

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Jerry Mallet, Acting Director

Project W-173-D-12

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Annual Progress Report



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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ABBREVIATION CODES TO BE USED IN THIS REPORT:

Common Merganser	COME
Red-breasted Merganser	RBME
Hooded Merganser	HOME
Mallard	MALL
Gadwall	GADW
American Wigeon	AMWI
American Green-winged Teal	AGWT
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE
Cinnamon Teal	CITE
Northern Shoveler	NSHO
Northern Pintail	NOPI
Wood Duck	WODU
Redhead	REDH
Canvasback	CANV
Greater Scaup	GRSC
Lesser Scaup	LESC
Ring-necked Duck	RNDU
Common Goldeneye	COGO
Barrow's Goldeneye	BAGO
Bufflehead	BUFF
Oldsquaw	OLDS
Harlequin Duck	HARD
Ruddy Duck	RUDU
Lesser Snow Goose (White phase)	LSGO
Lesser Snow Goose (Blue phase)	BLGO
Greater White-fronted Goose	GWFG
Canada Goose	CAGO

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Tom Parker
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Statewide Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

STATEWIDE

Management Priorities

1. ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS
2. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide assistance to regions and State Land Manager in completing land acquisitions and habitat development projects; provide technical assistance to regions; handle fee-in-lieu of tax payments, keep land record data base, prepare and review sharecrop and grazing agreements	1630	26 weeks	14 weeks	36,054	19,339	Dale VonSteen retired in February.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$19,339
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$19,339

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Panhandle Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

PANHANDLE REGION

Management Priorities

1. SUPERVISION
2. ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS
3. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SUPERVISION						
Management Program - Provide supervision for the Panhandle Region Habitat Management Program						
Supervise Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)	1720	100 inq. 6 weeks	101 inq. 6 weeks	10,000	10,000	23 waterfowl and 1 upland game projects completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, Pheasant
Supervise six Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	6 WMAs 6 weeks	6 WMAs 6 weeks	15,000	15,000	Supervision provided to 3 FTEs. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, Elk, WT deer
Supervise habitat maintenance program on WMAs	1630	6 WMAs 2 weeks	6 WMAs 1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
Supervise Forestry Specialist	1322	200 acres 5 weeks	50 acres 5 weeks	9,000	9,000	Two timber sale contracts awarded. Species benefitted: WT deer
Supervise Sportsmen's Access Maintenance program	1333	47 sites 6 weeks	46 sites 6 weeks	16,000	17,000	Lease terminated at Muskrat Lake due to sale of property.
ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS						
Management Program - Recommend land acquisitions and be responsible for transactions on Department property						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Fee title, non-wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1111	100 acres 1.5 weeks	175 acres 1.5 weeks	1,500	1,500	Two acquisitions proposals submitted. No property purchased.
Fee title, wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1112	100 acres 1.5 weeks	252 acres 1.5 weeks	1,500	1,500	Three acquisition proposals submitted. No property purchased.
Non-fee title, non-wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1121	200 acres 3 weeks	300 acres 3 weeks	3,000	3,000	Three licenses, one lease and three easements completed.
Nonfee title, wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1122	200 acres 3 weeks	220 acres 3 weeks	3,000	3,000	Two agreements, three permits and one license completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Attended 37 meetings.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 3 weeks	5 projects 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Reviewed five proposals. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,500	2,500	Federal aid reports prepared for FY97. Annual reports prepared for FY96.
Maintain files, prepare reports, editing, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	9,722	9,722	FY98 budget request completed.
Employee performance evaluations	1630	5 FTEs 2 weeks	5 FTEs 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Five evaluations given.

Waterfowl production surveys were coordinated on both the McArthur Lake and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs. The Project Leader also coordinated all waterfowl banding efforts and completed the Waterfowl Production and Summer Banding Annual Report.

Annual weed control plans and requests for predator control work on WMAs were completed and forwarded to headquarters.

A Breeding Bird Survey was continued on the Farragut WMA to document any changes in the avian community due to the impacts of logging.

Five scoping sessions were held from January - March to solicit public input to identify issues to consider prior to writing long range management plans for all WMAs in the Panhandle Region.

Logistical support was again provided to the USFWS research teams collecting information for a Natural Resource Damage Assessment on the lower Coeur d'Alene River.

The Coeur d'Alene River WMA sustained moderate flood damage in February due to prolonged rain on snow. One water control structure was breached, two low head dikes suffered erosion damage, and over half of the free-standing goose nesting structures were washed away.

Four trespass incidents on Department property were documented. Two were resolved satisfactorily and two are pending further action.

4. Forestry

Two timber sales were set up and contracts awarded. Both sales were small in scope. One involved salvaging blowdown on Department property at Wolf Lodge Creek in Kootenai County and the other removed danger trees cleared from the Kootenai Electric right-of-way on the Farragut WMA adjacent to Bayview.

A small timber trespass was resolved at McArthur Lake WMA. Planning for four timber sales was completed but contracts have not been awarded. A potential fire salvage sale on the South Fork of the Salmon River in Region 3 was dropped from consideration due to environmental concerns with the presence of endangered chinook salmon. The Department Forester also continued work on a proposed value for value land exchange with the Nez Perce Tribe on Craig Mountain in the Clearwater Region.

5. Sportsmen's Access Sites

Presently there are 46 sportsmen's access sites in the Panhandle Region. These properties are maintained with funds provided by separate DJ budgets. The Department has entered into cooperative agreements with Kootenai County, Benewah County, USFS, BLM, Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Lands, Burlington Northern Railroad, Inland Empire Paper Company, and private individuals in an effort to cost-share improvements or provide public access to lakes and streams. One access site was lost when the landowner (UPRR) sold their property at Muskrat Lake near Sandpoint in Bonner County.

