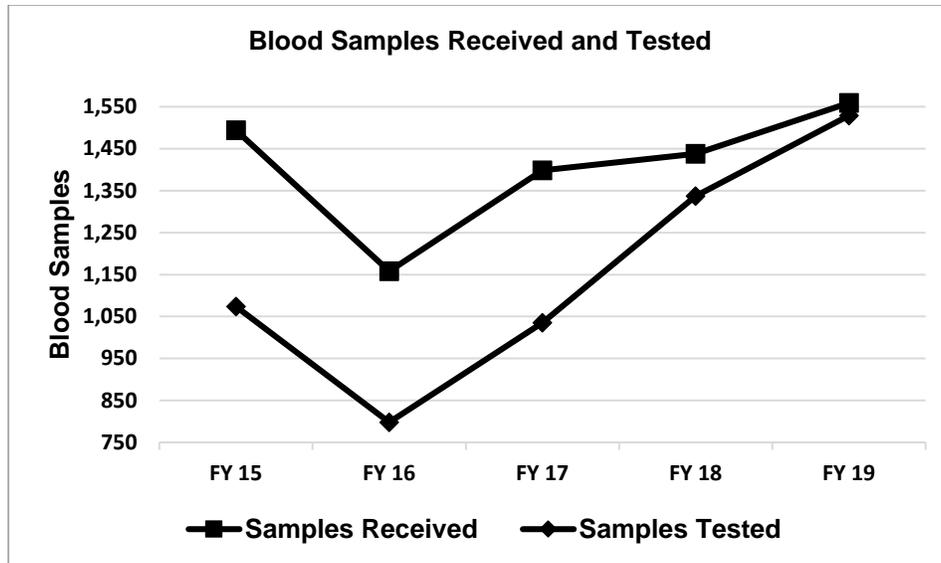
the Department’s Fish Health laboratory currently has three certified inspectors. The Fish Health Program Manager is currently serving on the AFS Fish Health Section Professional Standards Committee and the Fish Health and Forensic Biologist is currently serving on the Policy/Position Development Committee.

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.

**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 8,000 brucellosis kits to hunters and process 800 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.

The brucellosis surveillance program in non-feedground elk began in 1991, and over 17,000 blood samples have been analyzed for brucellosis since its inception. Brucellosis prevalence in the western portion of the state varies between 0-4% in the herd units (HUs) south of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) (i.e. South Wind River, and West Green River), and between 1-23 percent in the HUs east of the GYA (i.e. Clarks Fork, Gooseberry, Cody, and Wiggins Fork). In 2012, this disease was documented outside the GYA when it was discovered in elk of the northwestern Bighorn Mountains. Since the initial discovery, this disease continues to be sporadically documented at very low levels in several hunt areas along the western slope of the Bighorn Mountains. 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 19 surveillance program concentrated on the Bighorn Mountains, particularly in hunt areas (HAs) 39, 40, 41, and 49. Efforts were also focused on those HAs on the DSA's southeastern border (HAs 25, 27 and 28) to ensure continued monitoring of the endemic/nonendemic border. Surveillance outside of the known brucellosis endemic area occurred in the central area of the State

Over 10,500 blood collection kits were mailed or directly handed to elk hunters successful in limited quota elk license drawings in the target HAs. The number of HAs surveyed and the number of blood collection kits to be mailed to hunters was based on the priorities of the Department and the Wyoming Livestock Board, while balancing the capacity of the Wildlife Health Laboratory (WHL). 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 WHL by federally certified laboratory scientists. Serologic assays for exposure to *B. abortus* were conducted and interpreted using current National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) protocols for the 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. 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 19 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 (publication in progress). 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 upon retest. Samples that had less than 15-point variation, but could not be confirmed were submitted to NVSL for testing and classification.

A total of 1,559 elk blood samples were received by the WHL in FY 19, with 1,529 those being suitable for testing. There were 768 useable samples collected from the Bighorn Mountains; 163 of those were from yearlings or adult cows harvested in hunt areas where seropositive elk had been previously documented. No seropositive elk were documented in the herd units that comprise the Bighorns.

Brucellosis surveillance in the combined northern HUs (Clark's Fork, Cody, Gooseberry, and Wiggins Fork) of the DSA reported relatively stable seroprevalence over the past five years (13.9 percent; n=826 samples) compared to the previous five-year average of 14.2 percent (n=1,346). In FY 19, 72 suitable samples were received from elk cows harvested from the South Wind River HU in the southern DSA, and 8 samples were received from the West Green River HU. Over the past five years, a total of only 113 samples have been analyzed from these HUs, with no seropositive animals identified.

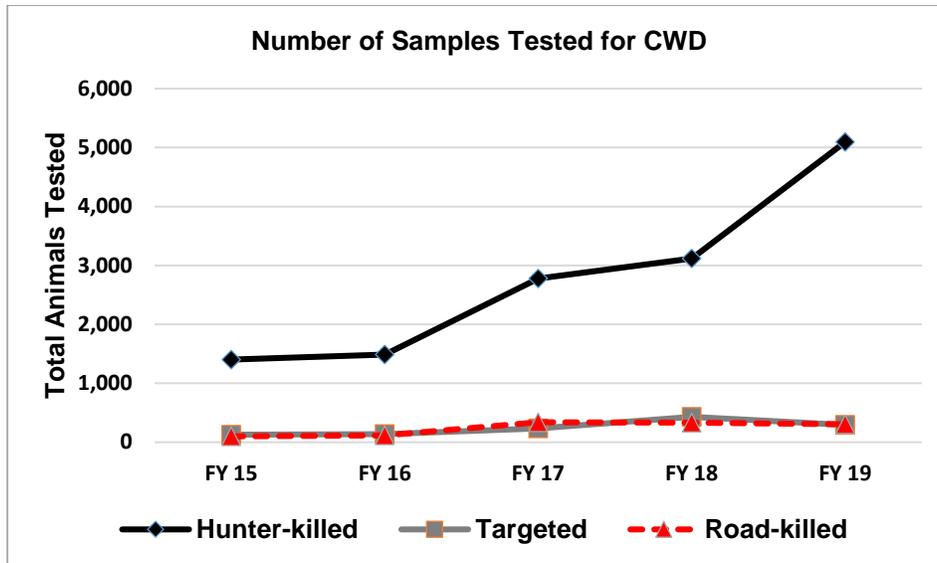
The five-year average seroprevalence varied considerably between the four northern HUs. Brucellosis seroprevalence in the Gooseberry HUs has averaged 19.8 percent over the past fifteen years (n=612), with stable five-year averages ranging from 17.8 percent in the period from 2009-2013 (n=314) to 22.3 percent in the most recent period from 2014-2018 (n=229). Seroprevalence in the Cody HU has averaged 13.1 percent over the last ten years (n=1153), after increasing from 7.9 percent in the period from 2004-2008 (n=189). Sample sizes obtained from the Wiggins Fork (n=78 from 2014-2018) and Clarks Fork (n=80 from 2014-2018) HUs from 2004 through 2018 are insufficient to accurately estimate prevalence. It is important to note that in most hunt areas, the sample sizes achieved through our annual surveillance are insufficient to estimate prevalence with precision. Therefore, prevalence statistics are combined into five-year totals to improve sample size and allow for statistical analysis.

A total of 135 useable samples were collected in FY 19 from the rotating surveillance program target areas (HAs 16, 19, 22-24, 111, 118 and 128). All samples tested negative for exposure to *B. abortus* on serological tests. In the past 28 years, 5,815 samples from the non-endemic area have been analyzed. To date, this disease has not been documented outside of western half of the state.

The return rate of blood samples from hunters successful in harvesting an elk has remained relatively constant over the past five years with around 1,500 hunters submitting blood samples for analysis every year. On a per hunter basis, approximately 32 percent of successful hunters that received a blood collection kit voluntarily collected and submitted a sample for surveillance.

The newfound ability to utilize hemolyzed blood samples has greatly increased the number of samples that can now be included in surveillance data. In FY 19, 98 percent of blood samples received were tested, a significant increase over the past five-year average of 69 percent.

**Performance Measure #3:** The number of chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples tested (As of FY 19, personnel in this program will work to annually test 4,000 CWD samples).



**Figure 3: Total number hunter-killed, targeted, and road-killed animals (deer, elk and moose combined) tested for CWD in FY 19**

**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 Department to increase surveillance efforts in order to better understand statewide prevalence and distribution, Determining the factors that may influence CWD prevalence in a population may provide insight into future disease management strategies.

**What Has Been Accomplished:**

To determine the prevalence of the disease within the endemic area, the FY 19 surveillance focused on collecting at least 100 hunter harvested adult mule deer bucks from each of the following herd units: Sheep Mountain, Laramie Mountain, Goshen Rim, Platte Valley, Baggs, Bates Hole, South Converse, Cheyenne River, Black Hills, Upper Powder River, and Southwest Bighorns. In addition, teeth were collected whenever possible to evaluate age structure, and age specific CWD prevalence of the herd units. Samples from other areas of the state were collected opportunistically.

Nearly all CWD samples are analyzed by the WHL, a federally certified (NAHLN) ISO 17025 laboratory in CWD diagnostics. In FY 19, the WHL tested a total of 5,845 deer, elk, and moose samples for chronic wasting disease. From the total samples received, 3,686 were from hunter-killed adult male mule, or white-tailed deer, adult elk, or adult moose. Of these, 371 tested positive for CWD representing 263 mule deer, 68 white-tailed deer, and 40 elk (see Table 1). All moose

tested for CWD were negative. The FY 19 surveillance effort identified four new deer hunt areas (HA): HA 5 in the northeastern corner of the state, HA 32 and 169 near Kaycee, 161 northeast by Rawlins, and Grand Teton National Park. Chronic wasting disease was also documented in elk HA 37 west of Sheridan, HA 66 in the Bighorn Basin, and HA 9 west of Laramie. Of the total samples received, 94 percent were derived from hunter-killed animals, 4 percent from road-killed, and 2 percent from targeted deer, elk, and moose. Surveillance totals from road-killed and targeted animals collected from CWD non-endemic hunt areas are reported in table 2.

Adult Male Mule Deer		Adult Male White Tailed Deer		Adult Elk		Adult Moose		Total	
Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos
1,878	263	409	68	1,362	40	37	0	3,686	371

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

	Road Killed		Targeted		Total	
	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos
Adult Male Mule Deer	36	1	5	0	41	1
Yearling Male Mule Deer	16	0	1	0	17	0
Adult Female Mule Deer	61	0	11	0	72	0
Adult Male White-tailed Deer	0	0	1	0	1	0
Adult Female White-tailed Deer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Elk	16	0	70	0	86	0
Adult Moose	13	0	8	0	21	0
<b>Total</b>	142	1	96	0	238	1

Table 2. Chronic wasting disease surveillance in non-endemic areas by species, age, and sex

Of the eleven targeted herd units, six reached the goal of 100 adult mule deer buck samples including; Black Hills (n=131), Laramie Mountains (n=164), Platte Valley (n=110), Baggs (n=263), Upper Powder River (n=115), and Southwest Bighorns (n=114). Whereas the Cheyenne River (n=96), Bates Hole (n=64), Goshen Rim (n=84), and Sheep Mountain (n=45) were unable to attain 100 samples. Chronic wasting disease prevalence trends varied greatly between these herd units when compared to the average prevalence from 2014-17. The Bates Hole, South Converse, and Baggs units were similar to 2014-17, or had a slight increase in prevalence (<2 percentage points over average). The Laramie Mountains, Goshen Rim, Platte Valley, and Upper Powder River saw a more moderate increase of between 3 -5 percentage points. Large increases in prevalence (>5 points) were observed in the Black Hills and the Southwest Bighorns, but sample sizes are limited in 2014-17 surveillance making meaningful comparisons difficult. Limited sample sizes over the past five years also hampered evaluation of the Cheyenne River and Sheep Mountain herd units, where prevalence decreased from the previous four year totals. 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.

The prevalence of CWD appears to be increasing in several non-targeted mule deer herd units in FY 19, including; Basin, Greybull, North Bighorns, Paintrock, Powder River, Rattlesnake, and Shoshone River. With the exception of the Paintrock and the Rattlesnake herd units, CWD

prevalence is also increasing in male white-tailed deer within these herd units, and in most cases is equal to, or exceeds the prevalence in mule deer. Unfortunately, sample sizes are limited in these herd units, but warrant concentration of future surveillance efforts.

Trends in CWD prevalence in elk herds within the historic endemic area were also examined. Prevalence decreased in the Laramie Peak/Muddy Mountain elk herd, from 10.9 percent in 2014-2017, to 5.5 percent in 2018 (n=199). The Iron Mountain elk herd increased in prevalence in 2018 to 16.7 percent (n=90), over the 2014-17 prevalence of 10.9 percent, but sample sizes are limited.

The identification of a CWD positive mule deer buck in Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) greatly extended the northwest distribution of this disease. Most importantly, the location within a national park, the proximity to Yellowstone National Park, and the Feedgrounds in northwestern Wyoming is concerning. To further determine the distribution of this disease, surveillance efforts were expanded in GTNP and the neighboring National Elk Refuge, with no further positives identified.

**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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	<b>6,090<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$411,399</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>6,925<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$1,682,970</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$2,094,369</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$2,348,900</b>
<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>75%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,752</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>11.4</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>201</b>		

<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 dropped slightly from 2017. 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 2018 bighorn sheep harvest decreased from 2017, and dropped below the five-year average (164). 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 lower than 2017 and was below than the five-year average. Hunter effort increased in 2018, and was higher than the five-year average (11.3 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 (\$)
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
2017	175	1,833	83%	10.5	212	2018	169,841	2,354,524
<b>2018</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>411,399</b>	<b>2,348,900</b>

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

## BISON

### Calendar Year

**2018**

**Population: 484**  
**Population Objective: 500**  
**Harvest: 94**  
**Hunters: 185**  
**Success Rate: 51%**  
**Recreation Days: 1,902**  
**Days/Animal: 20.2**  
**Licenses Sold: 190**

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue: \$288,740**  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*: \$84,497**  
**Total Program Revenue: \$373,237**  
**Program Costs: \$228,003**

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 coordinates management 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 2018 season was designed to maintain the herd at objective.

