

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Project W-173-D-26

**Annual Project Performance Report
(Including regional reports)**



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT I – COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION 1

 Statewide..... 1

 Panhandle Region 3

 Clearwater Region 5

 Southwest Region. 8

 Magic Valley Region. 10

 Southeast Region. 12

 Upper Snake Region. 14

 Salmon Region..... 16

PROJECT II – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE 18

 Statewide..... 18

 Panhandle Region 20

 Clearwater Region. 22

 Southwest Region. 25

 Magic Valley Region 27

 Southeast Region. 29

 Upper Snake Region 31

 Salmon Region..... 34

PROJECT III – HABITAT DEVELOPMENT..... 36

 Statewide..... 36

 Panhandle Region. 40

 Clearwater Region. 43

 Southwest Region 45

 Magic Valley Region 47

 Southeast Region 50

 Upper Snake Region 53

 Salmon Region..... 57

PROJECT IV – SURVEY AND INVENTORY 60

 Statewide..... 60

 Panhandle Region. 62

 Clearwater Region. 65

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Southwest Region.67
Magic Valley Region.70
Southeast Region.72
Upper Snake Region.75
Salmon Region.78
PROJECT V – TECHNICAL GUIDANCE80
 Statewide.80
 Panhandle Region.82
 Clearwater Region.84
 Southwest Region.87
 Magic Valley Region89
 Southeast Region91
 Upper Snake Region.93
 Salmon Region.96
PROJECT VI – *ACCESS YES!*98
 Statewide.98

**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Statewide

4. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Coordination and administration activities are funded by Pitman Robertson (PR) and State License funds and other Federal grants. Forty-three (43) out of the 48 employees working within the Habitat Program were supported, in part, by PR funding during this grant period.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

One state habitat manager and two program coordinators provided habitat program direction, coordinated work plan activities, administered budgets, facilitated recruiting efforts, and provided interagency coordination statewide. Six regional habitat managers coordinated and administered habitat program activities at the regional level and supervised 24 regional wildlife biologists and 3 utility craftsmen. Regional wildlife biologists administered all habitat program responsibilities within their designated Habitat District and supervised 4 wildlife technicians assigned to specific Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or a portion of a Habitat District. Utility and maintenance craftsmen coordinated habitat maintenance activities region-wide. Biologists and utility

craftsmen recruit, train, and supervise temporary employees hired to complete specific assignments (Table 1).

Table 1. FY10 Habitat Personnel.

Personnel	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Total	PR-fund
State Habitat Manager								1	1	1
Program Coordinator								2	2	2
Regional Habitat Mgr	1	1	1	1	1	1			6	6
Staff Biologist								1	1	
Reg. Wildlife Biologist	3	3	6	4	2	5	1		24	24
Farm Bill Biologist		1			1	1			3	3
Conservation Planner		1							1	
Wildlife Technician		1	1					2	4	4
Utility Craftsman	1	1	1	1		1			5	3
Maintenance Craftsman		1							1	
Total	5	9	9	6	4	10	1	4	48	43

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

See regional reports

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region

All work was accomplished in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone, counties.

4. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Panhandle Region Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, Dingle Johnson (DJ) funds, and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Panhandle Region is divided into 3 habitat districts, each being assigned one regional wildlife habitat biologist. Each regional wildlife habitat biologist is provided a crew of seasonal employees and a series of budgets originating from multiple funding sources to implement the habitat program at the district level. Additionally, there is a shared Regional Habitat Biologist who splits their time between the wildlife habitat section work

and population section work and helps establish a bridge between the 2 sections. This position includes a strong emphasis in private lands work, providing WMA project support, GIS support, regional waterfowl banding and disease monitoring coordination, and technical assistance to federal and state land management agencies and private landowners. One utility craftsman and associated crew is available to assist with the development, maintenance, and operation of Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) facilities when not working on Fishing and Boating Access sites. One Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager (RWHM) supervises the referenced employees and provides regional oversight of program direction, budgeting, and planning.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Coordination and administration were carried out as anticipated with one exception. The Regional Habitat Manager separated from the Department and the position was vacant for 5 months of the fiscal year. In the interim the 3 Regional Habitat Biologists each served as acting Habitat Manager. The position remained vacant until recently filled 8 August, 2011.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I - Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region

All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

4. Objectives:

- Develop and maintain an effective work force to implement habitat program objectives. Work closely with agencies, NGOs, and the public, including private landowners, to maintain and improve habitat on both public and private lands.
- Provide technical assistance to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program and a Contribution Agreement.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Share information with internal and external customers.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Implemented the Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Program objectives through regional program personnel, including 3 Wildlife Habitat Biologists, one Farm Bill Habitat Biologist, one Senior Wildlife Technician, one Recreation Site Forman, one Senior Maintenance Craftsman, one Wildlife Habitat Manager, and several seasonal

support personnel. Personnel were involved with habitat management activities on 3 wildlife management areas comprised of 84,000 deeded acres and 40,000 acres under lease or cooperative management agreement, 4 Wildlife Habitat Areas encompassing 437 acres, and custodial management of 5 conservation easements. Coordinated and managed budgets, including both state and federal.

- Provided Technical Service Provider (TSP) support to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Coordinated with Latah Soil and Water Conservation District on private land wildlife habitat projects.
- Participated on the Tri-State, Clearwater, and Salmon River Weed Management Committees.
- Participated in training including, Herbicide Safety and Training, ATV operation and safety, supervision, NRCS Technical Service Provider (TSP), Defensive Driving, Idaho Chapter Wildlife Society, Environmental Summit and North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, and Red Card certification.
- Provided technical assistance to the USFS regarding timber management projects and the potential impacts on wildlife.
- Participated in USFS Monitoring Advisory Committee under the Landscape Health Subcommittee of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative.
- Participated on the Department's Lands Committee to evaluate potential habitat acquisitions in Idaho.
- Worked with adjacent landowners and members of the public on motorized and administrative access related issues on Craig Mountain WMA.
- Coordinated with Bonneville Power Administration, BLM, TNC, and the Nez Perce Tribe on Craig Mountain WMA management, including the Dworshak Advisory Committee and Technical Committees.
- Coordinated with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private landowners on Joseph Plains WMA management.
- Wrote newspaper articles and county newsletter articles on wildlife related issues.
- Coordinated with other regional and headquarters personnel and individual outfitters and guides regarding permits outfitting on CMWMA.
- Completed coordination with IDL, BLM, USFS, and the public to complete restoration activities associated with the 51,000 acre Chimney Complex fire on the CMWMA.
- Provided presentations on habitat related issues during sportsman's breakfasts or as requested by other groups.
- Coordinated with Nez Perce County, IDL, and private foresters to implement Homeland Fire Treatment and Wildland Urban Interface projects on public and private ground.
- Coordinated with Avista on forestry and access related issues with transmission lines on CMWMA.
- Conducted training on CRP enhancement and CCRP implementation techniques for 2 biologists and 2 technicians with the Department in Idaho.

7. **Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

N/A

8. **List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southwest Region.

All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties.

4. Objectives:

Develop and maintain an effective and efficient work force to implement habitat program objectives; administer project resources; coordinate project activities and share information with internal and external customers; manage the disposal of dead wildlife and control of predators.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Additional license funds were budgeted for this project to provide for operations, maintenance, capital improvements and a portion of personnel costs throughout the Southwest Region, including Fort Boise, Boise River, Cecil D. Andrus, C.J. Strike, Montour, and Payette River WMAs. PR project funds provided a portion of personnel funds for administration and implementation of project objectives. The Southwest Region habitat management program also includes the Nampa Habitat District, McCall Subregion, and various habitat areas which are funded entirely through other sources.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Southwest Region Wildlife Habitat Program objectives were met through regional program personnel. Six biologists, 1 wildlife technician, 1 maintenance foreman, and a variable number of seasonal support personnel in 6 habitat districts were supervised by the RWHM. A total of 46.3 months of permanent personnel salaries were supported with this project. Temporary personnel salaries were all supported with license funds.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Personnel funds expended in the Southwest Region were less than the budgeted grant amount due to statewide legislative mandate to reduce personnel costs. Fewer temporary employees were hired, and one permanent wildlife technician position was vacant for part of the grant period.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region.

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Maintain contact and liaison with federal, state, and local government and private entities within Magic Valley Region regarding fish and wildlife habitat modifications plus population monitoring.
- Work with regional intra-regional staff, reservists, etc., on WMA habitat projects, access sites, isolated tracts, or other public lands projects as needed.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Regional habitat staff held coordination meetings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regional staff to discuss issues and provide project updates. Regional staff attended County Commissioner meetings, NRCS/Farm Service Agency (FSA) meetings, and sportsmen organizational meetings and banquets to discuss fish and wildlife habitat modifications and population monitoring in the Magic Valley Region.

- Regional habitat staff worked with intra-regional staff, reservists, and volunteers on numerous projects in the Magic Valley Region. Population monitoring, habitat improvement, and public access projects comprised the majority of work performed.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southeast Region.

All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham, Bonneville and Oneida counties.