6. Acquisitions

Five land acquisition proposals were submitted to Department headquarters. However, no property purchases were completed. Field reviews were conducted on two additional parcels of property for possible acquisition but no action was taken.

A proposed value for value trade with the US Forest Service for Department property at Garfield Bay in Bonner County was canceled due to adverse public reaction. The Corps of Engineers added 217 acres to the Department's long term license on the Pend Oreille WMA.

Crown Pacific Inland (successor to DAW Forest Products) quit claimed the remainder of a timber deed in Section 11 on the Snow Peak WMA to the Department.

The Department exercised a reverter clause and quit claimed the Alpine Lake property to the Alpine Meadows Water and Sewer District after many unsuccessful attempts to resolve flooding issues.

A proposed conservation easement was discussed with the owners of over 700 acres of property near Huckleberry Bay at Priest Lake.

7. Leases, Cooperative Agreements, Easements, Licenses

An outfitting license was renewed for Sandy Podsaid for outfitting activities on the Snow Peak WMA in Shoshone County. Road use agreements for log hauling across Department property on the St. Maries WMA in Benewah County were granted to Crown Pacific Inland and the USFS, St. Maries Ranger District.

Three easements were completed. The Department granted an easement to an adjacent landowner at Rose Lake in Kootenai County for road access; a recreational easement to the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Department at Hauser Lake; and swapped road easements with an adjacent landowner at McArthur Lake WMA in Boundary County. Two additional easements for road access were prepared but are not completed.

The Department leased the former Panhandle Region Office site to Kootenai County. A lease at Merry Creek in Shoshone County for a Department administrative site was terminated due to nonuse. A lease from the UPRR at Muskrat Lake for public access was canceled due to sale of the property.

A sharecrop agreement was renewed at the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in Kootenai County. Universal Studios was granted temporary use of the Mirror Lake access in Bonner County for a major film production. An MOU was signed with Kootenai County regarding weed control on Department property.

The Department applied for and received three Lake Encroachment permits issued by the Idaho Department of Lands for access site developments.

8. Cooperation With Other Agencies

The Project Leader represented the Department at regularly scheduled meetings of the Natural Resource Committee and the Management Advisory Committee of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project (CBRP). The Natural Resource Committee deals primarily with public waterways improvements and CBRP deals with the complex problem of coordinating clean up activities related to heavy metal pollution in the Coeur d'Alene River basin from 100 years of mining in the Silver

Valley. Due to severe flooding in the ten northern counties of Idaho in February, the Project Leader was assigned to work on a Hazard Mitigation Report coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Bureau of Disaster Services.

9. Review Development Proposals

The Project Leader reviewed and provided comments to the Regional Environmental Staff Biologist on all development proposals adjacent to Department properties. Examples include other agency sponsored timber sales and land exchanges, Corps of Engineers 404 permit applications, State of Idaho Lake Encroachment permit applications, BLM recreational development projects, river basin cleanup plans generated by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the mining industry, and wildlife mitigation proposals due to Federal and private hydroelectric facilities.

10. Other Duties

The Project Leader serves as the Panhandle Region Waterfowl Banding Coordinator. He taught a Hunter Safety class; participated in the biannual Department physical fitness assessments and enforcement training for non-enforcement personnel; and was Acting Regional Supervisor on two occasions.

The Project Leader prepared a paper on the status of Wood Ducks in Northern Idaho presented at the Western States Wood Duck Workshop in Vancouver, Washington.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

McArthur Lake Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

MCARTHUR LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION
2. DUCK PRODUCTION
3. FISHING
4. WATERFOWL HUNTING
5. NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites						
Maintain nest structures	1211	125 platfrms 2 weeks	125 plts 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	All nest platforms were inspected and serviced. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 platforms 1 week		1,000	0	No nest structures were added this year.
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Control crows and ravens when necessary	1460	1 week	2 weeks	1,500	1,500	Waterfowl nest destruction by ravens was documented and control efforts were implemented. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, AGWT, CITE, BWTE
Management Program - Provide good-quality brood habitat						
Maintain grass/legume pastures	1211	25 acres 3 weeks	10 acres 3 weeks	2,500	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Reseed grazing pastures	1322	4 acres 1 week	4 acres 1 week	500	1,500	Vegetation control completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	125 platfrms 1 week	125 plts 1 week	1,000	1,000	39 active Canada goose nests observed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Check for outbreaks of disease or poisoning	1211	1 week	1 week	300	300	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, AGWT, CITE, BWTE
Management Program - Trapping and transplanting						
Trap and band geese as necessary for statewide programs	1460	50 geese 1 week		2,000	0	No Canada geese were banded at McArthur Lake this year.
DUCK PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Monitoring						
Document level of duck production	1460	2 pair cnts 3 brood cnts 2 weeks	2 pr cnts 3 brd cnts 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Management Program - Improve nesting and brood-rearing habitat						
Provide quality nesting habitat adjacent to marsh	1211	50 acres 1 week	50 acres 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Reseed dense nesting habitat	1322	8 acres 1 week	8 acres 1 week	800	1,000	Vegetation control completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
		60 boxes	44 boxes			Task completed.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,500	Species benefitted: WODU, HOME, COGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 boxes 1 week		500	0	No new boxes were added this year.
Manage water level	1211	600 acres 1 week	600 acrs 2 weeks	700	700	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, RNDU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, CAGO
Management Program - Trapping and Transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	200 ducks 2 weeks	103 ducks 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	1 site 1 week	1 site 1 week	1,000	1,600	Task completed.
Random field checks for hunter compliance	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, GADW, RNDU
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide foraging sites for migrating shorebirds						
Conduct late summer drawdown	1211	80 acres 1 week	80 acres 1 week	600	800	Task completed. Species benefitted: yellowlegs, dowitchers, western sandpipers, killdeer
Management Program - Provide secure bald eagle nest site and maintain production						
Monitor bald eagle nest site	1460	4 visits 1 week	8 visits 1 week	500	1,000	Task completed. One young fledged. Species benefitted: Bald eagle