Bison hunting in 2018 was more difficult than in 2017, and much harder than the recent past. Bison harvest increased from 2017, but was much lower than the five year average (189). Hunter success in 2018 decreased again, and was below the five-year average (75 percent). Hunter effort was 20.2 days/bison harvested, higher than in 2017, and higher than the five-year average (10.7 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 (\$)
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
2017	70	1,183	63%	16.9	112	2018	224,009	163,848
<b>2018</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>288,740</b>	<b>228,003</b>

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

## ELK

### Calendar Year 2018

**Population:** 110,300<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 79,125<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 25,091  
**Hunters:** 55,978  
**Success Rate:** 45%  
**Recreation Days:** 446,017  
**Days/Animal:** 17.8  
**Licenses Sold:** 70,781

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$11,689,099  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$10,737,789  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$22,426,888  
**Program Costs:** \$15,326,643

<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, four of 34 elk herds with complete data are below objective, the rest are at or above objective.

Harvest increased in 2018, but was lower than the five-year average harvest of 25,226. Hunter success increased to 45 percent, and was slightly above the five-year average. Hunter effort (days/animal) decreased in 2018 to 17.8 days, and remained below the five-year average (18.6 days/animal). Recreation days increased, but were slightly below the five-year average (468,120).

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 (\$)
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
2017	24,535	441,933	43%	18.0	70,764	2018	10,765,394	18,272,292
<b>2018</b>	<b>25,091</b>	<b>446,017</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>70,781</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>11,689,099</b>	<b>15,326,643</b>

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

## MOOSE

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	<b>3,460<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$349,083</b>
<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>3,635<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$1,618,693</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,967,776</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$999,121</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>92%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>2,344</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>8.3</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>305</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 2018 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 2018 and hunter success decreased slightly, while hunter effort (days per animal) also decreased. The 2018 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 (\$)
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
2017	295	2,603	94%	8.8	322	2018	181,935	1,260,490
<b>2018</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>349,083</b>	<b>999,121</b>

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

## MULE DEER

### Calendar Year 2018

**Population:** 361,100<sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 476,600<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 26,141  
**Hunters:** 48,632  
**Success Rate:** 54%  
**Recreation Days:** 239,033  
**Days/Animal:** 9.1  
**Licenses Sold:** 71,485

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$10,017,879  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$11,542,547  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$21,470,426  
**Program Costs:** \$10,935,706

<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 second year in a row and remained below the five-year average of 27,783. Hunter success remained at 54 percent, and remained below the five-year average of 56 percent. Hunter effort increased in 2018, and increased above the five-year average (8.9 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.

#### 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 (\$)
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
2017	27,134	235,366	54%	8.7	69,805	2018	7,984,734	13,451,146
<b>2018</b>	<b>26,141</b>	<b>239,033</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>71,485</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>10,017,879</b>	<b>10,935,706</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, and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## PRONGHORN

### Calendar Year 2018

**Population:** 441,600 <sup>a</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 429,600<sup>b</sup>  
**Harvest:** 46,676  
**Hunters:** 48,612  
**Success Rate:** 86%  
**Recreation Days:** 149,948  
**Days/Animal:** 3.2  
**Licenses Sold:** 61,888

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$7,471,763  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$8,634,963  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$16,106,726  
**Program Costs:** \$4,382,953

<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 2018, Wyoming's total estimated statewide pronghorn population was 441,600 animals compared to the objective of 429,600. The estimated state population increased in 2018, and continued above the state-wide objective. Much of the state had improved precipitation and habitat conditions in 2018. 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 2018; 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 2018 harvest of 46,676 animals was the highest of the last five years, and was higher than the five-year average (39,822). Hunter effort decreased to 3.2 days per animal harvested, which remained below the five-year average of 3.6 days/animal, while the success rate decreased and dropped below 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 (\$)
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
2017	42,294	149,211	94%	3.5	56,481	2018	5,460,577	4,030,867
<b>2018</b>	<b>46,676</b>	<b>149,948</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>61,888</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>7,471,763</b>	<b>4,382,953</b>

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

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	<b>340<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$158,290</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>295<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$63,763</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$222,053</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$228,526</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>245</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>6.6</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>41</b>		

<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 (\$)
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
2017	39	276	93%	7.1	43	2018	29,120	216,732
<b>2018</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>158,290</b>	<b>228,526</b>
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	<b>105,500<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$531,193</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>55,000<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$27,296</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>19,138</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$558,489</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>28,509</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$1,134,244</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>67%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>126,026</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>6.6</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>11,177</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 localized areas, these attitudes are changing.

The 2018 white-tailed deer hunting season was the best for total harvest of the last five years. The success rate increased and hunter effort decreased from the previous year and are 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 (\$)
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
2017	17,956	122,032	63%	6.8	11,622	2018	414,328	1,408,008
<b>2018</b>	<b>19,138</b>	<b>126,026</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>11,177</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>531,193</b>	<b>1,134,244</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes white-tailed deer only.  
 \*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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$379,032</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not applicable	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$356,485</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	457	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$735,517</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	3,614	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$855,683</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	12.6%		
<b>Recreation Days</b>	22,948		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	50.2		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	4,730		

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 large carnivore biologist, game warden, wildlife biologist, or regional office within three days of harvest.

The 2018 harvest was the second highest on record, and slightly above the five-year average (445.4). Harvest statistics demonstrate that 2018 was an excellent year for hunting black bear, despite recent increased mortality limits. The 2018 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. Spring weather and snowpack impacts accessibility and recreation days spent hunting black bears. Over the past five years the number of licenses sold increased. Beginning in 2013, the Department initiated monitoring efforts to better understand local population demographics and black bear densities in a systematic fashion throughout the State. Efforts were initiated in the Greys River of western Wyoming, and have expanded to include work in the Sierra Madres of southern Wyoming and northern Bighorn Mountains of north-central Wyoming. These monitoring efforts will allow further evaluation of harvest trends, management strategies, and population demographics of black bears.

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 (\$)
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
2017	467	25,960	11.4%	55.6	4,646	2018	367,846	1,032,056
<b>2018</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>22,948</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>4,730</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>379,032</b>	<b>855,683</b>
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## GRIZZLY BEAR

**OBJECTIVES:**

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

**To maintain a recovered grizzly bear population (in those portions of the Demographic Monitoring Area) 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 (GYE) were recovered and therefore no longer listed as a threatened population. The Department regained management authority of grizzly bears in 2017. 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. Prior to initiation of hunting on September 1, 2018, a federal judge placed a temporary restraining order on hunting prior to announcing his final decision on September 24, 2018 which rendered GYE grizzly bears back under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, negating the 2018 grizzly bear hunt. Despite being relisted, the GYE grizzly bear population met and/or exceeded all recovery criteria as set forth in aforementioned plans and strategies and remains a fully recovered population. The Department continues to conduct the majority of on the ground monitoring and conflict resolution for grizzly bears in the GYE. 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 19, the total revenue received from grant funding was \$209,390.

Five-year trends in Wyoming’s grizzly bear program.	
Fiscal Year	Management Costs (\$)
2015	2,278,218
2016	2,606,261
2017	1,713,088
2018	3,007,192
2019	1,974,903

## MOUNTAIN LION

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$198,028</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not applicable	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$208,149</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$406,177</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$787,461</b>
<b>Success Rate:</b>	<b>24.2%</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>14,179</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>43.0</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>2,736</b>		

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.

Mountain lions are managed through annual mortality limits on three-year management cycles. 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. Mountain lion hunters must report harvest to Department personnel within a specified time period.

The 2018-2019 mountain lion harvest was an increase from 2017, and the highest harvest to date for the State of Wyoming. Mountain lion harvest has increased overall throughout Wyoming, due to increasing mortality limits, increased hunter interest, and increased densities of mountain lions, primarily in the Northeast Mountain Lion Management Unit. In 2017, 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 as well as collaborating with the University of Wyoming on research evaluating predator prey dynamics in the Green River Region. The Department proposed hunting regulations for the 2019-2021 harvest years to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in July 2019 and those regulations were approved as proposed.

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 (\$)
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
2017	282	12,177	21.9%	43.2	2,499	2018	173,585	785,246
<b>2018</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>14,179</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>198,028</b>	<b>787,461</b>
*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, and interest earned on Department cash balances.								

## GRAY WOLF

### Calendar Year 2018

**Population:** 196<sup>1</sup>  
**Population Objective:** 160 (in WTGMA)  
**Harvest:** 43 (in WTGMA)  
**Hunters:** 1630  
**Success Rate:** 2.6%  
**Recreation Days:** 18,438  
**Days/Animal:** 428.8  
**Licenses Sold:** 2,657

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$116,388  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$238,639  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$355,027  
**Program Costs:** \$1,280,874

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.

At the end of 2018, the wolf population in Wyoming remained above minimum delisting criteria; making 2018 the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Wyoming has exceeded the delisting criteria established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At least 286 wolves in  $\geq 46$  packs (including  $\geq 20$  breeding pairs) inhabited Wyoming on December 31, 2018. Of the total, there were  $\geq 80$  wolves and  $\geq 9$  packs (including 7 breeding pairs) in Yellowstone National Park,  $\geq 10$  wolves and  $\geq 2$  packs (no breeding pairs) in the Wind River Reservation, and  $\geq 196$  wolves and  $\geq 35$  packs (including  $\geq 13$  breeding pairs) in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation (WYO). A total of 177 wolf mortalities were documented statewide in Wyoming in 2018. There were sixty wolves captured and telemetry collared for monitoring and research in 2018.

In 2018, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department implemented a wolf hunting season with the biological objective to reduce the wolf population to approximately 160 wolves in the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area. A mortality limit of 58 wolves was divided between 14 hunt areas in WYO. Wolf hunting seasons were open from September 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 with the exception of hunt area 12, which opened on October 15, 2018. A total of 43 wolves (39 legal and 4 illegal) were killed during the wolf hunting season in the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area. There were forty-two wolves taken by the public under predatory animal status in 2018.

<sup>1</sup>196 wolves in Wyoming outside Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Reservation; including all jurisdictions in Wyoming: 286 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 (\$)
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
2017	44***	13,321	2.2%	300.7	2,536	2018	97,254	1,747,459
<b>2018</b>	<b>43***</b>	<b>18,438</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>428.8</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>116,388</b>	<b>1,280,874</b>

\*Includes allocated application fees, conservation stamp revenue, federal/other grants, 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.

# **SMALL GAME**

Cottontail  
Snowshoe Hare  
Squirrel

## COTTONTAIL RABBIT

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>18,328</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>4.3</b>		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>16,053</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>0.9</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 decrease in small game harvest numbers in 2017 was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 season continued the downward trend and was well below the five-year average (40,588). Hunter numbers and recreation days both decreased from 2017, and were below the five-year averages of 5,474 hunters and 19,889 days. The number of animals harvested per hunter decreased from 2017, and dropped below the five-year average (7.0 animals/hunter). The number of days/animal increased in 2018, 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	22,492	14,736	5.0	0.7	4,461	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>18,328</b>	<b>16,053</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>150</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Animal:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>1,148</b>		
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>7.6</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 decrease in small game harvest in 2017 was at least partially due to changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 hunting season has continued a recent downward trend for snowshoe hares. Harvest and recreation days were the lowest of the five-year period, as well as the number of hunters. The number of hares harvested per hunter in 2018 was the lowest of the five years, and the 2018 effort rate increased and was above average (4.5 days/animal).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal /Hunter	Days/ Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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	**	**
2017	229	1,206	0.7	5.3	348	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>1,854</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Animals/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.9</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>2,234</b>			
<b>Days/Animal:</b>	<b>1.2</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 increased in 2018. This was the opposite of other small game species, and follows 2017 when there was a change in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 harvest was the highest of the five year period, and was above average (1,482). The 2018 recreation days and hunter numbers were higher than the five year averages of 2,028 days and 490 hunters. Hunter success in 2018 was lower than in 2017 and was lower than the five-year average (3.0 animals/hunter). Hunters spent less time to get each animal than the five-year average (1.4 days/animals).

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

Five-year trends in Wyoming's snowshoe hare program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Animal/Hunter	Days/Animal	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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	**	**
2017	1,361	1,477	3.2	1.1	430	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

**Population:** Not available  
**Population Objective:** Not available  
**Harvest:** 54,015  
**Hunters:** 11,849  
**Birds/Hunter:** 4.6  
**Recreation Days:** 47,362  
**Days/Bird:** 0.9  
**Licenses Sold:** 26,206

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$815,283  
**All Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$1,525,549  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$2,340,832  
**Program Costs:** \$3,150,215

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 2018 pheasant season had an increase in harvest and recreation days, while the number of hunters decreased. The harvest was the highest of the five-year period and above the average (41,769), while recreation days were also the highest and above average (36,747). The number of pheasant hunters decreased and was just above the five year average (11,690). Hunter effort remained the same in 2018 and equaled the five-year average (0.9 days/bird). Hunter success increased in 2018, and was higher 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 (\$)
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
2017	41,478	36,813	3.4	0.9	12,308	2018	764,165	3,956,070
<b>2018</b>	<b>54,015</b>	<b>47,362</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>11,849</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>815,283</b>	<b>3,150,215</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, and interest earned on Department cash balances.

## GRAY PARTRIDGE

### Calendar Year 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Harvest:</b>	2,835	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Hunters:</b>	1,200	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$	**
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	2.4			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	4,923			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	1.7			
<b>Licenses Sold:</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). In 2017 there were changes in how Pioneer and Lifetime licensed hunter participation was calculated.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 season saw a slight rebound from 2017 for harvest, hunters, and recreation days. All three measures were within the range of values of the previous four years, with harvest being below the average (3,291), while recreation days and hunters were above the five year averages of (4,646) and (1,127) respectively.

