Statewide Technical Assistance

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT
PROJECT FW-7-R-4

Subproject I, Job No. 1: Fisheries Program Coordination and Supervision
Subproject I, Job No. 2: Statewide Quantity Investigation
Subproject I, Job No. 3: Statewide Responsive Management
Subproject II, Job No. 1: Panhandle Region Technical Assistance
Subproject II, Job No. 2: Clearwater Region Technical Assistance
Subproject II, Job No. 3: Southwest Region Technical Assistance
Subproject II, Job No. 4: Magic Valley Region Technical Assistance
Subproject II, Job No. 5: Southeast Region Technical Assistance
Subproject II, Job No. 6: Upper Snake Region Technical Assistance

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

BY

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JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: Idaho **Name:** STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Project: FW-7-R-4 **Title:** Statewide Supervision and Coordination

Subproject: 1 **Job No.:** 1 and 2

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During the contract period we participated in relicensing efforts by Idaho Power Company (IPC), Washington Water Power (WWP), and PacifCorp. We also provided biological information to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for other hydro electric activities in Idaho.

We have coordinated efforts by the state of Idaho to implement the Idaho Conservation strategy for bull trout.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff have provided assistance to state, federal, and private interests that have proposed activities that may alter aquatic habitats.

Author:

Will Reid
Fishery Program Coordinator

OBJECTIVES

To supervise, coordinate, and ensure consistent application of policy for IDFG activities regarding water quality, water quantity, aquatic habitat alterations, hydropower licensing by the FERC, mitigation to aquatic habitats for the federal hydropower system in Idaho, and conservation of aquatic habitats.

To provide technical assistance to the executive and legislative branches of state government, federal regulatory agencies, and private interests on aquatic fish and wildlife habitat needs.

METHODS

The Federal Power Act and the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, as amended, directs the FERC to give equal consideration to hydro and non-hydro interests. It also directs hydro power license applicants to consult with fish and wildlife agencies concerning the impact of a hydro power proposal on fish and wildlife and appropriate terms and conditions for licenses to adequately and equitably protect, mitigate damages to, and enhance fish and wildlife. IDFG personnel respond to consultation requests from hydro power proponents through a tiered process. Initial requests for consultation by an applicant are directed to the appropriate regional IDFG office. When a proposed hydro electric project would effect multiple regions, the IDFG central office coordinates consultation activities. All correspondence to the FERC regarding mandatory terms and conditions or recommendations for license articles are coordinated by the IDFG central office. Based on the best scientific information available, the IDFG will recommend to the FERC measures which will protect, mitigate, or enhance fish and wildlife habitats. Lacking current data, IDFG will cooperate with the license applicant to design studies which will assist the resource agencies and the FERC decision-making process.

Idaho Code states that it is the policy of the state that all fish and wildlife belong to the state and that all fish and wildlife shall be managed in a manner that will protect, preserve, and perpetuate fish and wildlife for the citizens of Idaho and others as permitted by law. Idaho Code further established the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and the IDFG to administer the policy. However, Idaho Code does not give the IDFG or the Idaho Fish and Game Commission any regulatory authority over modifications to, or management of, fish and wildlife habitats. As such, the IDFG serves as a consultation agency to state and federal land management agencies and to private interests proposing activities which might effect fish and wildlife habitat. Consultation comments provided by the IDFG focus only on impacts to fish and wildlife habitats and the ability of the IDFG to protect, preserve, perpetuate, and manage the fish and wildlife resources in Idaho.

RESULTS

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Overall, the number of FERC activities in Idaho has fallen considerably. During the contract period IDFG staff reviewed only 28 documents originated by the FERC. The FERC granted only one preliminary permit in Idaho and one preliminary permit expired. Other than relicensing activities, the bulk of IDFG correspondence with the FERC centered on license amendments for existing hydro facilities. Significant activities included construction of a fish ladder at Ponds Lodge hydro on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River (FERC No. 1431) and the expiration of the Auger Falls (FERC No. 4797) preliminary permit on the Snake River. Only one new project came on line during this contract period, a small co-generation plant located on the Milner-Gooding irrigation canal.
IPC owns and maintains ten dams on the Snake River for purposes of generating hydro electric energy. The ten hydro generating facilities on the Snake River operate under seven different FERC licenses. Expiration dates vary for each license which places the relicensing activities on staggered time lines. The Twin Falls project (FERC No. 18) received a new license in 1991. IPC has submitted license applications to the FERC for facilities at Upper Salmon Falls (FERC No. 2777), Lower Salmon Falls (FERC No.2061), Bliss (FERC No. 1975), and Shoshone Falls (FERC No. 2778). IPC has released a draft license application for C.J. Strike (FERC No. 2055) for review and comment. At the Hells Canyon Complex IPC has consulted with agencies and the public and have studies ongoing to determine baseline conditions and to identify potential protection, mitigation, and enhance measures. The license for the Swan Falls hydro (FERC No. 503) on the Snake River will not expire until 2010.

At Upper Salmon Falls, Lower Salmon Falls, Bliss, and Shoshone Falls the IDFG and IPC have cooperatively worked toward a settlement agreement which would contain specific provisions for protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources impacted by continued operations of the hydro facilities. Elements of the agreement include provisions for enhancement of wildlife habitat on IPC-owned lands, restoration of aquatic habitats on IPC lands, fish stocking to mitigate impacts to angling opportunity, a conservation and implementation plan for white sturgeon, and a plan to eliminate negative impacts caused by power peaking operations. The white sturgeon conservation plan, load following plan will not be addressed until white sturgeon studies have been completed below Hells Canyon Dam. In addition to the efforts made by IPC and others to draft a settlement agreement, we have continued working through the FERC license application process. Upon receipt and acceptance of the license applications, the IDFG submitted to the FERC requests for additional information. The FERC has recently acted on those requests with orders to IPC to conduct additional studies. IDFG has coordinated with IPC

to ensure additional studies will provide data needed to make knowledgeable decisions regarding potential license articles.

IPC has submitted a draft license application for the C.J. Strike hydro facility. The draft application for C.J. Strike contained a number of PM&E measures for fish and wildlife. In most cases, IDFG agreed with the measures proposed by IPC. Mitigation and enhancement of riparian and wetland habitats, implementation of measures to ensure continued hunting and fishing use on IPC lands, and deteriorating reservoir water quality remain as outstanding issues for IDFG.

At the urging of non-governmental organizations, MC initiated a "collaborative" process for the relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex (Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon). The collaborative team has identified issues and designed studies to resolve identified issues. IPC initiated the collaborative designed studies which will address water quality, resident native fish, resident exotic fish, anadromous fish protection and reintroduction, and wildlife habitats between Swan Falls Dam and the mouth of the Salmon River.

On the Bear River in Eastern Idaho, PacifiCorp operates three hydro electric facilities at Soda (FERC No. 20), Oneida (FERC No. 472), and Grace Cove (FERC No. 10245). The FERC license for those projects will expire in 1999. IDFG participated in study design and in conducting studies to identify potential PM&E measures. However, IDFG currently has concerns over study methodology and interpretation of results. Issues on the Bear River include instream flows for fish and wildlife, water quality, and habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout which has been determined to be threatened by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act.

WWP operates hydro electric facilities on the Clark Fork River at Cabinet Gorge (FERC No. 2058) and Noxon Rapids (FERC No. 1075). These projects are located in Montana but influence fish and wildlife resources in Idaho at Pend Oreille Lake and the lower Clark Fork River before entering Pend Oreille Lake. The FERC license held by WWP for these projects will expire in 1999. WWP utilizes a collaborative process to resolve resource issues. The WWP collaborative process has focused on reaching a settlement agreement with all parties. Although WWP has initiated some studies, the majority of the PM&E measures discussed will include a period of study to determine appropriate PM&E measures. Upon completion of studies WWP will implement and monitor measures and revise activities as needed in what they have termed "a living license." Fish and wildlife issues addressed through the WWP collaborative process include the lack of fish passage for native salmonids and impacts to recruitment of native salmonids to Lake Pend Oreille, water quality in the lower Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille, erosion of islands in the Clark Fork River, and the impacts of power peaking on aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Conservation Planning

In July of 1996, the governor of Idaho released the State of Idaho Bull Trout Conservation Plan. The Idaho strategy for conservation of bull trout came about due to petitions filed before the USFWS to protect bull trout and their habitats under the Endangered Species Act. The Idaho approach uses a "bottom up" approach for implementation of conservation strategies. The conservation strategy calls for a phased approach which first protects existing strong populations within each of 59 key watersheds identified in the governor's plan. Phase II will plan for the recovery marginal populations in each key watershed at a rate of six per year. Phase I of the Idaho strategy will end on January 1, 1999. During the contract period local watershed advisory teams completed Phase I activities for 7 of the 59 key watersheds.

IDFG staff coordinated with the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality to draft water quality standards for the protection of waters supporting bull trout. New temperature standards were promulgated and submitted to the Idaho Legislature for approval.

The Magnison-Stevenson Act directs the Pacific Marine Fishery Council (PMFC) and the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) to identify and provide protection for essential anadromous fish habitat (EFA) within Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. IDFG aided PMFC and NMFS in the preparation of the EFH document.

Snake Plain Aquifer water storage has declined over the past several years. Over appropriation of water, drought, and improved irrigation efficiency are factors attributed to declining water levels. In response to decreased spring flows from the aquifer, water users have proposed to artificially recharge the aquifer using available natural stream flows in the Snake River. The recharge scheme could further reduce peak flows in the Snake River. IDFG personnel have, and continue to, analyze data and cooperate with the Idaho Department of Water Resources and water users to ensure that any recharge plan include provisions for protection of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Based on existing data, resources at risk include winter habitat for Snake River cutthroat and cottonwood forests on the South Fork of the Snake, rainbow trout habitat in the Henry's Fork of the Snake, lake water levels in Snake River reservoirs, and water velocities and temperatures needed to sustain white sturgeon downstream of Milner Dam.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of:	**Idaho**	**Name:**	**FISHERY PROGRAM COORDINATION**
Project:	**FW-7-R-4**	**Title:**	**Water Quantity Investigations**
Subproject :	**1**	**Job No.:**	**2**

Period Covered: **July 1, 1997 to June 30. 1998**

ABSTRACT

During the project period, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) personnel participated in proceedings in support of several instream flow applications in northern Idaho. We conducted a study on the Weiser River and Billingsley Creek to determine appropriate instream flow regimes to protect fisheries and aquatic habitat. Initial public information meetings were held for instream flow applications on the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Salmon rivers. I also attended and made a presentation at an instream flow conference for a newly formed international organization, the Instream Flow Council.

IDFG continued to participate in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) that commenced in 1987. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled on the issue of the status of general provision and "flood water" rights, in addition to the issue of water rights established under Public Water Reserve Law 107. The first two issues could have an effect on IDFG water right claims, although neither is expected to be significant at this time. The SRBA Court is moving forward with decreeing uncontested domestic and stockwater rights and Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is recommending proposed director's reports for basins other than the original test basins. IDFG personnel are currently working with IDWR in an informal setting to resolve differences between claimed and recommended rights.

Author:

Cindy Robertson
Fishery Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

To prepare recommendations for instream flow water rights for selected streams statewide; to coordinate the IDFG participation in the SRBA; to solicit and prepare IDFG comments on water quantity issues that may impact fish, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.

RESULTS

Instream Flow Program

Northern Idaho Rivers

In 1997 and 1998, I provided testimony in support of instream flow applications on the St. Joe, St. Maries, Pend Oreille, and Priest rivers. Instream flow water rights permits were granted for the first three rivers by IDWR in late 1997 and the Idaho Legislature approved the recommendations in the 1998 session. A public hearing on the Priest River application will be held in August 1998. This is the second attempt to obtain an instream flow water right on the Priest River. The first application was denied by IDWR on the grounds that the requested flow during the period of August and September could not consistently be maintained (the requested flow was available less than 50 percent of the time), and the local public did not support the application. The flow regime was revised to better reflect water availability, and a second hearing will allow IDWR to solicit new testimony and public support for an instream flow to protect the river resources.