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for osprey and maintain production						
Monitor osprey nesting sites	1460	2 inspectns 1 week	2 srchs 1 week	500	500	No nest sites were found.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	30 acres 3 weeks	30 acres 3 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, RNDU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	30 projects 3 weeks	30 prjts 4 weeks	6,000	7,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, pileated woodpeckers, pine marten
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvements	1720	30 inquiries 6 weeks	30 inqs 6 weeks	15,000	15,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, COGO
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	3 weeks	1,600	2,600	Open house held to solicit input on issues for new WMA plan. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	4,500	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	3,000	2,500	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Provide information to the public						
Give presentations/tours on	1630	1 week	1 week	500	500	Task completed.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WMA management						Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, industries, and governments	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,500	3,500	Task completed.

Benefits:

1. One hundred fifty (150) Canada geese produced annually.
2. Three hundred (300) mallards, wood ducks, American green-winged teal, and American widgeons produced annually.
3. Mallards, wood ducks, and Canada geese produced are harvested in seven Western states besides Idaho and three Canadian provinces.
4. Spiny ray fishing provided for local residents.
5. Approximately 200 hunter use days from local residents for hunting mallards and Canada geese.
6. One bald eagle nest.
7. Habitat provided for approximately 100 white-tailed deer, 20 elk, 10 moose, 5 black bear.

NARRATIVE

The McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area was acquired to provide additional breeding and nesting areas for waterfowl as a replacement for marshlands that were converted to farmland in the Kootenai Valley.

1. Canada goose production

Approximately 120 elevated nesting platforms have been erected at McArthur Lake to provide nest sites secure from annual flooding and mammalian predators. Prior to the 1996 nesting season, platforms were serviced and supplied with new nest material (hay bales).

In addition to assessing the number of crows and ravens, this year pre-baiting with unpoisoned chicken eggs was used to determine if control was warranted. While relatively few crows or ravens were counted, artificial nests used for pre-baiting were all destroyed. Consequently, chicken eggs with DRC-1339 were placed in artificial nests for raven/crow control. Poisoned eggs were monitored 100% of the time to insure that no non-target species were impacted. After two hours of observation, a single raven discovered and destroyed all six artificial nests within approximately 15 minutes.

Nest destruction appeared unrelated to the total numbers of ravens present. Ravens were also observed harassing Canada geese on nests. Artificial nests were not destroyed following the first day of control efforts.

While the number of Canada goose nests increased from 24 in 1995 to 39 in 1996, the number of nests was still down from previous years (Table 1). Canada goose nesting effort appears to still be recovering from the impacts of drawdown that lasted through spring 1995 to make major repairs to McArthur Lake dam.

Fields were mowed on the northwest shore of McArthur Lake, and near the dam to provide low, green forage for Canada geese. These pastures were heavily used by geese early in the breeding period. However, brood use of the pastures was low this year. Large areas of rank, upland habitat were left undisturbed for upland nesting ducks on other areas of the WMA.

No Canada geese were banded at McArthur Lake in 1996. Since 1973, 1,394 goslings have been banded. Of the total, 1,189 have been released on site and 205 have been transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

2. Duck production

Two breeding pair counts and three brood counts were conducted at McArthur Lake to assess the breeding population, total production, and productivity (Table 2). The number of mallard breeding pairs, broods, and productivity declined from 1995 (Table 3). However, total broods (including all species) and overall productivity increased. Most of the increase was attributable to wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, and common goldeneye. Productivity for upland nesting ducks was low, ranging from 0.00 to 0.29 broods per breeding pair. However, cavity-nesting duck (wood duck, common goldeneye, hooded merganser) productivity was above 0.50 broods per breeding pair. High nesting success for cavity-nesting species was verified through nest box inspections where greater than 58% of nests hatched.

Forty-four usable wood duck nest boxes were checked in late July. Boxes contained twelve wood duck, six common goldeneye, and three hooded merganser nests (Table 4). These numbers closely match the twelve wood duck, five common goldeneye, and four hooded merganser pairs observed during breeding pair counts. Seven wood duck (58%), four goldeneye (67%), and three hooded merganser (100%) nests hatched. The number of hatched wood duck nests account for only 44% of the broods observed at McArthur Lake. Either natural tree cavities are used by wood ducks, or there is an influx of wood duck broods to McArthur Lake from surrounding areas.

Wood duck boxes were also inspected at Shepherd, Dawson, and Chase lakes (Table 5). Common goldeneye nesting success was low due to heavy nest predation at Dawson Lake.

Most upland habitat on the WMA was left undisturbed for nesting ducks and other wildlife. This includes rank stands of reed canary grass, other grasses, and forbs. Fields totalling approximately 16 acres were cultivated this year to control weeds in preparation for future re-seeding to dense nesting habitat.

The water level at McArthur Lake was stabilized during the nesting period to prevent flooding over-water duck nests.

One hundred and three ducks were trapped and banded on the WMA in July and August 1995 prior to the hunting season as part of a statewide effort to determine distribution and harvest in the Pacific Flyway states.

3. Waterfowl hunting

The WMA provides excellent hunting early in the season for both ducks and geese. The reservoir may freeze as early as November, forcing ducks and geese to relocate to larger bodies of water farther south. Hunting pressure was again light in 1995.

Canada goose band recovery information since 1986 indicates 13.4 percent of all birds banded at McArthur Lake have been taken by hunters in eight states and two Canadian provinces (Table 6). Sixty-one percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; 3 percent in California; 16 percent in Washington; 3 percent in

Oregon and Nevada; 5 percent in Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska; and 11 percent in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Table 7 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year. The mean direct recovery rate since 1986 has been 4.8%. The mean total recovery rate since 1986 has been 13.4%.