4. Objectives:

Establish and maintain an efficient workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Southeast Region Wildlife Habitat Management Program. In the Southeast Region this includes 3 full time permanent employees, 2 of whom have salaries partially funded by Federal Aid. Temporary employees included up to 4 seasonal bio-aides during the summer months and one part time year round technician for general habitat management. Habitat biologists directly supervised temporary employees.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Unless otherwise noted, Federal Aid funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses. Various funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Twenty potential habitat projects were reviewed and approved, mostly dealing with private lands. This led to 4 approved projects geared toward upland game/waterfowl (the Habitat Improvement Program) including pond developments at Sterling WMA and 3 food plot projects with private landowners. An additional 16 projects, some

initiated in the previous reporting period, were completed to benefit upland and big game (Mule Deer Initiative) on private land (mostly Conservation Reserve Program enrollments), Department lands, and other public lands. These included direct involvement in 7 seedling plantings (approx. 90,000 seedlings) with contractors or volunteers. All recent projects have been monitored and evaluated according to an established protocol.

- Habitat staff participated in management of the Bonneville Power Administration Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area including one meeting and 2 field days with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Shoshone Bannock Tribes (SBT) to discuss improved access facilities, vegetative treatments, long range grazing practices and potential for additional land acquisition.
- The Department was represented as part of the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group, and habitat personnel were actively involved with the Science and Technology subcommittee. Regular subcommittee meetings were attended as well as 2 general meetings and one annual tour.
- Regional personnel continued leading roles in the Curlew and East Idaho Uplands greater sage-grouse working groups. Local working group meetings were attended monthly. Participation especially centered on finalizing the Conservation Plan for the East Idaho Uplands, compiling the annual report, monitoring progress of the Bear Lake telemetry project, recommendation for hunting seasons and development of project proposals/grant applications for 2012.
- Represented the region on the statewide Lands Committee, attending seven meetings/conference calls and one field tour. Seven acquisition proposals were presented to the Lands Committee (Beus, Deep Cr Reserve-Groll, Georgetown Ranch LLC, Hamilton Inholding, Hamilton Main, Lefevre, Legacy Springs-Boran).
- Handled several technical assistance requests and delegated others to regional habitat biologists (See below).

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2010

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region.

All work was accomplished in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Maintain contact and liaison with federal, state, and local government and private entities within Upper Snake Region regarding fish and wildlife habitat modifications plus population monitoring.
- Work with regional staff, volunteers etc., on WMA habitat projects, access sites, isolated tracts, or other public lands projects as needed.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Upper Snake Region Habitat Management Program is administered by 1 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager (RWHM) and includes all of Idaho Fish and Game's Upper Snake Region. The Region is divided into 5 Habitat Districts. One Regional Habitat Biologist (RHB) is responsible for administering Department-managed properties within each Habitat District as well as other programs within the Habitat District. Two of 5 Habitat Districts have permanent wildlife technicians assigned to Department-managed properties to assist the RHBs. Seasonal employees are assigned to work under the

oversight of the wildlife technicians and RHBs on Department-managed properties. An Access Manager assists all 5 Habitat Districts with construction and maintenance projects on Department-managed properties. Each of the 5 Habitat Districts has a mixture of funding sources including PR funds and state license funds. Habitat Districts receive federal or other mitigation funding as well. Activities are charged to appropriate funding sources.

- Regional habitat staff held coordination meetings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regional staff to discuss issues, coordinate activities, and provide project updates. Regional habitat staff attended County Commissioner meetings, NRCS/Farm Service Agency (FSA) meetings, project open houses, Smart Growth Solutions, and sportsmen organizational meetings and banquets to discuss fish and wildlife habitat modifications and population monitoring in the Upper Snake Region.
- Regional habitat staff worked with other regional staff, reservists, and volunteers on numerous projects in the Upper Snake Region. Population monitoring, habitat improvements, and public access projects comprised the majority of work performed.
- The RWHM and RHBs participated at the state level to select habitat section members.
- The RWHM participated at the state level on the Lands Committee identifying and prioritizing properties for easement or acquisition.
- Training opportunities were provided for employees including attendance at professional society meetings.
- Several habitat biologists are participating on statewide management planning efforts.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Salmon Region.

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Salmon and Steelhead, Fishing and Boating Access Programs provide funding to maintain and create new public fishing and boating access sites. These Programs funded much of the Fishing and Boating Access site maintenance in the region.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Salmon Region is comprised of one habitat district which is assigned one budget and employee from the Wildlife Habitat Program. The regional wildlife habitat biologist acts as the regional habitat manager and is supervised by the regional wildlife manager. There is one Utility Craftsman and one wildlife technician who assists with district level activities and supervised by the regional habitat biologist. Six volunteers were used on projects contributing 36 hours of their time.

- 7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

N/A

- 8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Statewide

4. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on Department-owned or managed properties, totaling 370,000 acres, at current levels of use.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Operation and maintenance activities on lands managed by the Department are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Federal Assistance funds (including Idaho's funding match) accounted for a part of the combined expenditures associated with this larger undertaking, the Idaho Habitat Program.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Habitat personnel maintained approximately 291 miles of roads, 32 miles of trails, 484 miles of fences, 133 parking areas, 91 buildings, 27 restrooms, many signs, 120 water control structures, 52 miles of dikes, and equipment used for operation and maintenance (Table 2).

Table 2. FY10 Project II operating and maintenance of facilities.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Road (mi)	15	58	150	14	12	38	7	294
Trail (mi)			19	9		4		32
Maintained fence (mi)	2	80	202	18	30	148	4	484
Constructed fence (mi)					1	7		8
Parking areas	10	10	34	7	23	25	28	137
Buildings	7	20	34	8	3	14	5	91
Restrooms	6	1	2	6	5		9	29
Water structures	25		54	33	5	100	3	220
Dikes (mi)	12		13	1	4	22		52
Irrigation pipe (mi)			2	7	1			10
Canal (mi)			7	6		10		23
Center pivot				1		3		4
Acres administered	32,581	128,980	82,400	8,424	16,000	86,362	1140	355,887
WMAs	7	4	6	5	5	5		

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Work on the shooting range at Farragut WMA was delayed because of litigation.
- Additional work was undertaken at Sterling WMA to verify water rights.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region

All work was accomplished in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone, counties.

4. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on 7 WMAs and 23 smaller parcels totaling 32,932 acres.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- A total of 25.5 miles of roads, 11.5 miles of fence, 10 parking areas, 19 buildings, 20 restrooms, 31 parking areas, 50 signs, 29 water control structures, and 12 dikes were maintained.
- Maintained and or replaced approximately 300 Canada goose nesting platforms and 500 wood duck nest boxes on the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMA's.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Most operation and maintenance activities were carried out as anticipated.

An intent to utilize federal aid funds to address work at the Farragut WMA Range was identified in the FY10 project statement. Federal aid funds were not applied to the Farragut WMA Range due to uncertainty regarding NEPA requirements.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region.

All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

4. Objectives:

Provide quality habitat, public hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreation on over 128,000 acres of wildlife management areas (WMA), wildlife habitat areas (WHA) and conservation easements in the Clearwater Region. Operate and maintain buildings, structures and other necessary infrastructure.

<u>Area</u>	WMAs	<u>Acres</u>
Red River WMA		314
Craig Mountain WMA		126,900 ¹
Joseph Plains		1,300
South Fork Clearwater		330
	WHAs	
Aspendale		13
Fir Island		38
Paradise		19

¹ Includes 81,400 deeded acres, 40,000 acres cooperatively managed with BLM and IDL, and 5,500 acres cooperatively managed with the Nez Perce Tribe.

EASEMENTS

Anderson (White Bird Creek)	21
Henderson (Lawyer's Creek)	29
Koehler (Tolo Lake)	16

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Majority of funding for operation and maintenance comes from other sources of funding, including Department license dollars, NRCS, Pheasants Forever, and Bonneville Power Administration mitigation trust funds. Outside grants and partnerships were responsible for funding over 75 percent of noxious weed management program.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Maintained 58 miles of road.
- Maintained 80 miles of fence and boundary markers.
- Maintained 5,000 tree, shrub, and grass plantings along 1.5 miles of stream on RRWMA.
- Managed noxious weeds on over 100,000 acres. Chemically treated 1,368 acres with a helicopter and 150 acres from the ground on CMWMA.
- Managed noxious weeds on 8 acres on Red River WMA.
- Procured \$54,700 in grant monies from Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Worked in partnership with Tri State Weed Committee to treat 2,200 acres of noxious weeds on CMWMA. Mapped 45,000 acres which are being treated under an “early detection, rapid response” management focus.
- Maintained facilities at Red River and Billy Creek, Wapshilla Creek, Benton Meadows on CMWMA, and 6 backcountry cabins.
- Maintained 11 miles of roads specifically for mobility impaired sportsmen on CMWMA.
- Maintained seasonal motorized route on Redbird segment of CMWMA.
- Maintained public information signage at the Redbird segment, Madden Creek, Geiser segment, and at Kruze Meadows on CMWMA along with signage at Joseph Plains WMA.
- Initiated a 1.3 mmbf timber sale for wildlife habitat restoration on CMWMA.
- Completed building of two back country cabins for public use on CMWMA.
- Maintained USFWS Conservation Easement fences.
- Controlled weeds on 5 acres of Anderson Easement.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southwest Region.

All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties.

4. Objectives:

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and other infrastructure on the following regional WMAs, WHAs, and conservation easements, totaling 82,400 acres, to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation:

<u>Area Name</u>		<u>Acres</u>
	WMAs	
Payette River		895
Montour		1,110
Fort Boise		1,608
C.J. Strike		10,065
Boise River		25,585
Cecil D. Andrus		23,174
	WHAs	
Mann Creek		325
Roswell Marsh		676
Ted Trueblood		292
	EASEMENTS	
Rocking M		16,506

- 5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

N/A

- 6. Describe how the objectives were met.**

Maintained:

- 150 miles of roads and trails with associated gates, culverts, bridges, and signs.
- 202 miles of fences and boundary markers.
- 36 buildings, restrooms, and other structures.
- 34 gravel parking areas and associated signs.
- 54 water control structures.
- 13 miles of dikes.