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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	1,420	2,899	1.8	2.0	771	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>4,923</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

**Population:** Not available  
**Population Objective:** Not available  
**Harvest:** 7,286  
**Hunters:** 2,059  
**Birds/Hunter:** 3.5  
**Recreation Days:** 8,981  
**Days/Bird:** 1.2  
**Licenses Sold:** \*\*

### Fiscal Year 2019

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

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

While chukar harvest numbers improved from 2017, the metrics were still below the five-year averages. The 2018 season was above the five-year average for harvest (7,224), number of hunters (1,795), and recreation days (7,023). Hunter success and effort figures show the wide swings that environmental conditions can produce on chukar hunting. The 2017 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	4,160	4,650	2.9	1.1	1,415	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>7,286</b>	<b>8,981</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$ **
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	\$319,904
<b>Harvest:</b>	10,422	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$319,904
<b>Hunters:</b>	4,740	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$2,841,738
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	2.2		
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	13,092		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	1.3		
<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 2018.

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> However, in 2018, harvest, recreation days, and the hunter numbers rebounded and were higher than the five-year averages (9,271 harvest, 10,417 recreation days, and 4,163 hunters). The 2018 harvest rate did not change and was the same as the five-year average (2.2 birds/hunter) and hunter effort was above average (1.1 days/bird).

The Department is involved in extensive intrastate and interstate sage-grouse conservation efforts. It will continue to monitor sage-grouse populations, press for minimization and mitigation of environmental impacts in sagebrush habitats, and try to improve habitat conditions throughout the state.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sage-grouse program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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
2017	7,817	8,646	2.2	1.1	3,576	2018	**	3,344,918
<b>2018</b>	<b>10,422</b>	<b>13,092</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2,841,738</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 (\$113,352), and interest earned on Department cash balances.

<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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>Population:</b>	Not available	<b>License Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Population Objective:</b>	Not available	<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Harvest:</b>	1,411	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Hunters:</b>	1,027	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$	**
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	1.4			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	3,892			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	2.8			
<b>Licenses Sold:</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> The 2018 harvest increased somewhat, but was still below the five year average (2,114). Recreation days and number of hunters also recovered and were above the averages of (3,455) and (955). Success was lower than the average (2.2), but effort measured in days per bird was higher than the average (1.8).

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sharp-tailed grouse program.								
Harvest, recreation, and licenses issued are by calendar year. Revenue and costs are by fiscal year.								
Calendar Year	Harvest	Rec. Days	Bird / Hunter	Days/ Bird	Number Hunters	Fiscal Year	Lic. Revenue	Mgmt. Costs (\$)
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	**	**
2017	1,316	2,215	1.8	1.7	742	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>3,892</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>8,363</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.2</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>16,716</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>2.0</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 2018 blue grouse season was more like previous years and was above the five-year average for harvest (8,288), recreation days (15,448), and hunters (3,528). The 2018 harvest rate and effort figures were better than 2017 but were worse than the most recent five-year average (2.3 birds/hunter, 1.9 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	5,306	11,520	2.0	2.2	2,654	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>8,363</b>	<b>16,716</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>6,153</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>2.9</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>10,908</b>			
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.8</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 2018 season recovered some but was below the five-year average for harvest (6,704). The numbers in 2018 were above average for recreation days (10,879), and hunters (2,132). The success rate, measured in birds per hunter, was higher than the previous year but was lower than the five-year average (3.1). Hunter effort decreased but 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	3,968	8,414	2.3	2.1	1,714	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>10,908</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>20,420</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	\$	**
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$	**
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>9.6</b>			
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>6,637</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. 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> Hunting for doves improved in 2018 but harvest remained below the five-year average (23,049), while recreation days was above average (6,477 days). The number of hunters increased and essentially equaled the average (2,121). The success rate remained stable and was less than the five-year average (10.8). 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	18,242	5,201	9.6	0.3	1,903	2018	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>20,420</b>	<b>6,637</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>2019</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 2018

<b>Population:</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>Population Objective:</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>Harvest:</b>	<b>3,584</b>
<b>Hunters:</b>	<b>6,159</b>
<b>Birds/Hunter:</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>23,117</b>
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>7,790</b>

### Fiscal Year 2019

<b>License Revenue:</b>	<b>\$214,787</b>
<b>All Other Agency Revenue*:</b>	<b>\$558,792</b>
<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$773,579</b>
<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$151,403</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 or hatched around May 31. In 2018, harvest numbers improved in most categories. Harvest was above the average (3,495) as was recreation days (21,854). However, the number of hunters remained below the average of 6,329. The success rate was the same as in 2017 and equal to the five-year average, and the number of days to harvest a turkey increased and rose above 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 (\$)
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
2017	3,521	21,900	0.6	6.2	5,957	2018	204,286	148,520
<b>2018</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>23,117</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6,159</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>214,787</b>	<b>151,403</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 2018

**Population:** Not available  
**Population Objective:** Not available  
**Harvest:** 47,526  
**Hunters:** 5,592  
**Bird/Hunter:** 8.5  
**Recreation Days:** 30,047  
**Days/Bird:** 0.6  
**Licenses Sold:** \*\*

### Fiscal Year 2019

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

A variety of duck species migrate through the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Wyoming during spring and fall. 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, 2018-2019 continued to see good water conditions. Hunter numbers decreased slightly, and were the lowest seen in the last five years (5,592). Harvest increased slightly (47,526). The harvest rate in 2018 was above the average for the last five years (8.5 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	47,092	27,957	8.4	0.6	5,625	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>47,526</b>	<b>30,047</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5,592</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 2018

**Population:** Not available  
**Population Objective:** Not available  
**Harvest:** 29,222  
**Hunters:** 4,895  
**Bird/Hunter:** 6.0  
**Recreation Days:** 25,866  
**Days/Bird:** 0.9  
**Licenses Sold:** \*\*

### Fiscal Year 2019

**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 2018, harvest decreased slightly (29,222). Recreation days decreased, and were also the median seen in the last five years (25,866). Hunter numbers decreased, and were the second lowest observed in the last five years (4,895). 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 (\$)
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	**	**
2017	34,880	26,073	6.9	0.7	5,077	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>29,222</b>	<b>25,866</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4,895</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>189</b>	<b>Total Program Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ **</b>
<b>Hunters: <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>329</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>850</b>		
<b>Days/Bird: <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>4.5</b>		
<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>410</b>		

There are two populations of sandhill crane 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 five 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 2018 season, harvest was similar to the previous year. Recreation days saw a 4 percent increase, and hunter numbers also increased slightly. The success rate stayed the same, and was at the five-year average (0.6 birds per hunter). Hunter effort in 2018 was at a five-year high (4.4 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 (\$)
2014	101	276	0.7	2.7	144	**	**
2015	104	375	0.6	3.6	164	**	**
2016	158	666	0.6	4.2	283	**	**
2017	193	814	0.6	2.5	318	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>329</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 2018

### Fiscal Year 2019

<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>550</b>	<b>Program Costs:</b>	\$ **
<b>Bird/Hunter:</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>Cost Dept. Per Bird:</b>	<b>\$ Not Available</b>
<b>Recreation Days:</b>	<b>950</b>		
<b>Days/Bird:</b>	<b>1.6</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 (\$)
2014	400	650	1.6	1.6	250	**	**
2015	800	500	4.0	0.5	200	**	**
2016	500	250	3.3	0.5	150	**	**
2017	600	1100	1.5	1.8	400	**	**
<b>2018</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>550</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 Year 2018

**Recreation Day Objectives:** 2,778,000  
**Recreation Days:<sup>1</sup>** 2,661,835  
**Fish/Day:** 2.5  
**Licenses Sold:** 317,080  
**Economic Return Per Day:** \$74.00

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$7,183,358  
**All Other Agency Revenue:** \$9,440,166  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$16,623,524  
**Program Costs:** \$23,903,154

In 2018, nearly 2.7 million angler days of sport fishing recreation were estimated. Overall license sales were down 8 percent from the previous year. For angler participation expenditures, the Department consulted the recently published report, *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. The estimate for angler participation rate was kept constant at 19 days/year even though the 2011 report said days fishing by anglers increased since 2001 (when the current estimate was derived). 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.

Five-year trends in Wyoming's sport fisheries program.						
Calendar Year	Rec. Days	Fish/Day	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
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
2017	2,680,111	2.5	346,720	2018	\$6,982,896	\$29,217,042
<b>2018</b>	<b>2,661,835</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>317,080</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>\$7,183,358</b>	<b>\$23,903,154</b>

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

**Calendar Year 2018**

**Fiscal Year 2019**

<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>Licenses Sold:</b>	<b>\$27,330</b>
		<b>All Other Agency Revenue:</b>	<b>\$5,121</b>
		<b>Total Program Revenue**:</b>	<b>\$32,451</b>
		<b>Program Costs:</b>	<b>\$22,083</b>

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

Live baitfish and seining permits continue to show a downward trend over the last few years; other license types are trending upward also, with the exception of private hatchery permits, which have been stable. Overall, interest in fishing preserves increased and seining and dealing in live baitfish declined this year.

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

Five-year trends in Wyoming's commercial fisheries program.				
Calendar Year	Licenses Sold	Fiscal Year	License Revenue (\$)	Program Costs (\$)
2014	944	2015	\$28,986	\$30,441
2015	933	2016	\$27,540	\$27,540
2016	990	2017	\$26,024	\$22,344
2017	849	2018	\$25,920	\$22,201
<b>2018</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>\$27,330</b>	<b>\$22,083</b>

# **FURBEARERS**

Bobcat  
Other Furbearers

## BOBCAT

### Calendar Year 2018

**Bobcat Harvest<sup>1</sup>:** 1,452  
**Bobcat Trappers<sup>3</sup>:** 397  
**Bobcats per Trapper<sup>2</sup>:** 3.7  
**Recreation Days:** 12.099  
**Days/Animal:** 8.3

### Fiscal Year 2019

**Licenses Sold:** \*\*  
**License Revenue:** \$\*\*  
**Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$\*\*  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$\*\*  
**Program Costs:** \$433,896

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 decreased and then rebounded over the last five years, while bobcat harvest success has varied. The 2018 harvest was second highest of the last five years but dropped below five-year average (1,468). The harvest rate decreased and was lower than the five-year average (4.0). The number of successful trappers decreased, but remained above the five-year average (360). Bobcat harvest tends to follow rabbit population levels, which have been higher 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 (\$)
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
2017	2,189	4.6	472	**	2018	**	<b>501,953</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>433,896</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 Year 2018

**Furbearer Harvest:** 5,596  
**Furbearer Trappers<sup>1</sup>:** 381  
**Furbearers per Trapper:** 14.7  
**Recreation Days:** 17,937  
**Days/Animal:** 3.2  
**Licenses Sold <sup>2</sup>:** 2,565

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$108,585  
**Other Agency Revenue\*:** \$186,458  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$295,043  
**Program Costs:** \$145,868

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 six, 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 (\$)
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
2017	8,842	18.2	485	2,299	2018	122,070	268,301
<b>2018</b>	<b>5,596</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>108,585</b>	<b>186,458</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 2018

**Captures:** 9  
**Licenses Sold:** 37

### Fiscal Year 2019

**License Revenue:** \$4,505  
**All Other Agency Revenue:** \$35,793  
**Total Program Revenue:** \$40,298  
**Program Costs:** \$416,612

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 2018, 34 resident licenses were issued and eight birds were captured, for a capture success rate of 24 percent. Three resident licenses were issued and one bird was captured, for a capture success rate of 33 percent. In total, 9 raptors were captured in Wyoming for use in falconry for an overall success rate of 24 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>
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
2018	9	24%	37	2019	4,505	416,612

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes only licenses to capture falcons; 94 licenses to hunt with falcons were issued in 2018.

<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 five permanent personnel: a statewide supervisor, a statewide bird lead, a statewide mammal lead, a wildlife GIS analyst, and a sage brush / sage grouse lead. Contract employees are hired using specific project funds. With a limited staff and responsibility for nearly 400 bird and 100 mammal 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 Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has funded the program at similar levels, \$376,996 for FY 19 (excluding FTE salaries). 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.