4. Nongame production and appreciation

One pair of bald eagles has nested on the WMA since 1988. The pair has successfully fledged eight young since 1990, including one eaglet in 1996 (Table 8).

Up to five pair of ospreys have successfully nested on McArthur Lake in the past taking advantage of the lake's perch population as a food source. However, while osprey were frequently observed, no nests were located in 1996.

5. Administration

Two scoping meetings were held in March in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry to solicit public input to identify issues to consider prior to writing a new long range management plan for the WMA.

The WMA suffered no damage during a major flood event in early February caused by warm temperatures and prolonged rain-on-snow. The peak runoff over McArthur Lake Dam was estimated at 200 cfs.

Table 1. Canada goose nests counted at McArthur Lake WMA since 1987.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Nests</u>
1987	55
1988	79
1989	92
1990	86
1991	89
1992	56
1993	52
1994	53
1995	24
1996	39

Table 2. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on McArthur Lake WMA in 1996.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>	<u>Broods</u>	<u>Productivity (Broods/Pair)</u>	<u>Ducklings Produced</u>
Mallard	39	7	0.18	35
Gadwall	7	2	0.29	16
Am Widgeon	20	4	0.20	34
G.W. Teal	9	0	0.00	0
B.W. Teal and Cinnamon Teal	14	1	0.07	2
Wood Duck	12	16	1.33	84
Ring-Necked Duck	11	4	0.36	27
Common Goldeneye	5	6	1.20	16
Shoveler	6	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	4	2	0.50	17
<u>Total</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>0.33</u>	<u>231</u>

Table 3. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on McArthur Lake WMA since 1992.

Species	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>					<u>Broods</u>					<u>Productivity (Broods/pair)</u>					<u>Ducklings Produced</u>				
	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92
Mallard	39	56	36	25	39	7	13	16	14	13	0.18	0.23	0.44	0.56	0.33	35	85	96	73	62
Gadwall	7	8	14	9	5	2	1	2	2	3	0.29	0.13	0.14	0.22	0.60	16	11	11	18	13
Am Wigeon	20	27	26	13	17	4	3	3	4	8	0.20	0.11	0.12	0.31	0.47	34	19	21	24	56
GW Teal	9	5	11	4	7	0	0	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0	0	0	0	4
BW and Cin Teal	14	21	24	20	32	1	2	2	4	4	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.20	0.13	2	14	11	15	27
Shoveler	6	5	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.25	0.00	0	0	3	3	0
Wood Duck	12	12	20	14	12	16	10	13	18	19	1.33	0.83	0.65	1.29	1.58	84	64	78	105	83
RN Duck	11	7	16	12	3	4	0	1	5	2	0.36	0.00	0.06	0.42	0.67	27	0	4	28	10
Com Gold	5	2	2	2	1	6	1	2	1	1	1.20	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	16	6	8	6	2
Hood Merg	4	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	0.50	---	2.00	1.00	0.00	17	4	11	5	0
Pintail	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Common Merg	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	2	0.00	---	0.00	1.00	---	0	5	0	13	12
Total	127	143	152	108	117	42	32	42	53	53	0.33	0.22	0.28	0.49	0.45	231	208	243	290	269

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at McArthur Lake WMA since 1987.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% Nesting Success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1987	54	50%	27	ND	ND	15 (56%)	ND	ND
1988	64	45%	29	ND	ND	16 (55%)	ND	ND
1989-1991	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1992	26	58%	13	1	1	9 (69%)	1 (100%)	0
1993	45	42%	17	2	0	12 (71%)	2 (100%)	0
1994	42	52%	14	4	4	8 (57%)	3 (75%)	2 (50%)
1995	44	55%	16	4	4	11 (69%)	3 (75%)	2 (50%)
1996	44	48%	12	6	3	7 (58%)	4 (67%)	3 (100%)

Table 5. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at Dawson, Shepherd, and Chase lakes since 1992.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1992	47	51%	16	5	3	8 (50%)	2 (40%)	2 (67%)
1993	46	61%	10	18	0	7 (70%)	4 (22%)	0
1994	45	53%	10	12	2	8 (80%)	1 (8%)	1 (50%)
1995	45	62%	10	16	2	5 (50%)	2 (13%)	0

Table 6. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA by area of recovery since 1986^a.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery										
			ID	CA	MT	NV	OR	WA	WY	NE	ALTA	SASK	
1986	39	6	2						3		1		
1987	8	3	1									1	1
1988	43	3							2			1	
1989	80	9	6	1				1					1
1990	109	21	13		2				4				2
1991	47	8	6	1								1	
1992	50	6	4					1	1				
1993	37	3	3										
1994	29	2	2										
1995 ^a	21	1	1										
Total	463	62	38	2	2	0	2	10	0	1	3	4	

^a Goslings banded at four locations on Pend Oreille WMA.

Table 7. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA since 1986.

Year	Number Banded	Direct Returns	Second Year Returns	Third Year Returns	Fourth Year Returns	Fifth Year & Over Returns	Percent Recovery Rate					Total Recovery Rate
							Direct	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth and Over	
1986	39	--	1	1	1	3	--	2.5	2.5	2.5	7.7	15.4
1987	8	--	1	2	--	--	--	12.5	25.0	--	--	37.5
1988	43	--	1	1	--	1	--	2.3	2.3	--	2.3	7.0
1989	80	--	2	2	2	3	--	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.8	11.2
1990	109	9	3	3	3	3	8.3	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	19.3
1991	47	4	2	1	1	--	8.5	4.2	2.1	2.1	--	17.0
1992	50	3	1	2	--	--	6.0	2.0	4.0	--	--	12.0
1993	37	3	--	--	--	--	8.1	--	--	--	--	8.1
1994	29	2	--	--	--	--	6.9	--	--	--	--	6.9
1995 ^a	21	1	--	--	--	--	4.8	--	--	--	--	4.8
Total	463	22	11	12	7	10	4.8	2.4	2.6	1.5	2.2	13.4

^aGoslings banded at four locations on Pend Oreille WMA.

