

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

**Annual Statewide Report
(Including regional reports)**



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Prepared by:

Jim Teare..... Panhandle Region
Jim White..... Clearwater Region
Jerry Deal..... Southwest Region
Mark Fleming..... Magic Valley Region
Paul Wackenhut..... Southeast Region
Terry Thomas..... Upper Snake Region
Greg Painter..... Salmon Region
David Smith..... Wildlife Bureau

Compiled and edited by: Tom Hemker, Wildlife Habitat Manager

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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.	24
Magic Valley Region	26
Southeast Region.	28
Upper Snake Region	30
Salmon Region.....	33
PROJECT III – HABITAT DEVELOPMENT.....	35
Statewide.....	35
Panhandle Region.	38
Clearwater Region.	41
Southwest Region	43
Magic Valley Region	45
Southeast Region	47
Upper Snake Region	50
Salmon Region.....	53
PROJECT IV – SURVEY AND INVENTORY	55
Statewide.....	55
Panhandle Region.	57
Clearwater Region.	59

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Southwest Region..61
Magic Valley Region.63
Southeast Region.65
Upper Snake Region.67
Salmon Region.....70
PROJECT V – TECHNICAL GUIDANCE72
 Statewide.....72
 Panhandle Region.74
 Clearwater Region.76
 Southwest Region.79
 Magic Valley Region81
 Southeast Region83
 Upper Snake Region.85
 Salmon Region.....88
PROJECT VI – *ACCESS YES!*90
 Statewide.....90

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 Wildlife Restoration (WR), State License funds, and other Federal grants. Fifty-one (51) out of the 56 employees working within the Habitat Program were supported, in part, by WR funding during this grant period.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

One state habitat manager and 2 program coordinators provided habitat program direction, coordinated work plan activities, administered budgets, facilitated recruiting efforts, and provided interagency coordination statewide. Six regional habitat managers and one regional habitat biologist coordinated and administered habitat program activities at the regional level. Program activities included the supervision of 26 regional wildlife biologists and 5 maintenance foremen. Regional wildlife biologists administered all habitat program responsibilities within their designated Habitat District and supervised 7 wildlife technicians assigned to specific Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or a portion of a Habitat District. Maintenance foremen coordinated habitat maintenance activities region-wide. Biologists and maintenance foremen recruit, train, and supervise temporary employees hired to complete specific assignments (Table 1).

Table 1. Statewide Habitat Personnel.

Personnel	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Total
State Habitat Manager								1	1
Program Coordinator								2	2
Regional Habitat Mgr	1	1	1	1	1	1			6
Staff Biologist								3	3
Reg. Wildlife Biologist	4	3	6	4	2	5	1	1	26
Farm Bill Biologist		1			1	1			3
Wildlife Technician		1	3	1		2		1	8
Maintenance Foreman	1	1	1	1		1			5
Maintenance Craftsman		1		1					2
Total	6	8	11	8	4	10	1	8	56

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

See regional project reports

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
 State Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region

All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah 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, WR, Sport Fish Restoration (SFR), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Coeur d'Alene Basin Hecla Settlement 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 federal lands conservation work, providing WMA project support, GIS support, regional waterfowl data and disease monitoring, coordination, and technical assistance to federal and state land management agencies and

private landowners. One Maintenance foreman and associated crew is available to assist with the development, maintenance, and operation of Idaho 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.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim Teare
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 769-1414
Jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I - Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region

All work was accomplished in Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho, Clearwater, and Latah 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 4 habitat biologists, one senior wildlife technician, one Recreation Site Maintenance Foreman, one maintenance foreman, one Habitat Manager, and numerous seasonal support personnel. Personnel were involved with habitat management activities on 3 WMAs 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 funding.

- Provided TSP support to the NRCS.
- Coordinated with Latah Soil and Water Conservation District on private land wildlife habitat projects.
- Participated in training including, Herbicide Safety and Training, ATV operation and safety, supervision, NRCS-TSP, Defensive Driving, Idaho Chapter Wildlife Society, Wildlife Bureau Biologist Meetings.
- Participated on the Department's Lands Committee to evaluate potential habitat acquisitions in Idaho.
- Participated on the development of a new statewide 2014-2024 Idaho Elk Management Plan.
- Participated on a statewide team to develop vegetation monitoring strategies and protocols for Department lands.
- Participated on a statewide team to develop a Global Information System-based noxious weed database.
- Worked with adjacent landowners and members of the public on motorized and administrative access related issues on Craig Mountain WMA (CMWMA).
- Coordinated with BPA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) on CMWMA management, including the Dworshak Advisory Committee.
- Coordinated with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private landowners on Joseph Plains WMA management.
- Authored or participated in 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.
- Provided presentations on habitat related issues during sportsman's breakfasts or as requested by other groups.
- Coordinated with Avista Corporation on forestry and access related issues with transmission lines on CMWMA.
- Conducted training on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enhancement and CCRP implementation techniques for 2 biologists and 2 technicians with the Department.
- Participated on a Clearwater Wildlife Habitat Restoration Team with the Clearwater Nez Perce National Forest.
- Participated in Forest Plan meetings with the Clearwater Nez Perce National Forest.
- Provided technical assistance regarding the new Travel Plan for the Clearwater Nez Perce National Forest.
- Provided technical assistance regarding new Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) construction for Highway 95, south of Moscow, Idaho.

