

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-168-C-21

Progress Report



WILDLIFE RESTORATION COORDINATION

Study I, Job 1

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

Prepared By:

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Boise, Idaho

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**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

GRANT NUMBER: W-168-C

SEGMENT NUMBER: 21

GRANT TITLE: Wildlife Restoration Coordination

AGREEMENT PERIOD: July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

NEED:

The Pittman-Robertson Coordination Project focuses on the coordination of research, survey, and inventory projects; various development and management projects; land acquisition projects that are periodically active; and the Endangered Species Program. The extent and complexity of restoration activities involved in these projects require that general direction and coordination by technically trained and experienced personnel be provided. This project is designed to meet that need and will provide a competent project leader who will coordinate the selection, planning, and implementation of approved federal aid projects.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Coordinate the activities of the Pittman-Robertson Program in Idaho.
2. Coordinate the activities of the Pittman-Robertson Program with the other activities of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
3. Provide a liaison between the Department and the Division of Federal Aid.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS:

Enhanced coordination and communication among personnel conducting research, surveys and inventories, and land/habitat management involving federal aid funds. This will result in more effective and efficient use of available funds.

More effective and successful restoration of wildlife and wildlife habitat will be achieved through statewide coordination.

APPROACH AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Review and edit annual progress reports. These reports are compared to previous segment work plans as to work accomplished.

Project documentation, budgets, and reports were completed for each Wildlife Restoration project. Office Specialist II Crystal Christensen spent considerable time editing reports turned in by field staff and preparing them for review and submittal to the Federal Assistance office in

Portland, Oregon. These reports received further review and approval by Bureau of Wildlife staff and the Federal Assistance Coordinator in the Boise office before being sent to Portland.

Proposed project budgets are developed in relation to overall program needs and financial capabilities.

Budgets are developed in May and June for the fiscal year (1 July - 30 June) commencing a year later. Budgets developed in May and June of 2004 for the fiscal year commencing on 1 July 2006 were adjusted, if necessary, to coincide with funds allocated to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for Wildlife Restoration projects.

In addition, Dale Toweill served in the Review Committee for Statewide Wildlife Grants (SWG) selection and assisted Hunter Education Coordinator Ron Fritz.

Periodic on-site reviews will be made. This will be done in conjunction with regional personnel and other staff. Reviews involve evaluation of compliance of work and checking newly-acquired areas for funding needs.

Site reviews were conducted by the Federal Assistance Coordinator and the Statewide Habitat Manager. In addition, Idaho's Federal Aid Program was audited in 2003-2004, and additional site visits were conducted by the federal auditor with and without participation by the Federal Assistance Coordinator.

Each development project will have an annual on-site meeting in the spring to discuss current and proposed work plans and budgets and a tour of the area. Research projects will also have annual spring program discussions besides periodic reviews.

Bureau of Wildlife staff toured all the regions of the state and met with regional staff regarding work plans and allocation of time and funds. During these coordination meetings, regional staff facilitated field visits to selected projects and Wildlife Management Areas.

Wildlife Managers and Biologists convened in Boise in February 2004 to discuss wildlife management opportunities and concerns. The Federal Assistance Coordinator provided an update on federal aid projects, funding, and project coding requirements using the Department's Activity-Based Cost (ABC) accounting system.

Principal Research Biologists convened in Boise in February 2004 to discuss existing and proposed research projects funded, in part, through the Wildlife Restoration Program. Ongoing projects were reviewed and proposed research projects were prioritized based on a combination of need and cost to complete. The Federal Assistance Coordinator provided an update on federal aid projects, funding, and project coding requirements using the Department's Activity-Based Cost (ABC) accounting system.

Other activities associated with coordination and administration of the Wildlife Restoration Program occurred within the Department and between the Department and the Division of Federal Assistance.

Dale Toweill and Karla Russell attended the Federal Assistance Coordinator's meeting in Hood River, Oregon. Dale and Bill Hutchinson continued planning for the 2004 Federal Assistance Coordinator's annual meeting, to be held in Lewiston, Idaho, in October 2005.

Dale Toweill met with a number of Service employees and Bill Hutchinson (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Restoration Coordinator) on several occasions to discuss the Section 7 and NEPA review process as they relate to the potential impacts federally funded projects may have on listed and Candidate species. This review process has added significantly to the time needed to administer the FA program.

Dale Toweill also completed a formal evaluation of procedures to more effectively integrate into federal aid accounting the Department's activity-based cost accounting system, as the thesis project conducted under auspices of the State of Idaho's "Certified Public Manager" program. This project was developed to allow Department staff to more accurately track their time and prevent charging ineligible activities to Federal Assistance budgets. Long-term benefits include our ability to justify and substantiate expenditures during future audits and conduct real-time 'error trapping' for disallowable charges. As a result of these efforts, potentially ineligible charges can now be tracked and corrected within the fiscal year, resulting in significantly more efficient budget management statewide and improving financial accountability.

LOCATION: Statewide.

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Dale E. Toweill, Wildlife Program Coordinator (Project Leader)
Karla Russell, Nongame Wildlife Grants Coordinator
Crystal Christensen, Office Specialist II

Submitted by:

Dale E. Towell
Federal Aid Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

James W. Unsworth, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

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