Table 8. Status of bald eagle nest located on McArthur Lake WMA since 1988.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
1988	Yes	No	0
1989	Yes	No	0
1990	Yes	Yes	1
1991	Yes	Yes	2
1992	Yes	Yes	1
1993	Yes	Yes	1
1994	Yes	Yes	2
1995	Yes	No	0
1996	Yes	Yes	1

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

McArthur Lake Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

PEND OREILLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION
2. WATERFOWL HUNTING
3. DUCK PRODUCTION AND FEEDING/RESTING FOR WINTER AND SPRING MIGRATING WATERFOWL
4. FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS
5. NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites						
Maintain nest structures	1211	150 platfrms 2 weeks	150 plts 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate and add new nest structures	1211	20 platforms 1 week		1,000	0	No new structures were added this year.
Management Program - Provide good quality brood habitat						
Continue sharecrop agreement at Denton Slough	1211	25 acres	25 acres	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain water control structure in Morton Slough outlet	1211	1 structure 1 day	1 strctr 1 day	200	200	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, REDH, COME
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	150 platfrms 1 week	190 plts 1 week	2,000	2,000	104 active Canada goose nests observed. Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 weeks	4 sites 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Task completed.
Clark Fork Delta check station	1430	3 days	1 stn 2 days	300	1,000	80 hunters checked. Species benefitted: AMWI, AGWT, MALL
DUCK PRODUCTION AND FEEDING/RESTING FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL						
Management Programs - Monitoring						
Midwinter waterfowl inventory	1460	1 day	1 day	200	200	Task completed. Species benefitted: REDH, LESC, CAGO, COME, COGO, AMWI, MALL, tundra swan
Management Program - Improve nesting and brood rearing habitat						
Maintain dense nesting cover for upland nesting ducks	1211	100 acres 1 week	100 acrs 1 week	500	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, CITE, GADW, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	100 boxes 2 weeks	25 boxes 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Replace, relocate and add new nest boxes	1211	20 boxes 2 weeks		1,000	0	No new boxes were added this year.
Management Program - Trapping and Transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	0	252 ducks 2 weeks	0	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for two pairs of bald eagles and maintain production						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor two bald eagle nests	1460	2 sites 1 week	2 sites 1 week	1,000	1,000	Both nests were successful. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Participate in midwinter eagle survey	1460	1 day		200	0	
Management Program - Accommodate and evaluate nonconsumptive users						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 1 week	4 sites 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow and remove weeds	1211	20 acres 2 weeks	20 acrs 1 week	2,000	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisition						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 1 week		1,200	0	None submitted.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	20 projects 3 weeks	30 prjts 4 weeks	3,000	3,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, MALL, WODU, pileated woodpecker, pine marten, bald eagle
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	20 inquiries 5 weeks	15 inqrs 6 weeks	3,500	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	Open house held to solicit input on issues for new WMA

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						plan. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, MALL
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	2,980	1,000	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	2 weeks	1,300	2,300	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, WODU, MALL, CITE, AGWT, bald eagle

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$89,780
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$89,780

Benefits:

1. 50 successful Canada goose nests annually.
2. Mallards, wood ducks, and Canada geese produced are harvested in 7 western states besides Idaho and three Canadian provinces.
3. Approximately 9,000 hunter use days provided for hunting mallards, American widgeon, and Canada geese.
4. Resting and feeding area for up to 60,000 redheads, lesser scaup, ring-necked ducks, mallards, and American widgeons: 15,000 Canada geese; and 2,000 tundra swans during spring and fall migrations.
5. Major wintering area for redheads, lesser scaup, ring-necked ducks, and American coots.
6. Approximately 24,000 boater use days provided.
7. Three bald eagle nests and 20+ osprey nests.
8. Provide habitat for approximately 300 white-tailed deer, 50 elk, 10 moose, and 10 black bear.
9. Provide habitat for colonial nesting western grebes.

NARRATIVE

The Pend Oreille Wildlife Management Area is made up of ten parcels of land adjacent to Pend Oreille Lake and the Pend Oreille River licensed to the Department for 50 years by the US Army, Corps of Engineers, as wildlife mitigation due to the impacts of constructing Albeni Falls Dam.

1. Canada goose production

In order to provide nesting sites that are safe from annual flooding and mammalian predators, the Department has erected approximately 175 elevated nest platforms. Prior to the 1996 nesting season, platforms located at the Clark Fork River delta, Pack River delta, mouth of Priest River and mouth of Hoodoo Creek were inspected and new nest material (hay bales) were placed in each nest box.

The Clark Fork River delta includes a sharecrop agreement to provide low, green forage for Canada geese. The area is mowed and grazed annually in the summer and a portion of the hay is used in goose nesting structures located throughout northern Idaho. The sharecrop agreement area is less than 20 acres in size. The remainder of the Clark Fork River delta is left in a natural state for the variety of wildlife that utilize the area.

A culvert placed in the outlet of Morton Slough prevents the slough from draining completely when Pend Oreille Lake is drawn down by Albeni Falls Dam each fall. The higher water level now provides better nesting and brood-rearing habitat than was available before. From field observations, Morton Slough attracts and holds more Canada goose broods than any other site on the Idaho portion of the Pend Oreille River.

The total number of observed Canada goose nests on the Pend Oreille WMA increased from 68 in 1995 to 104 in 1996 (Table 1). Fifty-five of 190 (29%) Canada goose nesting structures were occupied by geese in 1996. The number of available nesting structures was increased this year in the Pack River Delta by the Bonner County Sportsman's Association as part of the Adopt-A-Wetland Program. The Association received recognition through a highway sign for the "adoption" which includes nesting structure maintenance and trash clean-up responsibilities.