**APPENDIX B:**

**BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL  
SUMMARIES**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	O	R
1	Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2020 Budget										
2	Budget	Name	Revised FY20 Budget	Proposed FY20 Changes	Prelim Approved FY20 Budget	M&O	Personnel	FY 2019 Approved Budget	Budget \$\$ change	overall % change	
3	0A10	Director Office Admin	1,350,389	15,208	1,335,181	211,531	1,138,857	1,345,904	4,484	0.33%	
4	0A10	Director Office-Contingency	100,000		100,000	100,000		100,000			
5	0J11	Public Information Admin	380,110	5,582	374,528	75,873	304,237	375,325	4,785	1.27%	
6	0A20	WGFC Vehicle Fleet	2,206,855	10,000	2,196,855	2,206,855		2,165,827	41,028	1.89%	
7	0A30	Commission	97,244		97,244	74,556	22,688	109,070	(11,826)	-10.84%	
8	0E10	Conservation Educ-R3	346,357	2,181	344,176	219,500	126,857	345,446	911	0.26%	
9	0E11	Conservation Educ-Volunteers	186,932	2,773	184,159	37,809	149,123	159,266	27,666	17.37%	
10	0E20	Hunter Education	189,508	1,869	187,639	91,950	97,558	174,806	14,702	8.41%	
11	0J10	Media/Customer Outreach	460,676	8,331	452,345	48,604	412,072	545,927	(85,251)	-15.62%	
12	0J20	Publications	639,818	3,694	636,124	446,660	193,158	648,187	(8,369)	-1.29%	
13	0P10	Personnel	556,053	5,673	550,380	257,605	298,448	439,536	116,516	26.51%	
14	0S10	Strategic Planning	95,346	1,905	93,441	3,849	91,497	93,675	1,671	1.78%	
15	0U10	Cooperative Research	440,000		440,000	440,000		440,000			
16	0W10	Statewide Habitat Protection	882,765	16,646	866,119	36,640	846,125	846,226	36,539	4.32%	
17	<b>Director's Office Total</b>		<b>7,932,052</b>	<b>73,862</b>	<b>7,858,190</b>	<b>4,251,433</b>	<b>3,680,620</b>	<b>7,789,195</b>	<b>142,857</b>	<b>1.83%</b>	
18	2A10	Fiscal Administration	515,279	8,689	506,590	26,461	488,818	512,240	3,039	0.59%	
19	2F12	Licensing	1,129,005	17,651	1,111,354	209,363	919,642	1,084,922	44,083	4.06%	
20	2F13	General Accounting	638,005	228,060	409,945	228,530	409,475	420,643	217,363	51.67%	
21	2F20	Accounts Payable	364,245	6,608	357,637	18,805	345,440	384,288	(20,043)	-5.22%	
22	2F31	Asset Management	746,725	6,279	740,446	416,361	330,364	705,030	41,695	5.91%	
23	2V10	Customer Service	235,194	3,940	231,254	5,325	229,869	212,815	22,379	10.52%	
24	2J50	Mailroom	528,672	961	527,711	467,267	61,405	579,347	(50,675)	-8.75%	
25	2Z1X	Regional Office Management	1,603,418	23,256	1,580,162	305,163	1,298,254	1,550,936	52,482	3.38%	
26	2X10	Legislated Expenses	2,375,000		2,375,000	2,351,000	24,000	2,141,000	234,000	10.93%	
27	<b>Fiscal Total</b>		<b>8,135,542</b>	<b>295,444</b>	<b>7,840,098</b>	<b>4,028,273</b>	<b>4,107,268</b>	<b>7,591,220</b>	<b>544,322</b>	<b>7.17%</b>	
28	4A11	Services Administration	427,419	6,245	421,174	32,132	395,287	421,031	6,388	1.52%	
29	4D10	Feedground Maintenance	324,567	50,000	274,567	300,500	24,067	421,567	(97,000)	-23.01%	
30	4H10	Habitat Access/Maintenance	3,998,059	45,205	3,952,854	1,368,254	2,629,805	4,121,712	(123,653)	-3.00%	
31	4H20	Property Rights Development	112,000		112,000	112,000		332,000	(220,000)	-66.27%	
32	4K10	Conservation Engineering	682,069	115,016	567,053	134,917	547,152	674,402	7,667	1.14%	
33	4L20	Game and Fish Lab	861,271	13,881	847,390	168,353	692,918	952,121	(90,850)	-9.54%	
34	4R01	Property Rights-Administration	784,307	6,542	777,765	437,567	346,740	838,349	(54,042)	-6.45%	
35	4R1X	Property Rights-Acquisition	60,000		60,000	60,000		60,000			
36	4Y10	Information Technology	3,010,668	35,766	2,974,902	1,188,024	1,822,641	3,082,091	(71,423)	-2.32%	
37	4Y11	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	538,377	7,316	531,061	112,532	425,845	369,701	168,677	45.63%	
38	4ZXX	Support Facilities	1,503,230	1,676	1,501,554	1,340,779	162,451	1,451,823	51,408	3.54%	
39	4Z2X	Support Facilities-Contingency									
40	4Z30	Support Facilities Cheyenne									
41	<b>Services Total</b>		<b>12,301,967</b>	<b>281,647</b>	<b>12,020,320</b>	<b>5,255,059</b>	<b>7,046,907</b>	<b>12,724,796</b>	<b>(422,829)</b>	<b>-3.32%</b>	
42	5A10	Fish Administration	446,088	6,244	439,844	46,604	399,484	438,982	7,106	1.62%	
43	5H40	Habitat Coordinator (WLCI)	118,911	2,103	116,808	7,330	111,582	115,898	3,013	2.60%	
44	5C10	Hatchery & Rearing Stations	6,276,562	67,276	6,209,286	2,608,803	3,667,759	6,019,564	256,999	4.27%	
45	5C20	Fish Spawning	176,338	2,381	173,957	35,117	141,221	174,858	1,480	0.85%	
46	5C30	Fish Distribution	154,899		154,899	154,899		153,699	1,200	0.78%	
47	5H10	Regional Aquatic Habitat	1,060,096	17,609	1,042,487	97,389	962,707	1,030,177	29,920	2.90%	
48	5H20	Water Management	250,254	2,406	247,848	130,144	120,110	284,195	(33,940)	-11.94%	
49	5H30	Fish Passage	417,260	4,083	413,177	206,698	210,562	427,397	(10,137)	-2.37%	
50	5Q10	Regional Aquatic Mgmt	3,549,858	58,542	3,491,316	389,476	3,160,383	3,505,408	44,450	1.27%	
51	5Q1B	Aquatic Invasive Species	1,560,525	69,244	1,491,281	266,253	1,294,272	1,320,150	240,375	18.21%	
52	5Q30	Statewide Aquatic Mgmt	847,013	11,724	835,289	206,478	640,535	841,849	5,164	0.61%	
53	5Q40	Boating Access	1,357,000		1,357,000	1,357,000		1,357,000			
54	<b>Fish Total</b>		<b>16,214,804</b>	<b>241,612</b>	<b>15,973,192</b>	<b>5,506,190</b>	<b>10,708,615</b>	<b>15,669,176</b>	<b>545,629</b>	<b>3.48%</b>	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	O	R
1	<b>Summary of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission FY 2020 Budget</b>										
2	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Revised FY20 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed FY20 Changes</b>	<b>Prelim Approved FY20 Budget</b>	<b>M&amp;O</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>FY 2019 Approved Budget</b>	<b>Budget \$\$ change</b>	<b>overall % change</b>	
55	6A10	Wildlife Administration	1,367,569	15,376	1,352,193	451,520	916,049	1,363,043	4,525	0.33%	
56	6B1X	Bird Farms	740,644	7,787	732,857	306,263	434,381	761,656	(21,012)	-2.76%	
57	6D10	Feedgrounds	1,886,067	4,251	1,881,816	1,660,001	226,066	1,887,847	(1,780)	-0.09%	
58	6H10	Terrestrial Habitat Mgmt	346,050	5,845	340,205	41,974	304,076	323,326	22,724	7.03%	
59	6H30	Terrestrial Regional Habitat	930,019	15,777	914,242	97,663	832,356	746,265	183,754	24.62%	
60	6L1B	Veterinary Services Program	1,957,320	297,784	1,659,536	1,016,231	941,089	1,575,522	381,798	24.23%	
61	6L2B	Veterinary Services - Brucellosis						75,564	(75,564)	-100.00%	
62	6N10	Special Enforcement-Investigative Stop	886,533	15,680	870,853	77,292	809,241	745,871	140,661	18.86%	
63	6NX0	Poaching, Administration	554,748	6,308	548,440	223,139	331,609	447,034	107,714	24.10%	
64	6N30	Special Enforcement-Stop Poaching									
65	6N40	Special Enforcement-Administration									
66	6O1B	Terrestrial Sensitive Species	688,306	7,084	681,222	307,597	380,708	808,940	(120,634)	-14.91%	
67	6R10	Property Rights-Statewide PLPW	106,613	1,541	105,072	20,725	85,888	104,880	1,733	1.65%	
68	6R30	Property Rights-Regional PLPW	691,620	11,475	680,145	78,938	612,683	551,119	140,501	25.49%	
69	6R2X	Property Rights-PLPW Access (F06)	1,027,155		1,027,155	1,027,155		1,027,155			
70	6T1X	Wildlife Biologists	4,629,128	66,754	4,562,374	1,166,888	3,462,241	4,422,728	206,401	4.67%	
71	6T2X	Wildlife Wardens	7,380,506	127,854	7,252,652	1,723,691	5,656,819	7,638,311	(257,805)	-3.38%	
72	6T3X	Regional Wildlife Supervisors	2,757,237	39,794	2,717,443	564,887	2,192,349	2,454,210	303,027	12.35%	
73	6T4B	Sage Grouse Planning & Protection	828,302	3,369	824,933	643,941	184,361	840,632	(12,330)	-1.47%	
74	6T50	Biological Services	955,106	8,347	946,759	527,917	427,188	880,400	74,706	8.49%	
75	6T71	Trophy Game and Conflict Resolution	1,828,873	22,692	1,806,181	538,307	1,290,566	2,247,202	(418,328)	-18.62%	
76	6T80	Waterfowl	207,031	2,093	204,938	90,634	116,397	203,973	3,058	1.50%	
77	6T90	Predator Management	150,000		150,000	150,000		100,000	50,000	50.00%	
78	6G10	Regional Information & Education	707,039	12,555	694,484	49,938	657,102	704,731	2,309	0.33%	
79	<b>Wildlife Total</b>		<b>30,625,866</b>	<b>672,366</b>	<b>29,953,500</b>	<b>10,764,699</b>	<b>19,861,168</b>	<b>29,910,409</b>	<b>715,457</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	
80											
81	<b>WGFC Standard Budget Subtotal</b>		<b>75,210,232</b>	<b>1,564,931</b>	<b>73,645,301</b>	<b>29,805,654</b>	<b>45,404,578</b>	<b>73,684,796</b>	<b>1,525,436</b>	<b>2.07%</b>	
82											
83	<b>Wildlife Trust Fund Interest Total</b>		<b>1,181,775</b>		<b>1,181,775</b>	<b>1,181,775</b>		<b>1,164,810</b>	<b>16,965</b>	<b>1.46%</b>	
84											
85	<b>State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Total</b>		<b>880,305</b>		<b>880,305</b>	<b>751,526</b>	<b>128,779</b>	<b>890,061</b>	<b>(9,756)</b>	<b>-1.10%</b>	
86											
87	<b>Reimbursable Grants:</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>5,897,463</b>	<b>102,537</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>			
88											
89	<b>Total WGFC Standard Budget</b>		<b>83,272,312</b>	<b>1,564,931</b>	<b>81,707,381</b>	<b>37,636,419</b>	<b>45,635,893</b>	<b>81,739,667</b>	<b>1,532,645</b>	<b>1.88%</b>	
90											
91	<b>WGF Commission One-time Projects Budget</b>		<b>Revised FY20 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed FY20 Changes</b>	<b>Prelim Approved FY20 Budget</b>						
92	3XXX	WGFD Strategic Plan Priorities	1,638,000	(250,000)	1,888,000						
93	3A0C	Wildlife Foundation Support	250,000		250,000						
94	0U10	Deer Elk Ecology Research Project	150,000		150,000						
95	3Z4D	Cody RO Land Purchase	350,000	350,000	-						
96		City of Upton - CB&Q Reservoir	10,000		10,000						
97	3C5A	Boulder Rearing Station	1,206,000	1,206,000							
98	3L6A	CWD Sampling	93,200	93,200							
99	3F20	Fiscal System Feasibility	50,000	50,000							
100	3U0A	Moose Research - Cody	50,000	50,000							
101	3U0A	Pronghorn Research - multiple areas	93,000	93,000							
102	3U0A	Mule Deer Research - Sublette Herd	30,000	30,000							
103	3R4Q	Schamel Property Acquisition	129,200	129,200							
104	<b>Total One-time Projects Budget</b>		<b>4,049,400</b>	<b>1,751,400</b>	<b>2,298,000</b>						
105											
106	<b>Commission Approved Spending Authority</b>		<b>Revised FY20 Budget</b>	<b>FY20 Changes</b>	<b>Approved FY20 Budget</b>						
107	<b>Total WGFC Standard Budget</b>		<b>\$83,272,312</b>	<b>\$1,564,931</b>	<b>81,707,381</b>						
108	<b>Total WGFC One-time Projects Budget</b>		<b>4,049,400</b>	<b>1,751,400</b>	<b>2,298,000</b>						
109											
110	<b>Items highlighted in yellow are restricted and cannot be distributed to other areas within the budget to cover other items.</b>										
111	Property Rights Access Easements (F06) - Earmarked for Access easements only										
112	Legislative Expenses - Damage Claims, Game Warden Retirement, Cost Allocation, Landowner Coupons, Salecs										
113	Reimbursable Grants - All anticipated grant funds including federal, state, nongovernmental entities, etc.										
114	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, 2019**

% CHNG  
FY 16 to  
FY 19

	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016	
<b>ASSETS:</b>					
PETTY CASH	\$ 18,050	\$ 18,250	\$ 18,250	\$ 17,850	1%
CASH - OPERATIONS	56,508,574	45,141,765	54,624,102	51,969,021	9%
CASH- WLDLFE TRUST INTEREST	3,142,688	3,249,156	3,350,363	3,757,182	-16%
CASH- ACCESS FUND	2,609,265	2,358,253	2,069,437	1,941,671	34%
	62,278,577	50,767,424	60,062,152	57,685,724	8%
CASH - WLDLFE TRUST CORPUS	31,211,600	29,886,915	28,861,281	27,962,314	12%
CASH- LIFETIME LICENSE FUND	6,059,340	5,834,297	5,617,429	5,466,932	11%
CASH-ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,135	45,416	36,430	25,162	99%
CASH - APPS/UNDISTRIBD IN PROCESS	18,077,041	17,992,638	14,655,007	12,625,812	43%
CASH-AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	106,609	114,810	571,884	444,795	-76%
RETURNED CHECKS	4,851	12,698	2,184	480	911%
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>117,788,153</b>	<b>104,654,198</b>	<b>109,806,367</b>	<b>104,211,218</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
VOUCHERS PAYABLE	11,551	381,473	303,852	118,411	-90%
LICENSE AGENT BONDS	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0%
COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION	25	925	55	0	
APP/UNDIST PENDING DRAW	18,077,041	17,992,638	14,655,007	12,625,812	43%
RESTRICTED FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	3,180	701	-100%
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAIN/LOSS	0	(668,605)	(470,965)	(119,564)	-100%
OTHER DEFERRED REVENUE	10,088	371	13,905	5,986	69%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>18,198,705</b>	<b>17,806,802</b>	<b>14,605,034</b>	<b>12,731,346</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>					
<b>RESTRICTED</b>					
OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES	16,005,649	15,089,227	28,739,413	10,278,565	56%
WLDLFE TRUST FUND CORPUS (F08)	31,211,600	29,960,427	28,861,281	27,962,314	12%
WLD TRUST FUND INTEREST (F07)	2,393,624	2,535,524	2,538,620	3,051,420	-22%
ACCESS FUND CORPUS (F06)	2,609,265	2,358,253	2,069,437	1,941,671	34%
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	106,609	114,810	571,884	444,795	-76%
LIFETIME LICENSE FUND (F02)	6,059,340	5,905,693	5,639,833	5,472,180	11%
ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES	50,135	45,620	36,497	25,192	99%
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>					
G&F OPERATING FUND(F01)	41,153,225	30,837,842	26,744,369	42,303,735	-3%
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>99,589,447</b>	<b>86,847,395</b>	<b>95,201,333</b>	<b>91,479,872</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>117,788,153</b>	<b>104,654,198</b>	<b>109,806,367</b>	<b>104,211,218</b>	<b>13%</b>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

