

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Ed Schriever, Director

**F16AF00909 Amendment 2
Wildlife Restoration Interim Report**



STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019

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September 2019
Boise, Idaho

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INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission are charged with the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and management of all wildlife in Idaho. Maintaining adequate habitat to support big game, upland game, waterfowl, and furbearers is of great importance to those who hunt, trap, and view wildlife throughout Idaho. Nongame species, which have important ecological, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, and educational value to the citizens of Idaho, also benefit from maintaining adequate habitat.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Statewide Habitat Management Program (i.e., Habitat Program) manages IDFG-administered lands across Idaho to protect wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other forms of wildlife enjoyment. IDFG's Habitat Program includes 30 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and a Wildlife Mitigation Unit (WMU) (Fig. 1) within 6 of the 7 IDFG administrative regions (i.e. Regions) (Fig. 2). Each WMA is managed as part of a larger habitat district, which may also include other IDFG-administered lands (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and easements) managed for wildlife habitat and public access. Each WMA has a primary purpose such as big game, waterfowl, and upland game. In addition to game species, University of Idaho and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) researchers found that the WMA network conserves the full range of Idaho's wildlife species and other ecological features (Karl et al. 2005).

In addition to IDFG-administered lands, wildlife habitat management in Idaho could not succeed without cooperation and collaboration among many IDFG partners and neighbors. Idaho Department of Fish and Games habitat management partners include Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USDI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Forest Service (USFS), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Power Company, and many private landowners. Idaho Department of Fish and Game supports habitat management on private lands with Technical Assistance often through IDFG's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill programs.

Funding for IDFG's Habitat Program staff and operations and maintenance (O&M) are provided by IDFG hunting license and fee revenues, a federal aid grant from excise taxes under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), and mitigation for habitat losses due to inundation of the hydropower system (e.g., BPA and BOR). Hunters both fund much of the cost for managing wildlife habitat in Idaho and benefit from the big game, waterfowl, and upland game bird hunting opportunities sustained by IDFG-administered lands. Non-hunters also benefit from the broad conservation values associated with IDFG-managed lands.

The following report sections summarize statewide and Regional results of IDFG's Habitat Program for SFY19 (i.e., 01 July 2018 through 30 June 2019) objectives specified in the PR Grant Project Statement.

State: Idaho

Grant Number: F16AF00909 Amendment 2

Grant Name: Statewide Habitat Management

Report Period: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Report Due Date: September 28, 2019

Location of Work: Statewide

GRANT OBJECTIVES

Project I - Coordination and Administration

Objective: Administer 1 Grant by 30 June 2019.

Project II - Habitat Development and Maintenance

Objective: Develop and/or maintain approximately 55,572 acres of habitat by 30 June 2019.

Project III - Operations and Maintenance

Objective: Operate and maintain 31 WMAs, 3 WHAs, 2 backcountry properties, and 1 conservation easement by 30 June 2019.

Project IV - Surveys and Inventory

Objective: Conduct 5 statewide survey and monitoring projects by 30 June 2019.

Project V - Technical Assistance

Objective: Provide 930 technical assists by 30 June 2019.

Project VI - Access Yes!

Objective: Provide wildlife-based recreation opportunities on over 300,000 acres of private land by June 30 2019.

APPROACH

Implementation of IDFG's Habitat Program is based on WMA management plans and species management plans, which specify wildlife management objectives. Idaho Department of Fish and Game also uses public input, wildlife surveys, and habitat monitoring to guide wildlife management activities toward achieving objectives specified in the WMA and species plans. Upon request, IDFG provides wildlife and habitat information as Technical Assistance to other agencies and the public to inform decision-making processes.

Project I – Coordination and Administration: The Habitat Program is administered from IDFG's Boise Headquarters (HQ) and implemented across the state in 7 Regions to include the

Panhandle (R1), Clearwater (R2), Southwest (R3), Magic Valley (R4), Southeast (R5), Upper Snake (R6), and Salmon (R7) regions. Each Region has a Regional Office and Regional staff. Regions are further subdivided into Wildlife Habitat Districts (WHD), most of which include one or more WMAs. Each Habitat District has at least one assigned staff member from the Habitat Program.

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance: Idaho Department of Fish and Game develops and maintains (i.e., manages) habitat on IDFG-administered lands (e.g., WMAs, WMUs, and WHAs) and supports habitat management on other public and private lands. Habitat projects on private land are typically implemented through IDFG’s HIP and FSA/NRCS Farm Bill programs. Annual habitat management activities on IDFG-administered lands included the following examples:

- Water level control for wetlands.
- Production and irrigation of food plots and cover crops.
- Shrub seedling planting.
- Riparian, rangeland, and forest restoration.
- Noxious weed control.

Project III - Operations and Maintenance: Idaho Department of Fish and Game performs annual O&M of facilities and infrastructure on IDFG-administered lands, which include the following examples:

- Access roads and trails.
- Fences.
- Parking areas.
- Kiosks and signs.
- Buildings and structures.
- Restrooms.
- Campgrounds.
- Water control and delivery structures.
- Equipment.

Project IV - Surveys and Inventories: Idaho Department of Fish and Game performs the following categories of Surveys and Inventories to inform wildlife, habitat, and public use management of IDFG-administered lands:

- Public use/hunter success.
- Waterfowl banding.
- Water level and flow measurements.
- Wildlife surveys and monitoring.
- Habitat Surveys and monitoring.

Public use surveys typically use traffic counters, sign-in registers, and stratified random surveys. Check stations during peak hunting periods (i.e., opening weekends for upland game and waterfowl) monitor hunter harvest. Habitat surveys and monitoring IDFG-administered lands often include for example (1) invasive weed distributions, (2) riparian condition, and (2) forage utilization in areas with grazing standards. The Habitat Program also supports population surveys

for wintering waterfowl, big game, upland bird broods, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, and vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

Project V – Technical Assistance: Idaho Department of Fish and Game provides wildlife habitat and population information upon request to inform proposed projects about potential wildlife effects. Technical Assistance about IDFG programs and policies is routinely provided to the public and the following entities: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USACE, BOR, BLM, USFS, NRCS, FSA, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Parks and Recreation (IDPR), IDL, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, land trusts, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). Technical Assistance comments and recommendations are communicated by telephone, letter, person-to-person, site visits, field trips, and participation in technical and advisory committees. Technical Assistance for habitat projects on private land is coordinated through IDFG's HIP and FSA/NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Project VI – Access Yes!: Regional field staff provide Technical Assistance to landowners to manage public access on and through private land. Operating funds provide financial incentives for private landowners to allow access for hunters, anglers, and trappers. Bids for participation in the Access Yes! Program are solicited through an applications process. Successful applicants sign lease agreements with the IDFG and receive payment.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Project I - Coordination and Administration: The Coordination and Administration of IDFG's Habitat Program is successfully accomplished when adequately funded and staffed with personnel trained to achieve IDFG habitat management goals and PR grant objectives.

Project II - Habitat Development and Maintenance: IDFG-administered lands provide habitat for a large percentage of the wildlife species residing in Idaho. For example, a 2002 Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit assessment found that WMAs collectively provided habitat for 98% of wildlife species and all federal threatened, endangered, or candidate terrestrial vertebrates in Idaho. Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat on these lands is therefore important for Idaho's ecological diversity and sustaining wildlife-related recreation. Protecting and restoring wildlife habitat on private land complements the WMA system and significantly contributes to statewide conservation of game, nongame, and SGCN.

Project III - Operations and Maintenance: IDFG operates and maintains buildings, structures, and infrastructure on IDFG-administered lands (e.g., WMAs, WMUs, and WHAs) both to support IDFG's habitat management activities and to provide visitor amenities for public uses including hunting and other wildlife-related recreation. For example, approximately 370,000 acres of IDFG-administered lands typically provide more than 700,000 visitor-use days annually.

Project IV - Surveys and Inventories: IDFG uses wildlife habitat and population information collected through Surveys and Inventories to develop management plans, recommend game

harvest seasons and bags, inform Technical Assistance, and assess the effectiveness of habitat management activities for achieving objectives of IDFG-managed lands. Visitor use information is also collected for IDFG-administered lands to complement statewide surveys (i.e., strategic planning survey, hunter activity surveys, etc.) with site-specific feedback necessary for responsive management.

Project V - Technical Assistance: Technical Assistance about IDFG's wildlife management programs and policies is intended to inform decisions to benefit wildlife by avoiding, reducing, or mitigating wildlife impacts, which could result from project-related habitat changes. IDFG's Technical Assistance is typically provided upon request to natural resource agencies, developers, industries, and the public. IDFG also provides Technical Assistance to agencies and the public to inform projects specifically designed to improve wildlife habitat, such as financial programs available to enhance stewardship of private lands for wildlife. For example, providing Technical assistance for an early detection and rapid response system for noxious weeds can improve wildlife habitat quality and reduce long-term vegetation management costs.

Project VI - *Access Yes!*: Additional acres of access for the hunters and anglers of Idaho are made available by the *Access Yes!* program. *Access Yes!* enrolled acreages also maintain and improve wildlife habitat by keeping working lands undeveloped.

