

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-170-R-27

Progress Report



BIG GAME HARVEST SURVEY

Study IV, Job 1

July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Prepared By:

Lou Nelson
Wildlife Staff Biologist

July 2003
Boise, Idaho

Findings in this report are preliminary in nature and not for publication without permission of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
APPENDIX I	3

PROGRESS REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Harvest Surveys</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-27</u>		
SUBPROJECT:	<u>8</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Hunter Attitude and Game</u>
STUDY:	<u>IV</u>		<u>Harvest Surveys and</u>
JOB:	<u>1</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003</u>		

ABSTRACT

The deer, elk, and antelope surveys were changed from a telephone survey to a mandatory harvest report. A random survey of individuals who did not submit a harvest report was conducted in February 2003. The final figures are estimates of hunter activity and harvest based on adjustments to the reported values. Increasing costs of conducting the telephone harvest survey and budget limitations resulted in moose, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep being eliminated from this harvest survey program in 1996. Black bears and mountain lions were eliminated from the telephone survey program in 1997 to maximize information collected on harvest of deer, elk, and antelope.

Following elimination of moose, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep from the telephone survey in 1996, and black bear and mountain lion in 1997, minimum harvest for these species has been estimated from mandatory harvest check information.

INTRODUCTION

Prior to 1998, a telephone survey was conducted following each deer, elk, and antelope hunting season. Beginning in 1998, the telephone surveys for deer and elk were changed to a harvest report submitted only by hunters who harvested an animal. This change in technique eliminated information on the number of hunters and the days they spent hunting for deer and elk.

Beginning in 2001, the telephone survey for antelope was changed to a mandatory harvest report and all hunters were required to file a report regardless of whether they harvested a deer, elk, or antelope. Hunters were able to submit their reports via mail, telephone, fax, or internet. Systems Consultants processed the harvest reports for deer, elk, and antelope hunters in 2002 and the raw data was provided to the Department for analysis. A random survey of individuals who did not submit a harvest report was conducted in February 2003. Modifying the reported figures by a non-reporting factor developed the final harvest figures. A summary of big game harvest is presented in Appendix I.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This survey was partially supported by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (W-170-R) Statewide Big Game Harvest Survey. The 2002 telephone survey was conducted by Systems Consultants, Fallon, Nevada, under contract from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

APPENDIX I

Summary of
2002
Big Game
Harvest Estimates



Species	Hunters	Estimated	
		Harvest	Days Hunted
Deer	134,500	44,650	838,500
Elk	90,900	18,400	594,400
Antelope	2,600	1,350	10,000
Black Bear	---	2,390	---
Mountain Lion	---	514	---
Moose	---	870	---
Bighorn Sheep	---	34	---
Mountain Goat	---	41	---

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 South Walnut Street
P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Table 1. Statewide estimates of harvest, number of hunters, and activity for 2002.

Species	Season	Number of Hunters	Harvest	% Success	Days Hunted
Deer	Any weapon	106,000	34,300	32	641,000
	Archery	12,000	1,400	12	98,700
	Muzzleloader	2,000	350	18	25,500
	Controlled	14,500	8,600	59	73,300
	Total	134,500	44,650	33	838,500
Elk	Any Weapon	49,600	8,500	17	315,700
	Archery	16,200	2,200	14	139,400
	Muzzleloader	6,200	700	11	29,900
	Controlled	18,900	7,000	37	109,400
	Total	90,900	18,400	20	594,400
Antelope	Archery	1,100	250	23	5,400
	Controlled	1,500	1,100	73	4,600
	Total	2,600	1,350	52	10,000

Table 2. Big game harvest history, 1993-present.

Year	Deer	Elk	Antelope	Moose	Black Bear	Bighorn Sheep	Mtn. Goat	Mtn. Lion
1993	45,600	20,800	2,470	579	1,260	80	66	450
1994	56,900	28,000	1,835	558	2,250	78	69	450
1995	48,400	22,400	1,540	637	2,040	57	44	700
1996 ^a	50,800	25,600	1,460	583	1,740	48	48	635
1997 ^{b,c}	38,600	18,500	1,300	638	1,538	61	61	834
1998	39,000	18,750	1,150	612	1,973	63	57	804
1999	43,300	17,500	1,150	775	1,819	50	48	652
2000	45,200	20,200	1,325	774	1,855	50	48	728
2001	53,000	19,500	1,350	918	1,887	48	48	628
2002	44,650	18,400	1,350	870	2,390	34	41	514

^a Because of budget shortfalls and increasing costs of conducting the telephone harvest survey, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats were eliminated from the telephone survey in 1996. Harvest figures after 1996 result from mandatory harvest check-in records.

^b Harvest estimates from 1997-2000 do not include antelope harvest during the general archery season.

^c Black bear and mountain lions were dropped from the telephone survey program in 1997 because of budget restrictions. Harvest figures after 1997 result from mandatory harvest check-in records.

Submitted by:

Lou Nelson

Wildlife Staff Biologist

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Toweill
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

James W. Unsworth, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

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.