- Coordinated with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project in the Clear Creek drainage east of Kooskia, ID.
- Coordinated with USFS regarding integrating Department wildlife staff into forest and zone planning efforts and increasing wildlife staff capacity.
- Worked with the Department's Bureau of Wildlife regarding a new commercial use policy on Department 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim White
Clearwater Regional Habitat Manager
208-799-5010
jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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. Wildlife Restoration project funds provided a portion of personnel funds for administration and implementation of project objectives, including the Nampa Habitat District. The Southwest Region habitat management program also includes the 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, 3 senior wildlife technicians, one 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.

Two senior wildlife technician positions were vacant for part of the reporting period due to promotions, resulting in some salary savings and reduced productivity.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jerry Deal
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 465-8465, ext. 306
jerry.deal@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region.

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Elmore, Camas, Gooding, Twin Falls, Jerome and Cassia counties in the Magic Valley administrative region.

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.

- Magic Valley habitat staff held coordination meetings with the BLM and 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.
- Magic Valley habitat staff worked with intra-regional staff, reservists, and volunteers on numerous projects in the 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Mark Fleming
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 324-4359
mark.fleming@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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, all 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, WR 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.

- Nineteen potential habitat projects were reviewed, mostly dealing with private lands. This led to 15 approved projects geared toward upland game/waterfowl Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) including pond work at Sterling WMA, 8 food plot projects with private landowners, and a number of brush seedling plantings to benefit upland and big game Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) on CRP enrollments and rehabilitation of 2012 wildfires on private and public lands. These included purchase of 58,000 seedlings

- Habitat staff participated in management of the BPA Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area including one coordination meeting with BLM and Shoshone Bannock Tribes (SBT) to discuss access facilities, vegetative treatments, and grazing management. Department personnel also proposed and gained approval for changes to a late controlled hunt, alleviating disturbance to big game in the early winter.
- 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. Seven subcommittee meetings, one general meeting and one field tour were attended.
- Regional personnel continued leading roles in the Curlew and East Idaho Uplands greater sage-grouse working groups. Five meetings were attended. Participation especially centered on review and renewal of annual goals and compiling information for the annual report. The progress of the Bear Lake telemetry project was followed and a written report of the 2012 aerial lek search project was completed. Recommendation for hunting seasons were also developed and forwarded to appropriate Department personnel.
- Represented the region on the statewide Lands Committee, attending six meetings/conference calls and one field tour. Six acquisition proposals were addressed including: 3 presentations to the Lands Committee (BLM R/PP, Weston, Toevs), one field tour, 2 follow ups to previous proposals and one request for advice on expanding a long term lease with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).
- Handled several technical assistance requests and delegated others to regional habitat biologists.

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

N/A

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Paul Wackenhut
 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 232-4703
Paul.wackenhut@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region.

All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, 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 one RWHM and includes the entire region. The Upper Snake is divided into 5 Habitat Districts. One Regional Habitat Biologist (RHB) is responsible for administering Department-managed properties and programs within each 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 WR 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 BLM and USFS regional staff to discuss issues, coordinate activities, and provide project updates. Regional habitat staff attended County Commissioner meetings, NRCS/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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Terry Thomas
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 525-7290
terry.thomas@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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.

N/A

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 maintenance foreman and a wildlife technician who assists with district level activities and is supervised by the regional habitat biologist. Twenty-nine volunteers were used on projects contributing 182 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.
- 2013 Mustang Fire Sagebrush Seeding and Monitoring Report.

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

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist
(208) 756-2271
Greg.painter@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 WR, State License funds, and other Federal grants. Wildlife Restoration 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. Facilities to be operated and maintained in the Department statewide, 2013.

FEATURE	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	TOTAL
Roads (mi)	26	60	150	14	12	32	7	301
Trails (mi)	2	20	19	9	5	27.5		82.5
Maintained Fence (mi)	12	80	202	18	30	124	4	470
Parking Areas	33	10	34	7	27	26	32	169
Informational Signs	50	12	12	40	50	19	17	200
Buildings	20	20	36	8	4	24	5	117
Restrooms	6	1	2	6	5	5	9	34
Water Structures	29		54	33	12	37	3	168
Dikes (mi)	15		13	4	1.4	18	1	52.4
Irrigation Pipe (mi)			2	8	2	0	1	13
Canal (mi)			7	10	1	13		31
Center Pivot				1		1		2
WMAs and WMUs	7	2	6	6	5	6		32
WHAs and other parcels		8	5	3	5	7	7	35
Acres administered	54,987	128,980	80,337	9,649	17,204	74,299	1,140	366,596

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

A small number of projects statewide were not completed because of personnel vacancies and other unanticipated constraints. Wildlife Restoration funds were reallocated within the project. Additional details are available in the regional sections of this report.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
 State Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region

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

4. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on 7 WMAs and 24 smaller parcels totaling 27,910 deeded acres and 27,077 acres managed under agreement, for a total of 54,987 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 program is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, WR, SFR, BPA, and Coeur d'Alene Basin Hecla Settlement funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- A total of 26 miles of roads, 12 miles of fence, 33 parking areas, 20 buildings, 6 restrooms, 60 signs, 29 water control structures, and 15 miles of dikes were maintained.
- Maintain and replace as necessary 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.
- Develop signage, parking, public access controls and noxious weed inventory at the newly donated Sandaker property on CDARWMA.