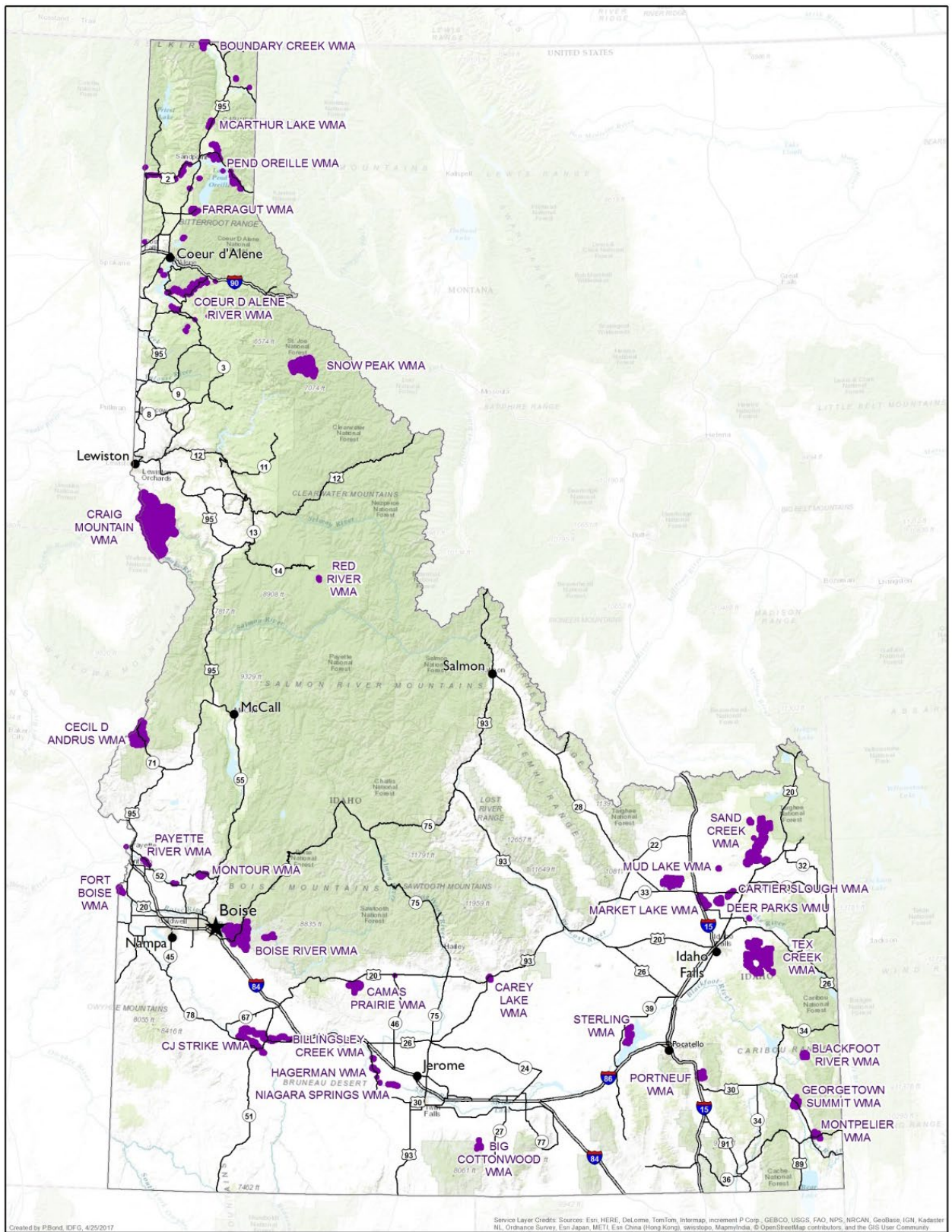


Figure 1. Idaho Department of Fish and Game WMAs (including Deer Parks WMU).

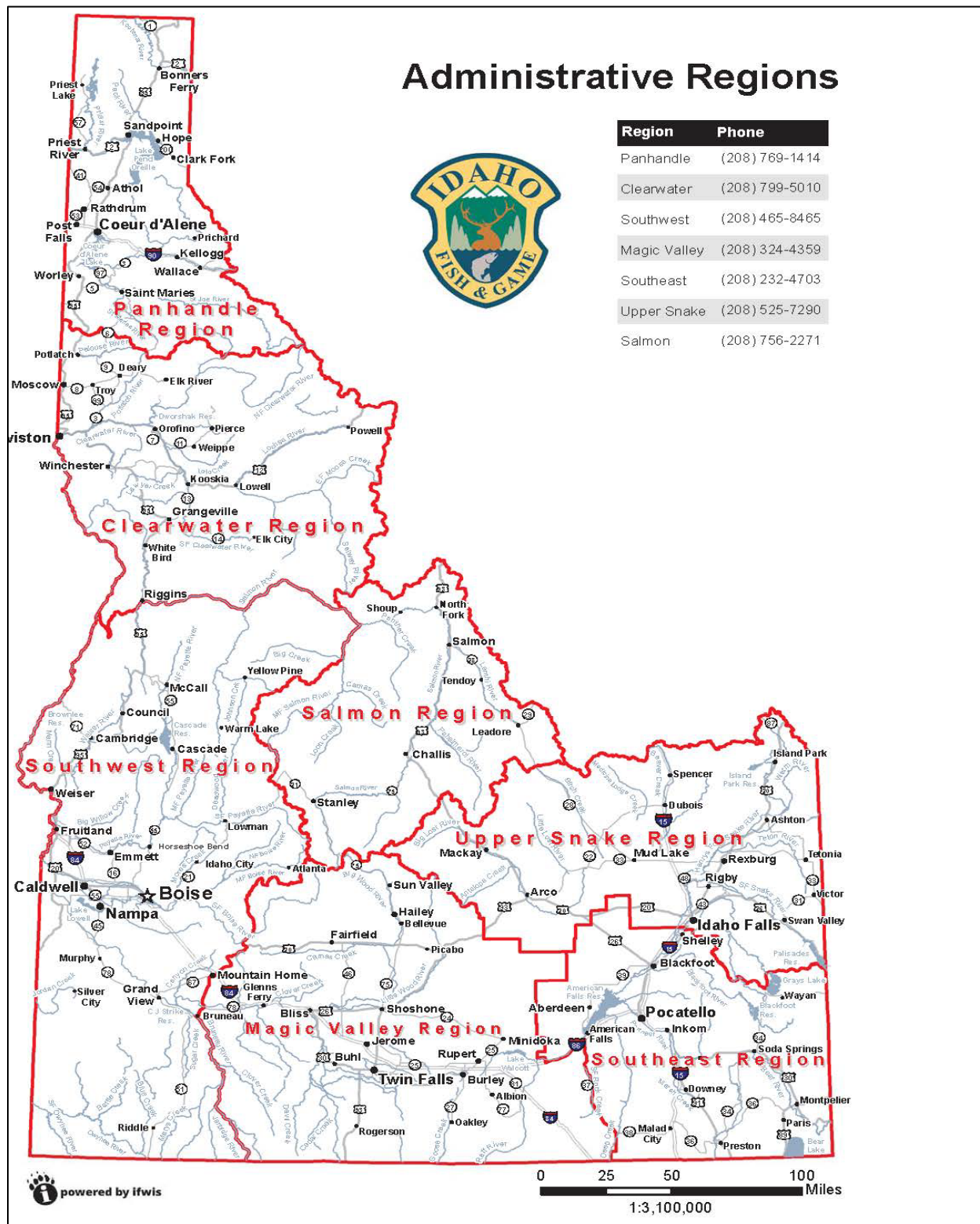


Figure 2. Idaho Department of Fish and Game administrative Regions.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

The following subsections summarize statewide Habitat Program activities conducted during SFY19 per the following PR grant Projects and their corresponding objectives:

- Project I – Coordination and Administration
- Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance
- Project III – Operations and Maintenance
- Project IV – Surveys and Inventories
- Project V – Technical Assistance

For each PR grant project and corresponding objective, IDFG's SFY19 activities are further summarized in subsequent sections for HQ and the 7 Regions:

- Region 1 (R1) – Panhandle Region.
- Region 2 (R2) – Clearwater Region.
- Region 3 (R3) – Southwest Region.
- Region 4 (R4) – Magic Valley Region.
- Region 5 (R5) – Southeast Region.
- Region 6 (R6) – Upper Snake Region.
- Region 7 (R7) – Salmon Region.

Project I – Coordination and Administration

Objective: Administer 1 Grant by 30 June 2019.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Habitat Program was administered with funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, and other federal assistance grants. Idaho Department of Fish and Games State Habitat Manager administered the Habitat Program, which included providing statewide program direction, work planning coordination, budgeting, recruiting, and interagency coordination. HQ and Regional staff (Table 1) administered Habitat Program activities statewide and within IDFG's 7 Regions. Regional Wildlife Biologists implemented the Habitat Program within designated Habitat Districts. Maintenance Foremen and Craftsmen supported facility and infrastructure O&M within Regions. Biologists and Maintenance Foremen recruited, hired, trained, and supervised temporary employees to complete assignments. Volunteers and reservists also contributed to Habitat Program projects.

Table 1. Statewide Habitat Personnel.

Personnel	HQ	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
State Habitat Manager	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Program Coordinator	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Regional Habitat Manager	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Staff Biologist ^b	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Regional Wildlife Biologist	1	4	3	7	4	2	5	1	27
Farm Bill Biologist	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Senior Wildlife Technician	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	0	6
Volunteer Services Coordinator	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Maintenance Foreman ^a	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	5
Maintenance Craftsman ^b	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	10	7	7	13	6	3	9	1	56

^a One part-time staff biologist is a six month part-time position.

^b Partially funded with PR habitat management program funds

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Objective: Develop and/or maintain approximately 55,572 acres of habitat by 30 June 2019.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Habitat Program developed and maintained (i.e., managed) habitat on IDFG-administered and private lands with funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants, and mitigation settlement agreements. On private lands, PR funds were used only for personnel and administrative costs associated with habitat management (i.e., provided Technical Assistance). Farm Bill and State conservation programs and competitive grants primarily funded private land projects. Table 2 summarizes habitat management on IDFG-administered lands during SFY19, which included approximately 65,409 acres of key wildlife habitats (e.g., big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian, and wetlands).

Table 2. Acres of habitat managed statewide in SFY19.

Management Activity (Acres)	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Prescribed Burn	310	0	39	0	3	0	0	352
Mechanical treatment for restoration	160	120	118	158	206	110	0	872
Tree and Shrub plantings	20	23	168	6	25	1	1	244
Herbaceous cover plantings	139	0	1,671	163	106	146	2	2,227
Grazing	400	2,280	37,944	0	1,200	0	0	41,824
Managed Wetlands	1,943	15	601	1,438	54	7,225	0	11,276
Food and cover plots	88	55	156	555	106	722	10	1,692
Noxious weed control	0	0	781	3,131	3,010	0	0	6,922
Total	3,060	2,493	41,478	5,451	4,710	8,204	13	65,409

Project III – Operation and Maintenance

Objective: Operate and maintain 31 WMAs (including 1 WMU), 3 WHAs, 2 backcountry properties, and 1 conservation easement by 30 June 2019.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Habitat Program implemented O&M activities on IDFG-administered lands with funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, and other federal assistance grants. Table 3 summarizes facility and infrastructure O&M on IDFG-administered lands during SFY19, which included 31 WMAs (including 1 WMU), 4 WHAs, 3 backcountry properties, 1 conservation easement, and 2 access areas.