Treated 725 acres of weeds on lands owned or managed by the Department.

- 7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

N/A

- 8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls counties.

4. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain facilities, buildings, fences, gates, irrigation water delivery systems, and infrastructure on 6 WMAs in the Magic Valley Region to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, wildlife viewing, wildlife conservation education, and other wildlife-related recreational opportunities on 9,649 acres of Department managed lands. Magic Valley Region PR Funded WMAs include:

- Hagerman
- Billingsley Creek
- Centennial Marsh
- Carey Lake
- Big Cottonwood
- Niagara Springs

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Maintained 8.5 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails for public access to Department-managed lands; 17.5 miles of fence; 11 miles of unimproved roads; 6.5 acres of vehicle parking area; 5 restrooms; 7 miles of gated, wheel, and hand-line irrigation pipe; 10 miles of irrigation canals and laterals; maintained and repaired 8 project buildings and equipment; operated and maintained 33 water structures, 4 dikes, 6 pumps, and one center pivot.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southeast Region.

All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham, Bonneville and Oneida counties.

4. Objectives:

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on 5 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), one Nature Area, and 5 conservation easement areas. Of the 16,000 acres involved, the majority is managed as part of one of the WMAs. The Department is also directly responsible for assisting with the administration of the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area and private property enrolled in the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) and the Mule Deer Initiative (MDI).

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Unless otherwise noted, Federal Aid funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses. Various funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below. Some assistance is also provided in the maintenance of access sites for boating and fishing as well as administrative sites, all of which are funded primarily through other sources.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Approximately 12 miles of roads or trails and 23 parking areas were maintained through mowing and spraying to provide good quality and controlled access.

- Information centers and sign-in stations were maintained at all parking areas.
- Signs, gates, and stiles to control access on the Soda Springs Mitigation Area were maintained in cooperation with BLM and SBT.
- All structures received maintenance as needed.
- Directional and informational signing pertaining to all sites was evaluated and maintained seasonally.
- Seven road vehicles, two ATVs, and two pieces of farm machinery were maintained (generally through other funding).

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Bridge at Georgetown Summit WMA was inspected professionally.
- Plans for construction of the a bunkhouse on Blackfoot River WMA are in process.
- A property line for Montpelier WMA was reflagged to establish a boundary shared with Bear Lake County.
- A well was drilled at the Blackfoot River WMA administrative site (separate funding).
- Replacement of cross buck fencing (approx. .5 mile) was initiated on Blackfoot River WMA.
- Two ponds and associated control structures were maintained/cleaned on Sterling WMA (generally through other funding).
- Plans were initiated to construct a footbridge on Portneuf WMA.
- An additional access/parking area was developed on the Bear River on Georgetown Summit WMA.
- Preparations made to prove a water right on land leased as part of Georgetown Summit WMA.
- Meetings to address development of urban fish pond at EFNA.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2010

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region

All work was accomplished in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Operate and maintain buildings, informational kiosks, dikes, water control structures, restrooms, parking lots, roads and trails, fences, equipment, vehicles, irrigation systems, and miscellaneous user facilities on Department-managed properties in order to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation.
- Maintain a safe workplace for Department employees and safe facilities for the public.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Upper Snake Habitat Management Program consists of 5 Habitat Districts, which contain the following managed properties. These management areas are a mixture of land ownership including Department, IDL, BLM, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>County</u>
Cartier Habitat District		
Cartier Slough WMA	1,028	Madison
Gem State WHA	70	Jefferson
Twin Bridges (Allen) WMU	81	Jefferson
Access Areas	600	Madison and Teton
Beaver Dick WMU	310	Jefferson
Market Lake Habitat District		
Market Lake WMA	5,071	Jefferson
Deer Parks WMU	3,173	Jefferson
Mud Lake Habitat District		
Mud Lake WMA	8,853	Jefferson
Chilly Slough WCA	1,800	Custer
Sand Creek Habitat District		
Sand Creek WMA	32,215	Fremont
Tex Creek Habitat District		
Tex Creek WMA	33,137	Bonneville
Easements		
Winterfeld	422	Bonneville
Birch Creek Ranches	300	Clark
Total Acres administered: 86,362		

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of TCWMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU, Beaver Dick WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. The Department owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Slough WCA, Sand Creek WMA (SCWMA), and TCWMA. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Implemented the Upper Snake Region Habitat Management Program objectives as defined in existing long-range Department plans through Regional personnel.
- The Access Manager engineered and helped construct and maintain projects on all management areas as needed. The Access Manager is designated as the Habitat section's safety officer and, as such, periodically inspected equipment and provided safety training.

- Maintained 14 buildings, maintained 148 miles of fence, constructed 7 miles of fence (again), maintained 38 miles of roads, 4 miles of trails. Maintained 22 miles of dikes, over 25 parking areas, 239 goose nest boxes, 57 wood duck boxes, 35 ponds and at least 20 kiosks. Hundreds of water control structures were maintained. Six irrigation wells, pumps and associated sprinkler lines were maintained.
- Improved 2 miles of road surface.
- About 10 miles of irrigation ditches were maintained.
- Volunteers were utilized to accomplish projects when feasible.
- Conducted a surveillance and survey of compliance of area closure at Egin/Hamer area of Sand Creek winter range.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Salmon Region

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Supervise the operation and maintenance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure on 7 backcountry Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) and 32 Access Areas at current levels of use. These properties provide wildlife and fisheries habitat, fishing, hunting and boating access and other wildlife-oriented recreation.
- A CXT outhouse is scheduled for placement at the Colston Creek Access Area.
- In coordination with the Fisheries Watershed Initiative, develop 2 parking/access areas on the Upper Lemhi River.
- At the Hayden Ponds Access Area, develop a new access road or bridge to the site, deepen and merge the two ponds, develop an ADA parking area and restructure the water control structures. A foot or vehicle bridge will be installed, contingent on an IDPR Grant.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Salmon and Steelhead, Fishing and Boating Access Programs provide funding to maintain and create new public fishing and boating access sites. These Programs funded much of the Fishing and Boating Access site maintenance in the region.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Supervised and maintained the region's 7 backcountry WHA's, 7 miles of roads and trails, 4 miles of fence, 32 parking areas, 5 buildings, 9 restrooms, signs, 3 water control structures, and equipment used for operation and maintenance.
- Installation of the 2 parking areas along the Upper Lemhi started June 2011. The completion date is early August 2011.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- The Colston CXT was re-scheduled to be installed August 2011 at the Carmen Bridge Access Area.
- Due to a change in cultural and fisheries permitting practices, work for Hayden Ponds was delayed until approvals are obtained.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. **Location of work:** Statewide

4. **Objective(s):**

- Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department.
- Create additional habitat in areas lacking adequate habitat to support a desired population level.
- Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property.

5. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Habitat development and enhancement activities are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Federal Aid funds were used only for personnel and administrative costs associated with habitat development projects on private land. Farm Bill conservation programs, federal and state conservation programs, Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), and other competitive conservation grants typically fund projects on private land.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Objective 1. Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 3. FY 2010 habitat maintenance activities by region.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Winter range (ac)	16,468		64,900		9,000	13,000	180	103,548
Wetlands (ac)	15,090		1,360	4,220	1,000	2,410		24,080
Forest mgmt (ac)	100	1,600			700			2,400
Shelterbelts (ft)				30,000				30,000
Shelterbelts (ac)				30	5	5		40
Artificial nests (#)	800		1,350	350	350	303		3,153
Food plots (ac)	20		197		300	160		677
Nesting cover (ac)	40		1,920	725	900	7,000		10,585
Shrub planting (ac)	11	15	645	30	500	500	5	1,706
Water mgmt (ac)	3,000		520	4,225	800	70		8,615
Grazing lands (acres)			56,000		110			56,110
Riparian (mi)		2	69		8	9		88
Controlled burn (ac)	40					400		440
Weed control (ac)	1,000	1,393	1,510	6,212	2,000	4,300	55	16,470
Guzzlers (#)		10				13		23

^a Linear feet.

Habitat personnel created new or additional habitat at the following areas:

- Habitat personnel manipulated water levels on approximately 5,600 acres of wetlands to provide seasonal habitats for various wildlife; treated over 19,500 acres of noxious weeds through integrated noxious weed control (PR funded 1,650 acres of biological control and 5,500 acres of mechanical); produced food and nesting cover for waterfowl and upland game birds on over 10,000 acres; restored over 100,000 acres of winter range by planting or seeding grasses, shrubs, and forbs; planted an additional 51,000 shrubs but acreage was not recorded; and managed livestock grazing on over 56,000 acres of big game winter range. This partial list is representative of the habitat activities conducted during this grant period.

Table 4. New habitat development activities by region.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Winter range (ac)			200		500		250	950
Wetlands (ac)	500		100		5	5	4	614
Forest mgmt (ac)		403				50		453
Shelterbelts (mi)					1			1
Other (acres)	20							20
Artificial nests (#)	50					19		69

Food plots (ac)	25	197	300	444	966
Nesting cover (ac)	500	5,000	600	100	31
Tree planting (#)	31,000				31,000
Shrub planting (ac)	2	15	525	20	5
Shrub planting (#)	24,300	50,000	110,000	52,000	236,300
Forb Plantings (ac)		600	1,500	400	2,500
Livestock water (#)	2				2
Riparian (mi)	2		2		4

Objective 2. Create additional habitat in areas lacking adequate habitat to support a desired population level.