- Installed 2 gates and removed 1/2 mile of fence on the Robinson Creek parcel of CDARWMA.
- Developed a CDARWMA User Guide to facilitate public use of scattered land parcels.

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.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim Teare
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 769-1414
jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region.

All work completed in Clearwater, Idaho, Nez Perce, Latah and Lewis counties.

4. Objectives:

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

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>
WMAs	
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
EASEMENTS	
Anderson (White Bird Creek)	21
Henderson (Lawyer's Creek)	29
Koehler (Tolo Lake)	16

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.

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, and BPA mitigation trust funds.

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.
- Procured \$48,458 in grant monies from Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), \$10,000 from the BLM.
- Maintained facilities at Red River WMA and Billy Creek, Wapshilla Creek, Benton Meadows and 6 backcountry cabins on CMWMA.
- Maintained 11 miles of roads specifically for mobility impaired sportsmen on CMWMA.
- Maintained seasonal motorized route on Redbird segment of CMWMA.
- Inventoried 100 acres for noxious weeds on RRWMA.
- Maintained 1,000 aspen and willow plantings at Deyo reservoir and wetland.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim White
Clearwater Regional Habitat Manager
208-799-5010
jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 79,944 acres, to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation:

<u>Area Name</u>		<u>Acres</u>
	WMAs	
Payette River		996
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.
- Maintained 202 miles of fences and boundary markers.
- Maintained 36 buildings, restrooms, and other structures.
- Maintained 34 gravel parking areas and associated signs.
- Maintained 54 water control structures.
- Maintained 13 miles of dikes.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jerry Deal
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 465-8465, ext. 306
jerry.deal@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Elmore, Camas, Gooding, Twin Falls, Jerome and Cassia counties of the Magic Valley Region.

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 WR 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 9 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails for public access to Department-managed lands; 18 miles of fence; 14 miles of unimproved roads; 7 acres of vehicle parking areas; 6 restrooms; 8 miles of gated, wheel, and hand-line irrigation pipe; 10 miles of irrigation canals and laterals.
- Maintained and repaired 9 project buildings and equipment; operated and maintained 33 water structures, 4 dikes, 6 pumps, and one center pivot.
- Department engineers demolished old residence at Niagara Springs WMA and leveled and reclaimed site with native grasses.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Mark Fleming
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 324-4359
mark.fleming@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 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 HIP and the 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, WR 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 27 parking areas were maintained through mowing, graveling, and grading 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, but 2 parking areas on the Portneuf WMA received particular attention in redesigning of approaches and graveling to better accommodate multi-seasonal use.
- Directional and informational signing pertaining to all sites was evaluated and maintained seasonally.
- Seven road vehicles, 2 ATVs, 2 farm tractors, implements and trailers 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.

- Construction of the new bunkhouse at Blackfoot River WMA completed.
- Additional pond maintenance was completed on Sterling WMA.
- Additional parking areas were maintained at Sterling WMA.
- Anticipated roadwork on Georgetown Summit WMA was not accomplished.
- One quarter mile fence restored at Blackfoot River WMA.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Paul Wackenhut
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 232-4703
Paul.wackenhut@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region

All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, 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 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 BOR.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>County</u>
Cartier Habitat District		
Deer Parks WMU	3,173	Jefferson
Cartier Slough WMA	1,028	Madison
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
Gem State WHA	70	Jefferson
Mud Lake Habitat District		
Mud Lake WMA	11,468	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
<hr/> Total Acres administered: 89,057		

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 that is now included in Market Lake WMA and will no longer be reported separately. 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 program objectives as defined in existing long-range Department plans through Department 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 24 buildings, 26 parking areas, 124 miles of fence, 32 miles of roads, and 27.5 miles of trails. Monitored and maintained 18 miles of dikes, over 26 parking areas, 239 goose nest boxes, 83 wood duck boxes, 35 ponds and at least 20 kiosks.

- Thirty-seven water control structures were maintained. Six irrigation wells, pumps and associated sprinkler lines were maintained.
- About 20 miles of irrigation ditches were maintained and repaired.
- 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Terry Thomas
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 525-7290
terry.thomas@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 seven backcountry WHAs and 62 Access Areas at current levels of use. These properties provide wildlife and fisheries habitat, fishing, hunting and boating access and other wildlife-oriented recreation.
- One CXT restroom is scheduled for placement at the Colston Creek Access Area.

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 Salmon region.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Supervised and maintained 7 backcountry WHA's, 7 miles of roads and trails, 4 miles of fence, 62 parking areas, 5 buildings, nine restrooms, signs, 3 water control structures and equipment used for operation and maintenance. Also, 1/8 mile new jack fence was built on one access.
- The Colston Ck CXT was scheduled for installation October, 2013. Also, a CXT was scheduled for installation at the Elk Bend Access October, 2013.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist
(208) 756-2271
greg.painter@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 WR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Wildlife Restoration 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.

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. See regional reports for details on accomplishments.

Create additional habitat in areas lacking adequate habitat to support a desired population level. See regional reports for details on accomplishments (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 3. 2013 habitat maintenance activities by region.