<b>EXPENDABLE FUNDS only:</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>% Change from FY 18</b>
<b>REVENUE RECEIVED</b>			
Hunting & Fish Lic	39,030,160	33,683,077	16%
Conservation Stamps	848,013	979,420	-13%
Boating Registration	680,834	621,745	10%
Other license revenue (pp points)	10,980,309	9,305,784	18%
Pooled Interest Opr	2,037,876	1,701,745	20%
Pooled Interest Trt (1)(2)	749,100	992,428	-25%
Income from Inv&Land	2,423,462	1,074,928	125%
100% Reimbursable	6,177,754	7,206,351	-14%
Application Fees	2,710,740	2,505,500	8%
Publication Sales	240,532	218,077	10%
Access Yes donations/cstamp(3)	975,880	1,036,675	-6%
Federal Aid & Grants	21,186,012	22,813,591	-7%
License Recoupment	880,284	807,125	9%
General Funds	212,177	569,104	-63%
Other Items	183,151	120,375	52%
<b>TTL REVENUE EARNED</b>	<b>89,316,284</b>	<b>83,635,925</b>	<b>7%</b>

**EXPENDITURES MADE**

<b>Maintenance &amp; Ops</b>			
Office of Director	5,267,037	6,352,896	-17%
Fiscal Division	4,795,749	4,692,984	2%
Services Division	10,965,070	10,008,069	10%
Fish Division	13,631,785	14,023,516	-3%
Wildlife Division	25,663,656	26,647,435	-4%
<b>TOTAL M&amp;O EXPENSES</b>	<b>60,323,296</b>	<b>61,724,900</b>	<b>-2%</b>

Access Fund	735,056	744,377	-1%
Wyoming wildlife trust (1)(2)	503,548	700,308	-28%
Legislated Expenses	2,060,116	2,185,805	-6%
<b>Pr yr encbrd m/o exp</b>	<b>4,812,886</b>	<b>4,755,026</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>TTL OPERATING EXP</b>	<b>68,434,902</b>	<b>70,110,416</b>	<b>-2%</b>

Reimbursable Contracts	3,963,266	6,711,401	-41%
Statewildlife Grants	493,398	439,795	12%
Property Rights			
Nonrecurring Projects	413,146	140,016	195%
<b>Pr yr encbrd other xp</b>	<b>4,678,851</b>	<b>15,974,895</b>	<b>-71%</b>
<b>TTL NONOP EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,548,661</b>	<b>23,266,107</b>	<b>-59%</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>77,983,563</b>	<b>93,376,523</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<b>DEFICIT OF REVENUE OVER EXP</b>	<b>11,332,720</b>	<b>(9,740,598)</b>	

<b>NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS only:</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>% Change from FY 18</b>
<b>Wildlife Conservation Trust &amp; Lifetime License Fund(s)</b>			
Corpus, July 1	35,721,212	34,478,710	4%
Prior year adj for increase in value of investments	144,907	22,404	
Current year adj for increase in value of investments			
Change in unrealized investments		(144,907)	
Interest earned	120,827	152,245	-21%
Transfer from operations	(379,377)	(368,095)	
Donations	318,108	22,424	1319%
Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses	412,197	481,710	-14%
Lifetime conservation stamps	85,052	98,520	-14%
Annual conserv stamp 37 1/2%	848,013	978,201	-13%
<b>Corpus, June 30</b>	<b>37,270,940</b>	<b>35,721,212</b>	<b>4%</b>

All Department revenue/expenditures is recognized above excepting:

- 1) \$533,024 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 \$85,052 of lifetime conservation stamps and 37 1/2% of the c-stamp \$848,013 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 \$177,093 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, 2019**

	<b>Total WGFC Expenditures</b>	<b>General Fund (non capital construction) Expenditures</b>	<b>Total FY 2019 Expenditures</b>	<b>% of Total Expenditures</b>
Aquatic Wildlife Management	\$ 6,984,929	4,000	6,988,929	9.0%
Bird Farms	735,794		735,794	0.9%
Cooperative Research	719,973		719,973	0.9%
Conservation Engineering	618,507		618,507	0.8%
CWCS (Sensitive Species)	1,853,874	94,824	1,948,698	2.5%
Department Administration	4,901,348		4,901,348	6.3%
Education	656,342		656,342	0.8%
Feedgrounds	1,833,043		1,833,043	2.4%
Financial Management	2,751,137		2,751,137	3.5%
Fish Culture	6,431,456		6,431,456	8.2%
Habitat	10,260,965		10,260,965	13.2%
Information	1,778,036		1,778,036	2.3%
Legislated Expenses	2,060,116		2,060,116	2.6%
Customer Services	126,822		126,822	0.2%
Management Information Systems	3,152,036		3,152,036	4.0%
Personnel Management	318,173		318,173	0.4%
Property Rights	2,663,499		2,663,499	3.4%
Regional Information/Education	670,488		670,488	0.9%
Specialized Law Enforcement	1,481,037		1,481,037	1.9%
Human Dimensions/Strategic Management	148,304		148,304	0.2%
Support Facilities/Personnel	4,864,354		4,864,354	6.2%
Terrestrial Wildlife Management	19,488,833	113,352	19,602,186	25.1%
Wildlife Habitat Protection	897,600		897,600	1.2%
Wildlife Health and Laboratory Services	2,374,720		2,374,720	3.0%
<b>Total Amount Expended</b>	<b>77,771,386</b>	<b>212,177</b>	<b>77,983,563</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Licenses						
<b>Antelope <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Pioneer Antelope	\$2.00	202	206	230	230	247
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$2.00	58	76	96	91	90
Pioneer Heritage Antelope	\$20.00	146	149	178	202	242
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$18.00	40	38	44	66	71
Resident Antelope	\$33.00	14,644	14,712	15,560	16,184	
Resident Antelope	\$37.00					17,353
Resident Antelope Carryover	\$10.00				3	1
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$33.00	8	6	7	8	
Resident Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$37.00					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(H)*	\$37.00					4
Resident Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$33.00					
Resident Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$22.00	5,186	5,570	6,673	6,999	7,735
Resident Youth Antelope	\$15.00	2,271	2,368	2,437	2,604	2,834
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$14.00	546	598	688	784	820
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$15.00		1	1	2	
Resident Yth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00	1				
<b>Total Resident Antelope</b>		<b>23,102</b>	<b>23,727</b>	<b>25,915</b>	<b>27,177</b>	<b>29,405</b>
Nonres Antelope	\$272.00	8,964	8,187	7,823	7,991	
Nonres Antelope	\$326.00					8,169
Nonres Antelope Commissioner	\$272.00					
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$272.00	71	73	71	72	
Nonres Antelope One Shot Hunt	\$326.00					78
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$272.00	1		1	1	
Nonres Antelope Super Tag	\$326.00					1
Nonres Antelope w/Preference Point	\$272.00	2,225	2,205	2,918	3,737	
Nonres Antelope w/Preference Point	\$326.00					4,720
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)*	\$272.00	39	36			
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* <sup>16</sup>	\$33.00			28	34	
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(H)* <sup>16</sup>	\$37.00					45
Nonres Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$272.00	1		4	5	
Nonres Antelope Yth One Shot Hunt	\$110.00	1	1	2		
Nonres Antelope Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	239	201	289	308	367
Nonres Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$34.00	11,694	11,322	12,106	13,655	15,240
Nonres Special Antelope	\$512.00	515	565	686	705	
Nonres Special Antelope	\$614.00					805
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$512.00	867	1,007	1,246	1,525	
NonRes Special Antelope w/Preference Point	\$614.00					1,671
Nonres Youth Antelope	\$110.00	584	489	505	503	452
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	1
Nonres Youth Antelope WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	5	5	2	4	14
Nonres Youth Doe/Fawn Antelope	\$19.00	724	628	738	760	920
<b>Total Nonresident Antelope</b>		<b>25,935</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>26,421</b>	<b>29,304</b>	<b>32,483</b>
<b>Total Antelope Licenses</b>		<b>49,037</b>	<b>48,452</b>	<b>52,336</b>	<b>56,481</b>	<b>61,888</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonresident Archery	\$30.00	4,751	4,886	4,998	5,102	61
Nonresident Archery	\$72.00					5,063
Nonresident Youth Archery	\$12.00	99	130	157	139	137
Resident Archery	\$16.00	14,852	15,273	15,082	14,765	14,600
Resident Youth Archery	\$6.00	1,256	1,277	1,293	1,211	1,307
<b>Total Archery Licenses</b>		<b>20,958</b>	<b>21,566</b>	<b>21,530</b>	<b>21,217</b>	<b>21,168</b>
<b>Bighorn Sheep</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,252.00	50	48	50	51	
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$2,320.00					50
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00	5	5	5	4	4
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$2,252.00		1	1		
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$2,320.00					1
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$2,252.00	1		1		
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep Trifecta	\$2,320.00					1
Nonresident Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$240.00	1				
Nonresident Yth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$100.00					
Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$117.00	147	140	144	151	

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

Resident Bighorn Sheep	\$152.00					144
Resident Bighorn Sheep Carryover	\$10.00				4	
Resident Bighorn Sheep Governor	\$0.00				1	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	3				
Resident Youth Ewe/Lamb Bighorn Sheep <sup>11</sup>	\$20.00					
<b>Total Bighorn Sheep Licenses</b>		<b>208</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonres Black Bear	\$362.00	436	405	417	455	
Nonres Black Bear	\$373.00					526
Nonres Black Bear Super Tag	\$362.00	1				
Resident Black Bear	\$45.00	3,955	4,103	4,188	4,190	78
Resident Black Bear	\$47.00					4,126
Resident Black Bear Super Tag	\$45.00				1	
<b>Total Black Bear Licenses</b>		<b>4,392</b>	<b>4,508</b>	<b>4,605</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>4,730</b>
<b>Deer <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Pioneer Deer	\$2.00	398	449	464	500	488
Pioneer Doe/Fawn Deer	\$2.00	79	89	122	115	126
Pioneer Heritage Deer	\$23.00	348	367	396	425	448
Pioneer Heritage Doe/Fawn Deer	\$18.00	49	39	40	72	67
Resident Deer	\$38.00	39,080	41,435	42,715	40,655	
Resident Deer	\$42.00					40,302
Resident Deer Carryover	\$10.00				66	
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$38.00		3	2	1	
Resident Deer Commissioner	\$42.00					2
Resident Deer Governor	\$0.00	1	2	2		1
Resident Deer Military Combat	\$0.00					
Resident Deer Super Tag	\$38.00		1			
Resident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$38.00		1	1		
Resident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$22.00	6,718	6,993	7,232	7,558	8,114
Resident Youth Deer	\$15.00	5,984	6,409	6,703	6,511	6,435
Resident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$15.00	1	1			
Resident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$14.00	659	680	765	801	826
<b>Total Resident Deer</b>		<b>53,317</b>	<b>56,469</b>	<b>58,442</b>	<b>56,704</b>	<b>56,809</b>
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$552.00	899	1,205	1,328	1,434	
NonRes Deer Special w/Preference Point	\$662.00					1,580
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$312.00	3,144	3,446	3,979	4,171	
NonRes Deer w/Preference Point	\$374.00					4,301
NonRes Deer Yth w/Preference Point	\$110.00	231	241	273	283	314
Nonresident Deer	\$312.00	11,440	10,769	10,914	10,122	
Nonresident Deer	\$374.00					10,002
Nonresident Deer Carryover	\$10.00				24	
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$312.00		10	7	7	
Nonresident Deer Commissioner	\$374.00					6
Nonresident Deer Governor	\$0.00	2	2	3		2
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$312.00	28	25	24	23	
Nonresident Deer Gunpowder Hunt	\$374.00					21
Nonresident Deer Super Tag	\$312.00	1		1	1	
Nonresident Deer Super Tag	\$374.00					1
NonRes Deer Trifecta	\$374.00					1
Nonresident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$312.00	1		2	4	
Nonresident Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$374.00					1
Nonresident Doe/Fawn Deer	\$34.00	5,020	5,458	5,976	6,442	7,188
Nonres Special Deer	\$552.00	945	1,164	1,403	1,437	
Nonres Special Deer	\$662.00					1,569
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$110.00	523	540	549	450	496
Nonresident Youth Deer WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$110.00	6	4	1	4	8
Nonresident Youth Doe/Fawn Deer	\$19.00	282	340	363	321	363
<b>Total Nonresident Deer</b>		<b>22,522</b>	<b>23,204</b>	<b>24,823</b>	<b>24,723</b>	<b>25,853</b>
<b>Total Deer Licenses</b>		<b>75,839</b>	<b>79,673</b>	<b>83,265</b>	<b>81,427</b>	<b>82,662</b>
<b>Elk <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Pioneer Cow/Calf Elk	\$5.00	195	219	213	202	238
Pioneer Elk	\$5.00	484	527	524	583	600
Pioneer Elk Commissioner	\$5.00					
Pioneer Heritage Cow/Calf Elk	\$27.00	163	175	185	198	238
Pioneer Heritage Elk	\$32.00	430	434	475	518	537