Table 3. Facilities operated and maintained by IDFG statewide in SFY19.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Roads (mi)	8	150	124	18	35	36	1	372
Trails (mi)	41	30	13	9	12	24	1	130
Maintained Fence (mi)	12	78	198	15	35	58	2	398
Parking Areas (#)	24	9	49	19	47	35	1	184
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	44	9	167	13	132	63	1	429
Buildings/Structures (#)	32	43	38	14	13	32	0	172
Restrooms (#)	4	1	1	7	7	3	2	25
Campgrounds (#)	2	11	0	0	0	9	1	23
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	47	0	170	33	11	111	0	372
Equipment (#)	62	60	71	60	16	36	10	315
WMAs and WMUs (#)	6	2	6	6	5	6	0	31
WHAs and other parcels (#)	0	2	3	0	0	1	4	10

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

Objective: Conduct 5 statewide survey and monitoring projects by 30 June 2019.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Habitat Program performed 144 surveys/inventories within the 5 Survey and Inventory Projects with funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, and other federal assistance grants. Table 4 summarizes SFY19 activities performed within the 5 statewide Survey and Monitoring projects, which included visitor use surveys (e.g., traffic counters), hunter check stations, invasive weed inventories, and vegetation monitoring, and wildlife population surveys on IDFG-administered lands.

Table 4. Survey and Inventory activities conducted in SFY19.

Survey and Inventory Project	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Total
Public use/hunter success	5	3	9	5	1	4	1	0	28
Waterfowl banding	3	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	9
Water level or flow measurement	4	0	2	5	4	8	0	0	23
Wildlife surveys and monitoring	6	3	4	6	3	9	0	1	32
Habitat surveys and monitoring	3	9	7	5	13	6	7	2	52

Project V – Technical Assistance

Objective: Provide 930 technical assists by 30 June 2019.

Idaho Department of Fish and Games Habitat Program provided Technical Assistance to outside entities with funding from the PR grant and State License funds. Table 5 summarizes Technical Assistance provided by Habitat Program staff during SFY19, which consisted of 593 collaborative technical assists (including working groups/ partnerships) and included input to public agencies, NGOs, and private landowners about hydropower relicensing, energy projects, urban-wildland development, forest practices, livestock grazing management, range rehabilitation, wetland and riparian enhancement, and transportation projects. In addition, Technical Assistance was provided to private landowners about habitat enhancement opportunities through IDFG’s Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) and HIP and federal Farm Bill programs including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land, including State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), which are administered by the FSA and NRCS. Although the number of technical assists provided were fewer than the SFY19 objective of 930, IDFG was responsive to the requests received.

Table 5. Technical Assistance activity summary for SFY19.

Technical Assistance activities	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Total
Technical assistance to private landowners (acres)	5	4,000	100	576	5,209	26,300	4	130,000	166,194
Participation in working groups, partnerships (#)	31	33	17	11	13	12	11	13	141
Technical assists project reviews (#)	18	30	38	14	18	22	20	292	452

Project VI – Access Yes!

Objective: Provide wildlife-based recreation opportunities on over 300,000 acres of private land by June 30 2019.

Access Yes! is partially funded by the PR grant, State License revenue, and other non-federal grants. Table 6 summarizes *Access Yes!* acreages enrolled during SFY19 primarily through lease agreements between IDFG and private landowners, which made 318,042 acres of private land accessible to Idaho sportsmen during calendar year 2019.

Table 6. *Access Yes!* lands enrolled during SFY19.

<i>Access Yes!</i>	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Access provided (acres)	90,812	14,851	22,373	116,402	41,195	22,233	10,176	318,042

HEADQUARTERS

Project I – Coordination and Administration

Statewide Coordination and Administration of the Habitat Program was conducted from HQ. Statewide Habitat Program objectives and support for Regional Habitat Programs were achieved during SFY19 with the following HQ staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees:

- One State Habitat Manager administered the statewide Habitat Program including work planning, budgeting, recruiting, and interagency coordination across the 7 Regions.
- Two Program Coordinators.
 - Supported Regional management of IDFG-administered lands.
 - Oversaw Regional implementation of the HIP and Farm Bill programs.
- Four Staff Biologists.
 - Coordinated statewide and Regional greater sage-grouse conservation.
 - Implemented WMA habitat monitoring.
 - Administered IDFG's statewide MDI.
 - Supported lands administration.
- One Regional Wildlife Biologist supported compliance with federal aid requirements.
- Two Farm Bill Biologists supporting Regional implementation of Farm Bill programs.

During SFY19, the Habitat Program's HQ staff conducted the following Coordination and Administration activities:

- Planned and lead the Habitat Program's component of seven Wildlife Bureau-Regional annual work plan meetings.
- Coordinated monthly Habitat Program conference calls.
- Coordinated two meetings of the Habitat Program's leadership planning team.
- Co-chaired IDFG's Lands Committee.
- Coordinated and lead the Habitat Program budgeting and administration.
- Participated in compliance coordination meetings with U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and the Idaho State Historical Preservation Office.
- Completed compliance requirements for PR and federal assistance funded projects and programs including SWAP.
- Completed the Habitat Program's annual statewide weed control report.
- Completed a proposal for permission to use PR grant funds to purchase and apply herbicides on previously unapproved WMAs.
- Participated in the annual Biocontrol Task Force Meeting; a multi-agency consortium of researchers and land management agencies dedicated to advancing the field of biological weed control.
- Chaired the Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership steering committee.
- Co-chaired the Intermountain West Joint Venture's Idaho State Conservation Partnership.

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

During SFY19, the Habitat Program's HQ staff provided support for Regional habitat management including the following:

- Developed agreements with Sawtooth and Caribou-Targhee National Forests to enhance nearly 10,000 acres of aspen habitat in the Albion, Portneuf, and Bannock mountains.

- Continued collaboration with Mule Deer Foundation and BLM on restoration efforts in the Bennet Hills, which resulted in planting of more than 500,000 sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings during the past 3 years on over 5,000 acres of mule deer winter range.

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

During SFY19, the Habitat Program’s HQ staff supported Regional O&M projects including the following:

- Ongoing replacement house and garage at Andrus WMA.
- Ongoing house construction at CJ Strike WMA.
- Improvement of 2 backcountry airstrips at the Cougar Ranch and Lower Loon Creek WHAs.

Project IV – Survey and Inventory

During SFY19, the Habitat Program’s HQ staff supported Regional Surveys and Inventories including the following:

- Continued implementation of long-term baseline vegetation surveys of WMAs including report preparation and supervision of a vegetation monitoring crew: 6 WMA surveys conducted and prepared 4 survey reports.

Project V – Technical Assistance

During SFY19, the Habitat Program’s HQ staff provided Technical Assistance including the following:

- Supported the Caribou-Targhee National Forest with owl and goshawk surveys and silvicultural assessments for development of a large-scale aspen restoration project in the middle-Henry’s Fork watershed.
- Provided technical input for a private industry proposed wetland restoration/water quality project for Fort Boise WMA.
- Provided technical and policy guidance for bird habitat conservation to the Intermountain West Joint Venture by participating on the Management Board and for developing wetland dynamics model.
- Represented IDFG at the Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership meetings and co-chaired the Habitat Delivery Working Group.
- Provided technical and policy guidance on sage-grouse conservation to the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation and federal land management agencies.
- Led an interagency team to develop a Sage-grouse Habitat Quantification Tool to be used to quantify impacts of infrastructure development projects, estimate benefits of habitat improvement projects, and guide prioritization of conservation efforts.
- Participated on state team working with BLM and USFS on the 2019 greater sage-grouse land-use plan amendments.
- Provided assistance to IDFG’s Director’s Office on various legislative and governor’s office requests.
- Represented IDFG on various WAFWA and AFWA working groups.

- Farm Bill and Mule Deer Initiative biologists provided over 289 individual instances of Technical Assistance to private landowners, with focus on enrolling over 130,000 acres in federal Farm Bill programs including CRP and SAFE.
- Collaborated with the ITD to develop and secure funding for a wildlife passage construction project on US30 at Rocky Point, Southeast Idaho.
- Participated in the Idaho Weed Coordination Committee and Idaho Wildfire Rehabilitation Committee.
- Helped coordinate and participated in a Wetland Review for Fort Boise WMA to provide guidance for a wetland restoration project.

Project VI – Access Yes!

During SFY19, the Habitat Program’s HQ staff coordinated with IDFG’s Communication Bureau to develop a comprehensive public webpage that outlines IDFG efforts to improve and maintain public access. Website goals were to increase awareness of IDFG programs and increase public participation in *Access Yes!*.

PANHANDLE REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Panhandle Region’s Habitat Program administers 6 WMAs and 24 smaller parcels totaling approximately 54,200 acres, which support wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation (Table 7). In addition to funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, and other federal assistance grants, the Panhandle Region’s Habitat Program receives funding from Sport Fish Restoration, BPA, and Coeur d’Alene Basin Hecla mitigation settlement agreements.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 by the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Four Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised seasonal staff.
- One Regional Wildlife Biologist performed both wildlife habitat and population duties, which bridged the two sections and included federal lands conservation, WMA project support, GIS support, regional waterfowl data management, disease monitoring, and Technical Assistance.
- One Maintenance Craftsman and associated seasonal crew assisted with O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.

Table 7. IDFG-administered areas within the Panhandle Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Boundary-Smith Creek WMA	BSCWMA	2,072
McArthur Lake WMA	MLWMA	1,821
Pend Oreille WMA	POWMA	7,432
Farragut WMA	FWMA	1,418
Coeur d’Alene River WMA	CDARWMA	9,074
Snow Peak WMA	SPWMA	32,292

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 8 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered and other public lands in the Panhandle Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Wetland management on approximately 8,910 acres to maintain important hydrologic functions, maximize waterfowl production, maintain nongame species habitat, and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities.
- Wildlife habitat management of approximately 44,528 acres to promote critical habitat for game species, overall species diversity, winter range, forest management, shrub management, and big and small game hunting.
- Grain food plots on approximately 88 combined acres for upland game birds, wild turkeys, and migrating waterfowl on the BSCWMA, MLWMA, POWMA, and CDARWMA.