The state legislators from the Orofino area requested that the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) file instream flow applications for four streams in the Clearwater River basin. I assisted Board staff in preparing applications for the North Fork Clearwater River, Little North Fork Clearwater River, and Kelly and Cayuse creeks. Public information meetings and hearings for these applications will likely occur in summer 1999.

Weiser River and Billingsley Creek Studies

Regional personnel and I undertook an instream flow study on the Weiser River and Billingsley Creek in 1997 to determine the flow regime necessary to support adequate spawning, rearing, passage habitat for native salmonids. Data analysis has not been completed for the Weiser River. Analysis of habitat availability as a function of flow for Billingsley Creek indicates that a flow of

approximately 50 cfs should provide adequate protection of rainbow trout habitat. However, an examination of flow records for the upper reach of the stream indicates that only 20 cfs is available, while the lower reach normally experiences flows in excess of 100 cfs. Therefore, a flow request of 20 cfs for the upper reach and 100 cfs for the lower reach has been proposed for Billingsley Creek. A public hearing on the application is expected to be scheduled for early 1999.

Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Salmon Rivers

Two public information meetings on the Bruneau and Jarbidge river instream flow applications were conducted in late 1997. The proposed protected reach on the Bruneau River is from the confluence with the Jarbidge River to the Hot Springs gauging station; the proposed reach on the Jarbidge River is from the confluence with the East and West forks of the Jarbidge to the confluence with the Bruneau River (Figure 1). Initial reaction to the applications was negative. Local citizens were concerned that the instream flow water rights would adversely affect existing irrigation rights, inch- ling the use of flood water prior to the start of irrigation season. The minimum streamflow statute precludes instream flow water rights from interfering with existing water rights that are senior in time; however, use of flood waters is not a previously recorded use of water in the Bruneau-Jarbidge river system. The issue of the validity of flood water rights has been raised in other drainages and had not been addressed by the courts at the time of the initial meeting. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the issue, the Board decided to hold further action on the applications and directed their staff and IDFG to continue discussions with local citizens to attempt to address their concerns. Another public meeting is scheduled for October 1998.

Public information meetings were held in Riggins and Salmon to discuss an application to protect flows in the mainstem Salmon River from Whitebird to the confluence with the Snake River. Generally, the public was not adverse to the concept of an instream flow for the Salmon River, but they did not openly embrace the idea. The Board will likely schedule a public hearing on this application in early 1999.

Instream Flow Workshops

During 1997, a new organization, the Instream Flow Council (IFC), was formed. The IFC is an organization of state and provincial fish and wildlife management agency representatives with public trust responsibilities who are dedicated to developing and administering effective instream flow programs for restoring, maintaining, and enhancing aquatic ecosystems. The first national meeting was held in Denver in March 1998. Currently, IFC membership includes 35 state and two provincial representatives. Idaho was the first IFC member agency. Currently, two

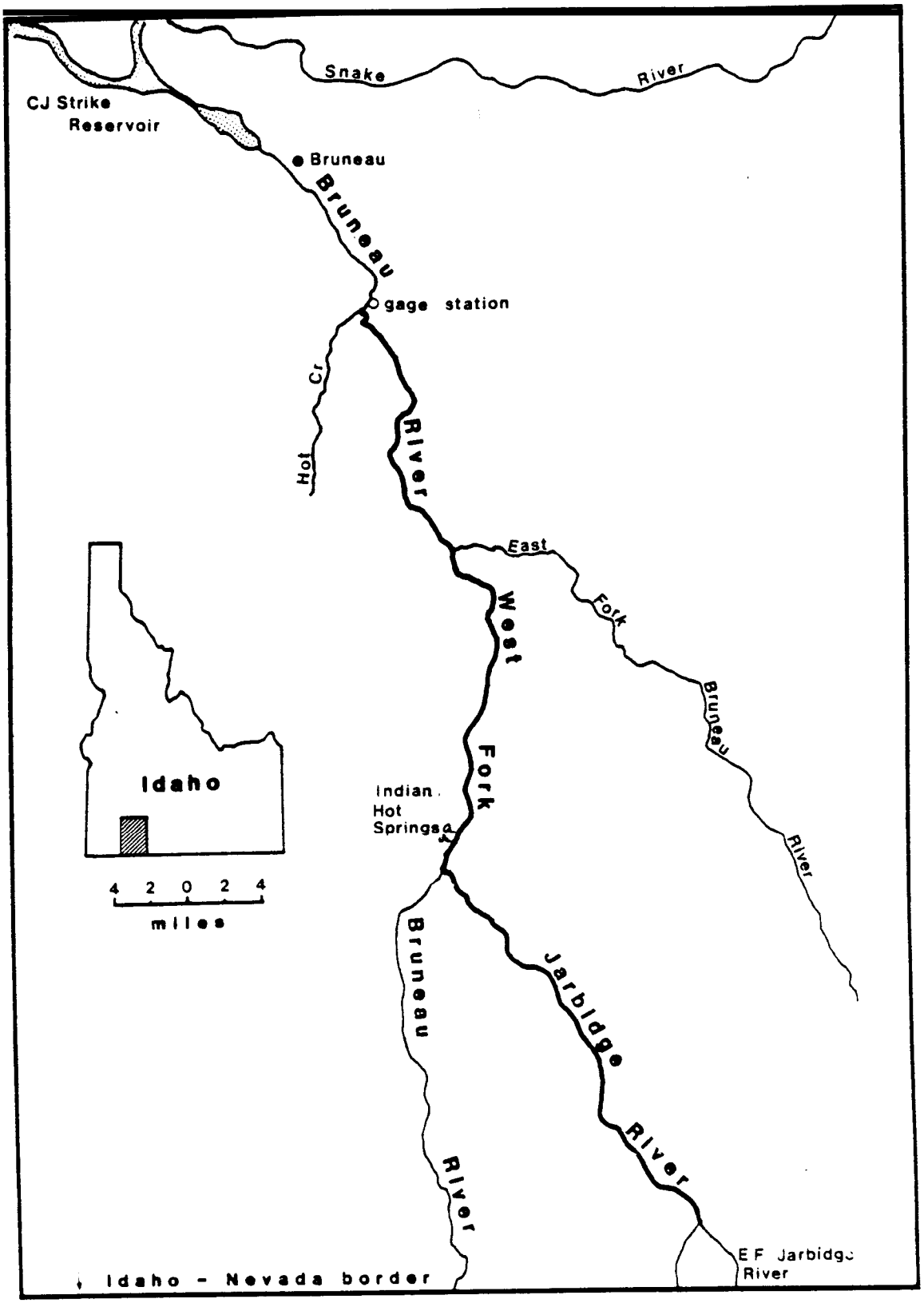

Figure 1. Location of instream flow reaches on the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers.

committees are active in IFC. A Policy Committee was formed to develop IFC policy on regional, national, and international instream flow needs and management issues. An Instream Flow Methods and Technical Standards Committee was formed to provide quality control of instream flow assessment, recommendation methods, and technical procedures.

Some of the benefits and services offered by the IFC include 1) helping improve or develop effective instream flow programs; 2) identifying appropriate methods for recommending instream flow regimes; 3) exchanging information and negotiation strategies; and 4) resolving conflicts over interpretation of instream flow studies.

Snake River Basin Adjudication

Several pending issues were addressed in the SRBA in 1997 and 1998. IDFG is responding to proposed Director's Report recommendations for water right claims in basins 21, 35, 51, and 65 (Figure 2). Many claims were recommended differently than what IDFG originally claimed. In some cases, the recommendations accurately reflected changing patterns of water use from the time the claims were first filed in 1990 and 1991 and IDFG did not object to those recommendations. However, in many cases, water rights were recommended for disallowal based upon supposed forfeiture of use. In Basin 51, IDWR had mistakenly identified another landowner's property as belonging to IDFG. We are currently working with IDWR to correct the mistake and demonstrate that these rights are indeed being used for the claimed purposes.

In 1997, the SRBA Court ruled that with regard to Basinwide Issue No. 5, general provisions regarding firefighting, irrigation season, and incidental stockwatering are not necessary for the definition or administration of water rights and should not be decreed because they did not apply to all water rights. The matter was appealed to the Supreme Court and was reversed in part and affirmed in part. The Supreme Court ruled that general provisions need not apply to all water rights in the basin, but need only be necessary for the definition and efficient administration of water rights. The SRBA Court ruled that the provision dealing with water for firefighting was not necessary; the Supreme Court disagreed and overruled the decision. They ruled that firefighting was a legitimate use of water with or without a valid water right. The SRBA Court ruled, and the Supreme Court agreed, that the irrigation season should not be a defined season of use, but should be determined annually by irrigators, subject to the authority of the Director of IDWR. The SRBA Court ruled that the general provision dealing with incidental stockwatering as part of an irrigation right was not necessary and the Supreme Court agreed. Finally, both courts ruled that the use of "excess water" or flood water cannot be decreed as a water right because it is not subject to definition in terms of quantity of water per year, which is a necessary element of any water right. This portion of the ruling on Basinwide Issue No. 5 could potentially impact IDFG flood water rights claimed in Basin 51.

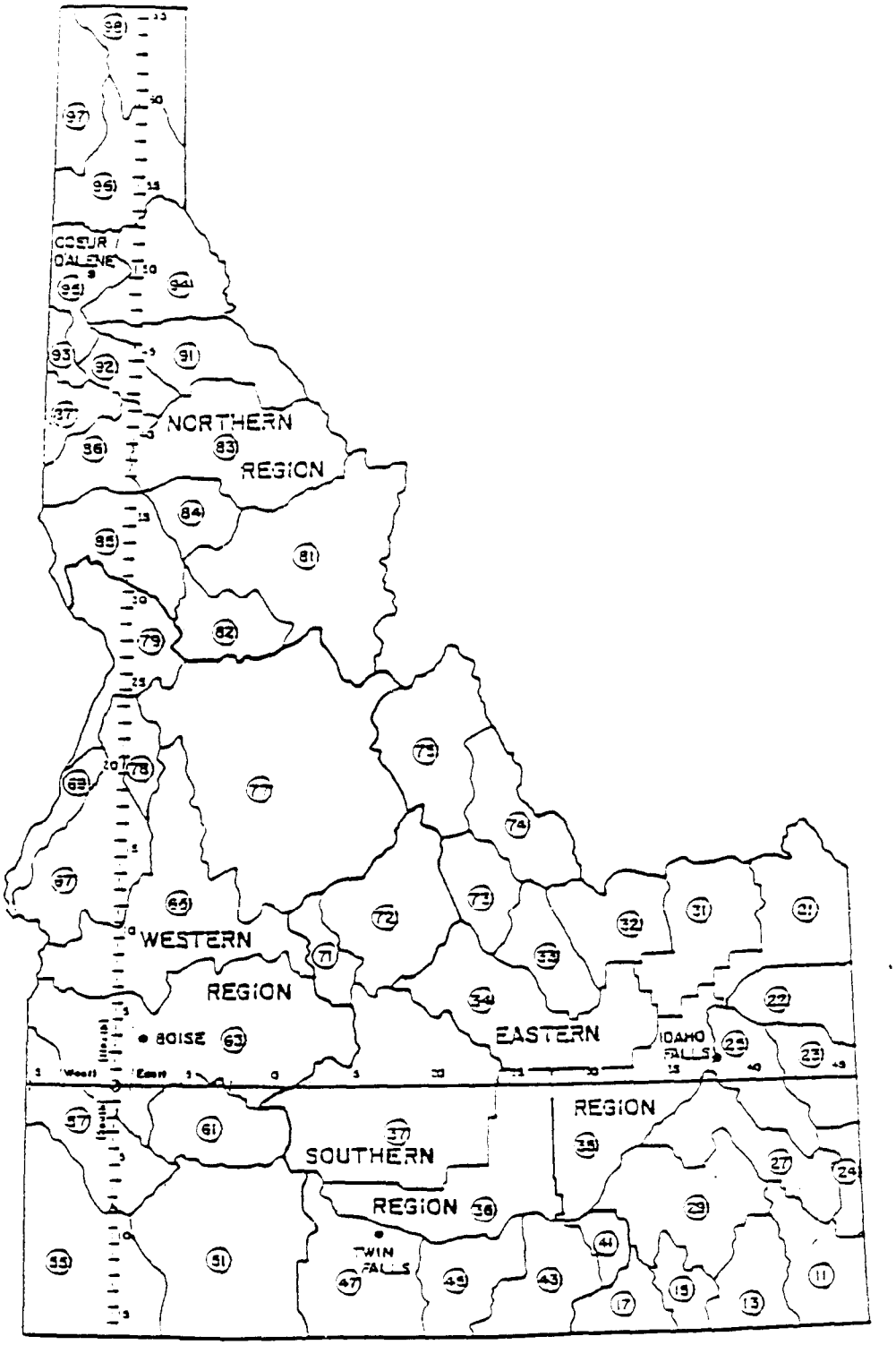

Figure 2. Numbering system for water basins in Idaho as administered by the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Basinwide Issue No. 9 was also raised and decided in 1997. The issue here was whether or not the federal government has a federal reserved water right for all springs and waterholes located on land withdrawn from public domain. This argument is predicated on an executive order issued in 1926 entitled Public Water Reserve No. 107 (PWR 107). The SRBA Court ruled that PWR 107 did not create a valid reserved water right for the United States. The Supreme Court reversed this decision and ruled that PWR 107 does indeed create a valid reservation of water for the limited purpose of stockwatering by permittees under the Taylor Grazing Act. This ruling is not expected to affect any IDFG water right claims.