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

Pioneer Heritage Elk Commissioner	\$32.00					
Res Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$52.00		1	1		
Resident Cow/Calf Elk	\$43.00	13,215	13,115	12,480	12,598	13,122
Resident Elk	\$52.00	39,058	39,080	39,584	38,566	
Resident Elk <sup>19</sup>	\$57.00				1	37,541
Resident Elk Carryover	\$10.00				6	
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$52.00	8	12	6	10	
Resident Elk Commissioner	\$57.00					9
Resident Elk Governor	\$0.00	4	2	2	2	1
Resident Elk Military Combat	\$0.00			1		
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$52.00	1		1		
Resident Elk Super Tag	\$57.00					1
Resident Elk Youth Commissioner	\$25.00	1				1
Resident Youth Elk	\$25.00	4,047	4,148	4,150	4,194	4,230
Resident Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$25.00	1		1		1
Resident Yth Cow/Calf Elk	\$20.00	1,107	1,170	1,062	1,234	1,283
<b>Total Resident Elk</b>		<b>58,714</b>	<b>58,883</b>	<b>58,685</b>	<b>58,112</b>	<b>57,802</b>
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk	\$288.00	4,980	5,065	4,696	4,605	5,122
Nonres Cow/Calf Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$288.00					1
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$577.00	2,789	2,617	2,734	2,680	
Nonres Elk & Fishing	\$692.00					2,302
Nonres Elk & Fishing Carryover	\$10.00				3	
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$577.00	46	47	40	60	
Nonres Elk & Fishing Commissioner	\$692.00					37
Nonres Elk & Fishing Governor	\$0.00	3	4	3	7	6
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$577.00	2	1	3	1	
Nonres Elk & Fishing WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$692.00					3
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,057.00	1,684	1,679	1,641	1,750	
NonRes Elk Special w/Preference Point	\$1,268.00					1,769
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$577.00	2,239	2,195	2,170	2,151	
NonRes Elk w/Preference Point	\$692.00					2,307
NonRes Elk Super Tag	\$577.00		1		1	
NonRes Elk Trifecta	\$577.00			1		
NonRes Elk Trifecta	\$692.00					1
NonRes Elk Yth w/Preference Point	\$275.00	81	79	69	96	107
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,057.00	1,038	1,120	1,076	960	
Nonres Special Elk/Fishing	\$1,268.00					982
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk	\$100.00	236	271	239	268	260
Nonres Youth Cow/Calf Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$100.00			1		
Nonres Youth Elk WS 23-1-705(J)**	\$275.00	4	5	1	5	3
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing	\$275.00	74	71	70	64	79
Nonres Youth Elk/Fishing Commissioner	\$275.00			1	1	
<b>Total Nonresident Elk</b>		<b>13,176</b>	<b>13,155</b>	<b>12,745</b>	<b>12,652</b>	<b>12,979</b>
<b>Total Elk Licenses</b>		<b>71,890</b>	<b>72,038</b>	<b>71,430</b>	<b>70,764</b>	<b>70,781</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Resident Daily Fish	\$6.00	34,196	35,685	33,071	30,254	30,477
Resident Daily Fish Military Combat	\$0.00		2			
Resident Fishing Annual	\$24.00	79,735	80,634	80,386	76,594	3,103
Resident Fishing Annual	\$27.00					71,501
Resident Youth Fishing Annual	\$3.00	7,493	7,613	7,677	7,598	7,192
<b>Total Resident Fishing</b>		<b>121,424</b>	<b>123,934</b>	<b>121,134</b>	<b>114,446</b>	<b>112,273</b>
Nonres Daily Fishing	\$14.00	191,241	206,949	212,643	209,835	166,456
Nonres Five (5) Day Fishing	\$56.00					17,513
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$92.00	15,803	17,049	17,520	18,270	320
Nonres Fishing Annual	\$102.00					16,390
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$14.00					1
Nonres Youth Fish Annual	\$15.00	3,777	4,057	4,302	4,169	4,127
<b>Total Nonresident Fishing</b>		<b>210,821</b>	<b>228,055</b>	<b>234,465</b>	<b>232,274</b>	<b>204,807</b>
<b>Total Fishing Licenses</b>		<b>332,245</b>	<b>351,989</b>	<b>355,599</b>	<b>346,720</b>	<b>317,080</b>
<b>Furbearing/Trapping</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$242.00	50	46	40	38	10
Nonres Furbearing Trapping	\$249.00					33
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$44.00	2,189	2,051	2,016	2,110	529
Res Furbearing Trapping	\$45.00					1,833
Res Youth Furbearing Trapping	\$6.00	165	177	169	151	160
<b>Total Furbearing/Trapping Licenses</b>		<b>2,404</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2,565</b>
<b>Game Bird/Small Game</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$24.00	9,617	10,573	10,687	9,797	1,119

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

Res Bird/Small Game Annual	\$27.00					7,960
Res Bird/Small Game Military Combat	\$0.00	2	1	1	1	
Res Daily Bird/Small Game	\$9.00	932	979	907	837	768
Resident Game Bird	\$16.00	6,792	7,001	6,145	5,804	6,081
Resident Small Game	\$16.00	1,735	2,459	2,353	1,733	1,679
Total Resident Game Bird/Small Game		19,078	21,013	20,093	18,172	17,607
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$72.00	2,110	2,313	2,371	2,473	83
Nonres Bird/Small Game Annual	\$74.00					2,593
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$20.00	4,687	5,515	5,183	5,523	81
Nonres Daily Bird/Small Game	\$22.00					5,673
Nonres Youth Bird/Small Game Annual	\$40.00	128	164	160	170	169
Total Nonresident Game Bird/Small Game		6,925	7,992	7,714	8,166	8,599
<b>Total Game Bird/Small Game Licenses</b>		<b>26,003</b>	<b>29,005</b>	<b>27,807</b>	<b>26,338</b>	<b>26,206</b>
<b>Gray Wolf <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$180.00	12				
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$182.00				195	
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$187.00					261
Resident Gray Wolf	\$18.00	604				
Resident Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$21.00					1
Resident Gray Wolf	\$20.00				2,341	21
Resident Gray Wolf	\$21.00					2,374
<b>Total Gray Wolf Licenses</b>		<b>616</b>			<b>2,536</b>	<b>2,657</b>
<b>Lifetime</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Archery <sup>15</sup>	\$202.00			419	195	
Archery <sup>15</sup>	\$208.00					127
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$482.00	53	77	57	101	
Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$496.00					46
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$662.50	372	447	412	536	
Bird/Fish/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$681.50					401
Bird/Small Game	\$302.00	15	12	22	27	
Bird/Small Game	\$311.00					15
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	9	12	6	11	
Bird/Small Game & Conservation Stamp	\$496.50					8
Conservation Stamp	\$180.50	115	77	132	189	
Conservation Stamp	\$185.50					116
Fishing	\$302.00	73	78	61	83	
Fishing	\$311.00					61
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$482.50	263	284	305	359	
Fishing/Conservation Stamp	\$496.50					318
<b>Total Lifetime Licenses</b>		<b>900</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,092</b>
<b>Moose</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonresident Moose	\$1,402.00	84	79	73	63	
Nonresident Moose	\$1,982.00					60
Nonresident Moose Carryover	\$10.00				2	1
Nonresident Moose Governor	\$0.00	5	4	5	4	4
Nonresident Moose Trifecta	\$1,402.00	1		1		
Nonresident Moose Super Tag	\$1,402.00			1		
Nonresident Moose Super Tag	\$1,982.00					1
Resident Moose	\$112.00	369	344	311	248	
Resident Moose	\$152.00					238
Resident Moose Carryover	\$10.00				3	
Resident Moose Governor	\$0.00		1			1
Resident Moose Trifecta	\$112.00				1	
Resident Moose Super Tag	\$112.00	1	2		1	
<b>Total Moose Licenses</b>		<b>460</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Mountain Goat</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,152.00	7	8	9	10	
Nonres Mountain Goat	\$2,162.00					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	
Nonres Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$2,162.00					1
Resident Mountain Goat	\$122.00	21	24	30	30	
Resident Mountain Goat	\$152.00					30
Resident Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$122.00	1	2			
Resident Mountain Goat Trifecta	\$122.00				1	
<b>Total Mountain Goat Licenses</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>

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

<b>Mountain Lion</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$362.00	224	234	256	226	18
Nonres Mountain Lion	\$373.00					262
Nonres Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$362.00	1			1	
Nonres Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$92.00	4	2	4	3	3
Resident Mountain Lion	\$30.00	2,169	2,126	2,186	2,191	264
Resident Mountain Lion	\$32.00					2,147
Resident Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$32.00					1
Resident Reduced Price Mountain Lion	\$20.00	83	29	31	78	41
<b>Total Mountain Lion Licenses</b>		<b>2,481</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,736</b>
<b>Wild Bison <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$2,502.00	19	8	10	14	
Nonres Wild Bison - Any	\$4,402.00					24
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$1,002.00	42	52	44	6	
Nonres Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$2,752.00					12
Nonres Wild Bison Governor <sup>10</sup>	\$0.00	1	3	5	4	5
Nonres Wild Bison Super Tag	\$2,502.00			1		
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$402.00	70	32	38	54	
Resident Wild Bison - Any	\$414.00					95
Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$252.00	183	211	184	32	
Resident Wild Bison - Female or Calf	\$260.00					54
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>319</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Wild Turkey <sup>13</sup></b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Resident Fall Turkey	\$16.00	1,789	2,251	2,191	2,077	2,034
Resident Pio Heritage Fall Turkey	\$10.00	28	21	26	24	23
Resident Pio Heritage Spring Turkey	\$10.00	37	52	43	31	37
Resident Pioneer Fall Turkey	\$2.00	1	19	26	25	24
Resident Pioneer Spring Turkey	\$2.00	6	13	29	35	35
Resident Spring Turkey	\$16.00	3,829	4,343	4,409	4,390	3,973
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>5,690</b>	<b>6,699</b>	<b>6,724</b>	<b>6,582</b>	<b>6,126</b>
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$72.00	183	246	228	246	
Nonres Fall Turkey	\$74.00					244
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$72.00	1,094	1,116	1,122	1,280	
Nonres Spring Turkey	\$74.00					1,420
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,664</b>
<b>Total Wild Turkey Licenses</b>		<b>6,967</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>8,108</b>	<b>7,790</b>
<b>Other Licenses</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$182.00	9	9	9	8	2
Commercial Fish Hatchery	\$187.00					5
Deal in Live Bait	\$67.00	62	76	83	75	31
Deal in Live Bait	\$69.00					43
Duplicate Commercial	\$5.00	12	9	6	7	8
Duplicate Commercial	\$7.00					1
Duplicate Disabled Hunter Companion	\$5.00				2	
Duplicate Disabled Hunter Companion	\$7.00					6
Duplicate Lifetime	\$5.00	324	323	326	285	129
Duplicate Lifetime	\$7.00					163
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$5.00	3,309	3,744	3,687	3,566	1,736
Duplicate Multi-Purpose	\$7.00					1,935
Duplicate with Coupon	\$5.00	2,866	3,196	3,793	3,979	42
Duplicate with Coupon	\$7.00					4,323
Duplicate without Coupon	\$5.00	197	260	272	261	137
Duplicate without Coupon	\$7.00					146
Fishing Preserve	\$132.00	46	41	41	34	11
Fishing Preserve	\$136.00					37
Game Bird Farm	\$132.00	104	95	88	83	21
Game Bird Farm	\$136.00					59
License to Capture Furbearing Animal	\$20.00				1	
License to Hunt with Falcon	\$16.00	77	85	89	93	94
Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$242.00	8	18	11	9	
Nonres License to Capture Falcon	\$249.00					3
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$277.00	9	10	10	11	7
Nonresident Fur Dealer	\$285.00					4
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$702.00	3	3	4	3	1
Nonresident Taxidermist	\$723.00					2

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

Res License to Capture Falcon	\$38.00	19	23	30	31	4
Res License to Capture Falcon	\$39.00					30
Resident Fur Dealer	\$52.00	13	15	13	13	8
Resident Fur Dealer	\$54.00					6
Resident Taxidermist	\$67.00	184	192	199	213	60
Resident Taxidermist	\$69.00					153
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$20.00	827	807	857	732	107
Seine or Trap Fish License	\$21.00					583
<b>Total Other Licenses</b>		<b>8,069</b>	<b>8,906</b>	<b>9,518</b>	<b>9,406</b>	<b>9,897</b>

