



Casting a Wide Net

Fishing in Wyoming may never have been better. High moisture levels during the last few years, combined with efficiencies at and investments in Wyoming's fish hatcheries, are resulting in fish that are bigger and more abundant. Game and Fish and its partners continue a 40-year effort to restore native cutthroat trout to a portion of its historic range.

 **443** waters stocked with over 5 million fish

Wildlife Law Enforcement

In 2013, documented violations totaled 4,816. Game and Fish receives no money from fines (rather, fines from wildlife or watercraft cases go to the school district in the county where violations occurred). In 2013, the public reported 461 Stop Poaching tips. All were investigated resulting in 80 individuals being cited for wildlife violations and the courts levying \$401,305 in fines (not every report results in a violation).



21 Wyoming cases analyzed by the forensic lab

Habitat Work

Game and Fish considers habitat projects a priority — whether maintaining and improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat is done solely by the department or with a variety of partners. Habitat projects increase wildlife-based recreation, support the diversity of Wyoming's wildlife and engage the public around the importance of habitat. In 2013, Game and Fish and its partners completed 139 projects, and outside contributions outpaced money spent by Game and Fish.

Hunting and Fishing Access

Landowners across the state provide essential habitat for wildlife. Through the Private Lands Public Wildlife access program landowners allow access for hunters and anglers. All told, the program opens up more than 2.8 million acres, 98 stream miles and 3,781 acres of lakes for hunting and fishing public access.



Thank you to our partners

When Wyoming became a state in 1890, elk, mule deer, beaver, pronghorn and other species were in decline. There were only a few hundred wild bison left. Thanks to far-sighted Legislatures and the commitment of Wyoming residents, Game and Fish was able to lead recovery efforts. Investments and conservation policies established by Wyoming leaders decades ago helped wildlife populations rebound. Game and Fish spearheaded elk, pronghorn and beaver recovery efforts during the last century.

Today, we share your concern about mule deer populations that have been in decline across western North America. Although elk and mountain goat populations in Wyoming are above objective, mule deer, moose, pronghorn and bighorn sheep are below objective. The state has faced persistent drought, invasive species like cheatgrass, diseases and other pressures on wildlife.

There is much to do. Game and Fish seeks to improve and carry on the tradition of rolling up our sleeves, working with partners from all over the state and creating strategies to conserve wildlife for future generations. The Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative, started in 2007, is an example of this commitment. Following intensive collaborative work in the Wyoming Range and Platte Valley, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts across the state are now engaged in identifying and understanding management needs and opportunities for their local herds and working with Game and Fish to develop solutions.

There is much to do. Game and Fish seeks to improve and carry on the tradition of rolling up our sleeves, working with partners from all over the state and creating strategies to conserve wildlife for future generations.

As it was in the last century, it is again today: The people of Wyoming are joining together to support wildlife because they care so much about the memories and experiences wildlife creates for residents and visitors. The moments we shared in the mountains and streams of Wyoming with families and friends motivate us all. The team at Game and Fish and our many partners strive to work on your behalf to ensure that generations to come can experience the wildlife that makes this state unique.

I want to thank all of the hunters; anglers; landowners who steward lands for wildlife and allow public access for hunting and fishing; the companies who invest in conservation; the non-governmental organizations who are passionate about wildlife, hunting and fishing; and other agencies who join together supporting wildlife. It would be impossible without each and every one of you.

All the best,

Scott Talbott and the employees of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

The seven member board oversees the department. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Each serves a single six-year term. Commissioners are appointed based on judicial districts and to balance political party affiliation.



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



Conserving Wildlife
Serving People



World-Class Wildlife

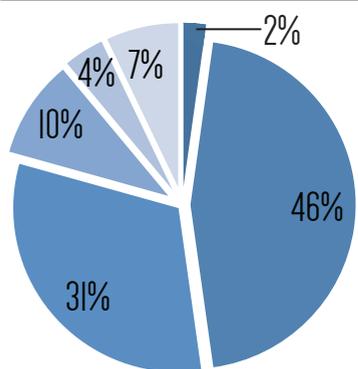
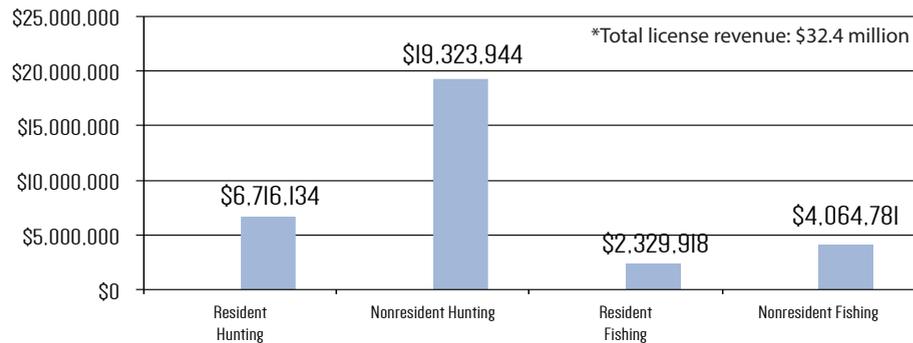
Wyoming has extraordinary wildlife and habitat, arguably the best in the world. It is an exciting time to be involved in the management and conservation of our wildlife. Recent highlights include:

- a record number of elk have been harvested in Wyoming for the past several years.
- revenue from fishing license sales is at record levels.
- the number of Wyoming residents who hunt and fish remains steady.
- mule deer and pronghorn fawn production in many areas are at levels not seen in several years.

However, Game and Fish and its partners must continue to address important challenges. Wyoming's sage grouse strategy demonstrates again that the state can successfully lead management of wildlife on a national level, but the decision about whether federal protection is needed is not in our hands; despite recent moisture, decades of drought have put pressure on many species and their habitat; wildlife diseases continue to impact animals across Wyoming; and hunters and anglers continue to fund the vast majority of wildlife management.

Economic Impact - Hunters and anglers spend an estimated \$750 million annually on travel and gear in Wyoming, according to a recent national report. This shows the importance of sportsmen and women to our economy and does not include the \$350 million spent by other wildlife watchers or \$32 million spent for 600,000 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

Resident/Nonresident License Revenue Calendar Year 2013



Approximate Expenditures by Species

- 46% - Big Game
- 31% - Fish
- 10% - Small Game & Game Bird
- 4% - Non-game
- 7% - Other*
- 2% - Trophy Game

*Bison, turkey, sensitive species and furbearers

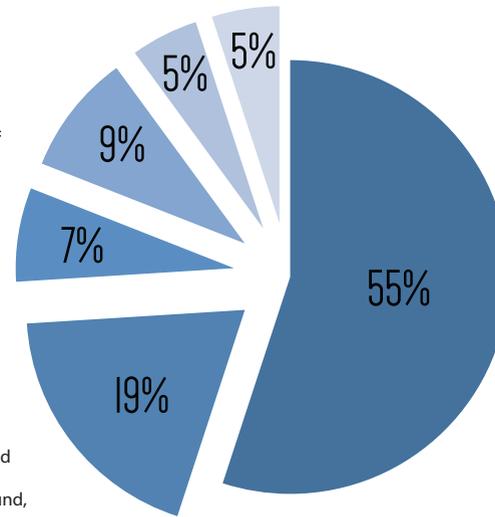
Funding Sources

- 55% - Licenses & Fees*
- 19% - Federal Tax Revenue**
- 7% - Grants
- 9% - General Fund
- 5% - Interest Received
- 5% - Other***

* Hunting & fishing licenses, conservation stamps, application fees, preference points

** Tax revenue on guns, ammo, and other hunting and fishing equipment

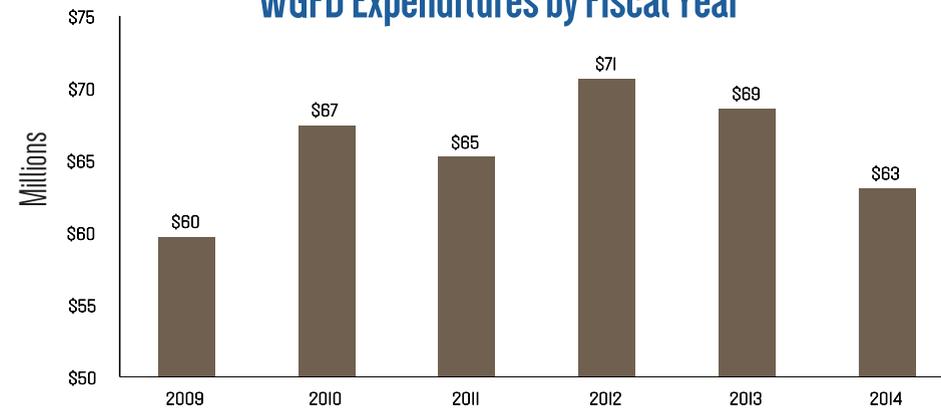
*** Boating registration, license recoupment, access fund, restitution, product sales, leases.