Department Water Rights, Protests, and Water Planning

I worked with regional staff on several water right protests in 1997 and early 1998. Most of these protests were resolved without proceeding to a formal hearing; others await action by IDWR. Regional personnel work hard to meet with water right applicants to resolve our concerns before protests are required to be filed; typically they are successful, but some issues are not so easily resolved.

IDFG personnel are also working closely with IDWR staff on the revision of the Payette River Basin Plan (Plan), commenting on proposed instream flow requests and other water management decisions that could affect fish, wildlife, aquatic and riparian habitat. The Plan is due out for public review in early fall of 1998.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of:	**Idaho**	**Name:**	**STATEWIDE COORDINATION AND SUPERVISION**
Project:	**FW-7-R-4**	**Title:**	**Statewide Responsive Management**
Subproject: I		**Job No.:**	**3**

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

Responsive Management staff was involved in collecting and disseminating human dimensions information, processing information requests, and providing technical services to both Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and non-IDFG folks. A summary of facts and figures, called "Keeping Track," was regularly submitted for news releases, infra-department newsletters, and to the *Idaho Wildlife* magazine. I helped the I&E Bureau assess the need for a survey regarding media products, and I collected information regarding alternative funding sources for the IDFG Revenue Ideas Team. I actively participated on the Bureau of Reclamation's Snake River Resources Review (SR^3) Economics Technical Work Group and often attended the Recreation Work Group meetings as well. I hosted a "Breakfast Club" at the Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism where I discussed participation in and economics of wildlife-associated recreation in Idaho. Finally, I was the Program Chair for the 1998 Organization of Wildlife Planners (OWP) annual conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho April 18-22.

Author:

Michele Beucler
Wildlife Mitigation Specialist

OBJECTIVES

To monitor the state's demographics, economic trends, and public opinions regarding fish and wildlife so that the human element can be integrated into IDFG regulations, policies, and "way of doing business."

To provide information and technical assistance to staff members regarding surveys, public involvement strategies, *and* other human dimensions projects.

METHODS

New information on human dimensions was collected through personal contacts, information requests, attending meetings and conferences, and reviewing literature. I also subscribe to a peer-reviewed journal and three listservers relating to the human dimensions of fish and wildlife management. Finally, I called on the OWP network several times for information.

Information was disseminated by responding to verbal and written requests, circulating pertinent information to appropriate people, providing factoids for the *Idaho Wildlife* magazine and other media outlets, and giving presentations to various teams.

Technical services, such as developing questionnaires and participating on interagency work groups, were provided upon request and/or when needed.

RESULTS

I responded, usually in a timely manner, to information requests from IDFG staff and others (e.g., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Conservation Training Center, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation). A summary of facts and figures, called "Keeping Track," were regularly submitted for news releases, intra-department newsletters, and to the *Idaho Wildlife* magazine (until the magazine was canceled in spring 1998). I updated a handout on the economic impacts of wildlife-based recreation in Idaho and distributed it at the Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism.

The I&E Bureau asked me to provide technical help with a proposed media products survey. I supplied marketing surveys and plans from other agencies across the country, most of which were collected through the human dimensions listservers and the OWP network. I completed a draft report with preliminary recommendations, and the team agreed that an objectives-based approach was needed before conducting a survey. The whole idea eventually was abandoned.

I participated on IDFG's Revenue Ideas Team, mainly by providing background information regarding alternative funding sources for state fish and wildlife agencies. I primarily used the OWP network, human dimensions listservers, and the Internet to find information.

I participated in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Snake River Resources Review (SR^3) Economics Technical Work Group to represent fish and wildlife economics. I provided input in scoping meetings and supplied various documents and contacts regarding fish and wildlife economics. I also wrote comments on the draft needs assessment, noting an unbalanced approach to modeling economic impacts of Snake River operations. I also have attended a few SR^3 Recreation Work Group meetings as they pertain to recreation economics.

Much time was spent planning the program for the 1998 Annual OWP Conference held in April in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (see Appendix 1). The conference theme was "Creative Cooperation," emphasizing Albert Einstein's notion: "No problem has been solved by the same consciousness that created it." We were fortunate to have Dr. Margaret Wheatley, author of ***Leadership and the New Science*** and A ***Simpler Way,*** as one of our keynote speakers (sponsored by Federal Aid). Dr. Wheatley discussed provocative ideas about applying the self-organizing tendencies of nature to our organizations and that ***planning*** wildlife -- "...in a very nice step-by-step incremental way" -- may be a ridiculous notion. Shane Mahoney (sponsored by Federal Aid's Management Assistance Team) discussed the importance of truly understanding human history and origins of thought before we can develop a conservation model for the next century. Don Trent Jacobs gave a workshop on transformative learning, or consciously changing the way we evaluate problems and build solutions. Two other sessions during the conference included human dimensions applied to wildlife management and case studies of successful cooperative projects. As a final session, the group formed a circle to synthesize the ideas brought forth from the conference. First, Shane Mahoney presented ideas, observations, and comments as they related to wildlife conservation in general and OWP and this conference in particular. He then posed a difficult question to the group: ***What do YOU want to do?*** The dialogue was quite interesting; this format was experimental and is worth trying again. The attendance was second highest in OWP's twenty years (about 85), and the conference participants felt the conference was well worth the cost.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With additional staff time and program dedication, a "Human Dimensions" team could be established to enhance the collection, dissemination, and application of human dimensions information. This idea is discussed often, and every year we get a wee bit closer!

A reference/cataloguing system could be developed that would greatly improve the accessibility of human dimensions information. Currently, literature is housed in my office with no formal reference system.

The IDFG license database could be more easily accessible to staff for queries. Furthermore, the license database never has been analyzed for the basics, such as percentage of men and women buying licenses or general trends in license sales. In light of an upcoming, proposed license fee increase, we would like to know the proportion of "diehards" (buys licenses every year) to "incidentals" (e.g., buys a license once every three years).

Agenda

OWP CONFERENCE · COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO · APRIL 18-22, 1998

SATURDAY · APRIL 18

1300 - 1600	REGISTRATION Coordinator: Don Smurthwaite (BLM, Idaho State Office, Boise)
1300 - 1600	OWP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING *Boardroom 6*
1630 - 1800	NEW MEMBERS' FORUM Coordinators: Sherry Crouch and Tom Wasson *Boardroom 5, ABC*
1900 - 2300	SOCIAL/RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS Coordinator: Jerome Hansen *Lake Tower Rooms 162 & 164* •Sponsored by T.W. Fisher's

SUNDAY · APRIL 19

All Meetings Bay 2

0800 - 0815	WELCOME TO IDAHO Fritz Rennebaum (BLM, Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater Districts, District Manager) Nancy Hadley Hanson (IDFG Commissioner, Panhandle Region)
Session I	**MIND YOGA** **Session Chair: Brian Stenquist (MN Dept of Natural Resources)**
0815 - 0845	"OUR ORIGINS, OUR FUTURE" Shane Mahoney (Wildlife Research Chief, Newfoundland DNR) •Sponsored by USFWS Management Assistance Team
0845 - 0945	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "A SIMPLER WAY" Dr. Meg Wheatley (Author, *Leadership and the New Science, A Simpler Way)* •Sponsored by USFWS, Division of Federal Aid
0945 - 1000	**BREAK** **•Sponsored by Intermountain Forest Industries Association**
1000 - 1130	LISTENING SKILLS Connie Pratt (State Training Officer, Idaho Personnel Commission)
1130 - 1300	PAUL C. WEIKEL MEMORIAL LUNCHEON Larry Cartee, OWP President *Bay 3*
1300 - 1500	A SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND Dr. Don Trent Jacobs (Author, *The Bum's Rush)*
1500 - 1530	**BREAK** ***•Sponsored by Intermountain Forest Industries Association***
1530 - 1700	FIVE-MINUTE STATE REPORTS

1730	**DINNER**	**On Your Own**
1900 - 2300	SOCIAL Coordinator: Jerome Hansen •Sponsored by T.W. Fisher's *Lake Tower Rooms 162 & 164*	

MONDAY · APRIL 20

All Meetings Bay 2

Session II	**HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH & APPLICATION FOR WILDLIFE PLANNERS** **Session Chair: Steve McMullin**
0815 - 0835	WHEN DOES A DIFFERENCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE? THE PRICE OF CULTURAL IGNORANCE Sherry Crouch (Arizona Game and Fish Department)
0835 - 0855	PROFILING ALABAMA'S NONHUNTING CLIENTELE: A COOPERATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN ALABAMA GAME & FISH AND AUBURN UNIVERSITY Ashley Rossi and Jim Armstrong (Auburn University)
0855 - 0915	EVALUATING THE REASONING OF CITIZENS INVOLVED IN MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING Bruce Lauber and Barbara A. Knuth (Cornell University)
0915 - 0935	COOPERATIVE APPROACHES TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: HUMAN DIMENSIONS AND URBAN DEER Deborah Green, G.R. Askins and P.D. West (College of William & Mary and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries)
0935 - 1005	**BREAK** **•Sponsored by Human Dimensions Wildlife Study Group**
1005 - 1025	A BIOLOGIST'S PLACE IS IN THE CITY HALL: THE KING COUNTY WILDLIFE PROGRAM Kate Stenberg (King County, WA)
1025 - 1045	MODEL WATERSHED PROGRAM Julie Neburka (Portland State University)
1045 - 1105	INITIATING PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS WITHIN A CMS: LESSONS FROM MONTANA'S APPLICATION OF HD RESEARCH Dana Dolsen (Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks)
1105 - 1125	FINDINGS FROM THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS IN WILDLIFE GROUP Thomas Parker (Management Assistance Team)
1125 - 1130	Wrap-Up
1130 - 0100	**LUNCH** **On Your Own**

Field Trip	**EXPERIENCE SILVER VALLEY**
1300	FIELD TRIP: CATALDO, PINE CREEK AND SUNSHINE MINE Scott Forsell (BLM), Eric Thomson (BLM)
1700 - 1830	GONDOLA RIDE AND FREE TIME ON SILVER MOUNTAIN *(For people that prefer to spend an evening in Coeur d'Alene, one bus will return to the Resort.)*
1830 - 1930	DINNER
1930 - 2030	SLIDE SHOW ON BUNKER HILL SUPERFUND SITE Jerry Cobb (Panhandle Health District)
2030	DEPART SILVER MOUNTAIN
2100	RETURN TO COEUR D'ALENE RESORT