Forty-nine ground nests were observed on islands compared with only 22 ground nests observed in 1995. The large increase in ground nests is attributable to an apparent increase in nesting effort at the Priest River portion of the WMA. Islands were densely occupied by nesting geese including 26 ground nests on the largest island, 13 ground nests on a second island, and two ground nests at a third site for a total of 41 ground nests. Only 14 nests were located in artificial nesting structures.

2. Waterfowl hunting

The WMA provides excellent hunting early in the season for both ducks and geese. However, the annual fall-winter drawdown of Pend Oreille Lake dewateres most of the shallow marshlands, exposing large mudflats. This makes mid-to-late-season hunting difficult even though large numbers of ducks and geese remain.

A hunter check station was operated at the Clark Fork River Driftyard during the opening weekend of the 1995 duck hunting season, 10/7 - 10/8. The number of hunters, ducks harvested, and ducks per hunter were all up from 1994 (Table 2). Most ducks taken by hunters were either American widgeons, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, or mallards. Duck species taken by hunters appeared to accurately reflect relative abundance in the Clark Fork Delta during the opening weekend of the season.

Duck gizzards were collected at the check station from hunter-killed ducks to determine the incidence of ingested lead/steel shot. This was the first gizzard collection ever done at this location. Subsequent gizzard analysis revealed no occurrence of lead shot, and only two gizzards contained a single steel shot.

3. Duck production and feeding/resting for winter and spring migrating waterfowl

The only monitoring of duck production conducted this year was the inspection of nesting boxes in the Clark Fork Delta. Twelve (41%) of 29 nesting boxes contained duck nests this year (Table 3). Four of the 12 duck nests successfully hatched (33%). Nesting box inspections were conducted with members of the North Idaho Gun Dog Association who will be maintaining goose and wood duck boxes in the Clark Fork Delta as part of the Adopt-A-Wetland Program. It is important to note that the Clark Fork Delta includes old growth cottonwood and coniferous forests with abundant natural tree cavities. While no count of duck breeding pairs was conducted, field observations indicated that breeding wood ducks and common mergansers were abundant in the Clark Fork Delta.

The WMA's submerged lands provide excellent feeding areas for migrating and wintering waterfowl prior to and during the early period of the lake drawdown. Rooted aquatic plants are available to both diving and dabbling ducks, geese, and swans until low pool or maximum drawdown is reached. At low pool, most of the feeding areas are dewatered and become mud flats that are covered with snow and ice. All feeding areas used by migrants are monitored and protected from development.

4. Nongame Production/Nonconsumptive Use

Two pairs of bald eagles currently nest on the WMA. One pair on Fisherman Island in Oden Bay and one pair in the Clark Fork Delta. Eagles at both nests fledged young in 1996 (Tables 4 and 5). The WMA also provides important foraging habitat for other breeding bald eagles on Pend Oreille Lake. Four other nests are located within one half mile of the Carey Creek, Morton Slough, Oden Bay, and Clark Fork Delta portions of the WMA.

Due to concerns regarding the impacts of motorboats on nesting western grebes in Denton Slough, counts were initiated this year. In June, 84 western grebes were counted. Courtship displays were noted, but no nests were observed.

On 17 July, 34 nests and 99 western grebes were counted. Nesting success has not yet been assessed. Abundant aquatic plants in Denton Slough restrict boating but provide nesting material for western grebes. The number of grebes nesting in Denton Slough has increased in recent years, indicating that at least some nests are successfully hatched.

The Pend Oreille WMA encompasses wetlands and forests around portions of Pend Oreille Lake. The widely varying habitats support moose, white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, otter, mink, raccoon, and many other mammals. Bird life on the area is also diverse and includes nesting osprey. Most of the habitat on the Pend Oreille WMA is maintained in an undisturbed condition to maximize production of the myriad of species utilizing the area.

The Department Wetland Plant Ecologist inventoried plants and plant communities in the Clark Fork Delta this year. Results of that survey will be reported in 1997.

5. Administration

Two scoping meetings were held in March in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry to solicit public input to identify issues to consider prior to writing a new long range management plan for the WMA.

The Corps of Engineers added 217 acres to the Department's license - Strong Island in the Pend Oreille River downstream from Priest River, the Carter property at Oden Bay, and portions of the Clark Fork River Delta near the driftyard.

Table 1. Canada goose nests observed on the Pend Oreille WMA since 1987.

Area	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Pack River Delta	13	13	10	16	19	12	15	12	11	16
Clark Fork Delta	10	14	16	19	28	8	2	5	14	8
Morton Slough	8	10	12	16	8	4	3	5	3	2
Hoodoo Creek	7	8	11	11	9	7	7	8	3	2
Muskrat Slough	10	11	10	11	11	11	8	11	10	7
Lower Pend Oreille River	16	15	23	21	18	15	22	15	27	69
Total	64	71	82	94	93	57	57	56	68	104

Table 2. Opening weekend check station results on the Pend Oreille WMA since 1994.