- Planting of 19,322 native trees and shrubs on BSCWMA for riparian wildlife habitat in cooperation with the Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project.
- Planting of approximately 24 acres of forb forage plots on the POWMA, MLWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Goose pasture management on approximately 30 acres with mowing and planting on MLWMA, POWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Planting of 3,000 wetland plugs and 950 woody riparian plants in previously disturbed agricultural fields to aide in streambank stabilization and improve wildlife habitat along Fish Creek in the Cocolalla segment of the POWMA.
- Planting of 400 seedling shrubs and trees, 200 willow cuttings, and 300 sedge/rush seedlings in previously disturbed agricultural area on the Pack River streambanks to aide in streambank stabilization, reduce erosion, and improve wildlife habitat on the West Trout parcel.
- Continued moist soil management strategy to enhance wetland productivity and maintain hemi-marsh conditions for the BSCWMA and MLWMA wetland complexes.
- Maintenance of an estimated 1 mile of green vegetative fire breaks to facilitate controlled burning project efficiency and safety on the BSCWMA.
- Prescribed burning operations on 31 acres of previously disturbed farm fields in partnership with IDL on BSCWMA.

Table 8. Habitat management activities in the Panhandle Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Boundary- Smith Creek WMA	McArthur Lake WMA	Pend Oreille WMA	Farragut WMA	Coeur d'Alene WMA	Snow Peak WMA	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	31	0	0	0	0	0	31
Mechanical treatment for restoration	128	12	10	0	20	0	170
Tree and Shrub plantings	16	0	4	0	0	0	20
Herbaceous cover plantings	115	3	15	0	6	0	139
Grazing	0	0	0	0	400	0	400
Managed Wetlands	303	400	40	0	1,200	0	1,943
Food and cover plots	12	7	40	0	30	0	89
Noxious weed control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 9 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Panhandle Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Maintenance of 396 artificial nest structures on BSCWMA, MLWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Removal of approximately 1.5 miles of decadent and hazardous barbwire fence.
- New installations or replacements of existing property boundary markers on all WMA parcels.

- Maintenance of 22 miles of public access trails on SPWMA in cooperation with IDPR and the Montana Conservation Corps.
- Adding new camping limit signs on SPWMA.
- Continued water management and access development activities on the Black Lake Ranch property.
- Continued field assessments, restoration planning, and compliance and permitting on the Black Rock Slough wetland project on the CDARWMA.
- Water treatments to reduce rust build up in two residences on the CDAWMA.

Table 9. Facilities operated and maintained in the Panhandle Region.

Feature	Boundary-Smith Creek WMA	McArthur Lake WMA	Pend Oreille WMA	Farragut WMA	Coeur d'Alene WMA	Snow Peak WMA	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	0	0	5	1	2	0	8
Trails (mi)	12	1	4	1	1	22	41
Maintained Fence (mi)	0	0	1	6	5	0	12
Parking Areas (#)	2	1	12	1	8	0	24
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	10	5	13	8	8	0	44
Buildings/Structures (#)	4	5	8	11	4	0	32
Restrooms (#)	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Campgrounds (#)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	29	1	5	0	12	0	47
Equipment (#)	17	9	20	2	14	0	62

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Panhandle Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Banding of approximately 731 ducks on BSCWMA, MLMWA, POWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Banding of 75 mourning doves on the CDARWMA.
- Waterfowl hunter check stations on BSCWMA, MLWMA, POWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Waterfowl migration surveys during spring and fall on MLWMA and BSCWMA.
- Waterfowl breeding pair/brood counts on BSCWMA and MLMWA.
- Goose nest platform and wood duck nest box surveys on BSCWMA, MLMWA, POWMA, and CDARWMA.
- Monitoring of western grebe colonies on POMWA and CDARWMA.
- Monitoring of black tern colonies and heron rookeries at POWMA.
- Pheasant crow counts on the BSCWMA.
- Tundra/trumpeter swan winter migration surveys on MLWMA, BSCWMA, Kootenai NWR and Ball Creek Nature Preserve (TNC).

- Monitoring of stream flows and wetland water levels on the BSCWMA and CDARWMA.
- Monitoring of active eagle nesting sites at eight locations on POWMA and CDRWMA.
- Monitoring of noxious weed infestations and evaluations of treatment effectiveness on all WMAs.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Panhandle Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Guidance to private landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat within agriculture areas, which included coordination with USDA agencies and IDFG’s HIP as warranted.
- Consultations with agencies and private landowners that provided benefits to wildlife habitat on 56,000 acres.
- Input to private industry; local, city, county, state, and federal agencies and representatives; NGOs; SWCD; resource collaborative groups; and restoration partnerships.
- Involvement in two county-based resource groups, which are the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative and the Shoshone-Benewah Forest Health Collaborative for informed decision-making. Both groups review land use and environmental-based projects in their counties (Boundary, Shoshone, and Benewah counties) and provide recommendations back to the land agency or organization.
- Participation in Inland Empire and Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) activities, including collaborative meetings and group noxious weed control projects
- Assistance to ITD including an annual coordination meeting and planning on three highway-related habitat and wildlife passage projects (e.g., a timber removal to improve wildlife and public safety on the MLWMA, and wildlife passage within the McArthur Lake Corridor through development of new highway bridge).
- Support for the USFS St. Joe Ranger District to conduct elk habitat assessments, an environmental assessment, and Habitat Restoration Plan for the 33,000-acre SPWMA, including elk habitat improvement projects (e.g., prescribed burns, timber harvest, and fire breaks).
- Participation in the USFS Panhandle Forest Collaborative to better implement the Panhandle National Forest Plan.
- Participation in the Coeur d’Alene Basin Restoration Partnership to develop and implement the Coeur d’Alene Basin Restoration Plan as part of the Hecla and Asarco mining settlements and funding within the Coeur d’Alene River Basin.
- Providing technical assistance for the Albeni Falls Dam shoreline stabilization efforts on USACE lands managed by IDFG, to include more extensive vegetation restoration components integrated into the design criteria.
- Providing assistance for Albeni Falls Dam to determine the feasibility and process to initiate forest management activities on USACE lands managed by IDFG for wildlife, forest health, and public use objectives as identified in the 2014 POWMA Management Plan.

- Participation in the Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project including community and professional outreach and education through a citizen science volunteer program and workshops.
- Planning for the Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project to reestablish 250 acres of forested lowland habitat and native forb/grass communities, 2 ephemeral ponds and one mile of ephemeral streambed, 25 acres of cool-air refugia for wildlife habitat on BSCWMA.
- Continued engagement and collaboration with the USFS St. Joe Ranger District staff to promote elk habitat improvement planning and development on the SPWMA.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Panhandle Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- Plant and establish native wetland grass/sedge/rush plantings in areas of cattail control for diversity in native wetland vegetation on BSCWMA, MLWMA, POWMA, and CDARWMA – Partially completed. Cattail control and plantings were completed at BSCWMA and POWMA, but not at MLWMA or CDARWMA.
- The project to complete brush mastication projects to revitalize decadent brush stands on CDARWMA and MLWMA – Not completed. The project began in 2017 with vegetation mastication and then follow-up weed control in 2019. No further mastication projects needed.
- Complete controlled burning projects on BSCWMA, MLWMA, POWMA, CDARWMA to maintain early seral species and/or rejuvenate vegetation – Partially completed. A fall controlled burn was completed at BSCWMA. During 2019, site conditions were not suitable for burning at MLWMA, and no burning plans were prepared for CDARWMA. Mowing replaced controlled burning at POWMA due to neighboring private lands.
- CDARWMA. Develop 2 parking areas and 3 small craft boat launches at Black Rock Slough and Black Lake Ranch. Boat launches will be developed at Black Rock Slough, Bull Run Lake, and Black Lake Ranch – Partially completed. Parking areas and a kayak launch were constructed. The remaining boat launches will be completed with non-PR funds.
- ADA Hunting and Wildlife Viewing Blinds. Regional staff will select appropriate sites, one on each of 3 WMAs, CDARWMA, BSCWMA, and MLWMA – Partially completed. ADA hunting and wildlife viewing blinds have been completed for BSCWMA and MLWMA. Two ADA blinds have been fabricated for CDARWMA, and installation is pending completion of the Gray's Meadow restoration project.

CLEARWATER REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Clearwater Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on two WMAs comprised of more than 120,000 acres (84,000 deeded acres and 40,000 acres under lease or cooperative management agreement) and five WHAs encompassing 1,701 acres, which support wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation (Table 10). In addition to funding from the PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants, the Clearwater Region’s Habitat Program receives funding from a BPA mitigation settlement agreement. PR grant funding was supplemented with HIP and Farm Bill program funding for habitat management on private lands primarily for upland game birds.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 with the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Four Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised the Senior Wildlife Technician and seasonal staff.
- One Farm Bill Biologist supporting Regional implementation of Farm Bill programs.
- One Senior Wildlife Technician assisted district-level activities and supervised seasonal employees.
- One Maintenance Foreman and associated seasonal crew assisted with O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.
- One Maintenance Craftsman assisted O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.

Table 10. IDFG-administered areas within the Clearwater Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Red River WMA	RRWMA	314
Craig Mountain WMA	CMWMA	124,445 ^a
Joseph Plains WHA	JPWHA	1,300
South Fork Clearwater	None	330
Aspendale WHA	AWHA	13
Fir Island WHA	FIWHA	38
Paradise WHA	PWHA	19

^a Includes 81,400 deeded acres, balance cooperatively managed with BLM and IDL, and 5,500 acres cooperatively managed with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 11 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Clearwater Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Continued maintenance of 5,000 shrub and grass plantings along 1.5 miles of stream and a grazing exclosure at RRWMA.
- Management of a 40-acres haying lease for elk forage rejuvenation on RRWMA.

- Maintenance of grazing exclosures on CMWMA.
- Maintenance of 48 wood duck boxes on CMWMA to help monitor waterfowl use on the WMA.
- Management of wet meadow complex for biodiversity and big game forage on RRWMA.
- Releasing bio-control for spotted knapweed (*Cyphocleonus achates*) at 25 sites in the Selway Wilderness (100 releases of 5,000 root-eating and 7,500 seed-feeding agents).

