

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-168-C-22

Progress Report



WILDLIFE RESTORATION COORDINATION

Study I, Job 1

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Prepared By:

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Federal Aid Coordinator

September 2005
Boise, Idaho

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

GRANT NUMBER: W-168-C

SEGMENT NUMBER: 22

GRANT TITLE: Wildlife Restoration Coordination

AGREEMENT PERIOD: July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

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:

Reviewed and edited annual progress reports. These reports were compared to previous segment work plans and to work accomplished. The segment was completed for this project and a new grant agreement was completed and approved.

Two personnel changes occurred. Karla Russell vacated her position to accept a position as Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) Coordinator, and Jon Beals accepted the position of

Nongame Wildlife Grants Coordinator. Jon attended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “Basic Grants Management” course at NCIC.

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 were developed in relation to overall program needs and financial capabilities.

Budgets were developed by Idaho Fish and Game 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, as 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 on the Review Committee for Statewide Wildlife Grants (SWG) selection and assisted Hunter Education Coordinator Ron Fritz. Considerable time was allocated to development of a proposed shooting range near Idaho’s Farragut State Park; that effort is continuing.

Periodic on-site reviews were made in conjunction with regional personnel and other staff. Reviews involved evaluation of compliance of work performed with project design and included evaluation of newly-acquired areas for funding needs.

A site review of the Andrus Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was conducted by the Federal Assistance Coordinator and the State Auditor in August 2004. Idaho’s Federal Aid Program was audited in 2004, and the final audit report was reviewed and the Department responded to concerns in 2005.

Bureau of Wildlife staff toured all 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 WMAs.

Wildlife Managers and Wildlife Biologists convened in Coeur d’Alene 16-18 August to discuss wildlife management opportunities and concerns. The Department modified its Activity-Based Cost (ABC) Accounting System, and Federal Assistance Coordinator provided an update on federal aid projects, funding, and project coding requirements using the accounting system.

Principal Wildlife Research Biologists and Wildlife Managers met in Boise in January 2005 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. Research projects funded under project W-160-R are scheduled for completion in FY 2006, and a discussion of potential new project priorities was

initiated. New projects selected will be designed in FY 2006, and a new AFA/Grant Agreement for W-160-R will be submitted in June 2006.

All Department personnel attended the In-Service Training School held at Boise State University 23-25 May 2005. This meeting provided an opportunity to update staff on Federal Assistance programs and requirements.

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 Bill Hutchinson hosted the annual 2005 Federal Assistance Coordinator's annual meeting at the Red Lion Inn in Lewiston, Idaho, during 5-7 October 2005. The meeting was well attended. The agenda included discussion of a number of topics of concern to state coordinators (Director's Orders, reauthorization and apportionment concerns, use of FAIMS and iFAIMS, a discussion of state audit findings, and SWG and LIP programs) and a field trip from Heller Bar into Hells Canyon to provide a site visit to Idaho's Craig Mountain WMA and the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project. Bill Hutchinson of Idaho was recognized as the recipient of the annual Cougar Award.

LOCATION:

Statewide.

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Dale E. Toweill, Wildlife Program Coordinator (Project Leader)
Jon Beals, 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.