Year	Number of hunters	Total ducks	Total hours	Ducks per hunter	Ducks per hour
1994	68	164	209	2.4	0.8
1995	80	222	300	2.8	0.7

Table 3. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks in the Clark Fork Delta since 1987.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1987	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1988	27	33%	9	ND	ND	6 (67%)	ND	ND
1989-1990	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1991	38	45%	17	0	0	15 (88%)	0	0
1992	32	25%	7	1	0	5 (71%)	1 (100%)	0
1993	36	22%	7	1	0	1 (14%)	0	0
1994	28	14%	2	1	1	1 (50%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
1995	24	38%	8	0	1	5 (63%)	0	1 (100%)
1996	29	41%	10	0	2	3 (30%)	0	1 (50%)

ND = No Data

Table 4 Status of bald eagle nest located on Fisherman Island,
Pend Oreille WMA, since 1987.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
1987	Yes	Yes	2
1988	Yes	Yes	1
1989	Yes	Yes	3
1990	Yes	Yes	3
1991	Yes	Yes	1
1992	Yes	Yes	1
1993	Yes	Yes	2
1994	Yes	Yes	1
1995	Yes	Yes	1
1996	Yes	Yes	2

Table 5. Status of bald eagle nest located in the Clark Fork Delta, Pend Oreille WMA, since 1987.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
1987	Yes	Yes	1
1988	Yes	No	0
1989	Yes	Yes	1
1990	Yes	Yes	1
1991	Yes	Unknown	Unknown
1992	No	No	0
1993	Yes	Yes	2
1994	Yes	Yes	2
1995	Yes	Yes	1
1996	Yes	Yes	1

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Coeur d'Alene River Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. WATERFOWL HUNTING
3. FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS
4. BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME HUNTING
5. NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites						
Maintain goose nesting structures	1211	285 platfrms 2 weeks	175 plats 2 weeks	6,000	6,000	Task completed. Over 100 platforms lost due to flooding. Species benefitted: CAGO
Manage water levels for muskrats	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	400 boxes 2 weeks	400 boxes 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Replace, relocate, and add new nest boxes	1211	25 boxes 1 week	31 boxes 1 week	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Maintain dikes and water level control structures	1211	12 strctrs 2 weeks	12 strcts 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide good quality brood-rearing habitat						
Maintain grass pasture	1211	150 acres 1 week	150 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search for Canada geese	1460	285 platfrms 1 week	175 plats 1 week	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Determine wood duck nesting success	1460	250 boxes 1 week	285 boxes 1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Document level of upland nesting duck production	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE
Monitor waterfowl mortality outbreaks	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, TUSW
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 weeks	4 sites 1 week	4,800	4,500	Task completed.
Operate check stations	1430	2 stations 2 days	3 stations 2 days	500	800	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AGWT
Field checks for compliance with WMA restrictions	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, AGWT
Collect waterfowl gizzards and livers for analysis	1440	100 samples 2 days	189 smpls 2 days	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, AGWT, WODU
BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME HUNTING						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate big game and upland game hunting activity						
Provide checkpoint for successful elk and bear hunters required to check in	1430	1 site 1 week	1 site 1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Elk, black bear
Management Program - Forage production						
Maintain cereal grain/clover pasture for big game and upland game	1211	40 acres 1 week	40 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, Merriam turkeys, elk, black bear
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Provide secure bald eagle nest site						
Plan no development in nest vicinity and monitor production	1460	1 nest 1 week	1 nest 1 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Management Program - Maintain osprey nest sites and nest success						
Maintain artificial nest platforms	1211	25 strctres 1 week	25 strctrs 1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Osprey
Census osprey nest sites	1460	50 nests 1 day	81 nests 2 days	200	400	Task completed. Species benefitted: Osprey
Management Program - Accommodate nonconsumptive users						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 days	4 sites 2 days	1,000	1,000	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 2 weeks	50 acres 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AGWT, WT deer
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisitions						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 1 week	100 acres 1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AGWT, CAGO, muskrats
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	25 projects 8 weeks	20 prjcts 8 weeks	8,000	6,300	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, CAGO, MALL
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 8 weeks	25 inqrs 8 weeks	12,000	11,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, MALL, WT deer, elk
Harvest wild rice for HIP program on private wetlands	1720	10 inquiries 1 week	10 inqrs 1 week	1,600	2,600	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, AGWT, muskrats
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	4 weeks	4 weeks	6,000	6,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, WT deer, elk
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	2 weeks	1,500	3,000	Task completed. Public scoping session held to identify issues for new WMA plan. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	5,000	5,000	Tasks completed.

Benefits:

1. Establishment of a nesting population of Canada geese currently providing 90 nesting pairs.
2. Mallards, wood ducks, and Canada geese produced are harvested in ten states besides Idaho and two Canadian provinces.

3. Approximately 2,000 hunter use days provided annually for hunting mallards, wood ducks, widgeons, teal, and Canada geese.
4. Resting and feeding area for up to 20,000 mallards, 5,000 Canada geese, and 2,000 tundra swans.
5. Approximately 29,000 nonconsumptive user visits provided annually.
6. Source of wild rice seed for transplanting in Idaho and throughout the western United States and Canada.
7. Two active bald eagle nests.
8. Approximately 500 hunter use days provided for white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, ruffed grouse, and Merriam's turkeys.

NARRATIVE

The Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was acquired to protect and enhance waterfowl habitat; increase duck and Canada goose production; provide public waterfowl hunting; and provide secure stopping points for large numbers of migrating waterfowl.

The WMA is located in Kootenai and Benewah counties within the flood plains of the lower Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe rivers. The majority of the WMA is found between the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River at Harrison upstream to Cataldo. A detached portion of the WMA referred to as the Round Lake segment is located at the mouth of the St. Joe River.

The primary management objectives for this 7,700 acre WMA are production of waterfowl and public hunting. Approximately 3,600 acres of the WMA are wetlands which are associated with 12 small to moderate sized shallow lakes. The Department owns about 5,500 acres and the remaining 2,200 acres are managed under cooperative agreements with the Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and Washington Water Power Company. Water rights have been appropriated by the Department for 5,574 acre-feet of reservoir storage on 1,650 surface acres.

1. Waterfowl production

Flood events occurred in December, February and March. Snow pack was near normal with above normal rainfall through the winter and early spring. Rain on snow events plus an absence of ground frost resulted in some of the most severe flood damage experienced in the area in many years. Of the 285 elevated goose nesting platforms constructed to overcome the problem of flooding, 135 were lost or damaged beyond use. Several of these platforms were repaired or replaced prior to the nesting period. All remaining platforms were inspected and maintained.