- See regional reports for details on accomplishments.

Objective 3. Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property.

- See regional reports for details on accomplishments.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Due to time constraints no fertilization projects on native range or CRP stands were accomplished. Also because of time constraints no additional woody cover plantings occurred on river banks at the Blackfoot River WMA.
- Due to HIP funding constraints, wetland and upland habitat projects of food plots or winter cover were limited to only 2 projects. One of these was a SAFE plantings, but no additional CREP plantings were funded.
- The riparian plantings and upland seedings on the PRAA were not completed due to the lessee not moving from the leased property until fall, 2009. The footbridge was installed since the BLM NEPA requirements were completed prior to the anticipated date.
- The 1.5- acre Tendoy pond was re-scheduled to Spring 2011 since the landowner did not complete federal application requirements for the project.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland
 2010 Noxious Weed Report

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone, counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Improve key wildlife habitat associated with wetlands and big game winter range located on Department-managed lands.
- Improve upland game bird and featured nongame species habitat located on Department-managed lands as peripheral opportunities allow.
- Improve wildlife habitat on private property.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Management activities on Department-administered lands located within the Panhandle included a variety of activities. The entire 32,932 acres was evaluated for noxious weed infestations, and control actions were implemented as appropriate. Approximately 11,410 acres of wetlands were managed to maintain important hydrologic functions,

maximize waterfowl production, maintain nongame species habitat, and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities. Approximately 16,468 acres of big game range were managed to promote critical habitat features including winter range and provide big game hunting opportunities. On the remaining 5,054 acres, habitat improvement activities were completed in a fashion peripheral to facility development and operation.

1. Habitat development projects completed on Department-managed lands in FY11 include the following:
 - Approximately 33 acres of grain food plots were planted on the Boundary Creek, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs to provide feed for upland game birds and migrating waterfowl.
 - A moist soil management strategy was implemented on the McArthur Lake WMA, Boundary Creek WMA, and Albeni Cove Segment of the Pend Oreille WMA (~3,000 acres total) to enhance wetland productivity and maintain hemi-marsh conditions.
 - A comprehensive noxious weed control/eradication effort was maintained on all of the Panhandle WMAs.
 - Approximately 30 acres of goose pasture on Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pen Oreille, and Coeur d' Alene WMA was completed.
 - Ponderosa Pine restoration project on Farragut WMA and a timber management project on McArthur Lake were initiated to be completed this fall.

2. Additional habitat development projects were completed on privately-owned property. Development projects completed on private lands in FY11 involved the following:
 - Wood duck boxes and goose platforms were installed.
 - Shallow water wetland areas were constructed.
 - Grass plantings were completed.
 - Native trees and shrubs were planted.
 - Emergent wetland vegetation was planted.
 - Grain food plots were established.

7. **Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

Most habitat issues were addressed as anticipated in FY11.

8. **List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region.

All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

4. Objectives:

- Improve habitat quality and quantity on big game winter and summer range, waterfowl and upland bird production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities, on lands managed by the Department in the Clearwater Region.
- Assist private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on their lands.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

By combining Department HIP funds, funds from outside grants, Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) funds, USFWS Partners money, and NRCS farm bill funds, Clearwater staff are able to maximize enhancement of private lands for upland birds and other wildlife species. Dworshak Wildlife Mitigation Trust funds and Department license funds are utilized to accomplish the majority of habitat developments on Department lands.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

1. Improved wildlife habitat on Department lands

- Continued maintenance of shrub planting and grazing enclosure project at Red River WMA. Goal is to establish riparian community where it once historically occurred.
- Initiated a 1.3 mmbf timber sale on 240 acres on CMWMA to control; a mountain pine beetle infestation and to improve habitat quality for wildlife.
- Planted 13,000 shrubs on CMWMA in the Billy Creek Ranch area.
- Purchase 120 acres of private land in the upper Lake Creek drainage.

2. Improve wildlife habitat on private lands

- Planted over 6,000 shrubs on 10 sites covering over 20 acres in the Clearwater Region.
- Enhanced several hundred acres of existing CRP land with more wildlife friendly plantings, dense nesting cover establishment, and wetland development.
- Established 130 acre Palouse Prairie project in cooperation with USFWS.
- Worked with NRCS in Region 2 on 35 CRP contracts for Sign-up39 and Sign-up 41.
- Applied for USDA SAFE funds to improve upland game bird habitat in Northern and West Central Idaho on 25,000 acres. Grant proposal will bring approximately 23 million into the state for private lands.
- Mapped and treated over 500 White Bryony plants that are choking out Palouse Prairie Remnants in cooperation with the Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area (PCWMA) and Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA).
- Provided work to develop wetland restoration acres adjacent to Deyo Reservoir on Department and private lands.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southwest Region

All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties.

4. Objectives:

- Improve the quality of key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland bird production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to provide for existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department in the Southwest Region.
- Develop additional quantity of wildlife habitat to support increased production on Department-managed lands in the Southwest Region.
- Assist private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on their lands.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Management of livestock grazing on 48,000 acres of big game winter range to improve rangeland plant communities.
- Controlled noxious weeds and invasive plant species on 725 acres of Department-managed wildlife habitat.

- Treated 200 acres of common reed (*phragmites spp.*) on Fort Boise WMA to restore native wetland vegetation.
- Managed water levels on 1,360 acres of ponds and wetlands to improve waterfowl nesting and brood-rearing habitat.
- Maintained or installed 1,300 waterfowl nest structures.
- Planted and maintained 170 acres of food plots.
- Restored 200 acres of fire affected winter range by planting or seeding grasses, shrubs, and forbs

Developed wildlife habitat on private lands by the following:

- Coordinated with federal, state, and nongovernmental agencies to develop wildlife habitat on private lands within respective habitat districts through the Farm Bill, competitive grants, and other conservation programs as opportunities became available and varying degrees of partnership occurred throughout the region.
- Developed 2 waterfowl and 20 upland projects to develop wildlife habitat on private land, including cost-share agreements using Department HIP funds.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls counties.

4. Objective(s):

1. Maintain wildlife habitat in the Magic Valley Region.
 - Provide wintering habitat for waterfowl and upland birds.
 - Provide nesting habitat for waterfowl and upland birds.
 - Provide brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl.
 - Provide feeding and foraging areas for waterfowl, upland birds, and shorebirds.
2. Develop wildlife habitat in the Magic Valley Region.
 - Provide additional waterfowl and upland bird nesting and security cover areas.
 - Increase availability and diversity of winter habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and big game.
 - Provide additional foraging habitat.
3. Develop and enhance wildlife habitat on privately-owned lands in the Magic Valley Region.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Managed water levels throughout winter on 25 acres of water impoundment areas at Hagerman WMA to provide refuge for 30,000 wintering waterfowl.
- Maintained 190 acres of wetlands vegetation on Hagerman and Billingsley Creek WMAs to provide thermal and escape cover for wintering upland birds.
- Maintained 6 miles of shelterbelts on Carey Lake and Hagerman WMAs to provide cover and food.
- Irrigated 705 acres of herbaceous cover for nesting habitat on Centennial Marsh, Hagerman, Niagara Springs, Big Cottonwood, and Carey Lake WMAs.
- Maintained 350 artificial nesting platforms for waterfowl on Centennial Marsh, Carey Lake, and Hagerman WMAs.
- Controlled weeds on 6,212 acres of regional WMAs.
- Monitored biological weed control of purple loosestrife on 200 acres of wetlands at the Hagerman and Billingsley Creek WMAs.
- Maintained water levels for 4,200 acres of wetlands on Niagara Springs, Billingsley Creek, Hagerman, Carey Lake, and Centennial Marsh WMAs.
- Maintained grazing pastures for waterfowl.
- Developed 29 HIP projects on private lands in the Magic Valley Region.
- Planted and irrigated 30 acres of food plots on Carey Lake and Niagara Springs WMAs.
- Summer fallowed 40 acres to prep for planting pollinators at Centennial Marsh WMA.
- Disked 100 acres of old hay ground at Centennial Marsh WMA and replanted with grain food plot.
- Installed new pressurized irrigation mainline at Carey Lake WMA to increase irrigated wildlife habitat by 40 acres.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland. Times-News, Twin Falls (Article on the Habitat Improve Program), and KMVT Southern Idaho, Twin Falls (TV segments on shrub plantings and rehabilitation projects on Murphy Complex Fires)

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southeast Region

All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham, Bonneville and Oneida counties.