**STAMPS, PERMITS, & TAGS**

	PRICE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Central Visual Acuity Permit <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00	10	6	4	9	5
Conservation Stamps	\$12.50	174,579	177,229	182,680	179,339	186,280
Disabled Veteran 100% Bird/Sm Game & Fish	\$0.00	50	66	82	92	81
Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	\$5.00	245	311	342	292	287
Disabled Hunter Permit	\$0.00	297	369	338	303	237
Disabled Veteran 50% Fishing	\$0.00	197	247	250	225	257
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$12.50	12,393	12,697	11,996	12,045	71
Elk Special Management Stamp	\$15.50					11,778
Harvest Information Permits (HIP)	\$0.00	8,039	8,039	8,031	7,301	8,522
Hunter Safety Exemption <sup>3</sup>	\$0.00	108	221	245	194	184
Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities (SFV)	\$0.00	175	199	169	170	209
Hunting Season Extension Permit <sup>17</sup>	\$0.00				359	112
Interstate Game Tags	\$8.00	5,047	4,090	3,446	3,083	5,312
Nonres Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	56	68	50	71	56
Nonres Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	14	28	38	57	59
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	127	125	158	194	180
Nonres Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	23	15	12	17	23
Nonresident Beaver Permit	\$0.00		1	0	2	1
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50	49	46	45	52	4
NR Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$15.50					64
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$12.50	5,283	5,442	5,563	5,848	157
Pheasant Special Management Permit	\$15.50					5,829
Purple Heart Medal Bird/Small Game & Fish <sup>18</sup>	\$0.00				39	19
Reciprocity Stamps	\$10.00	8,525	8,087	9,001	8,774	8,670
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$12.50	163	111	125	143	13
Res Conservation Order Special Mgmt Permit	\$15.50					149
Res Springer Special Pheasant-Youth	\$0.00	137	121	119	119	123
Resident Beaver Permit	\$0.00	17	10	11	11	12
Resident Glendo Special Pheasant	\$0.00	742	618	629	613	678
Resident Guide <sup>4</sup>	\$0.00	523	507	479	543	464
Resident Pioneer Bird/Fish/Small Game	\$0.00	1,592	1,709	1,807	1,877	1,796
Resident Pioneer Veteran Bird/Fish/Sm Game	\$0.00	274	288	283	217	183
Resident Sandhill Crane Limited Quota	\$0.00	149	188	343	403	352
Resident Springer Special Pheasant	\$0.00	1,050	1,068	1,052	1,060	1,113
Sandhill Crane General Permit <sup>14</sup>	\$0.00	334	519	600	585	484
Temporary Hunter With Disability (SFV) <sup>5</sup>	\$0.00	49	56	59	50	41
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10.00	83	94	75	73	92
<b>Total Stamps, Permits, &amp; Tags</b>		<b>220,330</b>	<b>222,575</b>	<b>228,032</b>	<b>224,160</b>	<b>233,897</b>

**DONATIONS**

	PRICE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Access Yes		\$130,025	\$139,810	\$ 143,864.23	\$ 154,621.00	\$ 150,897.50
Search and Rescue		\$213,301	\$228,074	\$ 230,434.02	\$ 243,136.50	\$ 234,901.50
<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>\$343,326</b>	<b>\$367,884</b>	<b>\$ 374,298.25</b>	<b>\$ 397,757.50</b>	<b>\$ 385,799.00</b>

**WATERCRAFT & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DECALS <sup>9</sup>**

	PRICE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00	690	756	719	490	7
Combo One-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$40.00					774
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00	5,346	5,801	5,595	4,761	117
Combo One-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$40.00					4,710
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$25.00	533	589	676	456	6
Combo One-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$40.00					691
Combo One-Year Dealer & AIS	\$25.00				30	

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

Combo One-Year Dealer & AIS	\$40.00					36
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00	1,186	1,234	1,134	1,390	78
Combo Three-Year New Watercraft & AIS	\$110.00					973
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00	3,761	4,372	4,078	5,073	801
Combo Three-Year Renewal Watercraft & AIS	\$110.00					3,298
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$70.00	687	779	769	967	57
Combo Three-Year Transfer Watercraft & AIS	\$110.00					635
Nonresident AIS Motorized Decal	\$30.00	6,911	7,354	7,274	7,178	7,113
Nonresident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$15.00	5,303	5,967	6,994	7,772	8,458
Resident AIS Motorized Decal	\$10.00	7,864	3,879	2,663	2,147	1,770
Resident AIS Motorized Decal Three-Year	\$30.00					
Resident AIS Nonmotorized Decal	\$5.00	9,980	11,424	13,379	14,811	17,120
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$5.00	112	208	241	232	207
Watercraft AIS Combined Duplicate	\$10.00					15
Watercraft Dealer	\$15.00	38	50	34	3	1
Watercraft Dealer	\$30.00					15
Watercraft Duplicate	\$5.00	161	75	26	21	13
Watercraft Duplicate	\$10.00					3
Watercraft Government Renewal Three-Year	\$0.00	40	81	34	31	56
Watercraft New One-Year	\$15.00	273	269	199	108	2
Watercraft New One-Year	\$30.00					186
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$40.00	157	142	75	69	4
Watercraft New Three-Year	\$80.00					42
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$15.00	1,070	862	606	444	8
Watercraft Renewal One-Year	\$30.00					394
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$40.00	554	543	314	274	41
Watercraft Renewal Three-Year	\$80.00					173
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$15.00	158	158	97	60	1
Watercraft Transfer One-Year	\$30.00					71
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$40.00	72	66	40	38	1
Watercraft Transfer Three-Year	\$80.00					16
<b>Total Watercraft &amp; AIS</b>		<b>44,896</b>	<b>44,609</b>	<b>44,947</b>	<b>46,355</b>	<b>47,893</b>

**SUPER TAG & SUPER TAG TRIFECTA RAFFLE <sup>7</sup>**

	PRICE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Antelope Super Tag	\$10.00	2,029	2,067	2,360	2,842	3,392
Bighorn Sheep Super Tag	\$10.00	10,572	11,741	11,161	13,106	14,027
Black Bear Super Tag	\$10.00	220	238	318	381	447
Deer Super Tag	\$10.00	4,216	4,356	4,750	5,612	6,575
Elk Super Tag	\$10.00	7,791	7,615	7,896	10,626	12,129
Gray Wolf Super Tag	\$10.00	529	-	-	-	1,166
Moose Super Tag	\$10.00	8,307	8,514	7,980	9,163	9,849
Mountain Goat Super Tag	\$10.00	4,312	4,526	4,590	5,239	5,124
Mountain Lion Super Tag	\$10.00	214	392	427	548	584
Super Tag Trifecta	\$30.00	8,217	6,855	7,486	9,731	10,605
Wild Bison Super Tag	\$10.00	3,859	4,181	4,477	5,303	6,247
<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>	<b>70,145</b>

**PREFERENCE POINTS**

	PRICE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Nonresident Antelope	\$30.00	33,040	38,255	45,301	51,527	
Nonresident Antelope	\$31.00					58,638
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$100.00	7,092	7,547	8,212	8,902	
Nonresident Bighorn Sheep	\$150.00					8,538
Nonresident Deer	\$40.00	32,503	37,829	44,407	50,692	
Nonresident Deer	\$41.00					57,098
Nonresident Elk	\$50.00	41,480	47,191	54,062	61,976	
Nonresident Elk	\$52.00					69,369
Nonresident Moose	\$75.00	8,194	8,676	9,393	9,926	
Nonresident Moose	\$150.00					8,407
Nonresident Youth Antelope	\$10.00	3,015	3,439	3,868	4,101	4,646
Nonresident Youth Deer	\$10.00	2,394	2,855	3,362	3,697	4,048
Nonresident Youth Elk	\$10.00	2,337	2,837	3,255	3,666	4,090
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	4,814	4,978	4,857	5,071	5,224
Resident Bighorn Sheep - Point Purchase	\$7.00	4,244	4,540	5,179	5,559	5,449
Resident Moose - Draw/No Fee	\$0.00	9,435	10,158	9,634	10,265	9,844
Resident Moose - Point Purchase	\$7.00	5,672	5,831	6,843	7,071	6,992

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

<b>Total Preference Points</b>		<b>154,220</b>	<b>174,136</b>	<b>198,373</b>	<b>222,453</b>	<b>242,343</b>
<b>DRAW APPLICATION FEES</b>						
	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Bison Application Fee	\$6.00	3,430	3,971	3,746	4,095	
Nonresident Application Fee	\$14.00	92,977	98,924	102,468	108,361	
Nonresident Application Fee	\$15.00					113,111
Resident Application Fee	\$5.00	124,971	134,892	135,594	142,375	151,683
Withdrawal Fee	\$5.00	1,085	867	843	1,107	
<b>Total Fees</b>		<b>222,463</b>	<b>238,654</b>	<b>242,651</b>	<b>255,938</b>	<b>264,794</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.						
<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 19

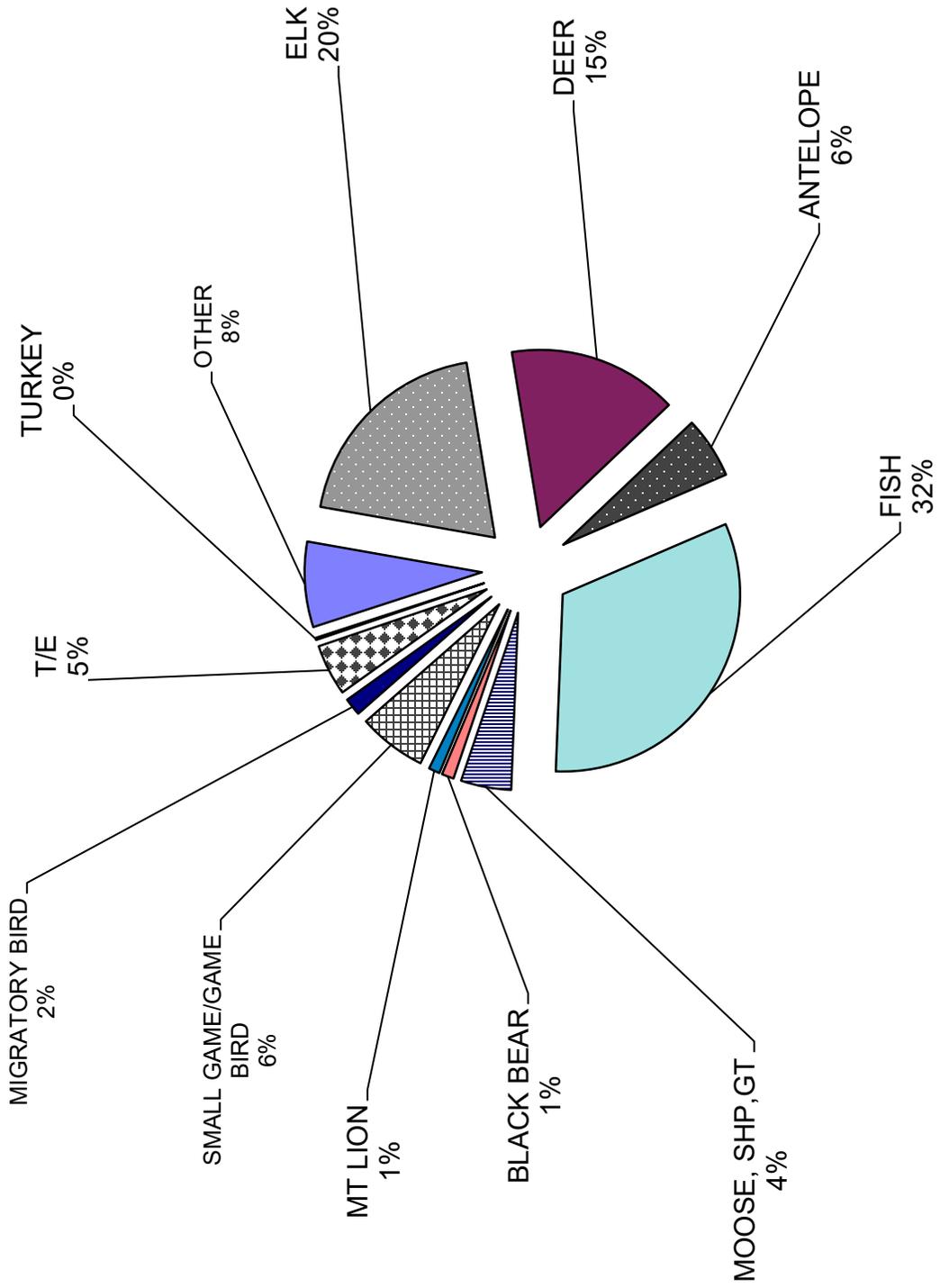
CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$15,610,853		
BC	ANTELOPE (PRONGHORN)	\$3,496,850	\$886,103	\$4,382,953
BD	ELK	\$12,228,052	\$3,098,591	\$15,326,643
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,874,022	\$474,878	\$2,348,900
BF	MOOSE	\$797,128	\$201,993	\$999,121
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$182,325	\$46,201	\$228,526
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$628,260	\$159,201	\$787,461
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$682,689	\$172,994	\$855,683
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$1,575,637	\$399,267	\$1,974,903
BM	MULE DEER	\$8,724,832	\$2,210,874	\$10,935,706
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$904,934	\$229,310	\$1,134,244
BP	BISON	\$181,907	\$46,095	\$228,003
BW	WOLF	\$1,021,919	\$258,955	\$1,280,874
CA	SMALL GAME	\$28,735	\$7,281	\$36,017
CC	PHEASANTS	\$1,525,595	\$386,586	\$1,912,180
CF	TURKEY	\$120,794	\$30,609	\$151,403
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$2,761	\$700	\$3,461
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$1,584	\$401	\$1,985
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$2,267,223	\$574,515	\$2,841,738
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$36,353	\$9,212	\$45,565
DB	GEESE	\$286,018	\$72,477	\$358,495
DC	DUCKS	\$489,843	\$124,126	\$613,969
DD	SWANS	\$41,158	\$10,429	\$51,587
DE	DOVES	\$91,531	\$23,194	\$114,725
DF	CRANES	\$89,541	\$22,690	\$112,231
FX	SPORT FISH	\$19,070,647	\$4,832,506	\$23,903,154
HB	BOBCAT	\$346,175	\$87,721	\$433,896

## EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 19

CODE	PROGRAM	COSTS BEFORE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION*	COSTS AFTER ALLOCATION
HC	BEAVER	\$116,378	\$29,490	\$145,868
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$17,618	\$4,464	\$22,083
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$1,055,359	\$267,428	\$1,322,787
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$1,103,026	\$279,507	\$1,382,533
NC	RAPTORS	\$302,073	\$76,545	\$378,618
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$896,134	\$227,081	\$1,123,215
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$931,350	\$236,004	\$1,167,354
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$6,775	\$1,717	\$8,492
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$8,022	\$2,033	\$10,054
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$15,516	\$3,932	\$19,448
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$222,644	\$56,418	\$279,062
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$7,521	\$1,906	\$9,427
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$20,176	\$5,113	\$25,288
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$34,958	\$8,858	\$43,816
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$1,902	\$482	\$2,384
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$123,850	\$31,384	\$155,233
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$45,008	\$11,405	\$56,413
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$705	\$179	\$884
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$767,183		\$767,183
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>		<b>\$77,983,563</b>	<b>\$15,610,853</b>	<b>\$77,983,563</b>

\*Most costs for the Office of the Director, Fiscal Services, Services (including remodeling and maintenance of regional office buildings, and Information/Education programs such as Wyoming Wildlife magazine, information services, visitor centers, educational programs, etc. are included in General Wildlife and associated on a percentage basis to specific department programs.