Feature	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Winter Range (ac)	16,500	54,000	64,900		9,000	13,000	180	157,580
Wetlands (ac)	8,900	35	1,360	4,220	2,000	4,610		21,125
Forest Mgmt (ac)	37,981	24,000			700			62,681
Shelterbelts (ft)				30,000	17,375	20,000		67,375
Shelterbelts (ac)				30	46	6		82
Nest Structures (#)	800		1,300	350	350	154		2,954
Food Plots (ac)	60		160	110	300	614	5	1,256
Nest Cover (ac)	4,553	8,000	1,920	725	2,500	315	12	18,125
Shrub Planting (ac)	20	300	180	80		87	5	672
Water Mgmt (ac)	3,000		520	4,225	800	850	3	9,398
Grazing Lands (ac)		2,820	48,000		111			50,931
Riparian (mi)	No data	34	69	3	11	6	4	127
Controlled Burn (ac)	5	300	180		47	176		708
Guzzlers (#)		10				5		15

Table 4. New habitat development activities by region.

Habitat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Winter Range (ac)		25			500	15		540
Wetlands (ac)		6			2		6	14
Forest Mgmt (ac)	10	428			5	10	150	603
Shelterbelts (mi)								
Artificial Nests (#)	5							5
Nesting Cover (ac)	10	1,000		40		75		1,115
HIP Projects (#)		24	8	6	10		3	51
Shrub Planting (ac)	5				160	102	75	342
Shrub Planting (#)	1,500	53,000		35,000	70,000	40,300	26,000	225,800
Forb Plantings (ac)		20		40	300	52	32	443
Livestock water (#)		2						2
Riparian (mi)	1					9		10
New Fence (mi)		2				3	6.4	11.4

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.

A small number of projects statewide were not completed because of personnel vacancies and other unanticipated constraints. Wildlife Restoration funds were reallocated within the project to other eligible activities. Additional detail is available in the regional sections of this report and the 2013 HIP Annual Report.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
State Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah 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.
- Assist federal and state land management agencies with improving wildlife habitats on their properties.

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, WR, SFR, BPA, and Coeur d'Alene Basin Hecla Settlement 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. With exclusion of Snow Peak WMA, the remaining 25,695 acres were evaluated for noxious weed infestations. Approximately 8,910 acres of wetlands were managed to maintain important hydrologic functions, maximize waterfowl production, maintain nongame species habitat, and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities. Approximately 44,528 acres of a variety of wildlife habitats were

managed to promote critical habitat features for both game species and overall species diversity including winter range, forest management, shrub management and to provide big and small game hunting opportunities. On the remaining 1,549 acres, habitat improvement activities were completed in a fashion peripheral to facility development and operation.

Habitat development projects completed on Department-managed lands in 2013 include the following:

- Approximately 60 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 and Boundary Creek WMA (~2,500 acres total) to enhance wetland productivity and maintain hemi-marsh conditions.
- Installed a 5-acre deer exclosure to protect future scrub/shrub habitat plantings was completed.
- Restored 10 acres of flood damaged grass field with a native grass seeding on Smith Cr segment of the BSCWMA.
- Approximately 30 acres of goose pasture on Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pen Oreille, and Coeur d' Alene WMA was completed.
- Initiated the 465 acres Bare Marsh project with initial assessment and project design work being completed and the obtainment of a small NWCA grant to assist with project funding.

Additional habitat development projects were completed on privately-owned property. Development projects completed on private lands in 2013 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.

N/A

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim Teare
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 769-1414
jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region.

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

4. Objectives:

- Improve habitat quality and quantity on big game winter and summer range, improve elk calving areas, 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, LIP, funds from outside grants, and NRCS farm bill funds, Clearwater staff are able to maximize enhancement of private lands for upland birds and other wildlife species. Bonneville Power Administration funds, 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.

Improved wildlife habitat on Department lands:

- Continued maintenance of shrub planting and grazing enclosure project at Red River WMA with BPA funds. Goal is to establish riparian community where one historically occurred. Build an additional enclosure to protect shrubs from browsing.
- Bought 32,000 conifer trees to plant on CMWMAs.
- Repaired cattle exclusion fences on wildlife guzzlers on CMWMA.

- Aided with planning of new Deyo Reservoir.

Improve wildlife habitat on private lands:

- Bought 18,000 shrubs for 6 private land parcels in Nez Perce and Latah Counties sites covering over 20 acres in the Clearwater Region.
- Enhanced > 9,000 acres of existing CRP land by buying several thousand trees, shrubs, and diverse forb mixes.
- Completed work with landowner to begin work on two off-channel livestock watering troughs associated with the FMHA Henderson Riparian Easement Area. Goal was better spacing and management of livestock on adjoining lands. Work was coordinated with NRCS.
- Designed a 2 acre wetland and established adjacent wildlife plantings.
- Completed conservation planning for 15 new CRP contracts in Nez Perce, Latah, and Lewis counties.
- Completed conservation planning for 14 new SAFE CRP contracts in Nez Perce, Latah, and Lewis counties.
- Coordinated funding from the USDA Farm Service Agency to create 25,000 new upland game bird habitat acres on private lands in 10 counties.
- Developed mid-contract management plans on 21 CRP contracts to improve the capacity of conservation cover to support wildlife. Work entailed developing reseeding plans, prescribed burn plans, and other stand invigoration techniques.
- Reviewed over 20 Integrated Wildlife Management Plans developed by NRCS staff for CRP contracts in Nez Perce, Latah, Lewis, Idaho, Washington, and Benewah Counties.
- Worked with NRCS and private land owners in Idaho County on WHIP project benefiting wildlife and native fish.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim White
 Clearwater Regional Habitat Manager
 208-799-5010
jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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.