4. Objectives:

- Improve key wildlife habitat on 5 specific big game winter ranges, 1 waterfowl and upland game production area, and other riparian areas and native plant communities managed by the Department.
- Create additional habitat in areas lacking components to support desired population levels.
- Work with private landowners and other public land managers to enhance wildlife habitat with particular emphasis on mule deer, sage-grouse, waterfowl, and other upland game populations.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Unless otherwise noted, Federal Aid funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Water levels were monitored and controlled on 1 waterfowl production area to maximize nesting and brooding habitat and to prevent disease outbreak. Particular effort was made to regulate and/or monitor levels in all ponds on Sterling WMA. This included installation of one additional control structure.
- The HIP program funded 3 upland habitat projects with private landowners and one wetland improvement project on Sterling WMA.
- Artificial nesting structures (goose-300, mallard-25, wood duck-25) at Sterling WMA, Blackfoot River WMA, and throughout the region were maintained or replacements installed as necessary.
- Approximately 600 acres were treated to maintain high-quality nesting and brooding areas. Methods included grazing, mowing, disking, and some cutting and chemical treatment of Russian olives. All other Department acreages were protected from grazing, early mowing, and wildfire to maximize vegetation structure for cover.
- Approximately 300 acres of high-energy grains were provided on Department-administered properties to serve as food for upland game and/or waterfowl. Approximately 700 acres, involving 15 private landowners, one county property and 2 WMA projects were improved with forb seedings to provide forage for big game and brooding cover for upland game. Woody cover plantings were established at 8 separate locations on 200 acres of private property, BLM land, or WMA property to improve habitat for big game, upland game, and nongame. This included establishment of approximately 90,000 seedlings of highly palatable forage species (bitterbrush, Hobble Creek sage, and Bonneville sage) planted on Conservation Reserve Program acreages and native range sites.
- Field tours and meetings were attended and/or written comments provided pertaining to 26 project proposals or inquiries from other land management agencies or interested parties (See Subproject V below). Some projects involved considerable time commitments from all habitat staff and continue as ongoing projects (Sage Grouse Planning Areas/Working Groups, East Idaho Aspen Working Group, Soda Springs Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area).
- Approximately 2,000 acres were directly treated for noxious weeds in cooperation with county weed departments and 4 Cooperative Weed Management Areas. An inmate crew from the Pocatello Womens Correctional Facility was contracted to assist with weed control on the Portneuf WMA.
- Recently leased property adding to the Georgetown Summit WMA was monitored for trespass grazing and weed infestation. Preparation was also begun to prove a pertinent water right.
- Aspen restoration projects throughout the region were reviewed. Planning procedures for future projects were considered through participation in the East Idaho Aspen Working Group. Additional acreage of aspen was treated on the Blackfoot River WMA for conifer encroachment.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Due to time constraints no fertilization projects on native range or CRP stands were accomplished.
- Due to time constraints no additional woody cover plantings occurred on the Blackfoot River WMA river banks.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- Planting records: @ K:Mule Deer Initiative\MDI Habitat Database.xlsx
- Nest box records: ArcView project, R-5 server @ U:\Habitat\Projects\projects.apr, shapefile- U:\Habitat\Nestbox\nestbox.shp.
- HIP records: HIP statewide database.
- Weed control records: Statewide weed plan and report.
- Sterling WMA Bureau of Reclamation Annual Report

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region

All work was accomplished in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Improve and maintain high-quality waterfowl and upland game habitat.
- Improve and maintain high-quality big game transition, migration, and winter range habitats.
- Inventory Department managed properties for non-game wildlife species.
- Focus efforts to improve habitat for mule deer as per MDI and the MDI action plan.
- Pursue projects that benefit greater sage-grouse.
- Restore or replace in-kind habitat on mitigation properties.
- Provide high-quality habitat for wildlife species at risk (T&E, sensitive, etc.).
- Provide custodial management of federally threatened Ute's Ladies Tresses on SCWMA.
- Manage habitat on Department-administered properties to provide diverse recreational opportunities.
- Pursue habitat developments on Department-administered properties within the context of healthy ecosystems and landscape management.
- Assist private landowners in efforts to improve or develop wildlife habitat on private land.
- Collaborate with public land managers to improve or develop wildlife habitat on public land.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of the TCWMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. The Department owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Sough WCA, SCWMA, and TCWMA as well as Warm Slough, Fox Creek and Rainey Bridge access areas. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans. Upper Snake Region is responding to a new, priority mule deer management plan, as directed by the Commission and Department leadership. The Idaho Governor's office through the Office of Species Conservation has also identified sage-grouse habitat conservation as a high priority issue.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Investigated opportunities to secure wildlife habitat on private and public lands.
- Administered HIP and Adopt-A-Wetland programs on private and public lands.
- Region participated in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group to address concerns about aspen decline in Eastern Idaho.
- Established Regional programs, priorities, and policies regarding habitat development.
- Reviewed and approved habitat improvement plans.
- Administered Regional budgets and resources toward habitat development.
- Administered management agreements and leases including 4 sharecrop or use/trade agreements.
- Reviewed and developed land acquisition proposals. Evaluated and supported conservation easements proposed by Land Trusts in the region. Actively pursuing acquisition of critical winter range, wetlands and wildlife corridors.
- Habitat biologists and manager were instrumental in the permanent protection of 2,700 acres at Mud Lake including securing a Wetland Restoration Program on 950 acres and successfully applying for an Idaho Watershed Initiative Grant to improve this property for wildlife.
- Improved 2,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program lands through the SAFE program. This included 20 new projects.
- Improved 55 acres of habitat on Mud Lake and Sand Creek WMAs through controlled burning.
- Developed Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to provide planning tools, and map and evaluate habitats and project proposals.
- Planted over 100 acres of permanent vegetation to improve habitat.
- Planted 48,200 upland shrubs on public and private property.
- Maintained 13 guzzlers to provide water sources.
- Manipulated existing habitat via prescribed fire, mowing, and harvest techniques.

- Supported Forest Service in Fire Use areas.
- Administered vehicle restrictions.
- Maintained 148 miles of boundary fences to prevent unauthorized livestock grazing on WMAs and coordinated fence maintenance with neighbors.
- Replaced approximately 2 miles of boundary fences.
- Removed 4 miles of unnecessary fences.
- Improved 7 miles of fences for wildlife crossings by raising the lower wire.
- Developed 19 new nesting structures and maintained existing artificial nesting structures for Canada geese and ducks.
- Monitored area closures to protect habitats and wildlife.
- Monitored and protected sensitive plant species.
- Treated noxious weeds on over 4,000 acres via biological, chemical, and mechanical means. Coordinated with other agencies to treat more acres on public and private lands.
- Monitored water rights and coordinated water delivery to WMAs.
- Protected nesting habitats for T&E species.
- Established food plots on WMAs via sharecrop agreements, volunteer support from NGOs, and through Department labor and equipment. Planted 348 acres of food plots.
- Replaced water delivery structures to provide better water level control in marshes and ponds.
- Excavated springs and channels on East Springs Marsh at Market Lake WMA to improve water delivery to this marsh. Restored over 300 acres of shallow wetland.
- Provided 500 acres of standing crops and crop residue on WMAs for wildlife food and cover via sharecrop agreements and direct Department efforts.
- Administered motorized use plans on WMAs to regulate motorized use.
- Helped design habitat improvements including 34 acres of corn foodplots on private and public land and provided cost-sharing where appropriate.
- Monitored existing habitat improvement agreements, conservation easements, and leases.
- Participated in management activities of Coordinated Weed Management Areas.
- Continued a beaver transplant program to improve aspen and riparian communities. Transplanted 4 beaver.
- Continued with annual goat grazing project on Cartier WMA to control leafy spurge.
- Coordinated a riparian fencing project to exclude cattle on Grays Lake Outlet.
- Coordinated with Forest Service to establish aspen exclosures in Fall Creek to monitor aspen response to fire and grazing.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

The Upper Snake Region Habitat Section is full of overachievers. We will try harder to stick to doing only what we said we would do next year.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. **Location of work:** Salmon Region

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. **Objective(s):**

1. Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department. Habitat development projects on Department lands include:

Pahsimeroi River Access Area (PRAA)

- Riparian willow/shrub plantings along quarter mile of the Pahsimeroi River.
 - Management activities at the PRAA are designed to preserve and improve habitat for the production and maintenance of wildlife populations. A project will treat 80 acres of noxious weeds (insect releases, and spraying) and rebuild 0.3 miles of boundary fences. The work will occur spring/summer 2011. Upland game, big game, and non-game species will benefit, including bald eagles and curlews.
 - A sprinkler pipe irrigation system (funded through a federal grant) will be installed and existing fields (12 acres) will be seeded to native perennial cover, spring 2011. A 5 acre food plot will be established on an old feedlot adjacent to the parking area. Upland game birds, big game, and waterfowl will benefit.
 - Construct a storage building to house irrigation equipment and an OHV
2. Enhance habitat conditions on public lands to support a desired population level as opportunities arise.

- Aspen renovation treatments are planned on 175 acres.
3. Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property. Habitat development projects on private lands include:
- Create a 3-acre shallow water area near Salmon summer 2011. Waterfowl and shorebirds will benefit.
 - Establish tree and shrub plantings on 2 private ownerships May 2011. Upland game birds and nongame birds will benefit.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Salmon and Steelhead, Fishing and Boating Access Programs provide funding to maintain and create new public fishing and boating access sites. These Programs funded much of the Fishing and Boating Access site maintenance in the region.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Management activities in the Salmon Region included implementing the noxious weed control program on the region's access areas and WHAs (1,140 acres), coordinating with the Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMAs, and tree and shrub plantings and other practices designed to improve riparian, rangeland, grassland, and forestland plant communities. Habitat personnel also worked within the region to help develop and implement conservation programs and grants that are designed to restore wildlife habitat on private lands. Farm Bill conservation programs, federal and state conservation programs, and competitive conservation grants funded projects on private land provided the funding. In addition:

- An irrigation system (4,000 feet of irrigation pipe, buried mainline and pump) was installed on the PRAA; 12 acres were seeded to native rangeland (nesting cover) and 5 acres to food plots, quarter mile riparian area planted to willows, 80 acres treated for noxious weeds and 0.3 miles boundary fence removed.
- 180 trees and shrubs were planted on 2 private properties to improve upland and waterfowl habitat along Tower and 12-mile Creeks.
- Aspen treatments were completed on 150 acres of federal land.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

The PRAA storage building was not built due to lack of funding and the 3 acre shallow water pond near Salmon was re-scheduled for winter 2011 due to unusually wet conditions.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Statewide

4. Objective(s):

1. Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
2. Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.
3. Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Survey and inventory activities conducted by habitat personnel are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Objective 1. Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.