**WGF Expenditures by Species - FY 19 (includes general fund non capital construction)**



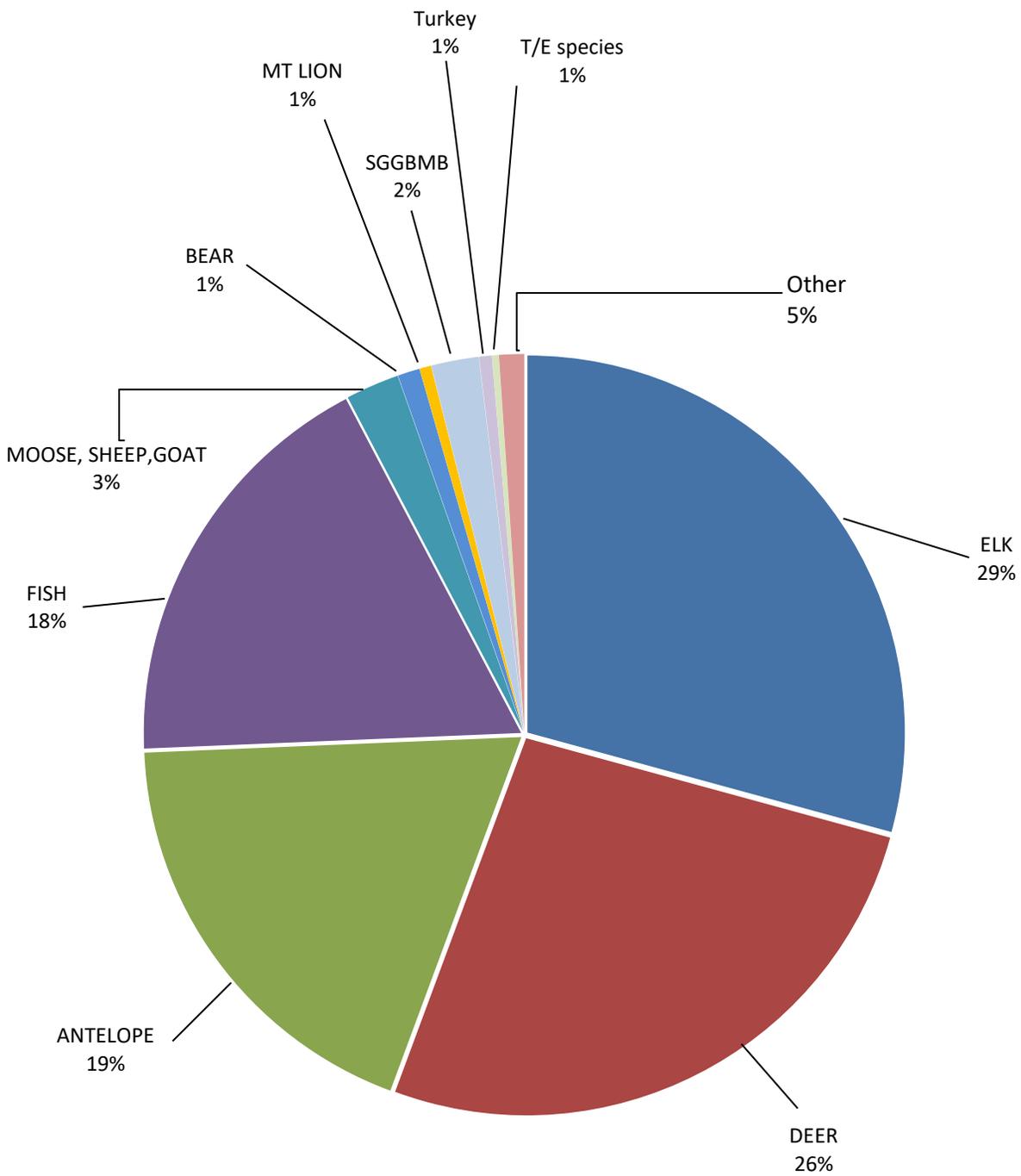
REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 19

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
AA	GENERAL WILDLIFE	\$4,318,486		
BC	ANTELOPE	\$15,319,520	\$787,206	\$16,106,726
BD	ELK	\$21,330,788	\$1,096,100	\$22,426,888
BE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP	\$1,992,008	\$102,361	\$2,094,369
BF	MOOSE	\$1,871,602	\$96,174	\$1,967,776
BG	ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	\$211,200	\$10,853	\$222,053
BJ	MOUNTAIN LION	\$386,325	\$19,852	\$406,177
BK	BLACK BEAR	\$699,569	\$35,948	\$735,517
BL	GRIZZLY BEAR	\$199,156	\$10,234	\$209,390
BM	MULE DEER	\$20,421,073	\$1,049,353	\$21,470,426
BN	WHITE-TAILED DEER	\$531,193	\$27,296	\$558,489
BP	BISON	\$354,995	\$18,242	\$373,237
BW	WOLF	\$337,676	\$17,352	\$355,028
CA	SMALL GAME	\$2,127,429	\$109,320	\$2,236,748
CC	PHEASANTS	\$98,996	\$5,087	\$104,083
CF	TURKEY	\$735,771	\$37,808	\$773,579
CG	PARTRIDGE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CR	BLUE/RUFFED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CT	SAGE GROUSE	\$304,269	\$15,635	\$319,904
CV	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DB	GEESE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DC	DUCKS	\$0	\$0	\$0
DD	SWANS	\$0	\$0	\$0
DE	DOVES	\$0	\$0	\$0
DF	CRANES	\$0	\$0	\$0
FX	SPORT FISH	\$15,811,060	\$812,464	\$16,623,524

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM -- FY 19

CODE	PROGRAM	REVENUE ALLOCATION	GEN'L WILDLIFE ALLOCATION	REVENUE AFTER ALLOCATION
HB	BOBCAT/LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
HC	BEAVER	\$280,623	\$14,420	\$295,043
MB	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	\$30,865	\$1,586	\$32,451
NA	NONGAME MAMMALS	\$334,788	\$17,203	\$351,991
NB	NONGAME BIRDS	\$168,897	\$8,679	\$177,575
NC	RAPTORS	\$38,328	\$1,970	\$40,298
ND	NONGAME FISH	\$158,362	\$8,138	\$166,499
NE	AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	\$171,644	\$8,820	\$180,464
NF	PREDATORY BIRDS	\$62,762	\$3,225	\$65,987
NH	PEREGRINE FALCON	\$0	\$0	\$0
NJ	BALD EAGLE	\$3,097	\$159	\$3,256
NK	BLACK FOOTED FERRET	\$54,152	\$2,783	\$56,935
NL	CANADIAN LYNX	\$0	\$0	\$0
NM	PREBLES MEADOW MOUSE	\$0	\$0	\$0
NP	PREDATORY MAMMALS	\$0	\$0	\$0
NR	BLACK-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$0	\$0	\$0
NS	WHITE-TAILED PRARIE DOG	\$4,292	\$221	\$4,512
NW	WYOMING TOAD	\$0	\$0	\$0
NX	EXOTIC GAME	\$0	\$0	\$0
ZZ**	NONWILDLIFE	\$957,359		\$957,359
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>		<b>\$89,316,284</b>	<b>\$4,318,486</b>	<b>\$89,316,284</b>

# WGF Revenue Collected by Species FY 19 (includes general fund noncapital construction )



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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>%</b>
Antelope	2,998,057	4.37%	4,009,107	5.31%	3,860,632	5.01%	4,030,867	4.32%	4,382,953	5.62%
Elk	16,748,041	24.44%	16,626,500	22.01%	16,173,348	20.97%	18,272,292	19.57%	15,326,643	19.65%
Rocky Mountain Sheep	2,782,695	4.06%	2,448,326	3.24%	2,198,128	2.85%	2,354,524	2.52%	2,348,900	3.01%
Moose	994,976	1.45%	1,041,230	1.38%	1,236,004	1.60%	1,260,490	1.35%	999,121	1.28%
Rocky Mountain Goat	160,227	0.23%	151,775	0.20%	100,905	0.13%	216,732	0.23%	228,526	0.29%
Mountain Lion	525,015	0.77%	741,888	0.98%	670,527	0.87%	785,246	0.84%	787,461	1.01%
Black Bear	682,209	1.00%	1,090,904	1.44%	856,184	1.11%	1,032,056	1.11%	855,683	1.10%
Grizzly Bear	2,278,218	3.32%	2,606,261	3.45%	1,713,088	2.22%	3,007,192	3.22%	1,974,903	2.53%
Mule Deer	7,688,862	11.22%	8,884,624	11.76%	10,497,053	13.61%	13,451,146	14.41%	10,935,706	14.02%
White-tailed Deer	399,531	0.58%	686,664	0.91%	945,080	1.23%	1,408,008	1.51%	1,134,244	1.45%
Bison	177,968	0.26%	179,328	0.24%	242,899	0.31%	163,848	0.18%	228,003	0.29%
Wolf	882,375	1.29%	836,104	1.11%	1,196,464	1.55%	1,747,459	1.87%	1,280,874	1.64%
Small Game	29,468	0.04%	101,232	0.13%	94,430	0.12%	61,433	0.07%	36,017	0.05%
Game Birds	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pheasants	1,324,189	1.93%	1,551,083	2.05%	1,585,614	2.06%	2,062,531	2.21%	1,912,180	2.45%
Turkey	155,879	0.23%	188,245	0.25%	181,384	0.24%	148,520	0.16%	151,403	0.19%
Partridge	2,164	0.00%	2,058	0.00%	2,832	0.00%	1,075	0.00%	3,461	0.00%
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	8,825	0.01%	16,807	0.02%	9,454	0.01%	14,720	0.02%	1,985	0.00%
Sage Grouse	2,534,741	3.70%	2,770,262	3.67%	2,697,643	3.50%	3,344,918	3.58%	2,841,738	3.64%
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	31,531	0.05%	43,550	0.06%	54,054	0.07%	117,912	0.13%	45,565	0.06%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>%</b>
Geese	1,043,518	1.52%	724,219	0.96%	217,865	0.28%	404,696	0.43%	358,495	0.46%
Ducks	360,682	0.53%	315,219	0.42%	943,660	1.22%	767,037	0.82%	613,969	0.79%
Swans	289,442	0.42%	341,914	0.45%	166,094	0.22%	297,235	0.32%	51,587	0.07%
Doves	220,018	0.32%	122,869	0.16%	100,271	0.13%	71,673	0.08%	114,725	0.15%
Cranes	103,023	0.15%	167,290	0.22%	283,305	0.37%	157,758	0.17%	112,231	0.14%
Sport Fish	20,133,253	29.38%	22,542,029	29.84%	24,583,958	31.88%	29,217,042	31.29%	23,903,154	30.65%
Bobcat/Lynx	264,253	0.39%	246,895	0.33%	280,334	0.36%	501,953	0.54%	433,896	0.56%
Beaver	505,545	0.74%	528,082	0.70%	400,796	0.52%	268,301	0.29%	145,868	0.19%
Commercial Fisheries	30,441	0.04%	27,540	0.04%	22,344	0.03%	22,201	0.02%	22,083	0.03%
Nongame Mammals	1,098,116	1.60%	1,183,371	1.57%	1,888,153	2.45%	1,900,104	2.03%	1,322,787	1.70%
Nongame Birds	1,035,194	1.51%	1,362,803	1.80%	1,089,991	1.41%	1,693,048	1.81%	1,382,533	1.77%
Raptors	199,192	0.29%	440,348	0.58%	329,300	0.43%	547,421	0.59%	378,618	0.49%
Nongame Fish	724,219	1.06%	1,132,000	1.50%	620,856	0.81%	1,331,393	1.43%	1,123,215	1.44%
Amphibians/Reptiles	849,841	1.24%	675,137	0.89%	592,136	0.77%	1,244,198	1.33%	1,167,354	1.50%
Predatory Birds	3,181	0.00%	15,711	0.02%	25,743	0.03%	10,645	0.01%	8,492	0.01%
Peregrine Falcon	25,816	0.04%	24,105	0.03%	9,512	0.01%	13,604	0.01%	10,054	0.01%
Bald Eagle	24,557	0.04%	34,478	0.05%	39,273	0.05%	44,132	0.05%	19,448	0.02%
Black-Footed Ferret	72,849	0.11%	265,107	0.35%	254,573	0.33%	321,846	0.34%	279,062	0.36%
Canadian Lynx	13,117	0.02%	8,209	0.01%	4,534	0.01%	5,599	0.01%	9,427	0.01%
Prebles Jumping Mouse	106,425	0.16%	25,376	0.03%	16,139	0.02%	3,089	0.00%	25,288	0.03%

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

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>%</b>
Predatory Mammals	43,667	0.06%	54,255	0.07%	45,467	0.06%	48,298	0.05%	43,816	0.06%
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	7,438	0.01%	332,764	0.44%	12,211	0.02%	11,694	0.01%	2,384	0.00%
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	43,232	0.06%	112,558	0.15%	15,396	0.02%	10,926	0.01%	155,233	0.20%
Wyoming Toad	14,074	0.02%	12,366	0.02%	6,778	0.01%	15,251	0.02%	56,413	0.07%
Exotic Game	2,443	0.00%	2,529	0.00%	2,826	0.00%	685	0.00%	884	0.00%
Nonwildlife	915,633	1.34%	861,188	1.14%	856,147	1.11%	985,723	1.06%	767,183	0.98%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>	<b>68,534,139</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>75,534,309</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>77,123,383</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>93,376,523</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>77,983,563</b>	<b>100.00%</b>