TUESDAY · APRIL 21

All Meetings Bay 2

Session III	**COOPERATION: PERSPECTIVES AND PROJECTS** **Session Chair: Walt Gasson (State Liaison, USFWS National Conservation Training Center, WV)**
0800 - 0830	PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES Dr. John Freemuth (Political Science Professor, Boise State University)
0830 - 0900	COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS MAKE PLANNING WORK Greg Shildwachter (Wildlife Biologist, Missoula, MT, Intermountain Forest Industry Association)
0900 - 0930	TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE — DON'T LEAVE THE FUTURE WITHOUT IT Jack Capp (USFS, Juneau)
0930 - 1000	TRIBAL PERSPECTIVE TBA
1000 - 1030	**BREAK** **•Sponsored by Intermountain Forest Industries Association**
1030 - 1100	RED CANYON RANCH, OR "COWS FOR CONSERVATION" Bob Budd (The Nature Conservancy, Red Canyon Ranch, WY)
1100 - 1130	COMMUNITY-BASED COALITIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES: STRIVING FOR SUCCESS BEYOND CONSENSUS Jack Williams (Senior Aquatic Ecologist, BLM, Boise)
1130 - 1200	LEMHI MODEL WATERSHED Jude Trapani (BLM, Salmon, ID)

1200 - 1230	COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM: CREATIVE COOPERATION THROUGH AGREEMENTS Jerome Hansen (Interstate Resource Data Manager, IDFG) PREACHIN' BREACHIN' Bert Bowler (Columbia River Policy Coordinator, IDFG)
1230 - 1400	**LUNCH** **On Your Own**
Session IV	**CREATIVE COOPERATION — A SYNTHESIS** **Session Chair: Walt Gasson (State Liaison, USFWS National Conservation Training Center, WV)**
1400 - 1630	SYNTHESIS Shane Mahoney (Wildlife Research Chief, Newfoundland DNR) •Sponsored by Management Assistance Team, USFWS
1630 - 1830	**CRACKER BARREL** **Coordinator: Dana Dolsen (Sociologist, MT FWP)** *Casco/Kidd Island Bay* •Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited
1830 - 1900	BOARD THE BOAT "COEUR D'ALENE" *Board Walk*
1900 - 2100	DINNER CRUISE *Coeur d'Alene*
2100 - 2300	SOCIAL Coordinator: Jerome Hansen *Lake Tower Rooms 162 & 164*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

0800 - 0900	BREAK/CHECK-OUT
0900 - 1145	BUSINESS MEETING Facilitator: Carole Lee (UT Division of Wildlife Resources) *Bay 2*
1145 - 1200	WRAP-UP Larry Cartee (Outgoing OWP President) Bruce Hawkinson (Incoming OWP President)
1200 - 1330	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LUNCHEON *Boardroom 6*

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: **Idaho** **Name:** **STATEWIDE TECHNICAL. ASSISTANCE**

Project: **FW-7-R-4** **Title:** **Panhandle Region Technical Assistance**

Subproject: II **Job No: 1**

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During the project year, I provided comments on 304 issues, developments, or proposals which would potentially affect fish and wildlife habitat in the Panhandle Region. In addition, I attended 226 meetings or site visits. Forest management, stream and lakeshore alterations, and land development issues are still requiring significant amounts of time and effort, but implementation of the Governor's bull trout plan and participation in the Washington Water Power (WWP) relicensing effort on the lower Clark Fork took up an increasing amount of effort. Major emphasis was placed on bull trout, participation in Washington Water Power relicensing activities, and on Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and U. S. Forest Service (USFS) timber sale programs. I also worked cooperatively with fish management staff on fish data collection efforts in order to improve the knowledge base on which to base comments.

The estimated number of juvenile bull trout in Trapper Creek rebounded slightly in 1997 with YOY bull trout comprising the majority of the juveniles sampled.

Author:

Chip Corsi
Environmental Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

1. Influence land use decisions in the Panhandle Region to protect or improve fish and wildlife habitat.

2. Provide other agencies, organizations, or individuals with technical guidance, assistance, advice, or comments on projects and activities or developments which might affect or are associated with fish and wildlife habitat in the region.

3. Comment on NEPA documents, FERC documents, stream channel and lakeshore alteration proposals, land use planning, and other environmental impacts.

4. Coordinate with other Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) personnel and volunteers to meet workload demands. Continue to seek opportunities to improve monitoring and baseline data collection abilities, and conduct field reconnaissance of project sites to improve the quality of responses.

5. Continue to work closely with other agencies, the public, and industry representatives to prevent or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife.

METHODS

I used personal contacts, project and document review, and field inspections as a basis for providing technical guidance on projects, activities, or proposals which could affect fish and wildlife resources in the Panhandle Region. I used electrofishing to obtain data on fish populations.

RESULTS

During the project year, I provided written comments on 304 habitat-related issues. Panhandle Region wildlife habitat biologists provided written comments on 125 of these issues. In addition I attended 226 meetings or site visits to review problems or examine proposals and projects (Table 1). As in previous years, the greatest number of contacts were with IDL, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), the USFS, and on city or county planning and zoning issues, with a significant increase in Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) contacts relating to the bull trout issue, and in FERC issues as a result of the WWP relicensing. The overall number of contacts increased last year as a result of bull trout plan implementation and

Table 1. Summary of technical assistance contacts by Panhandle Region Environmental Staff Biologist during the period January 1997 through December 1997.

Agency /Group	Written	Meetings/Site Visits	Total
US Forest Service	64	19	83
Idaho Department of Lands			
-Timber	27	3	30
-Navigable Waters	35	1	36
-Mining	1	0	1
Idaho Department of Water Resources	61	14	75
US Army Corps of Engineers	15	6	21
City/County Planning and Zoning	44	2	46
Bureau of Land Management	4	3	7
Division of Env. Quality	1	35	36
Coeur d'Alene Basin Groups	1	6	7
FEMA	3	3	6
Idaho Transportation Department	5	4	9
US EPA	1	1	2
Fed. Highway Admin.	1	0	1
US Fish and Wildlife Service	1	2	3
Timber Industry	0	2	2
Utilities/FERC	4	34	38
Panhandle Area Council	5	0	5
Nat. Res. Cons. Service	0	2	2
Media	0	7	7
School/Conservation/Sportsmen Groups	3	19	22

Table 1. Continued.

Agency /Group	Written	Meetings/Site Visits	Total
Individuals	4	4	8
County Road and Bridge Dept's.	12	3	15
Other States/Provinces	2	2	4
In House	6	45	51
Developers	8	7	15
University	0	2	2
Chamber of Commerce	0	0	0
Totals	**304**	**226**	**530**

relicensing. The relicensing process for WWP lower Clark Fork River projects was initiated in 1995, and in 1997 required extensive participation in the Fisheries and Water Quality working groups, and helping out on the Loss Statement and Plenary groups. I also participated in several subgroups to the Fisheries and Water Quality groups, including the fish passage subgroup.

IDL foresters continue to be receptive to Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) comments on habitat issues. I work closely with the IDL fisheries biologist on identifying migration barriers, defining Class I streams, and other issues.

Considerable salvage activity continued on USFS lands but was confined primarily to activities along existing roads, and some road obliteration or decommissioning will occur at the close of sales. The net result will be a reduction in road mileage on the forest. Landscape planning is underway and some large projects requiring EISs were proposed and commented on, including projects in the St. Joe basin and the Kootenai river basin.

Reconstruction of Forest Highway 9 from Murray to Thompson Pass began in 1995 and continued through 1997. Mitigation includes conversion of old tailings piles to wetlands and a fish pond. Fish pond development is a high priority in the Coeur d'Alene River corridor as it will allow for a publicly acceptable way to eliminate stocking of the river and allow focus on management for wild trout and their habitat.

An initial effort at developing the fish pond was damaged by winter flooding, but the pond has been rebuilt.

Major issues identified by the IDFG for the relicensing of the WWP projects include fish passage, flow management below the Cabinet Gorge Dam, water temperature, sediment transport, and the effect of the dams and flows on island formation and erosion in the Clark Fork delta. WWP has taken a collaborative approach to relicensing, with Idaho and Montana state agencies, federal agencies, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations participating. High levels of nitrogen gas saturation were documented as a result of the high runoff in the Clark Fork during 1996 and again in 1997. It was a record flow year for 1997, and gas levels downstream from the Cabinet Gorge project reached 150 percent of saturation, with a plume of supersaturated water extending across the north end of Pend Oreille Lake.

The IDFG continues to provide technical input on restoration activities associated with the clean-up of mine waste in the Coeur d'Alene basin.

Monitoring in Trapper Creek (Upper Priest Lake tributary) showed bull trout continuing to persist with numbers of YOY rebounding in 1997 (Tables 2 and 3). I was unable to conduct the electrofishing at the upper Trapper Creek site in 1997. Estimated cutthroat trout densities at the other two sites were slightly lower than those found in 1996 (Table 2). Three bull trout redds were counted in 1997 (Joe DuPont, Idaho Dept. of Lands, personal communication) compared with four in both 1993 and 1994, two in 1995, and five in 1996. The low and apparently volatile numbers of bull trout in Trapper Creek are likely indicative of a population at risk (Rieman and McIntyre 1993). Flooding in 1996 may have affected cutthroat trout populations.

Table 2. Estimated densities of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout (fish/100m 2) from Trapper Creek sampling sites.

		Year						
Species	Location	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cutthroat	Below E. Fork	4.3	3.8	1.3	4.5	3.8	4.8	2.9
	Above Lower Bridge	7.3	15.2	*	26.5	15.2	20.8	*
	East Fork	*	14.6	13.2	20.5	21.4	13.6	11.7
Bull Trout	Below E. Fork	5.1	3.0	4,5	8.3	3.7	2.9	4.0

Table 3. Population estimates by size class for various size classes (in mm) of bull trout collected from the lower Trapper Creek site, Upper Priest Lake drainage, Idaho.

	Population estimate (95% CI)		
Year	30 - 79	80 - 139	> 139
1992	12($0 \leq N \leq 19$)	24 ($9 \leq N \leq 33$)	1 (N/A)
1993	36($29 \leq N \leq 44$)	15 ($8 \leq N \leq 22$)	1 (N/A)
1994	63($22 \leq N \leq 103$)	37 ($22 \leq N \leq 53$)	0
1995	5($3 \leq N \leq 7$)	38 ($29 \leq N \leq 47$)	1 (N/A)
1996	10($\pm$ 0)	24 ($24 < N < 25$)	1 (N/A)
1997	32($21 < N < 42$)	14 ($10 < N < 18$)	2 (N/A)

LITERATURE CITED

Rieman, B. E., and J. D. McIntyre. 1993. Demographic and habitat requirements for conservation of bull trout. U.S. Forest Service, General Technical Report INT-302.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: Idaho **Name:** STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Project: FW-7-R-4 **Title:** Clearwater Region Technical Assistance

Subproject: II **Job No.:** 2

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During the 1997-98 project year, comments and technical input were provided on proposals, issues, and developments that might affect fish and wildlife resources in the Clearwater Region. The primary issues were development of bull trout conservation plans and assessments, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land management, input, and site visits to Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) stream alteration proposals, Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) projects affecting streams, developing a proposal for habitat mapping and protection of private lands in central Idaho, working on outfitter amendments and requests, internal coordination and information gathering, commenting on community development projects, completion of USFS-Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) draft elk guidelines, assisting with fisheries and wildlife monitoring, and public meetings.

Authors:

Gregg Servheen
Environmental Staff Biologist

Wildlife Biologists:
Jay Crenshaw, Sam McNeil, Frances Cassirer, Michael Gratson, Steven Nadeau, George Pauley, Jim White, and Pete Zager

Fisheries Biologists:
Tim Cochnauer, Jody Brostrom, and Ed Schriever

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide fish and wildlife technical assistance and information to state, federal, and local government agencies.

2. Coordinate IDFG input on proposed developments, mitigation, and impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

3. Provide written responses and documentation on IDFG positions and policy related to local fish and wildlife issues.

4. Provide internal input and comment on how IDFG policies, rules, regulations, and positions will affect other natural resource management agencies and private elements.

5. Support IDFG fish and wildlife management efforts by participating in fish and wildlife surveys and interdisciplinary teams.

METHODS

Letter and document review; meetings, personal, e-mail, and phone contacts; written responses; and field inspections were used to provide fish and wildlife input and internal coordination.