- Collected visitor use information at most WMAs using traffic counters, random visitor surveys, targeted field contacts, hunter participation check stations, and trailhead surveys (see below for a list of completed surveys). For 2009, over 35% of visitor use was estimated to be attributed to hunting, fishing, or trapping.

Objective 2. Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.

- Wildlife habitat and population information collected on Department-managed lands is site-specific and designed to monitor the primary objectives of each parcel. Survey and inventory activities included vegetation transects on big game winter range and riparian habitats, stream flow and water table monitoring, noxious weed monitoring and mapping, breeding bird surveys, waterfowl brood and pair counts, sage-grouse lek counts, and aerial big game and chukar surveys. All regions participated at the levels anticipated. See the regional sections of this report for a complete listing of activities within each region.

Objective 3. Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

- Habitat personnel were involved in survey and inventory activities within their area of responsibility (i.e., habitat district or region). Activities were similar to those listed in Objective 2 but included more collaborative work with outside agencies and Department personnel.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Overall program emphasis remained skewed toward implementing habitat projects on public and private lands and providing technical assistance to landowners. The consequence was that fewer days were allocated toward survey and inventory activities within the regions.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland
2006-2008 IDFG Public Use Survey: McArthur Lake WMA

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone, counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinion, hunting success, and harvest information.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristic information on Department-managed lands.
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristic information for regional management direction.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Survey and inventory work completed on Department-managed lands in the Panhandle included the following:

- All 3 regional wildlife biologists updated and revised the existing monitoring plan for their respective habitat district.
- A western grebe colony was monitored on Pend Oreille WMA and the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.
- Water right use and diversion was monitored on Boundary Creek WMA.
- Stream flows were monitored on Boundary Creek WMA.
- Waterfowl breeding pair/brood counts were completed on 4 WMAs.
- Waterfowl banding occurred on 4 WMAs and about 1,500 ducks were banded.
- Goose nest platform and wood duck nest box surveys were conducted on the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs.
- Osprey nests were surveyed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.
- Hunter check stations were operated on 3 WMAs during opening weekend of waterfowl season.
- Photo-points were monitored on 3 WMAs.
- Noxious weed infestations were monitored and the success of treatment was evaluated on 5 WMAs.

In addition to activities on Department-managed lands, the following survey and inventory work was completed on alternate areas to assist with the collection of regional data utilized by the Wildlife Population Management Section.

- Bald eagle productivity was monitored throughout Panhandle Region.
- Pheasant crow counts were conducted.
- Regional wildlife habitat biologists assisted with the operation of deer and elk hunter check stations.
- Regional wildlife habitat biologists assisted with winter aerial surveys for big game.
- Habitat Section staff completed the annual midwinter waterfowl survey.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Most survey and inventory issues were addressed as anticipated.

8 List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. **Location of work:** Clearwater Region.

All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

4. **Objectives:**

- To collect current public use information on Department managed lands, including public use levels, activities and harvest information.
- To collect current information on wildlife habitat and population characteristics on lands managed by the Department.
- To assist in collecting regional wildlife population information for statewide population management decisions.
- Monitor upland game populations in reference to new habitat improvements and from programs including HIP, Clearwater Pheasant Initiative, and the NRCS Farm Bill implementation.

5. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Project funding was combined with other license and federal funds to accomplish objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Conducted regional upland bird surveys with wildlife population personnel.
- Continued surveying and mapping noxious weeds across CMWMA and Joseph Plains WMA.
- Assisted in monitoring bighorn sheep associated with CMWMA.
- Continued surveys for potential Palouse Prairie remnant parcels for the presence of native vegetation plant communities.
- Mapped and treated over 500 White Bryony plants that are choking out endangered Palouse Prairie Remnants in cooperation with the Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area (PCWMA) and Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Species progress reports, including elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, upland game, and waterfowl. FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southwest Region.

All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. Objectives:

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including public use levels, activities, and harvest information.
- Collect current information on wildlife habitat and population characteristics on lands managed by the Department.
- Assist in collecting regional wildlife population information for statewide population management decisions.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Work accomplished under this grant was done, in part, in support of regional and statewide wildlife population and habitat survey and inventory projects funded from non-project sources.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Public use information:

- Quantified visitor use on Department-managed areas using vehicle and pedestrian counters and random surveys.
- Monitored indices of hunter participation and success using annual check stations on opening days of upland and waterfowl seasons on Fort Boise WMA.
- Monitored use and success of hunters on Cecil D. Andrus WMA using season-long hunter check-in procedures.

Wildlife on Department lands:

- Collected avian influenza survey samples from live and dead waterfowl.
- Conducted annual brood pair counts on WMAs with waterfowl production.
- Measured forage utilization using standard techniques on Department lands with livestock grazing management.
- Continued progress in the area of developing geographic information systems application skills through training, practice, and software support for WMA personnel to document and communicate wildlife habitat and population information on Department lands.

Regional wildlife surveys:

- Trapped and banded migratory birds, including mourning doves, snow geese, Canada geese, and ducks.
- Conducted counts of sage-grouse leks and roadside counts for other game birds, including pheasants, quail and mourning doves.
- Conducted aerial surveys of big game, waterfowl, and chukars.
- Collected and analyzed condition and location information for big game traffic mortalities.
- Coordinated with CWMA's to inventory and map noxious weed infestations in respective habitat districts.
- Assisted in capture operations for regional mule deer winter survival studies and sage grouse movement studies.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region.

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational uses, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.
- Collect and obtain current fish and wildlife habitat and population characteristics information throughout Magic Valley Region for statewide management recommendations.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Installed and collected trailhead sign-in registers, survey boxes, and random field surveys were conducted to determine visitor use on WMAs. Conducted random field checks of hunters on opening day of specific hunts and on weekends. Worked with local Conservation Officers to enforce motorized closures on WMAs.
- Mapped noxious weed infestations and treatment areas using GPS and ArcView software on Department-owned lands.
- Assisted regional Department population biologists, and BLM and USFS biologists with various field projects to determine fish and wildlife presence/absence, distribution, relative abundance, hunter or angler harvest information, and public response/acceptance, etc. to wildlife management programs and policies. Conducted surveys to detect presence of West Nile Virus in bird populations on WMAs in the Magic Valley Region.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southeast Region.

All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham, Bonneville and Oneida counties.

4. Objectives:

- Collect current public use information on five WMAs and one Nature Area including type and level of use, harvest and miscellaneous comment.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on all five WMAs in the region.
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Unless otherwise noted, Federal Aid funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Traffic counters, random user survey (field contacts), and data from sign-in stations were employed to determine the level and type of public use throughout the year on Sterling and Portneuf WMAs, and during periods of significant use on Georgetown Summit and Blackfoot River WMAs. Particular emphasis was placed on nonhunting use at Sterling WMA.

- Waterfowl pair counts and brood surveys were conducted on Sterling WMA to continue monitoring of nesting success.
- Nest structure use was monitored on Sterling WMA.
- Both greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse lek surveys were coordinated within the Curlew and East Idaho Uplands Sage Grouse Planning Areas, particularly in the vicinity of WMAs, historical locations and areas of priority for SAFE program enrollments. Sage grouse lek surveys were continued in the Bear Lake County area by Utah State.
- Habitat personnel assisted with biological check stations, and research projects to monitor movements and population trends of upland game, waterfowl, and big game as requested. Habitat staff assisted with lek monitoring for sage grouse and led the effort to monitor and search for sharp-tailed grouse leks.
- As per the MDI action plan, mapping of regional big game winter range has been further refined to provide more consistent and useful information.
- Regional personnel have been working closely with other agencies, NGOs and publics to identify and address concerns with aspen communities. This has included participation in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group and particularly the Science and Technology Subcommittee. Numerous meetings and one field tour were attended by regional personnel.
- Protocols were established and followed for monitoring all MDI plantings.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Voluntary sign-in stations have been placed on all WMAs. Due to time and funding constraints, traffic counters were not placed on all WMAs (Sterling and Portneuf WMAs had traffic counters in place) and interviews were not formally conducted except at Sterling WMA.
- Due to time constraints and personnel shortages no vegetation transects were surveyed on the big game winter ranges.
- Due to time constraints the waterfowl nest search/nesting success evaluation has not occurred on Sterling WMA since 2002.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- Sterling WMA User Survey Summary
- East District WMAs User Survey Summary
- Waterfowl production records: Sterling WMA breeding pair count/brood survey summary
- Sterling WMA Nest Structure Use Summary
- Sharp-tailed grouse lek records: Summary of lek searches conducted throughout the region during the report period FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011
3. **Location of work:** Upper Snake Region.
All work was accomplished in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.
4. **Objective(s):**
 - Collect public use information on Department-managed properties to determine public use levels, user activities, and harvest information.
 - Collect information on wildlife habitat on public land.
 - Collect information on wildlife populations on public land.
5. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of Tex Creek WMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. The Department owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Sough WCA, SCWMA, and TCWMA. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans. BPA mitigation projects have defined monitoring programs. TCWMA and Cartier Slough WMA are managed consistent with the BOR Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan of 2001.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Public use information was collected via traffic counters, incidental personal contact surveys, and some stratified random surveys per Regional protocol.
- Wildlife habitat was monitored on managed properties with permanent vegetation transects, photo points, spotlight surveys and GIS mapping. An emphasis was placed on mapping noxious weeds and control operations.
- Wildlife populations were monitored in a wide variety of methods. Some of those methods included lek survey routes, hunter harvest reports; aerial surveys, goose pair counts, point count surveys, wing barrels, brood counts, spotlight counts, capture and marking of doves, ducks, deer, elk, and moose, small mammal live trapping, and direct observations of individuals and groups of animals.
- Piezometers were monitored at SCWMA to monitor water tables in order to determine effects on federally threatened Ute's Ladies Tresses.
- Piezometers were monitored at Market Lake WMA to build a profile of ground water levels and establish a baseline there.
- RHBs monitored habitat on some public land via field tours with federal and state agency personnel and through independent inspections of grazing allotments and proposed timber and range projects.
- Avian Influenza was monitored via trapping and monitoring hunter harvest. This effort was led by RHBs.
- Ducks were banded at and Mud Lake WMA.
- RHBs inspected sites for proposed subdivisions and reported findings in comment letters to county planning and zoning officials.
- RHBs inspected proposed conservation easements submitted by the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) as requested and reported findings to TRLT personnel.
- Habitat staff took the lead on trapping and banding of mourning doves.
- Habitat staff assisted with trapping and radio-collaring deer, moose, and elk.
- Habitat staff investigated the use of water to lure pronghorn antelope away from alfalfa fields.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Waterfowl brood surveys conducted only on some areas and not every year. Emphasis is currently focused on monitoring for Avian Influenza and duck banding.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland. Pronghorn Habitat Enhancement on the Idaho National Laboratory. Prepared by Curtis Hendricks and Russ Knight.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Salmon Region.