Improved wildlife habitat quality on Department lands by the following:

- Managed livestock grazing on 48,000 acres of big game winter range to improve rangeland plant communities.
- Managed water levels on 1,360 acres of ponds and wetlands to improve waterfowl nesting and brood-rearing habitat.
- Maintained 1,300 waterfowl nest structures.
- Planted and maintained 160 acres of food plots.

- Restored 180 acres of fire affected winter range by purchasing grasses, seeds, 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 8 upland projects to develop 80 acres of 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jerry Deal
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 465-8465, ext. 306
jerry.deal@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

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

4. Objective(s):

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.

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.

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.
- 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.
- Implemented livestock grazing plan at the Hagerman WMA to improve grazing pastures for waterfowl.
- Developed 6 HIP projects on private lands in the Magic Valley Region.
- Planted and irrigated 110 acres of food plots on Carey Lake and Niagara Springs WMAs.
- Improved cover and species composition on approximately 50 acres of irrigated nesting fields and shelterbelts at Niagara Springs WMA.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Mark Fleming
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 324-4359
mark.fleming@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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, WR 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 one 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.
- The HIP program funded eight upland habitat projects with private landowners a wetland improvement project on Sterling WMA, and an upland improvement

project on Sterling WMA. Artificial nesting structures (goose-300, wood duck-25, various nongame) at Sterling WMA, Blackfoot River WMA, and throughout the region were maintained.

- Approximately 300 acres of high-energy grains were provided on Department-administered properties to serve as food for upland game and/or waterfowl. Woody cover plantings were established at numerous locations on 130 acres of private property or BLM land to improve habitat for big game, upland game, and nongame. This included buying 58,000 seedlings of highly palatable forage species (bitterbrush, Hobble Creek sage), and Bonneville sage planted on CRP acreages, BLM lands or other native range sites.
- Field tours and meetings were attended and/or written comments provided pertaining to 28 project proposals or inquiries from other land management agencies or interested parties. Some projects involved considerable time commitments from all habitat staff and continue as ongoing projects (Sage Grouse Planning Areas/Local Working Groups (LWG), Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group, Soda Springs Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area).
- Leased property adding to the Georgetown Summit WMA was monitored for trespass grazing and a land use trade was entered into with a neighbor to prevent trespass grazing on WMA riparian areas and relieve grazing pressure on private land riparian areas.
- Aspen restoration projects throughout the region were reviewed. Planning procedures for future projects were considered through participation in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.

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

Most forage plantings to benefit upland and big game are now handled by Farm Bill Coordinator and MDI positions. Habitat personnel continue to be heavily involved in all regional woody cover plantings, particularly with logistics of seed collection, and seedling handling from Lucky Peak Nursery.

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

- Planting records: Southeast Region @ K:\Wildlife\MDI\ Habitat Database.xlsm
- Nest box records: ArcView project, R-5 server @ U:\Habitat\Projects\projects.apr, shapefile- U:\Habitat\Nestbox\nestbox.shp.
- HIP records: HIP statewide database.
- Sterling WMA Bureau of Reclamation Annual Report.
- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Paul Wackenhut
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 232-4703
Paul.wackenhut@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region

All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, 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.

- Upper Snake habitat personnel were instrumental in the development of a new format for WMA plans that incorporates landscape elements, sensitive species, and presents management objectives for focal species that ensure broad conservation coverage and improved wildlife-based recreation.
- Investigated opportunities to secure wildlife habitat on private and public lands. Administered HIP and Adopt-A-Wetland programs on private and public lands.
- Upper Snake 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.
- Participated in the High Divide Collaborative proposal to acquire LWCF funds for landscape level conservation projects.
- Monitored for West Nile Virus, Avian Cholera, Avian Botulism, and Avian Influenza.
- Administered vehicle and human entry restrictions.
- Coordinated fence maintenance with neighbors.
- Removed unnecessary fence.
- Rebuilt fence to improve wildlife permeability.
- Monitored area closures to protect habitats and wildlife.
- Monitored and protected sensitive plant species.
- 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.
- Administered motorized use plans on WMAs to regulate motorized use.
- Monitored existing habitat improvement agreements, conservation easements, and leases.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Terry Thomas
 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 525-7290
terry.thomas@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

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. Habitat development projects on department lands include:

Pahsimeroi River Access Area (PRAA)

- Management activities at the PRAA are designed to preserve and improve habitat for the production and maintenance of wildlife populations. A 12 acre field was seeded to native perennial cover, spring 2011 and will be irrigated in 2012 to better establish the seeding. A 5 acre food plot will be re-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.

Enhance habitat conditions on public lands to support desired wildlife population levels as opportunities arise.

- Aspen renovation treatments are planned on 150 acres.

Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property. Habitat development projects on private lands include:

- Establish tree and shrub plantings on 2 private ownerships.
- Replace 2 miles of fence in the upper Pahsimeroi River basin to be Sage-grouse friendly.

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.