RESULTS

Fish and wildlife biologists of the Clearwater Region of the IDFG provided technical comment and consultation for fish and wildlife conservation on Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) timber sales; USFS land management projects; IDWR stream alteration permits, and water rights, city and county road and municipal improvement projects; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) stream protection permits and dredging projects; county planning; and private industry.

County Planning

Continued to develop a conservation strategy for county planning in the five central Idaho counties. Researched and developed a proposal for developing a watershed approach using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in county planning. In cooperation with and support from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Idaho, Latah and Nez Perce counties and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the proposal has been submitted to private foundations for funding.

Data Gathering

Significant time was spent on obligations and responsibilities to assist monitoring. These included elk sightability aerial surveys, hunter check station surveys, stream snorkel surveys, hook and line fish surveys, hunter and fisherman license checks, and harlequin duck surveys.

Watershed Assessment

The IDFG participates in the Level 1 TES consultation team comprised of USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Objectives of this group include: developing land management projects that avoid "may effect" decisions by federal regulatory agencies; developing programmatic consultation on prescribed fire, noxious weed and gopher control, road obliteration, trail maintenance, suction dredging, dispersed recreation, instream monitoring, and timber harvest; and developing watershed assessments and characterization models for forest plan revision. The goal of the team is to enhance efficiency of project development and implementation (streamlining) while insuring no adverse effects on listed or proposed species. In addition, the team is characterizing and assessing 6th code HUC watersheds based on: presence/absence of listed species, population utilization, key watershed by species, habitat capability, condition, and sensitivity, recovery potential, restoration focus, restoration priority, and restoration activities. These assessments overlap and/or enhance state bull trout conservation efforts.

Elk Guidelines

The interagency elk guidelines were completed and sent to cooperating forests, interested outside parties, and IDFG biologists and managers. Neither the Clearwater nor Nez Perce national forests have officially accepted the revised guidelines. IDFG will need to adopt and seek use of these guidelines by the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests, especially as it relates to elk vulnerability management.

Wildlife Survey Protocols Manual

Maintenance of the Wildlife Survey Protocols manual was passed to wildlife management. Developed as part of the Venture 20 integrated management project, this manual provides for cooperative data gathering and monitoring between agencies. The manual requires updates and promotion. The environmental staff biologists and wildlife management should make updates and use of this manual a priority to increase cooperative monitoring with land management agencies. The Bureau of Wildlife may be able to assist with this.

Bull Trout and Water Quality

Bull trout conservation efforts comprise the single largest project of the past year. Working with the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Clearwater Basin Technical Advisory team, and the Clearwater Basin Advisory Group, we have completed the North Fork of the Clearwater Bull Trout Assessment, drafted the Lochsa/Selway and South Fork Clearwater assessments, and begun writing the Lower Salmon/Snake River Bull Trout assessments. Coordination obligations include the interagency Technical Team, Basin Advisory Team, and Watershed Advisory Groups. Because of the significant time required and overlapping responsibilities, it is imperative that fisheries personnel be involved in the process, mostly through the Watershed Advisory Groups and in devising bull trout conservation strategies for each basin. While significant progress has been made on completing the bull trout conservation assessments, development of the conservation strategies, lack of funding, and lack of state commitment in implementing effective bull trout conservation remain the weak links in the process.

Elk Habitat Management

The Clearwater Region is emphasizing increasing the potential of elk habitat across the region. Elk populations have drastically declined in units 10 and 12 and are showing signs of declining

recruitment and density dependent population changes. Recent changes in hunting regulations may improve bull escapement but predation, calve condition, and habitat trend are concerns. The Clearwater Elk Initiative, endorsed by USFS Chief Dombeck, will emphasize treatment of habitat in the Clearwater to address the effects of fire suppression and rejuvenate early successional elk habitat. An interagency technical team and leadership team have been formed to direct and implement Elk Initiative projects. An interested citizens group (CERT - Clearwater Elk Recovery Team) has formed in support of the project. Members include sportsmen, timber industry, and union representatives. Coordination with environmental groups is ongoing.

One of the first projects of the type the Initiative will be developing, the North Lochsa Face project, is now in its final stages before a final EIS is issued. Two of the major benefits to wildlife of this project include 10,000 acres of prescribed fire and landscape access management. However, large scale and potentially stand lethal burning is opposed by the timber industry. In addition, the Nez Perce Tribe has decided against signing the MOU. The IDFG will have to take a clear lead to provide a need and focus for elk habitat improvement projects.

Idaho Water Resources

The IDWR Northern office remains insensitive to stream channel protection in the Clearwater Region. IDWR is the single most significant state agency impacting anadromous fish on a day-to-day basis. However, they have made no extra efforts or devised special provisions to protect streams bearing threatened bull trout or steelhead. It is important that stream protection move from a site specific project assessment to a watershed level evaluation of each project and stream. Specific changes to IDWR code would help do this. These changes were made in a draft letter to the IDWR Director from IDFG and sent to Boise. There has been no follow up.

Table 1. Summary of Technical Consultation, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

Agency or Group	Type of Contact		Total
	Written	Meetings/Site Visits	
US Forest Service	76	17	93
Idaho Department of Lands	4	2	6
Idaho Department of Water Resources	45	5	50
US Bureau of Land Management	1	0	1
Municipal	8	1	9
Army Corps of Engineers	23	1	24
Idaho Department of Transportation	9	17	26
Power Companies	1	0	1
Bonneville Power Administration	1	1	2
Clearwater Economic Development Assoc.	0	0	0
Farm Services Administration	0	0	0
Professional	3	6	9
Idaho Parks and Recreation	1	0	1
National Resource Conservation Service	3	1	4
Public Advisory Groups	0	0	0
Federal Energy Management Authority	0	0	0
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	4	1	5
University of Idaho	2	1	3
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Board	17	5	22
Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality	56	19	75
Nez Perce Tribe	1	1	2
Timber Industry	0	0	0
In House	35	38	73
Counties	16	1	17
Public/Individual	1	14	15
Total	307	131	438

Table 2. Summary of technical assistance provided by Clearwater Region, 1982-1996[1].

	Report year											
Agency	1982	1985	1980-85	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1992	1993	1995	1996
Idaho Dep. of Water Resources	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	138
US Bureau of Land Management	3	4	7	4	1	2	4	---	---	---	---	5
US Army Corps of Engineers	2	1	5	3	2	---	1	---	---	1	---	9
US Forest Service	21	10	8	12	14	39	12	2	10	11	10	122
Idaho Department of Lands	3	2	5	3	---	2	2	1	1	2	------	38
ID Department of Transportation	3	3	4	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20
Potlatch Corporation	4	2	7	3	3	2	3	2	2	4	---	---
Bonneville Power Administration	---	---	3	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3
University of Idaho	---	---	4	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	7
Municipal	---	---	2	2	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	14
Port of Lewiston	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Counties	1	---	3	2	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	9
US Bureau of Reclamation	1	---	2		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Nez Perce Tribe	---	---	1	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	1
Private	---	---	1		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
SCS/ASCS/NRCS/FSA	---	---	1	2	2	1	1	---	---	2	---	6
Federal Energy Reg. Comm.	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9
US Fish & Wildlife Service	---	---	3		---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---
ID Outfitters & Guides Lic. Board	---	---	---	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	---	9
Forest Industry	---	---	---	1	---	1	1	1	1	---	---	3
Power Companie	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	4
Columbia River Intertribal Fish.	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---
Public/ Individuals	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	5	---	12
Idaho Parks & Recreation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	2
Public Advisory Group	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	5
Clearwater Economic Dev. Ass.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4
Idaho Dept of Environ. Quality	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	13
Federal Energy Mgt Authority	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Internal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	96
Total	39	22	59	40	29	50	26	9	20	29	10	572

[1] Technical assistance was summarized from previous reports.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of:	**Idaho**	**Name:**	**STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
Project:	**FW-7-R-4**	**Title:**	**Southwest Region Technical Assistance**

Subproject: II **Job No.: 3.**

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During the project year, the Southwest Region environmental staff biologist provided technical comments or review on 532 documented occasions. Additionally, I attended 164 meetings or site visits for a total of 696 technical guidance contacts. The majority of contacts were with state and federal agencies dealing with a variety of land and water management issues having potential effects on fish and wildlife habitats. During the project year, important issues were urban planning and development, stream channel and wetland alterations, forest and range management, mining, water quality, and bull trout conservation planning. As in previous years, I participated in a number of interagency committees and work groups that required considerable time and effort.

Author:

Scott A. Grunder
Environmental Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

To provide technical support and assistance to local governments, private entities, the public, and state and federal agencies in matters pertaining to fish and wildlife resources within the administrative boundaries of the Southwest Region of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

METHODS

I used personal contacts, field inspections, other agency expertise, and literature reviews to provide technical assistance on projects, activities, or proposals that could affect fish and wildlife resources in the Southwest Region. Technical reviews were generally coordinated with other Southwest Region staff and/or state office personnel. Comments were generally provided by written or verbal response or in some instances via electronic mail. I attended many inter- and intra-agency meetings to discuss and resolve fish and wildlife habitat issues and angler and hunter based recreation matters.

This was the first year since 1991 that I did not personally participate in Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project sampling by the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

RESULTS

During the project year, I provided technical assistance, support, and review on about 532 occasions and attended 164 meetings and/or site visits (Table 1). As in past years, most of my time was directed towards coordinating activities with other state and federal agencies.

South Fork Salmon River Timber Sale Decision Memorandum

I assisted in developing a Decision Memorandum (DM) for a proposed salvage timber sale on IDFG-owned properties along the South Fork Salmon River in Valley County, Idaho. The proposed timber sale included four separate land parcels at and upstream from the Elk Creek confluence. The forested portion of the four parcels totaled about 650 acres and are intermingled with Forest Service and private inholdings. These properties were private ranches acquired by the IDFG in 1948 with Pittman-Robertson funds. The proposed timber sale area was almost completely burned in the 1994 Chicken Complex wildfire. The State Board of Land

Table 1. Summary of technical guidance contacts of the Southwest Region environmental staff biologist during the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

Agency/Group	Written	Meetings/Site Visits	Totals
US Forest Service	38	18	56
US Bur. of Land Management	12	2	14
US Army Corps of Engineers	37	3	40
US Bur. of Reclamation	3	4	7
US Fish & Wildlife Service	1	1	2
Federal Highway Admin.	2	1	3
Bonneville Power Admin.	1	1	2
Idaho Dept. of Lands	26	0	26
Idaho Div. of Environmental Quality	11	32	43
Idaho Dept. Of Transportation	4	1	5
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources	258	14	272
Governor's Office	0	3	3
Attorney General's Office	1	4	5
City/County Governments	45	8	53
Consultants/Private Entities	24	7	31
Soil Conservation Districts	1	0	1
Private Citizens/Conservation Groups	17	8	25
Basin & Watershed Advisory Groups	1	23	24
Idaho Power Company Relicensing Efforts	3	10	13
Intradepartment	42	22	64
Media Contacts	5	2	7
TOTALS	532	164	696

Commissioners approved this proposed salvage sale on June 4, 1997. The IDFG subsequently prepared the DM to formally document the project and our risk assessment.

Following preparation of the draft DM, IDFG staff felt that a limited scale, helicopter-only, salvage harvest on these properties could occur with no short- or long-term adverse risks to fish or wildlife. However, we could identify no significant benefits to fish and wildlife from the proposed sale.

The timber sale received considerable media attention and generated public controversy. Because of the social ramifications, limited sale revenue, and no anticipated benefits to fish or wildlife resources, the IDFG decided not to proceed with the proposed timber sale.

Native Fish Watershed Advisory Group

As per direction provided in Governor Philip E. Batt's State of Idaho Bull Trout Conservation Plan (1996), the Southwest Basin Advisory Group (BAG) established a citizen based ten-member Native Fish Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) to develop key watershed problem assessments and recovery plans. The DEQ is the lead agency in this effort state-wide while the IDFG serves in a technical assistance capacity. In the Southwest Basin, the DEQ and IDFG co-facilitate the monthly meetings of the Native Fish WAG. Additionally, there is a technical group established to assist the WAG comprised of agency and private industry scientists to perform data compilation and analysis, and the development of all reports and documents. I serve as both a co-facilitator and member of the technical group.