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Collect current public-use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands (December 2010 – March 2011).
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations (year-round). A BLM/IDFG grant will fund a sage grouse monitoring effort designed to complete seasonal use maps for the region.
- A revised Excel database with the region's sage-grouse lek routes will be created May 2011. Also, a database system will be created to store the region's elk and deer aerial survey data. The database will be made available to help Department and other natural resource personnel evaluate impacts of habitat projects on populations.
- Develop a mule deer habitat monitoring program for use in the department's Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan, summer-winter 2011-2012.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

This work was completed in conjunction with the region's Wildlife Population Management Program and budgeted with additional funding from the Office of Species Conservation on sage-grouse work.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- A database system was updated to store the region's elk, deer and sage grouse survey data. Regional habitat personnel continued mapping noxious weed infestations and treatment areas using GPS and ArcView 9.3 software.
- Regional habitat personnel assisted CWMA's with regional noxious weed inventory and mapping projects. Regional habitat personnel assisted with all aerial big game surveys, fawn mortality studies, sage grouse lek counts, and trapping/banding studies. The Sage-grouse lek route database was updated May 2011. These data are kept in ArcView 9.3 shapefiles.
- The BLM/IDFG Sage grouse monitoring effort was started in March with data collected and incorporated into the ongoing seasonal mapping project for Custer and Lemhi counties.
- The first of a 2 year mule deer winter range study was completed. Data are being analyzed and the second year protocol is being finalized.
- Public use monitoring on the PRAA was completed through periodic site visits

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Public-use and habitat/population data were not gathered on the region's access areas (no established protocol in place yet).

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Statewide

4. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, express concerns, and convey recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects that may affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Technical guidance provided by habitat personnel to outside entities is funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Habitat personnel dedicated approximately 600 days to implement the technical guidance project. Objectives were often met by working cooperatively and collaboratively with other state and federal agencies, private parties, and NGOs. Examples of how these objectives were met include the following: MDI, Clearwater Pheasant Initiative, hydropower relicensing, urban-wildland development, forest practices, livestock grazing management, range rehabilitation, noxious weed control, wetland and riparian enhancement, transportation projects, wind-power development, and wildlife habitat improvements on private property (LIP, NRCS/Farm Bill).

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Hours of technical assistance decreased over the previous year but it is likely that personnel time may have been charged to Project I and III when it should have been charged to Project V due to similarities. It is also likely that technical assistance was covered under another grant that is part of the larger Habitat Program undertaking.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone, counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Panhandle Habitat Section staff met regularly with the USFS, BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NRCS, FSA, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, IDL, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho Department of

Agriculture. Additionally, contact was maintained with the major private landowners throughout the Panhandle including timber companies, large farmers/ranchers, and hydropower operators. As requested by private entities and as deemed prudent with public entities, Panhandle Habitat Section staff reviewed project proposals and provided input to reduce, eliminate, and/or mitigate for potential wildlife impacts associated with land management activities.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Technical guidance issues were addressed as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region.

All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

4. Objectives:

- Provide current information on wildlife populations and habitat and provide recommendations to federal, state and local government agencies, industry and private parties regarding potential wildlife impacts and mitigation actions related to projects that they are proposing within the Clearwater Region.
- Work closely with the public, including private landowners to maintain and improve habitat on both public and private lands.
- Provide technical assistance to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Share information with internal and external customers.

1. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

During the last year, Clearwater regional personnel have continued to act as Technical Service Providers for planning and implementation of the wildlife practices within the USDA Farm Bill, under the terms of a Contribution Agreement. Funding to implement the Contribution Agreement was provided by NRCS. Implementation of the Contribution Agreement, in combination with the Department's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) and the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP) greatly expanded the Department's

landowner contacts and our ability to affect large acreages of habitat for upland game and other wildlife species.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Provided Technical Service Provider services to NRCS. Worked with landowners to enhance existing CRP fields for wildlife.
- Assisted Environmental Staff Biologist when requested to respond to requests for Department input on proposed projects within respective habitat districts in the Clearwater Region. Provided significant comments concerning USFS Travel Plans, USFS Lochsa Land Exchange,, BLM Outfitter issues, and Corps of Engineers Lower Snake River Compensation Plan wildlife mitigation..
- Participated on the Tri-State Weed Management Committee, the Salmon River Weed Management Committee, the Clearwater Weed Management Committee, The Palouse Weed Cooperative Management Committee, the Dworshak Master Planning Committee, and Nez Perce and Latah County AFO and EQUIP Technical Committees.
- Worked on local committees for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, and the Latah Wildlife Association.
- Provided technical guidance to the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Board on Outfitter issues on CMWMA.
- Participated in RMEF horseback tour of CMWMA, providing technical information on habitat conditions, habitat projects, and elk populations.
- Provided technical assistance to the USFS regarding design of timber management projects and the potential impacts on wildlife
- Participated in the USFS Monitoring Advisory Committee of the Landscape Health Subcommittee of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative.
- Enhanced several hundred acres of existing CRP land with more wildlife friendly plantings, dense nesting cover establishment, and wetland development.
- Established 130 acre Palouse Prairie project in cooperation with USFWS partners program.
- Worked with 3 counties on 35 CRP contracts for Sign-up 39 and Sign-up 41.
- Applied for USDA SAFE funds to improve upland game bird habitat in Northern and West Central Idaho on 25,000 acres. Grant proposal will bring approximately 23 million into the state.
- Provided guidance to develop wetland restoration plans for acres adjacent to Deyo Reservoir on Department and private lands.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southwest Region.

All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. Objectives:

- Provide current wildlife population and habitat information, express concerns, and provide recommendations to federal, state, and local government agencies; industry; and private parties regarding potential wildlife impacts of projects which they are planning within the Southwest Region.
- Provide technical advice on wildlife habitat and species information to private parties and public entities to assist them in decisions on management activities that will sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Regional habitat personnel responded to requests for technical assistance regarding potential impacts of proposed projects as requested either through individual evaluations and comment or participation in cooperative groups:

- In response to approximately 194 requests for comment on proposed projects within the Southwest Region, biologists provided information on wildlife habitat, probable species impacts, and recommended mitigation measures using current available sources resulting in 95 written responses.
- Participated in interagency and intradepartmental technical and advisory groups for species recovery, hydropower development, and regional planning.
- Wildlife habitat program personnel responded as requested in person, via telephone, or letter to approximately 350 direct inquiries regarding methods and recommendations for management of wildlife habitat on private and public lands within the Southwest Region.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect fish and wildlife resources in the Magic Valley Region.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Worked with BLM, USFS, FSA, NRCS, and similar entities by providing information regarding resident and migratory wildlife populations within Magic Valley Region and how proposed land management practices or treatments may affect those resources directly and indirectly.
- Provided written comments regarding proposed land management practices to city, county, state, and federal agencies.

- Provided technical assistance to 37 private landowners in Magic Valley Region wishing to improve habitat for wildlife resources.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Southeast Region

All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham, Bonneville and Oneida counties.

4. Objectives:

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Unless otherwise noted, Federal Aid funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Habitat staff worked closely with the regional environmental staff biologist and other staff to gather and provide written comment, attend tours, meetings, or otherwise represent the Department in providing comment on 26 projects or topics (28 mtgs, 12 tours, 11 documents). Of particular note were lead roles in the sage grouse local working groups (3 in the Southeast Region) and ongoing participation in the East

Idaho Aspen Working Group, particularly with the Science and Technology subcommittee.