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:

- All planned improvements on the PRAA were implemented.
- Five hundred twenty-five trees and shrubs were purchased for 3 private properties (6 acres) to improve upland and waterfowl habitat along Tower and Diamond Creeks and a parcel three miles south of Salmon.
- Three miles of fence was marked to minimize Sage-grouse collisions in the Pahsimeroi Valley.
- Due to wildfire on a critical big game winter range summer-fall 2012, 1,850 acres were aerially seeded to sagebrush (January, Department/FS).

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

Aspen restoration activities were re-scheduled to 2014 due to the federal sequestration in 2013.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist
(208) 756-2271
Greg.painter@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Statewide

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.
- 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 WR, State License funds, and other Federal grants.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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 the objective 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
State Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah 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, WR, SPR, BPA, and Coeur d'Alene Basin Hecla Settlement 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:

- Public use surveys were conducted on all WMA's.
- 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.

- Completed pheasant crow count on BSCWMA.
- Completed Aerial photo monitoring on BSCWMA and MLMWA.
- Stream flows were monitored on Boundary Creek WMA.
- Waterfowl breeding pair/brood counts were completed on BSCWMA.
- Waterfowl banding occurred on 4 WMAs and ~1,750 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.
- Completed cow elk calving area search in the upper St Joe drainage, St Joe National forest.

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.
- White-pelican surveys were completed on four WMA's.
- 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.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim Teare
 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 769-1414
jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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.
- To assess wildlife habitat distributions and conditions on private and public lands in the Clearwater 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.

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

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Assisted population staff with capturing and banding >100 mourning doves in Nez Perce County.
- Assisted population staff in conducting road-side upland game bird surveys.
- Continued intensive vegetation monitoring on CMWMA by assessing conditions across 200 acres of high mountain meadow habitat and along 37 miles of riparian habitat.
- Surveyed greenline and riparian vegetation on RRWMA.
- Surveyed breeding birds at RRWMA.
- Continued conducting outreach and soliciting input from the public regarding the long-range management plans of both CMWMA and RRWMA.
- Continued surveying and mapping noxious weeds across CMWMA.
- Re-photographed photo points at RRWMA.
- Inventoried 100 acres and mapped noxious weeds on RRWMA.
- Worked with the “Habitat Group” to develop a monitoring strategy for brush cutting projects on the Clearwater National Forest.
- Assisted in monitoring bighorn sheep associated with CMWMA.
- Conducted Canada goose banding data analysis to determine continental harvest distributions and origins for geese produced and harvested in Idaho.
- Continued surveys for potential Palouse Prairie remnant parcels for the presence of native vegetation plant communities.
- In coordination with USFS, monitored post burn habitats across national forestlands in relation to habitat effectiveness for elk. Conducted preliminary assessments.
- Continued bird surveys at new Deyo wetland site to observe changes in species.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim White
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
208-799-5010
jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 car counters and random surveys.
- Collected on-line and in-person user feedback on WMA operations and expectations using standardized 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:

- Conducted annual brood pair counts on WMAs with waterfowl production.
- Conducted herd composition data on Boise River WMA mule deer winter range.
- 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 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.
- 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jerry Deal
 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 465-8465, ext. 306
jerry.deal@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Mark Fleming
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 324-4359
mark.fleming@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 5 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, WR funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating expenses.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Data from sign-in stations were employed to determine the level and type of public use throughout the year on all WMAs.
- On 1 January, a systematic randomized user survey was initiated on Portneuf WMA to sample all types of use over a full 12 month period.
- 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 and additional aerial lek searches (funded by OSC) were coordinated within the East Idaho Uplands Planning Area.
- 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 sharp-tailed grouse.
- 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. A particular focus was the organization of a two day workshop and tour to be held in FY 14.

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 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.
- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Paul Wackenhut
 Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
 (208) 232-4703
Paul.wackenhut@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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

All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, 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.

- Sand Creek personnel developed an intensive sage-grouse lek survey on a portion of the Sand Creek Desert to verify whether or not historic leks were still active and to document new leks. Many new leks were found.
- Tex Creek personnel led an effort to revisit historic sharp-tailed grouse leks and document new leks within Tex Creek WMA and the surrounding private and public lands.
- Staff partnered with PF in a wild pheasant relocation, production, survival, and habitat use project on Mud Lake WMA. This project will answer questions related to wild pheasant population concerns and habitat use of the Mud Lake area.
- Public use information was collected via traffic counters, incidental personal contact surveys, and stratified random surveys per Regional/state protocols.
- 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 by habitat personnel through 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.
- Peizometers were monitored at SCWMA to monitor water tables in order to determine effects on federally threatened Ute's Ladies Tresses.
- Peizometers were monitored at Market Lake WMA to build a profile of ground water levels and establish a baseline there.
- Peizometers were installed at Mud Lake to measure ground water flows.
- Regional Habitat Biologists monitored habitat on public land via field tours with federal and state agency personnel and through independent inspections of grazing allotments and proposed timber and range projects.
- Ducks were banded at Mud Lake WMA.
- Regional Habitat Biologists inspected sites for proposed subdivisions and reported findings in comment letters to county planning and zoning officials.
- Regional Habitat Biologists 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, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and elk.
- Habitat staff assisted with monitoring of bighorn sheep lamb production.
- A research proposal was developed and accepted to study the ecology of Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse in relation to hunting pressure and wind tower development. This research will be ongoing for 2 to 3 years.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Terry Thomas
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 525-7290
terry.thomas@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations (year-round).
- A revised Salmon Region Excel database with the region's sage-grouse lek routes will be updated July 2012. Continue development of a mule deer habitat monitoring program for use in the Department's Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan.