We began meeting in the spring of 1997 by establishing by-laws, operational procedures, tasks, and a schedule for the WAG to undertake the task of implementing the Bull Trout Conservation Plan. In the Southwest Basin, we identified at least 14 key watersheds (excluding the Salmon Basin) for bull trout. We further grouped these key watersheds in a logical fashion for plan development. In mid-1998, we were given the task of completing problem assessments for five key watersheds in the Salmon River Basin. The first phase of this planning effort is the development of a problem assessment for each key watershed. As per the State's Conservation Plan, problem assessments for all key watersheds are scheduled to be completed by January 1, 1999.

The Native Fish WAG's first published problem assessment was issued in early January 1998 for the Boise River Basin key watersheds. This was the first completed problem assessment for the state. This effort required approximately eight months to complete.

The DEQ and IDFG also led the NFWAG and other interested agencies and publics on a field tour of the Boise River Basin key watersheds in the summer of 1997. This effort was key in educating

NFWAG members about the threats to bull trout in the basin and in developing recommendations contained within the problem assessment.

Atlanta (Kirby) Dam Fish Passage

In the problem assessment for the Boise River Basin key watersheds, as a short-term conservation measure, the Native Fish WAG recommended that fish passage be provided at Atlanta Dam, located near the town of Atlanta on the Middle Fork Boise River. There has been a dam at this location on the river since 1905. A hydropower facility at the dam provides electricity to this remote area. The original structure was a log crib design. It failed in 1990 and a temporary structure was installed. This temporary structure also failed and a permanent dam was completed in 1992 without provisions for fish passage despite the issue being raised by IDFG. IDFG contributed over $40,000 to fix this structure. I was involved in these discussions at the time and remained convinced that fish passage was both feasible and necessary to reconnect the river corridor. In my current capacity as a co-facilitator for the NFWAG and as a member of the Technical Group, I continued to encourage development of a fish ladder at Atlanta Dam.

As a result of the considerable federal effort and money contributed towards rebuilding this structure, the federal government assumed ownership of the dam. A special-use permit is held by Atlanta Power Company to operate the hydropower facility. Because it is now a federally-owned dam, Atlanta Power Company must secure a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. While providing fish passage could become a condition of a license, and in fact has been asked for by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the state would prefer a cooperative effort.

Atlanta Dam completely blocks access for migratory bull trout to the entire upper part of the Middle Fork watershed. There remains only one isolated subpopulation of bull trout in the upper Yuba River. Because this subpopulation exists in isolation from other subpopulations, it is at risk for extinction. The Forest Service estimates there are approximately 145 miles of focal habitat for bull trout in the Middle Fork system below Atlanta Dam. Approximately 56 miles of focal habitat is present above the dam. Restoring fish passage at Atlanta Dam would increase available focal habitat by 39 percent. IDFG biologists have documented the existence of a substantial migratory population of bull trout in the upper Boise River Basin that winters in Arrowrock Reservoir (Flatter 1998).

The recommendation by the Native Fish WAG to provide fish passage at Atlanta Dam renewed efforts to retrofit this facility with a fish ladder. Funding was secured through the State of Idaho and a water rights agreement between the State of Idaho and Atlanta Power Company was reached in the spring of 1998. The IDFG Engineering Bureau designed the fish ladder and began construction in June 1998. It is tentatively scheduled for completion in August 1998. In the Southwest Basin, this is one of the most important conservation actions for bull trout.

Recent work in Montana on bull trout suggests that transporting adult fish over dams is a potentially viable method of bolstering population strength in the short-term and is an economic alternative to fish passage (Swanberg 1997). In an attempt to assess the feasibility of trapping and hauling adult bull trout over an existing barrier, I worked with the regional fishery management staff in testing this theory as a method of strengthening bull trout populations. In late May 1998, we captured five bull trout with experimental gillnets that had been entrained through Arrowrock Dam into Lucky Peak Reservoir. These bull trout were fitted internally with radio transmitters as per the description of Flatter (1998). From Lucky Peak Reservoir, the radio-implanted fish were hauled upriver in a small fish transport tank and released in two separate locations upstream of Atlanta Dam. Two bull trout were released in the Middle Fork Boise River upstream of the Power Plant Campground above the town of Atlanta, while three bull trout were released into the Yuba River approximately two miles upstream of the confluence near an existing cabin site. As of late June 1998, four of the five bull trout had migrated downstream of Atlanta Dam while one fish remained near the Power Plant Campground.

While not encouraging, this effort does hold some promise in helping to restore migratory bull trout above Atlanta Dam. Our results are not dissimilar from those of Swanberg (1997) in the Clark Fork River drainage of Montana. Over the next several years, with support from the USFWS, we expect to begin an aggressive program to capture and transplant both entrained adults from Lucky Peak Reservoir and "surplus" juveniles from healthy stocks in the Boise River Basin to bolster populations above Atlanta Dam.

Owyhee Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

In August 1996, the Lower Snake River District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for lands within the Owyhee Resource Area of extreme southwestern Idaho. The Owyhee Resource Area encompasses over 1.3 million acres of BLM lands. Four alternatives were offered and analyzed in the document. They were the "No Action," Owyhee County alternative, BLM preferred alternative, and the Desert Group alternative. The environmental impacts of the four alternatives were measured against meeting the objectives or future desired condition or status of the various resources. Examples of resources include soils, vegetation, riparian, forests, and fish and wildlife habitats.

The BLM lands of the Owyhee Resource Area are some of the biologically richest in the region. They support game species such as California bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, furbearers, and upland birds, and also numerous neotropical migratory birds, waterfowl, and reptiles. Many perennial streams support the native redband trout. The area is large and remote and provides important refugia for wildlife. From the IDFG's standpoint, this long-term planning document is a significant document because of the critical importance to our future management of

fish and wildlife in this vast area and our continued ability to offer diverse hunting and fishing opportunities.

With the help of regional and state office staff, I developed comprehensive comments that were submitted to the BLM in October 1997. These comments took some time to develop because of the length and complexity of the document. The BLM anticipates a long-term collaborative approach before developing and issuing a final RMP/EIS. We expect to actively participate in this process.

Hells Canyon Complex/C.J. Strike Relicensing

During the project year, I participated in a number of collaborative team meetings to discuss and consult with Idaho Power Company (IPC) in their short- and long-term relicensing efforts for the C.J. Strike and Hells Canyon hydropower projects. Through this collaborative process, IPC and interested parties have completed study designs for relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex. I participated in the aquatic and terrestrial work groups. For the C.J. Strike project, I participated in the aquatic and terrestrial work groups and helped identify and recommend protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures (P, M & E) for fish and wildlife resources impacted by the project. We expect to do the same for the Hells Canyon projects in the future. The potential for significant P, M & E measures from IPC during these relicensing efforts is enormous both to the resources and the public.

LITERATURE CITED

Flatter, B. 1998. Life history and population status of migratory bull trout *(Salvelinus confluentus)* in Arrowrock Reservoir, Idaho. Report prepared for the Bureau of Reclamation under Cooperative Agreement No. 1425-6FC-10-02170. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho.

Swanberg, T. 1997. Movements of bull trout *(Salvelinus confluentus)* in the Clark Fork River system after transport upstream of Milltown Dam. Northwest Science 71: 313-317.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: I **Name:** STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Project: FW-7-R-4 **Title:** Magic Valley Region Technical Assistance

Subproject: II **Job No.:** 4

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During the period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, the Magic Valley Region environmental staff biologist provided comments, technical review, and support on approximately 432 occasions to other federal, state, local governments, individuals, and private organizations. Assistance provided by the environmental staff biologist addressed anticipated impacts to fish and wildlife populations or their associated habitats and recommendations for mitigation. Water quality related activities (including participation on local watershed advisory groups and associated technical advisory committees), stream channel alterations, coordination of hydropower related reviews, implementation of *Governor Batt's Bull Trout Conservation Plan,* state and federal land management activities (grazing, mining, timber harvest, and national defense), and technical assistance pertaining to urban development constituted the majority of workload. All activities were coordinated and reviewed with the appropriate regional staff and state office personnel for accuracy, thoroughness, and adherence to Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) policy as the purposed activity related to impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and population dynamics.

Author:

David E. Parrish
Environmental Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

To provide technical assistance and comments to other government agencies (state, federal, and local), organizations, or private individuals regarding projects or activities which potentially affect fish or wildlife populations or habitat in the Magic Valley Region. Also, to fulfill IDFG's responsibility to coordinate with the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the collection of fish population status data and provide technical feedback on water quality as it relates to fish and wildlife.

METHODS

The Magic Valley Region environmental staff biologist used state office staff, regional staff, field inspections, literature searches, and professional expertise to form comments and furnish recommendations on a variety of land and water management proposals which could affect fish and wildlife populations or their associated habitat.

RESULTS

The following is a breakdown of entities which were provided technical guidance or project review by the Magic Valley Region environmental staff biologist. Each contact represents a meeting or document response by the environmental staff biologist:

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	34
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	30
National Parks Service (NPS)	2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	4
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	18
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	5
United States Air Force (USAF)	2
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	4
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	3
Federal Highway Administration (FHA)	2
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	15
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources (IDWR)	141
Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	43
Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL)	3

Idaho Dept. of Transportation (IDT)	6
County/City Government	44
Private Development	51
Idaho Power Company (IPC)	14
Miscellaneous	11
Total	
Total	432

Hydropower

Technical guidance regarding the impact of hydropower developments to fish and wildlife resources once again required a significant amount of time. Coordination of fish and wildlife staff review and comment regarding Idaho Power Company's (IPC) relicensing of projects at Upper Salmon, Lower Salmon, Bliss, Shoshone Falls, C.J. Strike, and Malad projects required significant resource commitments for document review, public meetings, coordination of staff input, disseminating IDFG position and issues to local interest groups, and field tours of affected areas. All final correspondence were routed through the appropriate personnel in Natural Resource Policy Bureau (NRPB) or the regional supervisor for signature. The environmental staff biologist participated on IPC organized technical committees for aquatic, terrestrial, recrcation, and aesthetics.

During the year IPC filed for renewal of their license for their Shoshone Falls project and provided a draft license application for the C. J. Strike hydropower facility. The environmental staff biologist reviewed the license application and provided fish and wildlife related comments to the appropriate staff in the NRPB for the Shoshone Falls project and coordinated with appropriate staff on minor comments regarding the C.J. Strike draft license application.

Other significant hydropower-related actions included mitigation recommendations for the failure of the Fisheries Development intake structure which deposited approximately 20,000 - 30,000 cubic yards of sediment into Billingsley Creek. The investigation of the incident is still ongoing and settlement of mitigation is not complete at the close of the reporting period.

Document review, agency meetings, on-site reviews, inspections, and drafting follow-up comments were performed for the following projects:

Name (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Number)

Upper Salmon Falls (2777)	Lower Salmon Falls (2061)
Bliss (1975)	Shoshone (2778)
Twin Falls (18)	Sahko (11060)
Auger Falls (4797)	Shorock (9967)
Koyle Ranch (4052)	Ravenscroft (4055)
Milner (2899)	Malad (2726) Slaughterhouse
Crossroads (11468)	Gulch (6375) Kasel-
Troutco. (6208)	Witherspoon (6410)
Fisheries Development (7885)	C.J. Strike (2055)

Water Quality Related Activities

Technical assistance was provided to several different planning groups regarding the impacts of water quality degradation as it relates to viable fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. In addition to the Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), assistance was provided to WAGs forming in the Wood River drainage and Lake Walcott section of the Snake River. Dissemination of IDFG fish and wildlife population and habitat condition data was provided to both groups. Additionally, the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC), which the environmental staff biologist is a member, for the Middle Snake River WAG has provided assistance to both groups regarding water chemistry, limnology, and technical aspects of fish and wildlife habitat requirements. Much of the information collected is analyzed and summarized in DEQ-produced subbasin watershed assessments or draft total maximum daily limits (TMDLs) for pollutant discharge to the specified waterbody.