- We continued to assess potential impacts to wildlife values on CRP plantings and other habitat, especially regarding improvements conducted or proposed by the Department or other land managers. This has involved close coordination with our Farm Bill coordinator, the MDI program coordinator and technical service providers funded by Pheasants Forever. Monitoring protocol for assessing herbaceous and woody plantings is being followed for all habitat improvement projects.
- We continued correspondence with the BLM, Caribou County, and the Shoshone Bannock tribes regarding the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area Management Plan and the implementation of travel restrictions. This included meetings and tours with particular focus on mountain brush restoration projects, weed control, the grazing plan and travel management plan.
- Provided direct technical assistance to approximately 23 private landowners or other land management agencies for the improvement or development of wildlife habitat through the habitat management program. This included field contacts, project designs/cooperative agreements and the coordination of necessary equipment, materials and personnel. Many of these projects that occurred on public land or privately owned CRP were funded at no cost to the actual landowner. Most projects were designed to primarily benefit mule deer and upland game or waterfowl.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Sterling WMA BOR annual report
East Idaho Uplands Sage-Grouse LWG annual report
Curlew Sage-Grouse LWG annual report
FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. **Location of work:** Upper Snake Region.

All work was accomplished in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. **Objective(s):**

- Provide wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to local, state and federal agencies proposing projects or considering actions with the potential to affect wildlife.
- Provide assistance to private landowners who have interests in improving wildlife habitat on their property.
- Provide technical assistance which will sustain or enhance wildlife resources and which will help alleviate wildlife problems or concerns.

5. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Technical assistance is provided to the public and other agencies from a variety of employees in Upper Snake Region. The Habitat Section is responsible for providing technical assistance to private landowners who wish to improve their property for wildlife. The Habitat Section is also responsible for projects that are proposed at the Habitat District level, which may affect wildlife habitat. These would include subdivisions, timber sales, range allotment plans, prescribed fires, and other projects submitted by area agency representatives. The Region's Environmental Staff Biologist handles programs and projects that will impact the entire Upper Snake Region or a significant portion thereof. The Environmental Staff Biologist is also responsible for

projects that deal with water issues and most fisheries issues. The Region's Landowner Sportsmen Coordinator is responsible for responding to landowners with wildlife depredation complaints and public access issues.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Requests for technical assistance were routed through the Regional Supervisor who assigned them to the RWHM, Environmental Staff Biologist, or Landowner Sportsman Coordinator.
- The RWHM assigned technical assistance projects to the appropriate RHB.
- The RHB prepared draft comment letters for subsequent approval by the RWHM and the Regional Supervisor.
- The Habitat section did its best to respond to all requests for technical assistance and to provide some technical guidance independent of whether cost-sharing was available from the Department.
- Of note, the Habitat Section has been involved in three sage-grouse local working groups and the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.
- RHBs have been instrumental in providing comments on conservation easement proposals. In many instances Department comments have been critical in obtaining the easements.
- RHBs were encouraged to become familiar with and maintain current knowledge of habitats, issues, and projects within their Habitat Districts.
- Regional Habitat staff was encouraged to develop and maintain close working relationships with field-level personnel of local, state, and federal agencies as well as key members of non-governmental organizations operating within their Habitat District.
- All RHBs actively participate with their corresponding CWMA.
- Sand Creek WMA sponsored 2 educational events: Chester Wetlands Day and 4-H Wildlife Day.
- Technical assistance is provided in written form, verbally, and often in person and onsite.

- 7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

N/A

- 8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Salmon Region.

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, NGO and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife on a year-round basis.
- Provide technical habitat and population management recommendations to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources on a year-round basis. The Department will provide forb seed to a BLM field trial effort designed to determine the feasibility of incorporating native plant species into poor condition rangelands. Sites will be established, seeded and monitored beginning summer, 2011.
- Participate as a steering committee member for the Challis Local Sage-grouse Working Group, Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMA, Salmon Valley Stewardship, Challis Experimental Stewardship Area and Broken Wing Ranch (BLM acquisition team).

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Current wildlife habitat and population information was provided upon request (9 letters, 21 meetings attended) on proposed projects and activities within the Salmon Habitat District. Technical advice and information on Department management programs and policies was provided to the public and personnel of the USFWS, BOR, BLM, USFS, NRCS, FSA, Lemhi and Custer SWCD's, Challis Local Sage-grouse Working Group, Lemhi and Frank Church CWMA's and the Lemhi and Custer Counties Planning and Zoning Commissions.
- Wildlife population and habitat information was also provided to the Idaho Departments of Water Resources, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Lands, and Agriculture; Challis Experimental Stewardship Group, Salmon Valley Stewardship and other local groups by telephone, letter, person-to-person, and through participation in inter-agency technical and advisory committees.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

N/A

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY-11 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report for USFWS, Portland

Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 26

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project VI – *Access Yes!*

2. Report Period: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Report due date: September 28, 2011

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Objective(s):

- Provide up to 145,000 acres of sportsman access to private land statewide in lease agreements between the Department and private landowners.
- Provide field technician time to assist with landowner-sportsman relations in support of private land access statewide.

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Access Yes! is partially funded by PR and State License funds and other non-federal grants. Federal Assistance funds (including Idaho's funding match) accounted for a part of the combined expenditures associated with this larger undertaking.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

Actual expenses were primarily for lease agreements between the Department and private landowners. In calendar year 2009, the *Access Yes!* Program opened up 431,803 acres of private land for sportsmen. As of August 2010 there were 434,917 acres of private lands currently enrolled. The Department has modified the payment structure for this program so that landowners will only be paid once, at the end of the hunting season. Our objective was to provide 145,000 acres in lease agreements to Idaho sportsmen and this goal was exceeded.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

It was anticipated that PR funds would be used for personnel costs associated with providing additional technician time to assist with the *Access Yes!* program. All personnel costs were covered by license dollars. Land lease expenses were charged appropriately to the grant. All planned work was accomplished and resulted in cost saving for this project.

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Access Yes!

Website:<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner/accessyesguide.aspx>

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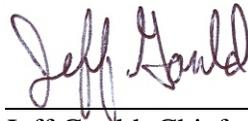
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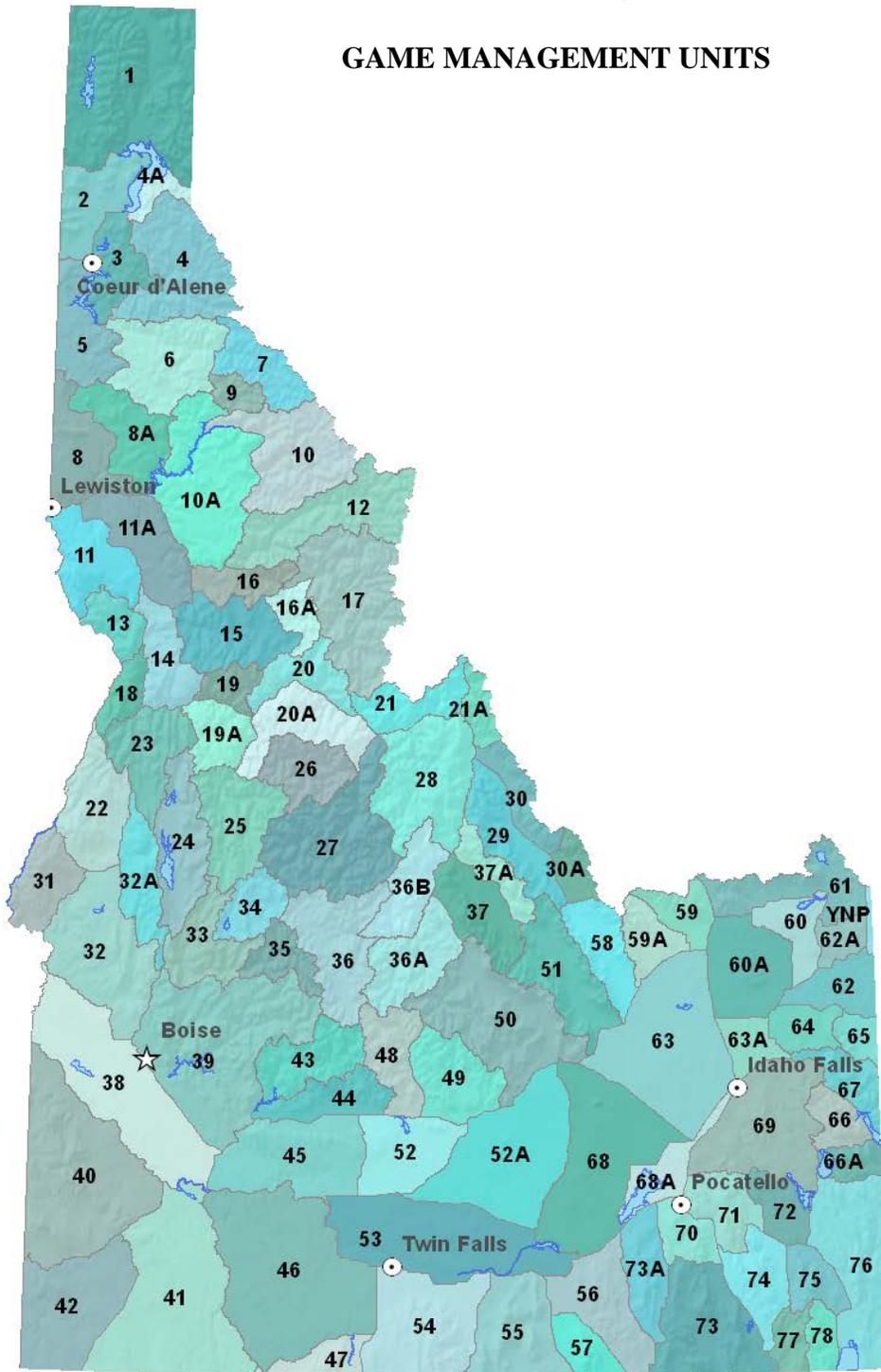
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IDAHO

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



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.



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