Table 11. Habitat management activities in the Clearwater Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Craig Mountain WMA	Red River WMA	Thorn Creek Project	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	0	0	0	0
Mechanical treatment for restoration	60	40	20	120
Tree and Shrub plantings	5	0	18	23
Herbaceous cover plantings	0	0	0	0
Grazing	2,280	0	0	2,280
Managed Wetlands	15	0	0	15
Food and cover plots	55	0	0	55
Noxious weed control ^a	0	0	0	0

^a Bio-control releases not included.

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 12 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Clearwater Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Removal of approximately 20 miles of fence from CMWMA.
- Implemented several upgrades to WMA infrastructure.
- Maintenance of 51 water developments associated with WMAs.
- Maintenance of buildings/facilities at the RRWMA, and at Billy Creek, Wapshilla Creek, and Benton Meadows on CMWMA, and six back-country cabins.
- Significant repairs/maintenance of Wapshilla Ranch buildings/facilities on CMWMA.
- Fire-proofing of 6 remote cabins on CMWMA.

Table 12. Facilities operated and maintained in the Clearwater Region.

Feature	Craig Mountain WMA	Red River WMA	Joseph Plains WHA	Paradise WHA	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	150	0	0	0	150
Trails (mi)	28	0	2	0	30
Maintained Fence (mi)	62	4	11	1	78
Parking Areas (#)	7	2	0	0	9
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	6	3	0	0	9
Buildings/ Structures (#)	38	5	0	0	43
Restrooms (#)	1	0	0	0	1
Campgrounds (#)	8	3	0	0	11

Feature	Craig Mountain WMA	Red River WMA	Joseph Plains WHA	Paradise WHA	TOTAL
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment (#)	47	5	0	0	60^a

^a Includes 8 pieces of equipment used among the WMAs and WHAs.

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Clearwater Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Public use and upland game bird wing survey on CMWMA.
- Songbird and upland game bird surveys on Thorn Creek habitat project.
- Roadside upland game brood routes.
- Elk monitoring cameras.
- Wolf camera surveys.
- Fisher cameras.
- Baseline assessment of the Tenmile Conservation Easement.
- Development of a monitoring platform for statewide infrastructure on WMAs.
- Design of vegetation monitoring protocols for Dworshak elk mitigation requirements.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Clearwater Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- General wildlife and habitat input to local, state, and federal entities: Lapwai Water District, Dworshak Advisory Committee, USFS, and IDL.
- Review comments and recommendations for multiple proposed state and federal projects (e.g., USFS timber sales; USFS river recreation and development; USACE Dworshak Travel and Recreation Plan; BLM Resource Management Plans; and IDL timber sales, rock quarry development, and grazing leases).
- Weed committee participation: Tri-State Weed Management Committee, Salmon River Weed Management Committee, Clearwater Weed Management Committee, Palouse Weed Cooperative Management Committee, Dworshak Master Planning Committee, and Regional NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Local conservation committee participation: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Palouse Land Trust, Palouse SWCD, and Backcountry Horsemen Association.
- Habitat management guidance to the USFS for objectives identified in the Statewide Elk Management Plan.
- Clearwater Basin Coalition elk monitoring, vegetation surveys, habitat restoration, and landscape forest health.
- USACE Wildlife Management Plan for Dworshak Reservoir.
- USFS, Idaho County, and Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) noxious weed management in the Selway Wilderness.

- Craig Mountain/Joseph Plains Long-Range Fire Management Working Group.
- Motorized and administrative access related issues with adjacent landowners and the public on CMWMA.
- USFS Clearwater Wildlife Habitat Restoration.
- USFS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project.
- USFS forest and zone planning efforts.
- USACE elk forage enhancement efforts.
- Craig Mountain Cooperative Management with IDL, BLM, and NPT regarding cooperative fire management on the CMWMA and surrounding areas.
- CRP field habitat enhancements.
- SAFE habitat projects for high priority wildlife species.
- Wildlife-friendly farming practices for the Palouse Conservation District
- Wildlife habitat restoration projects for SWCD: Benewah, Palouse, Nez Perce, Latah, Idaho, and Lewis counties.
- Revision to the 2018 Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Plan.
- Coordination with Avista Corporation on forestry and access issues for transmission line repairs on CMWMA.
- Facilitated the transfer of \$15,000 for trail re-establishment in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.
- Assisted in securing \$80,000 for elk habitat restoration in the Lolo Game Management Unit
- Assisted in securing \$3,500 for turkey habitat improvements in the Palouse.
- Assisted with the installation of over 25,000 acres of dense nesting cover for upland game birds on private lands with Farm Bill and HIP funds.
- Assisted with habitat development and enhancement of approximately 4,000 acres of private lands, including SAFE contracts.
- Support for Latah SWCD wildlife habitat projects on private land.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Clearwater Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- The project to repair fence at CMWMA – Not completed. The project fence was determined to no longer be needed, and efforts were instead applied to routine maintenance of existing fences elsewhere on CMWMA.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Southwest Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on 6 WMAs, 9 WHAs, and 1 conservation easement to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on over 96,000 acres (Table 13). The PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants fund the Southwest Region’s Habitat Program. Additional License funds were budgeted for WMA O&M and capital improvements and staff costs.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 with the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Seven Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised Senior Wildlife Technicians.
- Three Senior Wildlife Technicians assisted district-level activities and supervised seasonal employees.
- One Maintenance Foreman and associated seasonal crew assisted with O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.
- One Volunteer Services Coordinator utilized a volunteer work force to implement habitat improvement projects throughout the Region.

Table 13. IDFG-administered areas within the Southwest Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Payette River WMA	PRWMA	1,251
Montour WMA	MWMA	1,561
Fort Boise WMA	FBWMA	1,608
C.J. Strike WMA	CJWMA	10,065
Boise River WMA	BORWMA	37,000
Cecil D. Andrus WMA	AWMA	23,928
Smiths Ferry WHA	SFWHA	10
Henley Basin WHA	HBWHA	2830
Middle Fork Payette River WHA	MFPRWHA	10
Star Lane WHA	SLWHA	10
Sand Hollow WHA	SHWHA	60
Bores Island WHA	BIWHA	10
Mann Creek WHA	MCWHA	325
Roswell Marsh WHA	RMWHA	676
Ted Trueblood WHA	TTWHA	292
Rocking M Conservation Easement	RMCE	16,506

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 14 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Southwest Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Improved the quality of key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland bird production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities on IDFG-managed lands.
- Developed additional wildlife habitat to support increased production on IDFG-managed lands.
- Managed livestock grazing on approximately 37,944 acres of big game winter range to improve rangeland plant communities.
- Managed water levels on 600.9 acres of ponds and wetlands to improve waterfowl nesting and brood-rearing habitat.
- Maintained, replaced, or installed 580 waterfowl nest structures.
- Planted and maintained 79 acres of food plots.
- Coordinated with federal agencies and provided native seed for winter range improvements to federal and private lands affected by wildfire.
- Treated noxious weeds and invasive plant species on 781 acres of IDFG-managed land.

Table 14. Habitat management activities in the Southwest Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Cecil D. Andrus WMA	Fort Boise WMA	Montour WMA	Payette WMA	Boise River WMA	C.J. Strike WMA	Regional	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	0	28	0	11	0	0	0	39
Mechanical treatment for restoration	1	10	0	5	0	2	100	118
Tree and Shrub plantings	3	6	0	0	0	0	159	168
Herbaceous cover plantings	6	0	0	0	0	0	1,665	1671
Grazing	23,928	0	0	209	13,057	750	0	37944
Managed Wetlands	0	195	64	42	0	300	0	601
Food and cover plots	0	50	18	11	0	77	0	156
Noxious weed control	105	50	11	215	0	400	0	781

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 15 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Southwest Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Water control O&M at RMWHA and TTWHA.
- Boat Shed improvement project at CJWMA.
- Fences maintained and repaired at CJWMA and AWMA.
- Maintained structures and other facilities at backcountry WHAs in the Southwest Region.
- installed a headgate on an existing culvert and replaced an existing head gate on the irrigation system at MWMA.

Table 15. Facilities operated and maintained in the Southwest Region.

Feature	Cecil D. Andrus WMA	Fort Boise WMA	Montour WMA	Payette WMA	Boise River WMA	C.J. Strike WMA	Regional	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	50	14	9	5	45	1	0	124
Trails (mi)	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	13
Maintained Fence (mi)	100	14	0	0	78	0	5	197
Parking Areas (#)	3	10	9	10	10	7	0	49
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	6	105	1	1	40	10	4	167
Buildings/Structures (#)	26	6	0	0	3	3	0	38
Restrooms (#)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Campgrounds (#)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	57	11	12	17	47	26	0	170
Equipment (#)	9	28	2	2	10	13	7	71

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Southwest Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Collection of current public use information on IDFG-managed lands including public use levels, activities, and harvest information.
- Quantification of visitor use on IDFG-managed areas using trail counters and random surveys.
- Collection of on-line and in-person user feedback on WMA operations and expectations using standardized surveys.
- Monitoring indices of hunter participation and success using annual check stations on opening days of upland and waterfowl seasons on FBWMA.
- Monitoring of use and success of hunters on AWMA using season-long hunter check-in procedures.
- Collection of current information on wildlife habitat and population characteristics on lands managed by IDFG.
- Annual brood pair counts on WMAs prioritizing waterfowl production.
- Herd composition counts on BORWMA mule deer winter range.
- Livestock grazing forage utilization monitoring on IDFG lands under grazing management plans.
- Geographic information systems training and software support for WMA personnel so they may document and communicate wildlife habitat and population information about IDFG lands.