Utilizing information from the TMDL developed for the Middle Snake River, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attempted to produce a statewide national pollution discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit for the aquaculture industry. Technical assistance was provided to EPA and the local DEQ office regarding hatchery capacities, annual hatchery production, pounds of feed fed per facility, and discharge monitoring data. Written and verbal input was provided regarding manpower, monetary, and production impacts of the purposed permit on state, federal, and private contract fish-rearing facilities managed by IDFG.

Coordination, training, and field participation with DEQ's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program personnel was also provided during the year. Fisheries-related habitat and population data for approximately 30 waterbodies, cooperatively collected with DEQ, will be summarized in the IDFG Magic Valley Region Fisheries Management Report for the period 7/97 - 6/98. Data collected is used by DEQ in determination of beneficial use status of regional waters.

Governor Phillip Batt's State of Idaho Bull Trout Conservation Plan

IDFG and DEQ worked closely with the local Native Fish WAG to produce a bull trout risk assessment for bull trout populations in the Boise Basin, of which the South Fork Boise River is within the Magic Valley Region. The purpose of the risk assessment is to: 1) establish local working committees representative of industry and conservation interests; 2) collect existing information on habitat, distribution, and current bull trout population strength; 3) identify data gaps or needs; and 4) institute protection measures where threats are identified.

The Boise River Key Watersheds Bull Trout Problem Assessment, published and accepted by the Native Fish WAG in January 1998, is a comprehensive inventory of existing habitat data and population information for the entire Boise River drainage. Specific actions necessary to maintain existing bull trout populations are listed for the entire Boise River drainage. The environmental staff biologist worked as part of a technical team which provided field tours of the drainage for the WAG, assimilated data from various sources, and coauthored the draft problem assessment. Development of the phase II *Conservation Plan* will begin in 1999.

Stream Alterations

An above-average snowpack and prolonged highwater coupled with urban development of banks and floodplain along the Big Wood River lead to a tremendous number of stream alteration applications. This included 76 joint applications from Idaho Department of Water Resources, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Blaine County, and 32 emergency stream alteration permit applications dealing with the reach of the Big Wood River from North Fork to Stanton Crossing. Recommendations were provided on bioengineering techniques to enhance fish and wildlife habitat values of the projects, mitigation for negative repercussions, and channel or habitat restoration measures for Stream Channel Protection Act violations.

Urban Development

Comment regarding impacts of urban development on fish and wildlife habitat and populations was provided to Blaine, Camas, Jerome, Twin Falls, Elmore, and Gooding counties along with the City of Ketchum. Blaine County solicited the most assistance with 19 requests for comment on subdivisions. Associated with the local government reviews were 51 requests by public entities for pre-submission or concurrent review of developments by IDFG. The environmental staff biologist responded to or solicited appropriate staff input to address pertinent fish- and wildlife-related habitat issues.

Additionally, ten requests from local economic development block grant organizations were reviewed and appropriate environmental input provided to comply with National Environmental Policy Act guidelines associated with federal funding sources. These projects ranged from new tertiary treatment ponds for the City of Dietrich to the development of industrial plants for the manufacture of injection molded plastic items for the Region IV Economic Development Association.

Land Management Activities

A total of eight timber harvest projects were reviewed and comment provided to the appropriate federal land management agency. The Mountain Home District of the Boise National Forest purposed the greatest number of acres treated and removal of the largest volume of timber. Sales in Green Creek, Cannon Gulch, Whiskey-Campo, and Paradise Creek were all commented on within the South Fork Boise River drainage. Additionally, three prescribed burns to improve forest and rangeland health were reviewed and mitigation recommendations pertaining to long-term watershed health, impacts to big game winter range, sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitat, and timing to minimize impacts on nesting migratory neotropical bird species were all discussed in IDFG responses.

Bureau of Land Management request for comment on the issuance of temporary non-renewable AUMs, grazing season extensions, and fire rehabilitation efforts constituted the majority of contacts for that agency. Conflicts with hunting activities, critical winter wildlife areas, water quality as it relates to riparian health, and use of native plant materials for range rehabilitation were the most common items discussed.

Level 1 Team Participation

In an attempt to streamline federal Endangered Species Act consultation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other federal agencies, level 1 teams were formed for each of the national forests within Idaho. Participants on the Sawtooth National Forest team include resource specialists from National Marine Fisheries Service, USFWS, U.S. Forest Service, and the environmental staff biologist from the IDFG. Level 1 duties include evaluation of project impacts on habitat and populations for listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species along with other special state or federal agency designated species of concern. Through consensus, magnitude of impacts are gauged for each project and appropriate mitigation suggested for the decision document.

Projects reviewed during the reporting period include: expansion of Pomerelle and Soldier winter recreation areas, Marsh Creek and Sublett Mountain timber sales, miscellaneous grazing allotment

management plans, campground expansions, forest-wide personal use firewood harvest, and the ongoing Big Wood River watershed analysis project. Field tours of most activities were incorporated into the level 1 team meetings.

Acknowledgments

It's important to note that with the massive amount of demand placed on input from IDFG, local knowledge of the resources is critical to providing the best possible response for conservation of fish and wildlife. Much of the knowledge behind the responses comes from local conservation officers, wildlife habitat biologists, wildlife population biologists, fisheries management personnel, regional supervisor, and key members of the public. Without the support provided by all of these individuals, the workload for this position would be insurmountable.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: Idaho **Name:** STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Project No.: FW-7-R-4 **Title:** Southeast Region Technical Assistance

Subproject No.: II **Job No.:** 5

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30. 1998

ABSTRACT

The Southeast Region Environmental Staff Biologist (ESB), with support from wildlife, fisheries and habitat staff, provided technical assistance to public and private organizations in the form of field inspections, meeting attendance, and project document reviews. The Southeast Region ESB position was vacant from mid November 1997 until the end of June 1998. During the period from July to November 1997, technical assistance in the form of written responses was provided on 57 occasions. Most of the assistance was provided to the Caribou National Forest (CNF), followed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and county planning and zoning commissions. Numerous Basin Area Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) meetings, from the Senate Bill 1284 process, were attended.

Author:

H. Jerome Hansen
Environmental Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

To provide technical assistance to city, county, private, and state and federal entities in matters relating to fish and wildlife habitat.

METHODS

Technical assistance was provided through reviews of permit applications, project plans, National Environmental Policy Act documents, site inspections, and meeting attendance.

RESULTS

The major categories for technical assistance in the Southeast Region during this report period were mining, timber sales, grazing, and water-related projects. Most of the technical assistance was provided to the CNF, followed by the IDWR. Technical assistance was also provided to county planning and zoning commissions on a number of occasions, through comments on county zoning plans and specific subdivisions impacting fish and wildlife (Table 1). Numerous BAG and WAG meetings were attended as part of the Senate Bill (SB) 1284 process.

Committee Participation

The Southeast Region ESB participated on and cooperated with the following committees:

Portneuf River Watershed Advisory Group
Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force
Blackfoot River Watershed Advisory Group
Palisades Interagency Work Group
Mining Industry and Interagency Selenium Working Group

Senate Bill 1284 Implementation

Implementation of SB 1284 established BAGs for the Bear and Upper Snake rivers. Blackfoot and Portneuf watershed groups have both successfully petitioned the Upper Snake River BAG for WAG status. The ESB regularly attended the WAG meetings and provided technical assistance.

Table 1. Summary of technical assistance provided by the Southeast Region ESB and other personnel, 1989-1998.

Agency	Report Year									
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*
FSA/NRCS/ RC&D's[a]	0	0	0	0	7	24	13	12	7	0
USACE[b]	0	2	1	0	2	6	13	18	17	5
BI-M[c]	11	7	13	13	21	8	24	25	14	3
CNF[d]	13	18	26	22	32	53	46	55	55	17
USFWS[e]	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0
IDL[f]	5	8	4	2	8	3	8	15	5	1
ITD[g]	3	5	0	0	2	2	6	4	11	0
IDWR[h]	--	--	--	--	--	19	27	39	48	14
FERC[i]/Hydro	--	3	2	1	0	6	14	16	22	3
P&Z[j]	--	0	0	2	6	6	15	9	18	9
SB 1284[k]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	23	3
Others	18	26	26	19	24	38	33	55	38	3
Total	52	70	74	60	105	165	199	257	260	58

[a]Farm Services Administration/Natural Resource Conservation Service/Resource Conservation & Development
[b]United States Army Corps of Engineers
[c]Bureau of Land Management
[d]Caribou National Forest
[e]United States Fish and Wildlife Service
[f]Idaho Department of Lands
[g]Idaho Transportation Department
[h]ldaho Department of Water Resources
[i]Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
[j]Planning and Zoning
[k]Senate Bill 1284 (1995 Idaho Water Quality Legislation)
*Includes written responses from July-Nov 1997.

Members of the Blackfoot River WAG and local landowners participated in field sampling and determination of Proper Function and Condition (PFC) of the riparian habitat on selected tributaries of the Blackfoot River. Specific tributaries included Lanes, Diamond, Dry Valley, Slug, and Angus creeks.

Bear River Hydro Relicensing

Pacificorp operates four Bear River hydros that initiated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing process in 1995. The projects include Oneida, Soda Point, and Grace/Cove (two projects that operate under one license). Current project licenses will expire on October 1, 2001. During the report year, Pacificorp continued Phase II of the relicensing process in which environmental studies are conducted to determine the impacts of project operations. Pacificorp, with assistance from the consulting firm Duke Engineering and Services, Inc., also established a Delphi Team to evaluate data and determine minimum flows needed for each impacted reach of the Bear River. The Delphi Team is comprised of representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, Pacificorp, Bear River Water Users Association, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (ESB and Natural Resources Policy Bureau personnel).

Phosphate Mining

The ESB conducted site inspections, reviewed plans, drafted comments, and attended meetings regarding the following phosphate mining proposals:

FMC Reclamation Plan.
DEIS for Phosphate Leasing on the Dairy Syncline and Manning Creek Tracts.

The ESB also actively participated on the mining industry and interagency Selenium Working Group.

Planning and Zoning

The ESB assisted Bannock County with development of a revised Comprehensive Plan, Subdivision Ordinances and Zoning Ordinances. Ordinances were developed that protect important wildlife habitat (open space ordinances) and riparian/wetland habitats (development setbacks). The ESB also initiated discussions with Bear Lake, Oneida, and Franklin counties on incorporating fish and wildlife concerns into development designs.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of:	**Idaho**	**Name:**	**STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
Project:	**FW-7-R-4**	**Title:**	**Upper Snake Region Technical Assistance**
Subproject:	**II**	**Job No.:**	**6**

Period Covered: July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

During calendar year 1997, the Upper Snake Region environmental staff biologist provided technical review and comments on more than 710 occasions. The majority of interaction was with federal and state agencies on a variety of land and water management issues having potential impacts on fish and wildlife habitats. Major duties included water management recommendations, flood-related work, wildlife mitigation projects, impaired water body planning and evaluations, bull trout recovery planning and report preparation, stream alterations, wetland fills, South Fork Snake River protection, forest and range management, and hydropower project operations and compliance. Activities were coordinated with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff.

Author:

Robert C. Martin
Environmental Staff Biologist

OBJECTIVES

To provide technical assistance to city, county, private, state, and federal entities in matters relating to fish and wildlife habitats.

METHODS

Document review, literature research, field inspection, and consultation with appropriate policy and management personnel were used to provide comments and recommendations on actions proposed by private entities, local governments, and state and federal agencies.

RESULTS

Contacts

The Upper Snake Region environmental staff biologist provided reviews and comments for the following entities on the listed number of occasions:

U. S. Forest Service (USFS)	60
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	40
Corps of Engineers (COE)	50
Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	50
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	20
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/Utilities	30
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	5
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	2
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	25
Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes	5
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources (IDWR)	130
Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL)	20
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	80
Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)	20
Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)	2
City/County Governments, Planning and Zoning, Grants	13
Non-government Organizations	40
Media	18
Intradepartment	100
TOTAL	710

Summary of Selected Projects

U. S. Forest Service, Targhee National Forest (TNF)

I reviewed the Forest Plan Revision Travel Plan and developed a strategy for revising the Travel Plan to comply with the Forest Plan Revision. I negotiated an agreement with the Targhee Forest that avoided the necessity for IDFG to appeal the travel plan.