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 USDA-FS on mule deer 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 10.1 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 June 2013. These data are kept in ArcView 10.1 shapefiles.
- The BLM/Department Sage-grouse monitoring effort was started in March with data collected and incorporated into the seasonal mapping project for Custer County.
- The fawn habitat model was developed for the region and presented at a workshop June 2013.
- Monitoring was completed and report provided to partners on the Mustang fire winter range sagebrush rehabilitation project.
- A statewide elk habitat productivity map was developed and integrated into the Departments 2014-2024 Elk Management Plan.

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). A team continues development of a monitoring protocol for critical big game habitats.

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist
(208) 756-2271
Greg.painter@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
State Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region.

All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah 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, WR, SFR, BPA, and Coeur d'Alene Basin Hecla Settlement 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, 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 primarily 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.

N/A

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

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim Teare
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 769-1414
jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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

All work completed 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 NRCS through the TSP program.
- 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.**

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 HIP and LIP greatly expanded the Department's landowner contacts and our ability to affect large acreages of habitat for upland game and other wildlife species. The Department received funding from USDA Farm Service Agency to install over 25,000 new acres of dense nesting cover for upland game birds in 10 counties along western Idaho.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Provided Technical Service Provider services to NRCS. Worked with landowners to enhance existing CRP fields for wildlife.
- Began implementing State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement project across 10 Idaho counties to improve and protect habitat for high priority wildlife species.
- Developed informational packets on invasive weeds in CRP for Latah County CRP contract holders
- 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 river recreation and development, USCOE Dworshak Travel/Recreation Plan, BLM Resource Management Plans, and BLM Outfitter issues.
- 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.
- Worked closely with USFS on the development of action alternatives for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project in the Clear Creek drainage east of Kooskia, ID.

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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jim White
Clearwater Regional Habitat Biologist
208-799-5010
jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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 95 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 90 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Jerry Deal
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 465-8465, ext. 306
jerry.deal@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Magic Valley Region

All work was accomplished in Blaine, Elmore, Camas, Gooding, Twin Falls, Jerome and Cassia 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 11 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Mark Fleming
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 324-4359
mark.fleming@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

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, WR 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 28 projects or topics (14 meetings, 18 tours, 12 documents). Of particular note were lead roles in the sage grouse local working groups (3 in the Southeast Region) and ongoing participation in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.
- 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.

- We continued correspondence with the BLM, Caribou County, and the Shoshone Bannock tribes regarding the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area Management Plan, including BLM vegetation projects, grazing plan and travel management plan. This included meetings and tours with particular focus on aspen/mountain brush restoration projects, weed control and public access.
- Provided direct technical assistance to approximately 30 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. Several projects were in close coordination with the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- Habitat staff have been serving on 2 Department species management plan revision committees (elk, sharp-tailed grouse).

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.
- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Paul Wackenhut
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 232-4703
Paul.wackenhut@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region.

All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, 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 Upper Snakes 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 Upper Snakes

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 continues to be involved in three sage-grouse local working groups and the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.
- The Tex Creek HB served on the Interdisciplinary Team of the USFS Rainey Creek Vegetation Enhancement Project, helped develop a proposal and participated in 4 public meetings regarding the proposed project.
- Regional habitat personnel helped organize, plan and execute a successful Aspen Management Workshop.
- Regional Habitat Biologists have been instrumental in providing comments on conservation easement proposals. In many instances Department comments have been critical in obtaining the easements.
- Regional Habitat Biologists 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.
- Personnel gave presentations to elementary, high school and college classes, civic organizations and offered workshops and mentored young hunters.
- 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Terry Thomas
Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 525-7290
terry.thomas@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. Location of work: Salmon Region.

All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Objective(s):

- Coordinating with Tom Bassista, 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 advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources on a year-round basis.
- Participate as a steering committee member for the Challis Sage-grouse LWG, Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMA, 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 (2 letters, 7 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 Sage-grouse LWG, Lemhi and Frank Church CWMA's, and the Lemhi and Custer

Counties Planning and Zoning Commissions. All responses were coordinated with Tom Bassista.

- Wildlife population and habitat information was also provided to the Idaho Departments of Water Resources, Transportation, and Agriculture; Challis Experimental Stewardship Group, Salmon Valley Stewardship, BLM Broken Wing Acquisition, 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.

- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist
(208) 756-2271
Greg.painter@idfg.idaho.gov

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

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: F12AF00892

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

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

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report due date: December 2013

3. **Location of work:** Statewide.

4. **Objective(s):**

- Provide up to 300,000 acres of sportsmen access to private land statewide in lease agreements between the Department and Private Landowners at an estimated cost of \$1.25 per acre.

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 WR 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 expenditure of these funds was primarily for lease agreements between the Department and private landowners. In calendar year 2012, the *Access Yes!* Program opened up 442,951 acres of private land and 440,025 adjacent and land-locked public lands for sportsmen.