- Collection and analysis of body condition and location for big game traffic mortalities around BORWMA.
- Coordination with CWMAs to inventory and map noxious weed infestations in respective habitat districts.
- Assist with aerial elk sightability surveys in Weiser and Brownlee elk zones associated with AWMA as part of Survey and Inventory Grant.
- Assist with aerial mule deer surveys in GMU 39 associated with BORWMA as part of Survey and Inventory Grant.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Southwest Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Input to federal agencies (e.g., USFS, BLM, USACE, BOR, and USFWS) about a broad spectrum of issues to include, but not limited to the Four Rivers RMP, mining proposals, trail development proposals, and wetland project proposals.
- Advising CWMAs on noxious weed control issues relative to wildlife habitat.
- Participation in the interagency wetland review group.
- Participation in the interagency Boise Forest Coalition to develop consensus solutions to diverse forest management issues including natural resource, economic, social, and recreation interests.
- Participation in the Boise River Wildlife Linkage Partnership to maintain habitat connectivity in a major transportation corridor.
- Planning and mitigation of wildlife habitat by City of Boise, Ridge to Rivers Partnership for recreational trails, Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Recreation, and the interagency Healthy Hills Initiative.
- Participation in the Weiser River Soil Conservation District USDA local working group to assist in project priorities. Participated in the Ada, Canyon, Owyhee, Adams, and Washington USDA working group meetings.
- Advising the Boise River Enhancement Network on two riparian projects.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency in regards to flood damage to FBWMA.
- Barber Pool Advisory Council/Idaho Foundation for Parks and Recreation.
- Barber Valley Neighborhood Association and Harris Ranch Mitigation Association.
- Ada County Fire Adapted Community.
- ITD to improve wildlife passage and habitat connectivity by developing a wildlife overpass within the SH-21 Corridor.
- Ada County on the Red Hawk Trail property.
- Interagency Healthy Hills Initiative.
- City of Boise and Ada County regarding habitat mitigation on 236 acres from residential development.
- Three private landowners regarding habitat rehabilitation on 75 acres.
- Supported landowners planting sagebrush and bitterbrush shrubs in mule deer winter range and important sharp-tailed grouse habitat totaling over 3,000 acres affected by wildfire.
- Coordination with federal, state, and nongovernmental agencies to develop wildlife habitat on private lands within respective habitat districts through Farm Bill programs,

competitive grants, and other conservation programs as opportunities became available and varying degrees of partnership occurred throughout the region.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Southwest Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- The project to install approximately one mile of 4-strand wire fencing on boundary of Charcoal Creek Segment of the BORWMA – Not completed. Fence materials were purchased prior to the WMA wildfire, which burned some materials. In addition, a willing contractor has not been found to work in the remote project area with difficult terrain. Materials will be used for future fence maintenance activities.
- The project to upgrade and maintenance roads on the Boise Front and Charcoal Creek Segments of the BORWMA, including improvements in culverts, water bars and ditches – Completed.
- The project to replace a spring box system and water line at the BRWMA HQ – Completed.
- The project to replace wood dam boards with an automated head gate on water supply ditch at PRWMA – Not completed. Non-PR funding will be used for the project.
- BORWMA. Demolish and remove an old shop. Construct a 2,135 sq. ft. new shop at BORWMA. Completed.
- AWMA bridge replacement – Not completed. Project was determined to not be needed at this time.

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Magic Valley Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on 6 WMAs, 1 WHA, and isolated tracts to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on approximately 11,000 acres (Table 16). The PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants fund the Magic Valley Region’s Habitat Program.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 with the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees, volunteers, and reservists:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Four Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised seasonal staff.
- One Maintenance Foreman and associated seasonal crew assisted with O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.

Table 16. IDFG-administered areas within the Magic Valley Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Hagerman WMA	HWAM	1,024
Billingsley Creek WMA	BCWMA	277
Camas Prairie-Centennial Marsh WMA	CPCMWMA	6,190
Carey Lake WMA	CLWMA	759
Big Cottonwood Creek WMA	BGCWMA	1,444
Niagara Springs WMA	NSWMA	1,163

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 17 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Magic Valley Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Developing of 290 acres of food and cover plots on CLWMA.
- Planting of 181 acres of wetlands vegetation on HWMA to provide thermal and escape cover for wintering upland birds.
- Maintaining 6.2 miles of shelterbelts on CLWMA, BGCWMA, and HWMA to provide cover and food.
- Developing 163 acres of herbaceous cover for nesting habitat on CPCMWMA and HWMA.
- Maintaining 147 artificial nesting platforms for waterfowl on CPCMWMA, CLWMA, and HWMA.
- Inventorying or controlling weeds on 4,480 acres on WMAs.
- Maintaining water levels on 1,438 acres of wetlands on NSWMA, BCWMA, HWMA, CLWMA, CPCMWMA, and BGCWMA.
- Managing water levels throughout winter on 25 acres of water impoundment areas at HWMA to provided refuge for 30,000 wintering waterfowl.

Table 17. Habitat management activities in the Magic Valley Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Billingsley Creek WMA	Hagerman WMA	Niagara Springs WMA	Centennial Marsh WMA	Carey Lake WMA	Big Cottonwood WMA	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mechanical treatment for restoration	60	0	38	80	120	70	368
Tree and Shrub plantings	0	0	1	0	5	0	6
Herbaceous cover plantings	0	29	9	0	125	0	163
Grazing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Managed Wetlands	0	181	26	654	577	0	1,438
Food and cover plots	0	50	68	290	135	12	555
Noxious weed control	0	0	0	2,614	116	401	3,131

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 18 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Magic Valley Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Operated gated, wheel-line, and hand-line irrigation pipe.
- Maintained over 12.5 miles of irrigation canals and laterals.
- Operated and maintained 33 water structures.

Table 18. Facilities operated and maintained in the Magic Valley Region.

Feature	Billingsley Creek WMA	Hagerman WMA	Niagara Springs WMA	Centennial Marsh WMA	Carey Lake WMA	Big Cottonwood WMA	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	1	1	11	3	1	1	18
Trails (mi)	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Maintained Fence (mi)	1	1	0	6	0	7	15
Parking Areas (#)	3	8	6	1	0	1	19
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	2	2	3	4	0	2	13
Buildings (#)	0	4	1	4	2	3	14
Restrooms (#)	1	3	1	2	0	0	7
Campgrounds (#)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	0	12	1	14	1	5	33
Equipment (#)	0	11	7	19	14	9	60
Buildings/Structures (#)	0	4	1	4	2	3	14

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Magic Valley Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Installation and collection of trailhead sign-in registers, survey boxes, and conducted random field surveys to determine visitor use on WMAs.
- Random field checks of hunters on opening day of specific hunts and on weekends.
- Mapping of noxious weed infestations and treatment areas using GPS and ArcView software on IDFG-owned lands.

- Maintenance of user survey boxes on WMAs.
- Winter flock counts of turkeys on BGCWMA.
- Bighorn sheep presence monitored on the BGCWMA.
- Mid-winter waterfowl counts at the HWMA.
- Sandhill crane counts.
- Monitoring transects in rehabilitation areas to determine percent survival of planted seedlings.
- Monitoring of habitat restoration plantings, and public response/acceptance to wildlife management programs and policies.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Magic Valley Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Seventeen written comments regarding proposed land management practices to city, county, state, and federal agencies.
- Technical assistance to 25 private landowners wishing to improve habitat for wildlife resources.
- Support for IDFG’s MDI Coordinator and the Mule Deer Foundation to plan and implement a habitat rehabilitation project in the Bennett Hills on big game winter range.
- Technical assistance to BLM-Twin Falls District and USFS-Sawtooth National Forest regarding restoration efforts following wildfires, including reviewing habitat restoration plans and participation in post-fire tours with IDL, BLM, and USFS.
- Support to private landowners, TNC, and NRCS to stabilize riparian areas following the Sharps Fire.
- Manual installation of 150 instream beaver dam analog structures and heavy debris structures to slow spring run-off waters and capture sediments.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Magic Valley Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- The project to repair 0.5 miles of 4-strand smooth and barbed wire fence line on Clover Creek WHA – Not completed. Project was determined to not be needed at this time.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Southeast Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on 5 WMAs, 1 WHA, and 1 Nature Area to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on approximately 17,000 acres (Table 19). The Southeast Region also assists with administration of the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area and private property enrolled in the MDI and HIP. The PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants fund the Southeast Region’s Habitat Program.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 with the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees, volunteers, and reservists:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Two Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised seasonal staff.

Table 19. IDFG-administered areas within the Southeast Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Sterling WMA	SWMA	4,106
Portneuf WMA	PWMA	3,950
Blackfoot River WMA	BFRWMA	2,400
Georgetown Summit WMA	GSWMA	4,353
Montpelier WMA	MPWMA	2,137
Dingle Swamp WHA	DSWHA	80

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 20 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Southeast Region during SFY19, including the following:

- CWMA spray day on BFRWMA; attended by 20 partners and private landowners; 5,000+ acres treated.
- CWMA spray day on SWMA; attended by 26 partners and 400 acres treated.
- Weed control activities on five WMAs and one Nature Area.
- Russian olive removal along historic fence rows followed by weed control and restoration planting on 6 acres of a former livestock pasture at SWMA.
- Preparing three acres of old food plot area to convert to permanent grass/forb cover on SWMA.
- Replacing dead shelterbelt trees on SWMA.
- Planting 1,000 trees in historic agricultural fields on PWMA in collaboration with National Wild Turkey Federation and Master Naturalists to provide roosts and thermal cover for wildlife.
- Planting food plots/lure crops/fire breaks on 60 acres at GSWMA and PWMA.

- Mechanically treating 100 acres of weeds by disking, harrowing, or mowing perennial legume/grass field at GSWMA.
- Implementing a multi-year ecosystem-scale restoration project involving the BFRWMA and neighboring landowners, including the following:
 - A grazing management plan in collaboration with neighboring ranchers to remove 1,500-2,000 head of cattle from tributary streams on private land by providing alternative grazing areas for those livestock on the WMA.
 - Replacing existing boundary fences.
- Maintaining 5 pond water control structures to provide wetland habitat for waterfowl.
- Maintaining 40 acres irrigated, 400 acres non-irrigated upland game bird cover.