After six and a half years of providing technical assistance, the final Forest Plan Revision decision occurred this year. The Upper Snake Region's input directly resulted in the document including the following plan changes which will benefit fish and wildlife resources and associated recreational opportunity:

Timber--Scheduled timber harvest was reduced from 59.5 million board-feet-per-year to 8.0 million. Potential logging for ecosystem management was reduced from unrestricted to 2 million board-feet-per-year.

Livestock--There was a reduction of 11,000 Animal Unit Months and closure of 95,000 acres presently open.

Motorized Access--Off-highway vehicles were prohibited on an additional 30,000 acres of roadless areas. Summer cross-country motorized **use** was reduced from 62 percent of the TNF being open to 7 percent being open. There was a closure of 408 miles of system roads (1,577 miles still open) and closure of 233 miles of system motorized trails (540 miles still open). All non-system roads and motorized trails were closed in areas that are closed to motorized cross-country vehicles. TNF access enforcement was changed to "closed unless designated open."

Cross-country Snowmachine--Permitted use was reduced from virtually unrestricted to closed until December 15 in Palisades District and until Thanksgiving Day in all other districts.

Elk/Deer--Elk Habitat Effectiveness was improved from 0.57 to 0.64 forest-wide. The percent of TNF meeting IDFG Elk Vulnerability objectives was improved from 48 percent to 89 percent. Cross-country motorized travel was prohibited in 120,000 acres of crucial elk/deer winter range, which IDFG delineated.

We implemented different methods for motorized access analyses, including 1) considering motorized trail impacts to be equal to motorized roads, 2) all motorized routes within elk habitat in motorized route density calculations, whether the routes occurred on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land or other federal, state, or private lands, and 3) factoring cross-country motorized use into motorized route density analyses by considering that unrestricted cross-country motorized use is equivalent to six miles of motorized route per square mile of habitat.

Riparian--The acreage of riparian areas managed to meet desired vegetation conditions was increased by 1,300 acres. The number of stream crossings was reduced by 746. The roaded acres in the Aquatic Influence Zone were reduced by 300 acres. Timber harvest planned for headwater areas was reduced from 21,600 acres to 5,000 acres. Timber harvest planned for the Aquatic Influence Zone was reduced from 10,000 acres to zero. Fish-bearing stream length with minimum 4-inch stubble height at the hydric greenline was increased from 323 miles to 2,863 miles.

Mining--Acres open to mineral entry were reduced by 427,000 acres.

In addition to programmatic forest planning, I provided hunter, harvest, and fish data; coordinated with TNF fisheries staff on cutthroat trout recovery and aquatic, wetland, and riparian planning; reviewed the cutthroat trout biological evaluation; attended a Palisades District coordination meeting; and provided technical assistance for five grazing plans, five timber sales, two land exchanges, one mining proposal, three road easements, and two trail reconstruction plans. Numerous additional meetings and phone calls occurred with TNF district and supervisor's office personnel.

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)

South Fork Basin Planning--During development of the South Fork Basin Plan, I fulfilled numerous information requests, attended several meetings with IDWR, attended six Citizens' Advisory Group meetings, coordinated the biological resource evaluation, attended Water Resource Board field tour of South Fork, reviewed and commented on the draft South Fork Basin Plan, and testified at the Idaho Water Resource Board public hearing.

At the beginning of this calendar year, the Legislature and Governor approved the final Basin Plan, which protects 415 miles of mainstem and tributaries, removes suction dredging from all but a portion of McCoy Creek and three of its tributaries, eliminates the Lynn Crandall Dam site; and recommends investigations of the feasibility of higher winter flows and riparian maintenance (managed flood) flows on the mainstem, and instream minimum flows for six spawning tributaries. My efforts for tributary protection led to protection of many mainstem tributaries, and protection of the tributaries for which data existed only for the mainstem tributary itself. According to IDWR, this was the first time in Idaho basin planning that this approach was implemented. This action alone led to protection of more than half of the 415 miles protected by the basin plan.

Water Right Applications--Of the more than 100 water right applications reviewed, one application was protested. The Medicine Lodge Ranch application was to obtain an additional 6.2 cfs water right on Edie Creek, a stream with a base flow of 1 to 2 cfs. IDFG was the only protestor. The application was withdrawn after an agreement was reached with the applicant.

Stream Channel Protection Program--In addition to review of stream alteration permit applications, I provided comments on the one-stop dredging permit program, and provided technical assistance for stream alteration violation enforcement for the Alosi property, Moore Diversion, Antelope Creek dam construction, Swan Valley subdivisions, and miscellaneous minor violations.

1997 Snake River Flood

The highest flows since Palisades Dam was installed in 1956 occurred this year. Considerable effort was invested in preventing unnecessary negative impacts to fish and wildlife habitat both before and after the high water. The 40,000+ cfs flows in the South Fork were almost exactly what had been recommended as an episodic flow target to maintain and improve cottonwood communities along the South Fork.

Prior to high water, I attended Senator Craig's emergency response public workshop and gave a presentation on IDFG's role in river and wetland protection and flood emergencies. After the flood, I participated in numerous activities including streamlined interagency field permittine, for stream alterations, plans for post-flood cottonwood and stream channel research, media interviews, and flood benefits articles for newspapers and newsletters.

Division of Environmental Quality Programs

Bull trout--I attended bull trout coordination meetings for three days with Little Lost Technical Advisory Team, one day with statewide recovery team, and one day with a citizens group. I assisted with the Little Lost temperature monitoring program with study design review and purchase of ten Hobotemps. I supervised the research and publication efforts of Bart Gamett for the Little Lost River Fisheries Investigations.

Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Impaired Water Bodies-I attended two planning meetings for impaired streams monitoring and evaluation and fulfilled numerous requests for information and assistance from DEQ staff regarding Basin Advisory Groups and Watershed Advisory Groups in this program. I attended several meetings during formation of the South Fork Watershed Council and Watershed Advisory Group. I attended two meetings of the Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group.

Watershed Grants--I participated in the Section 319 grant implementation for the Sheridan Creek restoration project. I initiated a $250,000 grant request for Island Park tributaries restoration.

FERC Projects

Island Park--I attended two Advisory Committee meetings and continued with monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for operating the modified spillway and mixing dam releases from three sources to meet temperature targets in the Henrys Fork.

Ponds Lodge--I participated in review and modification of the Buffalo River fishway operation plan. The new fish passage facility contributed to over 35,000 young-of-year and yearling rainbow trout migrating to the Henrys Fork.

Birch Creek--Reviewed annual monitoring report.

Gem State--Reviewed annual monitoring report. The on-site mitigation pond is being enlarged to provide the required mitigation for emergent wetlands, while also providing a popular kids fishing pond close to the city.

Ashton--Reviewed annual monitoring report.

Fall River--Reviewed under-release reports and annual revegetation plan. My recommendations for under-release avoidance during icing conditions have led to a reduction in the number and magnitude of under-releases. Also, the project operation plan now is to release approximately 30 cfs more than the 200 cfs minimum to provide a buffer flow to avoid under-releases.

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Snake River Resources Review (SR3)

I provided fish and wildlife information and management needs to fish technical committee and wildlife/vegetation technical team. I provided flow and ramping plan recommendations for Island Park and Palisades dams, and provided recommendations and impact assessment criteria for every stream reach and reservoir affected by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the Upper Snake Region. I provided technical assistance for reference reach evaluation of South Fork Snake, attended multiple meetings, and reviewed fisheries technical group work plan and draft Wildlife/Vegetation Needs Assessment Report.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Wildlife Mitigation Program

I supervised one Wildlife Mitigation Specialist and attended numerous wildlife mitigation interagency meetings and work sessions. Projects implemented this year include the following:

Noxious Weed Biocontrol Project, Kruse Conservation Easement (800 ac), Winterfeld Conservation Easement (420 ac), Kinghorn fee-title acquisition (142 ac), F. Kinghorn fee-title acquisition (310 ac), and Quarter-Circle-0 Ranch fee-title acquisition (2,135 ac). I assisted with habitat evaluation procedures for wildlife benefits of mitigation. MOU agreements were finalized with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Progress was made with IDFG/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) agreement and BLM/BPA Agreement. Significant progress was accomplished towards acquiring the Deer Parks Property (2,600 ac) and the Soda Hills property (2,560 ac). Wildlife Mitigation Project activities were closely coordinated with numerous agencies, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and other interested parties.

Additional BPA work included providing technical assistance on Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority resident fish plan, the Lower Valley Transmission Line EIS, and the City of Idaho Falls low impact hydroelectric project determination. This assistance for the City of Idaho Falls resulted in their being granted the potentially beneficial designation of Low Impact Project.

Bureau of Land Management

I attended an annual coordination meeting, reviewed and commented on the Challis Resource Area Draft Plan and EIS, and provided technical assistance on 26 other BLM projects including Larsen Farms land exchange, Birch Creek Ranches land exchange, Arco quartzite mine scoping, District fire plan, San Felipe allotment plan, and statewide rangeland standards and guidelines. I participated in extensive coordination with the Idaho Falls BLM during our co-implementation of the BPA wildlife mitigation program.

City/County, Planning and Zoning, and Community Grants

I provided comment letters for five Community Grant projects, assisted with regional comments on either Teton County subdivisions, provided comment letters for certification of St. Anthony, Island Park, and Butte County landfills, and answered numerous requests for technical assistance from city and county planners.

Corps of Engineers

In addition to reviewing section 404 permit applications for wetland fills, I attended two days of coordination meetings to review pending permits and enforcement actions, represented IDFG in the interagency levee (post-flood) task force, and reviewed and coordinated with FEMA-funded post-flood projects.

Idaho Department of Lands

I attended an annual coordination meeting, reviewed the Arco mine reclamation plan, and reviewed several proposals for burning, brush control, logging, and land leases.

Media

Formal contacts included three interviews for flood impacts on fish and wildlife, two interviews on Edie Creek water right protest, one interview on bull trout recovery, one interview for Silverhawk subdivision, and three interviews on Targhee Plan Revision.

National Park Service

For the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Winter Visitor Use Management Study, I provided wildlife literature, reviewed wildlife/recreation materials, and reviewed the draft plan.

Non-government Organizations

Upon request, I attended a meeting on South Fork Basin Plan and strategy for obtaining Legislature's approval. I attended five South Fork Watershed Council meetings, two Upper Snake River Watershed Council meetings, and two Henrys Fork Watershed Council meetings. I attended the annual Henrys Fork Foundation research/stewardship meeting, reviewed the HFF annual monitoring report and aquatic vegetation report, and provided information assistance upon request. 1 provided technical assistance for Idaho Rivers United protest of Big Lost recharge project, which led to an agreed-upon managed recharge program in the Big Lost Basin. Upon request by Idaho Rivers United, I wrote an article on the 1 997 Snake River flood effects on fish, wildlife, and vegetation for their newsletter. I assisted with developing an agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USBR, and IDFG for Henry's Lake exchange water to provide a 10 cfs minimum flow from Henrys Lake Dam. I assisted with three letters of support for Teton Valley Land Trust conservation easements.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

I provided technical assistance during numerous meetings and calls with USFWS regarding 404 permits, threatened and endangered species, streamlined conferencing, and other projects affecting habitat.

Intradepartment Assistance

I reviewed the South Fork pilot fee program proposal, coordinated with regional fish section for annual work plan, input issues for Director/Natural Resource Policy Bureau meeting, attended Bureau/Director meeting in Boise, worked the opening of fishing season, worked sage grouse and elk check stations, gave a presentation to hunter education class, served as regional duty officer 17 days, served as acting Regional Supervisor as needed, assisted with electroshocking population survey for the South Fork, conducted three sage grouse lek route counts, assisted with several IDFG 404 permit applications, fulfilled bureau requests for bull trout summaries, temperature data, and bull trout habitat conditions and needs for Governor's office assignments, assisted with review and presentation of bureau mission statement and legal authority to work on habitat protection, reviewed and commented on Director's memo for revised IDFG technical assistance policy, and reviewed the region's Egin-Hamer area closure proposal.

Submitted by:

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