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

Our objective was to provide at least 300,000 acres in lease agreements to sportsmen using these funds and this goal was exceeded.

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

- *Access Yes!* Publication.
- Website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntPlanner/accessYesGuide.aspx>
- Project F12AF00892 Performance Report, USFWS Portland.
- 2013 Department Statewide Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

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

Tom Hemker
State Wildlife Habitat Manager
(208) 334-2920
tom.hemker@idfg.idaho.gov

Submitted by:

Jim Teare
Panhandle Wildlife Habitat Manager

Jim White
Clearwater Wildlife Habitat Manager

Jerry Deal
Southwest Wildlife Habitat Manager

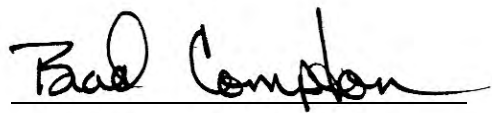
Mark Fleming
Magic Valley Wildlife Habitat Manager

Paul Wackenhut
Southeast Wildlife Habitat Manager

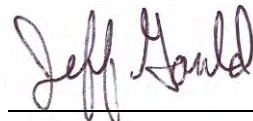
Terry Thomas
Upper Snake Wildlife Habitat Manager

Greg Painter
Salmon Wildlife Habitat Manager

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



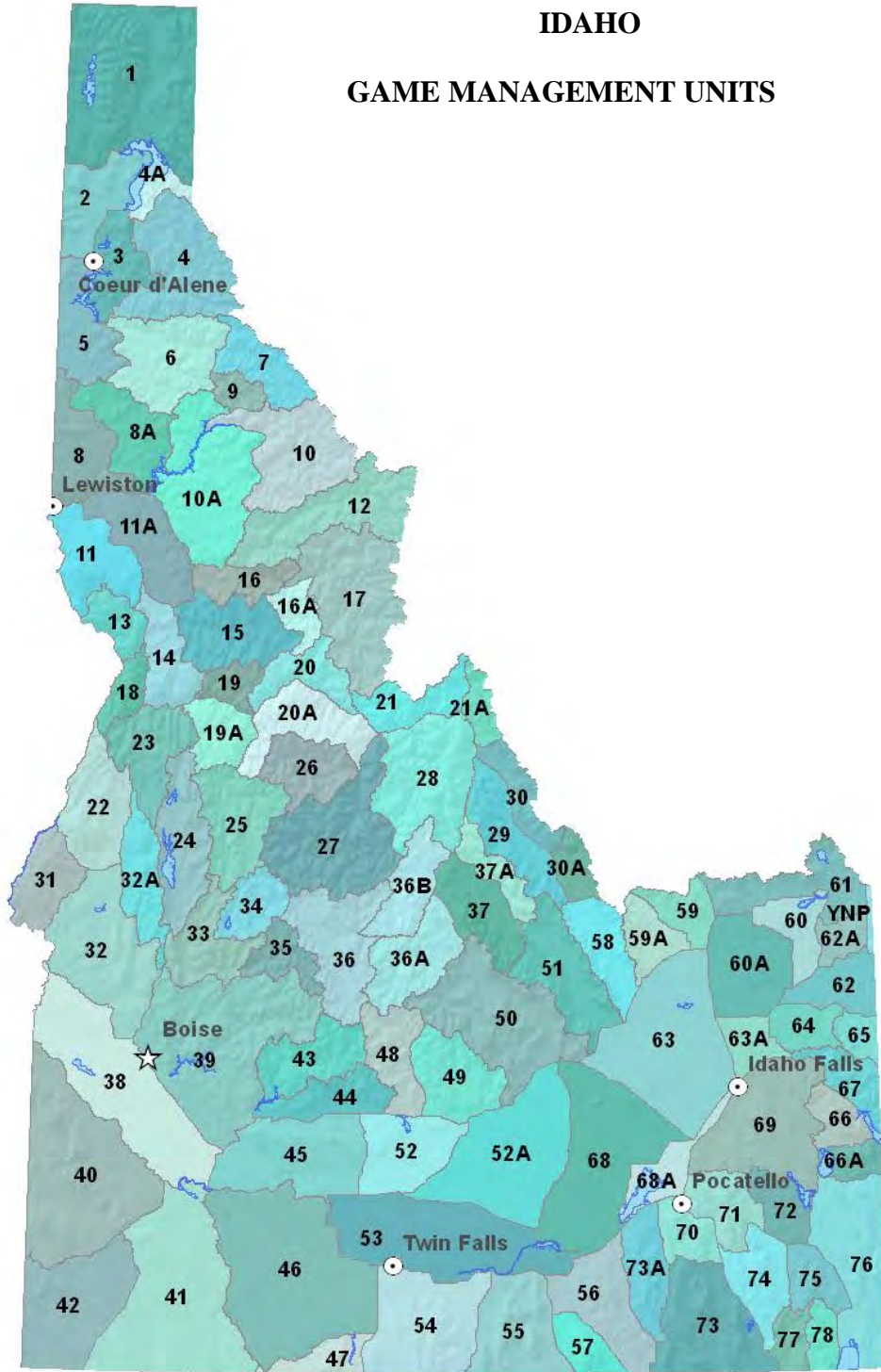
Brad Compton
Asst. Chief, Wildlife Bureau
Federal Aid Coordinator



Jeff Gould, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

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.