Table 20. Habitat management activities in the Southeast Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Sterling WMA	Portneuf WMA	Blackfoot River WMA	Georgetown Summit WMA	Montpelier WMA	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	3	0	0	0	0	3
Mechanical treatment for restoration	6	40	10	160	0	216
Tree and Shrub plantings	1	10	0	10	0	21
Herbaceous cover plantings	6	40	0	60	0	106
Grazing	0	0	1,160	40	0	1,200
Managed Wetlands	53	0	0	1	0	54
Food and cover plots	6	40	0	60	0	106
Noxious weed control	500	600	1,500	560	50	3,210

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 21 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Southeast Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Maintaining approximately 26 miles of roads and 6 miles of trails and 28 parking areas by mowing, spraying, graveling, and grading to provide good quality and controlled access.
- Repairing approximately 3 miles of roads, repaired 2 gravel parking areas.
- Replace existing culvert to improve water drainage across road at BFRWMA.
- Completing 1 mile of road rebedding and upgrade towards west entrance of PWMA. Finished rebedding and upgrading an additional 0.5 miles of road up to the west entrance gate.
- Repairing perimeter buck and rail fence on Crane Creek access site.
- Mowing parking areas on PWMA.
- Repairing approximately 1/2 mile of road and six parking areas on SWMA.
- Recording pond measurements and flow meter measurements for Orth and Johnson ponds.
- Continuing signage installation on Edson Fichter Nature Area (EFNA) and SWMA.
- Conducting winter inspections and snow removal at BFRWMA.

- Repairing 13 miles of letdown fence on BFRWMN.
- Hosting student earth day volunteer habitat maintenance project at EFNA; removed weeds and trash, maintained grounds, trails, and seating areas.
- Relining the sporting dog pond to repair leaks including a return water stream, safety fencing, signage, and bank and disturbed area seeding.
- Maintaining 5 road vehicles, 2 ATVs, one UTV, 3 farm tractors, implements, and trailers.

Table 21. Facilities operated and maintained in the Southeast Region.

Feature	Sterling WMA	Portneuf WMA	Blackfoot River WMA	Georgetown Summit WMA	Montpelier WMA	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	4	13	6	7	5	35
Trails (mi)	0	8	4	0	0	12
Maintained Fence (mi)	13	6	13	3	0	35
Parking Areas (#)	15	16	6	9	1	47
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	44	34	23	21	10	132
Buildings/ Structures (#)	2	0	13	0	0	15
Restrooms (#)	4	0	3	0	0	7
Campgrounds (#)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	5	1	1	4	0	11
Equipment (#)	16	0	0	0	0	16

*Note – 11 wheel lines (371 sections x 40 ft./section), 300 sections of hand line (at 40 ft./section).

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Southeast Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Rapid Assessment and monitoring of all habitat development projects.
- EFNA public user surveys with trail counters.
- ISU student project on SWMA to evaluate waterfowl.
- Weed surveys and treatment using AgTerra software on all WMAs.
- Elk presence monitoring on BFRWMA and adjacent private lands to collect data for a proposed BFRWMA grazing exchange.
- Forage yield estimates and post-grazing utilization surveys on BFRWMA.
- Banding of approximately 100 doves on SWMA as part of statewide effort.
- Relocation of historic photo points for future surveys on BFRWMA.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Southeast Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Coordination meetings with the BLM, USFS, IDL, and BOR to discuss issues and provide project updates.

- Coordination meetings with multiple CWMAs, grazing associations, and irrigation districts.
- Curlew Grasslands project tour to look at established habitat improvement projects and discuss ideas and locations for additional work.
- Assessments of proposed property acquisitions or easements brought by regional staff or the public.
- Meeting with Bayer (Monsanto) representatives at Bayer's Soda Springs plant to discuss options to improve mule deer passage across Highway 34, including recommendations to relocate plant fencing and enhance lighting.
- A presentation on habitat management and enhancement options to the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust as part of their information gathering on management options for their Century Heights property.
- Comments on project proposals: USFS Lead Draw fencing, Northgate District and City View subdivisions, NRCS Wheeler brush management, Simplot-BLM proposed land exchange, Caldwell Canyon DEIS, and USFS Rowley Canyon Habitat Enhancement Project USFS.
- Input to BLM about wildlife mortality issues at the Rasmussen Valley Mine ponds.
- USFS and BLM coordination meetings to inform all attendees of upcoming projects, find areas for partnership and collaboration, and share other pertinent program information across all agencies.
- Project development and coordination meetings with Pocatello BLM and MDI for Pleasant Views Aspen habitat enhancement projects.
- Weed control project planning with the Upper Snake River CWMA.
- Weed control project planning in Bannock and Franklin counties with the U&I Cooperative Weed Management Association (approximately 10,000 acres impacted on private, state, USFS, BLM, and county lands).
- Weed control project planning with Highlands CWMA (spray days) in Caribou and Bear Lake counties (approximately 10,000 acres impacted on private, state, USFS, BLM, and county lands).
- BLM coordination meeting to refining Pleasant Views stand treatment perimeters, treatment types, and project phases (approximately 3,000 acres total).
- Organizing bat house design, construction, and distribution by the Century High School senior engineering students for the local community and surrounding area.
- Meeting with Idaho State University to discuss using SWMA as a pilot area for a university Naturalist project involving students recording observations for species occurrences.
- Meeting with Angus Creek permittee, USFS, and Agrium to discuss grazing management issues related to the Rasmussen Ridge mine and the BWMA grazing exchange.
- BLM/USFS mine operation inspections in Rasmussen Ridge.
- Participation in the multi-agency Habitat Improvement Team (HIT) to develop and implement use of Agrium mitigation funds from Rasmussen Valley Mine project for habitat protection and enhancement related to area of mining impact.
- Annual ITD Memorandum-of-Understanding coordination meeting discussing right-of-way vegetation treatment options for wildlife enhancements, the Rocky Point migration corridor, and other wildlife-highway issues.

- The Sage Brush Steppe Land Trust, Portneuf Water Conservation Planning Workshop to discuss current and future conservation efforts for the Portneuf watershed and help identify key areas of concern and project starting points.
- Met with landowners for 3 HIP projects to improve private lands for wildlife.
- East Idaho Grazing Association Grazing Workshop.
- Assisting the Master Naturalist open house for the Pocatello area to recruit and develop a local Master Naturalist group to assist with WMA and regional habitat and wildlife management needs.
- Presentations and coordinating habitat program work projects for the Pocatello Master Naturalist Program.
- Regional staff participated on the following teams:
 - Upland Game Management Plan
 - Turkey Management Plan
 - Mule Deer Management Plan
 - Lands Committee.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Southeast Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- The project to create 4 to 5 natural openings (total of 15 acres) in brush at PWMA – Completed.

UPPER SNAKE REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Upper Snake Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on 5 WMAs, 2 WMUs, 1 WHA, and multiple access areas and easements to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on approximately 92,000 acres (Table 22). The PR grant, State License revenue, other federal assistance grants, and mitigation settlement agreements fund the Upper Snake Region’s Habitat Program.

Regional Habitat Program objectives were achieved during SFY19 with the following Regional staff, which was supplemented with temporary employees and volunteers:

- One Regional Habitat Manager administered the Regional Habitat Program including planning coordination, budgeting, and staff supervision.
- Five Regional Habitat Biologists (one assigned to each habitat district) implemented program activities at the district level and supervised Senior Wildlife Technicians and seasonal staff.
- Two Senior Wildlife Technicians assisted district-level activities and supervised seasonal employees.
- One Maintenance Foreman and associated seasonal crew assisted with O&M of IDFG facilities and infrastructure.

Table 22. IDFG-administered areas within the Upper Snake Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Cartier Slough WMA	CSWMA	1,628
Deer Parks WMU	DPWMU	3,054
Twin Bridges (Allen) WMU	TBWMU	81
Cartier Habitat Access Areas	None	600
Market Lake WMA	MKWMA	5,409
Gem State WHA	GSWHA	70
Mud Lake WMA	MDWMA	11,468
Chilly Slough WHA	CSWHA	1,800
Sand Creek WMA	SCWMA	32,489
Tex Creek WMA	TCWMA	35,218
Winterfeld/Hamilton Easement	None	422
Birch Creek Ranches Easement	None	300

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 23 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Upper Snake Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Regional programs, priorities, and policies regarding habitat development.
 - Assessment of flood irrigation agriculture to develop focus area for easements and habitat programs.
 - WMA motorized use plans.
 - Habitat improvement plan reviews.
- Regional habitat management activities.

- Waterfowl and upland game habitat, including significant enhancements on regional WMAs.
- Big game transition, migration, and winter range habitats, including thousands of acres on the TCWMA and SCWMA.
- Conversion of 145 acres from smooth brome/intermediate wheatgrass to beneficial forb and native grasses on habitat mitigation properties.
- Habitat for wildlife species at risk (T&E, sensitive, etc.) including yellow-billed cuckoo, and grizzly bear on WMAs.
- Manual removal of conifers in 40 acres of aspen/cottonweed stands in Rick’s Pasture subunit of SCWMA for elk and mule deer habitat objectives.
- Wetland Reserve Program restoration on Marty Segment of the MDWMA.
- NAWCA Standard Grant restoration of approximately 2,500 acres of important wetlands and associated uplands.
- Grassy Ridge fire restoration with BLM, NRCS, IDL, and private landowners including aerial seeding of high-risk habitat types in priority greater sage-grouse habitat and big game winter range.
- Water delivery to improve wetland habitats on WMAs.
- Seasonal WMA closures.
 - Vehicle/human entry restrictions on big game winter range on SCWMA and TCWMA.
 - Spring closures for nesting birds on MDWMA, MKWMA, and SCWMA.
- Management agreement and lease administration including 9 sharecrop or use/trade agreements.
- Food plots on WMAs via sharecrop agreements, volunteer support from NGOs, and IDFG labor and equipment.
 - Partnership with Pheasants Forever on MDWMA
 - Sandhill crane habitat management imitative.
 - Sharecrop agreement to provide an additional 180 acres of winter wheat for wintering ungulates.
- Participation projects coordinated by 3 CWMAAs.

Table 23. Habitat management activities in the Upper Snake Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	Mud Lake	Market Lake	Tex Creek	Sand Creek	Cartier HD and Access Areas	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mechanical treatment for restoration	0	25	45	40	0	110
Tree and Shrub plantings	0	0	0	0	1	1
Herbaceous cover plantings	0	0	141	0	5	146
Grazing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Managed Wetlands	5,200	650	0	1,300	75	7,225
Food and cover plots	10	160	403	40	109	722

Management Activity (Acres)	Mud Lake	Market Lake	Tex Creek	Sand Creek	Cartier HD and Access Areas	TOTAL
Noxious weed control	0	0	0	0	0	0

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 24 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Upper Snake Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Maintenance projects on all IDFG-administered areas as needed.
- Periodic safety inspections of equipment and safety training.
- Coordinated fence maintenance and/or removals with WMA neighbors.