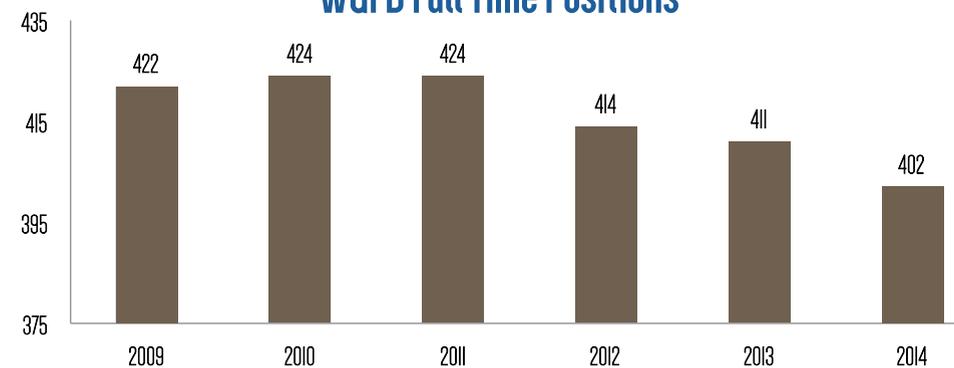
Wyoming Game and Fish Revenue

Hunters and anglers provide nearly 75 percent of Wyoming's wildlife management revenue via hunting and fishing licenses, conservation stamps and fees. They also contribute through federal taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing tackle, boat fuel and other outdoor equipment. Because hunters and anglers are the prime source of wildlife management revenue, Game and Fish continuously works with partners to introduce new people to hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

WGFD Expenditures by Fiscal Year



WGFD Full Time Positions



Legislatively Funded Programs

The biennial funding from the Wyoming Legislature supports five programs that provide valuable benefits to wildlife, hunters, anglers, landowners, conservationists, industry and the public. This accounts for less than 10 percent of the department's revenue. The Legislature has also invested millions in one-time projects such as infrastructure for fish hatcheries. Of Game and Fish's 402 employees, only the 21 positions assigned to these programs are funded through the general fund. The programs are:

Sage Grouse Management

For several years, Wyoming has led a balanced approach to managing sage grouse. The federal government is now evaluating the status of sage grouse.

Aquatic Invasive Species

In 2014, Game and Fish employees inspected more than 40,000 watercraft and 75 waters for aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels. All samples from Wyoming's waters continued to be negative.

Wolf Management

After two successful years of state-led wolf management, in September 2014 a judge in Washington, D.C. put wolves back on the endangered species list. Game and Fish is ready to hit the ground running with its wolf management efforts when wolves are again delisted.

Veterinary Services

Veterinary Services, which includes the wildlife disease laboratory in Laramie and the

Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille, perform valuable work in sampling, diagnosing, monitoring and researching wildlife diseases such as brucellosis and chronic wasting disease. Game and Fish also provides professional training related to wildlife diseases and certification in chemical wildlife immobilization.

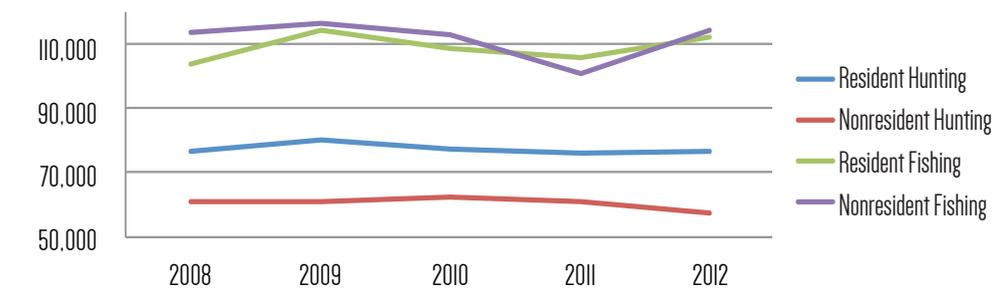
Sensitive Species

The sensitive species program helps maintain Wyoming's natural diversity of wildlife and works to prevent the listing of new species under the federal Endangered Species Act, which could negatively affect the state's economy.

For Future Consideration: Grizzly Bears and Employee Health Insurance

In 2014, the Governor and the Wyoming Legislature directed Game and Fish to request general fund dollars (estimated at \$6-7 million annually) in the next biennium for grizzly bear management and employee health insurance.

Hunting and fishing license holders



Budget Updates - The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission cut \$2 million from the agency's budget in 2012 and \$4.6 million in 2013. In the future, inflation and other business costs will increase expenditures.