Table 24. Facilities operated and maintained in the Upper Snake Region.

Feature	Mud Lake WMA	Market Lake WMA & Chilly Slough WCA	Tex Creek WMA	Sand Creek WMA	Cartier WMA, Cartier Access Areas & Deer Parks WHU	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	18	1	9	5	3	36
Trails (mi)	4	0	2	2	16	24
Maintained Fence (mi)	12	2	16	10	18	58
Parking Areas (#)	12	7	3	5	8	35
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	4	2	13	41	3	63
Buildings/ Structures (#)	8	8	0	9	7	32
Restrooms (#)	2	1	0	0	0	3
Campgrounds (#)	2	0	6	1	0	9
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	29	35	0	42	5	111
Equipment (#)	9	4	9	14	9	45

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Upper Snake Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Inventory of IDFG-administered lands for SGCN wildlife species.
- Monitoring of existing habitat improvement agreements, conservation easements, and leases.
- Wildlife habitat monitoring on IDFG-administered lands with permanent vegetation transects, photo points, spotlight surveys, and GIS mapping.
- Vegetation monitoring with BLM at sage-grouse nests in the Sand Creek Desert.
- Noxious weed mapping and weed control documentation.

- Surface and groundwater monitoring at MDWMA, MKWMA, and SCWMA for regulatory water rights monitoring and reporting and WMA water delivery coordination, including water right research for MDWMA.
- Wildlife population and harvest monitoring on WMAs, including lek survey routes, hunter harvest reports, aerial surveys, point count surveys, wing barrels, brood counts, and ground-based bird surveys. Some activities provided assistance for Survey and Inventory grant.
- Banded 550 additional waterfowl at MDWMA.
- Annual trapping and banding of mourning doves.
- Transition range analysis for migrating mule deer and elk in the Tex Creek landscape with existing radio-collar data.
- Public outreach with private landowners, county planning staff, NRCS/FSA, sporting organizations for input about wildlife habitat management and population monitoring.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Upper Snake Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Development of wildlife-friendly fencing initiative in important wildlife movement corridors.
- Initiation of a strategic habitat conservation initiative in the Teton River Canyon System.
- Initiation of a lower Henry’s Fork restoration initiative.
- Conservation easement and land acquisition proposal reviews for critical winter range, wetlands, and wildlife corridors.
- Technical comments and input for proposed local, state, and federal projects within the following jurisdictions: Salmon Challis National Forest; Caribou-Targhee National Forest; Idaho Falls District BLM; East Idaho Office USFWS; and Madison, Teton, and Fremont counties.
 - Forest plan revision for the Salmon-Challis National Forest,
 - Targhee National Forest proposed actions (timber sales and recreational developments).
 - BLM campground enhancement on Henry’s Lake.
 - Rural residential subdivisions in Teton County.
 - USFS: CTNF RMEF PAC Grant.
 - BLM: RMEF PAC Grant.
 - Motorized trail in Fremont County.
 - Public land projects within important sage grouse habitat.
 - Grazing allotments.
 - Travel management planning.
 - Infrastructure.
 - Fuel breaks.
- Assistance to private landowners and NGOs (e.g., High Divide Partnership, TNC, and Teton Regional Land Trust) to improve or develop wildlife habitat on private lands to benefit game and Idaho SGCN species.
- Inspection of a proposed TRLT conservation easements.

- Participation on the High Divide Advisory Committee, Sandhill Crane Habitat Management Initiative, and Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group, and Teton Canyon System Mule Deer Conservation Initiative.
- Communications with the USFWS on issues related to ESA-listed species and migratory birds.
- Participation in local CWMAs.
- Support for habitat projects on public and private lands.
 - NRCS outreach for special EQIP flood irrigation initiative.
 - BLM/USFS allotment assessments.
 - BLM sagebrush plantings on lands affected by wildfire.
 - IDL, USFS, NRCS, and BLM proposed habitat treatments.
- School and civic group presentations and workshops.
 - Wildlife viewing blind built in partnership with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation to improve public engagement at MKWMA
 - World Migratory Bird Day festival at MKWMA and MDWMA in partnership with other resource management agencies and NGOs.
 - Field-based habitat/wildlife tours.
- Administration of the HIP on private lands.
 - Converted 8,000 feet of fence to wildlife friendly specifications.
 - Removed 5,600 feet of nonessential fence.
 - Assisted landowners in Island Park with a wetland enhancement project on private property.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Upper Snake Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- Demolish and remove and old shop at MLWMA and construct a 2,135 sq. ft. shop. - Completed.

SALMON REGION

Project I – Coordination and Administration

The Salmon Region’s Habitat Program administers management activities on 7 WHAs (i.e., backcountry properties) and an access area to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on approximately 900 acres (Table 25). The PR grant and State License revenue fund the Salmon Region’s Habitat Program. One Regional Habitat Biologist was assigned to the Regional Habitat Program during SFY19.

Table 25. IDFG-administered areas in the Salmon Region.

Area	Abbreviation	Acres
Marble Creek WHA (Backcountry property)	MCWHA	160
Hood Ranch Easement WHA (Backcountry property)	HREWHA	15
Cougar Ranch WHA (Backcountry property)	CORWHA	67
Cameron Ranch WHA (Backcountry property)	CARWHA	151
Lower Loon Creek WHA (Backcountry property)	LLCWHA	113
Mormon WHA & Pole Creek WHA (Backcountry properties)	MWHA/PCWHA	224
Pahsimeroi River Access Area	PRAA	200
Outdoor Classroom	None	4

Project II – Habitat Development and Maintenance

Table 26 summarizes habitat management activities conducted on IDFG-administered lands, other public lands, and private lands within the Salmon Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Maintenance and irrigation of 10 acres of food plots at PRAA.
- Removal of the last grazing permit on IDFG backcountry properties.
- Habitat restoration plans for Cougar Ranch and Mitchell Ranch.
- Planting 0.5 acres of native trees, shrubs in previously disturbed agricultural areas at PRAA.

Table 26. Habitat management activities in the Salmon Region.

Management Activity (Acres)	PRAA	Cougar Ranch WHA	Lower Loon WHA	Mormon WHA	TOTAL
Prescribed Burn	0	0	0	0	0
Mechanical treatment for restoration	0	0	0	0	0
Tree and Shrub plantings	1	0	0	0	1
Herbaceous cover plantings	0	2	0	0	2
Grazing	0	0	0	0	0
Managed Wetlands	0	0	0	0	0
Food and cover plots	10	0	0	0	10

Management Activity (Acres)	PRAA	Cougar Ranch WHA	Lower Loon WHA	Mormon WHA	TOTAL
Noxious weed control	0	0	0	0	0

Project III – Operations and Maintenance

Table 27 summarizes O&M activities conducted in the Salmon Region during SFY19, including the following:

- Maintenance of outhouses, airstrips, and airplane parking areas at CORWHA and LLCWHAs.
- Maintained the Outdoor Classroom.
- Initiated trail access and condition database.

Table 27. Facilities operated and maintained in the Salmon Region.

Feature	PRAA	Lower Loon Creek WHA	Cougar Ranch WHA	Mormon WHA & Pole Creek WHA	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	0	0.25	0.25	0	0.5
Trails (mi)	0	0	1	0	1
Maintained Fence (mi)	0	1	1	0	2
Parking Areas (#)	0	0	1	0	1
Kiosks/ Signs (#)	1	0	0	0	1
Buildings/ Structures (#)	1	1	1	1	4
Restrooms (#)	0	1	1	0	2
Campgrounds (#)	0	0	1	0	1
Canals, ditches, diversions, headgates, Dikes (#)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment (#)	2	4	4	0	10

Project IV – Surveys and Inventory

The Salmon Region’s Habitat Program conducted the following Surveys and Inventories during SFY19:

- Noxious weed inventory and mapping on the 7 backcountry WHAs.
- Aspen stand assessments with Salmon Valley Stewardship.
- Public and wildlife use monitoring at LLCWHA and CORWHA, which contain airstrip access.

Project V – Technical Assistance

The Snake River Region’s Habitat Program provided the following Technical Assistance during SFY19:

- Current wildlife habitat and population information, wildlife effect concerns, and recommendations as requested to state, federal, NGO, and private parties contemplating

and proposing projects (e.g., USFWS, BLM, USFS, NRCS, FSA, IDPR, ITD, ISDA, Salmon Valley Stewardship, Challis Local Greater Sage-grouse Working Group, and Lemhi and Custer counties).

- Review of proposed federal projects.
 - Ten fuels reduction, wildlife habitat restoration, and thinning projects in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
 - Five BLM fuels reduction, wildlife habitat restoration, and thinning projects in the Salmon-Challis Field Districts.
 - Hoodoo Meadows Airstrip upgrade on the Salmon Challis National Forest.
 - General range condition input to the BLM and USFS for the Salmon-Challis areas.
 - Conifer removal for aspen restoration in the Salmon and Challis BLM field districts.
- Input about land-landscape scale aerial applications targeting cheatgrass and noxious weeds on USFS and BLM lands.
- Input to private landowners.
 - Wildlife habitat enhancements on private lands.
 - Disease and separation between domestic goats and sheep living near bighorn sheep.
 - Wildlife-friendly fence specifications.
- Participation in the following entities.
 - Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMA steering committees.
 - Salmon-Challis Forest Plan Revision Collaborative.
 - Salmon Municipal Watershed Restoration Project.
 - Salmon Valley Stewardship Aspen Project.
 - Lemhi Forest Restoration and High Divide Collaborative.
 - Reviews of land acquisition proposals and conservation easements proposed by land trusts.
 - Collaboration with BLM and USFS to improve treatment of cheatgrass and other noxious weeds on federal lands.
 - Restoration of five aspen plots on public land totaling 50 acres.
 - Conifer removal on 100 acres for aspen restoration on federal lands.

SFY19 Carryover Projects

The following list provides the status of SFY19 Carryover Projects in the Salmon Region from SFY17/SFY18:

- The project to install a well at PRAA – Not completed. Project was determined to not be needed at this time.


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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