Flooding also damaged two low-head dikes and one water control structure all designed to retain water in shallow wetlands after the fall drawdown of water in lake Coeur d'Alene for power generation.

Limited nesting by geese has occurred on islands constructed by the Department during the mid-1980's. During a normal run-off year, however, most of the islands are under water during part of the nesting season.

To supplement the lack of trees with natural nest cavities, approximately 400 wood duck nest boxes have been installed on the lower Coeur d'Alene River portion of the WMA and adjoining private lands. Heyburn State Park personnel have installed and maintain 50 boxes on the lower St. Joe River.

Goose pastures were maintained by mowing a portion of the tall vegetation in August which allowed for fall and early spring growth of succulent vegetation. Some burning of dead vegetation was done to improve goose pastures. About 200 acres of goose pasture were available. A hay share crop agreement was prepared and a farmer found to use it. Hay fields at Rose Lake, Black Rock Slough and Thompson Lake were harvested late in the season.

A minimum of 500 acres of good to excellent mallard nesting cover adjacent to protected and secluded marshes was provided. A grazing cooperative for the Blue Lake Allotment Area has helped reduce livestock trespass in nesting areas.

All elevated nesting platforms that survived the floods were checked in May. Ninety-four Canada goose nests were found - 58 on the lower Coeur d'Alene River, and 36 on the lower St. Joe River (Table 1). This was a pleasant surprise since over half of the nesting platforms were destroyed by floods.

The lower Coeur d'Alene River marshlands provide ideal habitat for one of the larger breeding flocks of wood ducks in the northwest. Approximately 400 nesting boxes are maintained on the WMA and use is primarily from wood ducks. Two hundred and eighty-five nest boxes were checked from July 8 through July 10. One hundred and five boxes were used by wood ducks and an additional 8 boxes were used by other wildlife species. Ninety-four wood duck nests hatched (90%); seven were abandoned, three were destroyed and one was still active. Table 2 contains a summary of wood duck nesting surveys since 1987.

Documenting the production of upland nesting ducks on the WMA has been very subjective in the past. Many of the marshes are inaccessible and counting broods is difficult due to dense vegetation. Movement of broods between adjacent wetlands is also a problem.

In an effort to provide better information, breeding pair/brood surveys were initiated on three representative marshes in 1992. Table 3 contains the results of the 1996 breeding pair/brood survey and Table 4 compares data since 1992.

Since 1978, there has been a concerted effort to establish a nesting flock of Canada geese on the lower Coeur d'Alene River by transplanting four to six-week old goslings. From 1978 to 1982, 205 goslings were transplanted from McArthur Lake WMA in Boundary County. Since 1983, 1,281 goslings have been transplanted from Nevada, Oregon and other Regions in Idaho (Table 5). Seventy-five goslings were transplanted this year from a depredation flock in the Lewiston area in the Clearwater Region.

2. Waterfowl hunting

The WMA provides excellent early-season hunting for locally-produced ducks and geese. Hunting remains relatively good throughout the season depending upon when freeze-up occurs. Opening weekend waterfowl check stations were operated at Medimont and Killarney Lake as they have been in the past (Table 6). A check station was also operated on the Schlepp Ranch to collect data from hunters accessing hunting areas from that point.

In 1984, a study of hunter-harvested ducks taken on the WMA revealed that 29% of the gizzards contained at least one ingested lead shot pellet. Due to the nationwide concern over lead poisoning in ducks from spent lead shot, the WMA was designated a steel-shot zone in 1986. Gizzards have been collected annually since 1984 and the incidence of ingested lead shot has declined (Table 7). On October 7 and 8, 1995, gizzards were collected from 189 ducks and later x-rayed by students at the University of Idaho. Ingested lead shot was found in 13% of the gizzards and ingested steel shot in 10%.

Canada goose band recovery information for goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1986 indicates 18 percent of all banded geese have been taken and reported by hunters representing eleven states and three Canadian provinces (Table 8). Forty-five percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; sixteen percent in Washington; eleven percent in Oregon; six percent in California; seven percent in Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Ohio combined; and fifteen percent in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Table 9 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year since 1986. The mean direct recovery rate has been 8.4 percent. The mean total recovery rate has been 18 percent.

3. Big game and upland game hunting

Forested portions of the WMA provide ample hunting opportunity. However, relatively few big game and upland game hunters take advantage of it. The demand for this hunting opportunity is increasing with the loss of hunting opportunity on private lands.

Improvements in browse and wildlife grazing conditions continued. The clover grass hay was removed to allow for succulent new growth. About 10 acres was burned in the spring to improve the grass stand for wildlife use. Small open areas have been created in dense stands of young ponderosa pine between Thompson and Blue lakes to improve white-tailed deer habitat.

4. Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

The first documented bald eagle nesting attempt in many years occurred on the WMA in 1992. The nest was in a large cottonwood tree along the banks of the Coeur d'Alene River on Department property less than a mile due south of the Killarney Lake access site. Adult bald eagles had been observed during the nesting season on the WMA for several years. However, this was the first nest located for at least 30 years.

The nest failed to produce young in 1992 and may have been abandoned in May due to unintentional public disturbance from boat traffic on the Coeur d'Alene River. The pair returned in spring 1993 but again abandoned the nest in June. The pair returned in the spring of 1995 and 1996 and produced young each year (Table 10).

Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River and lower St. Joe River have been conducted since 1985 (Tables 11 and 12). Osprey readily nest on a variety of structures including live and dead trees, power poles and nesting platforms erected for Canada geese. Eighty-one active osprey nests were located in the spring of 1996. No effort has been made to determine individual nest success.

Nonconsumptive use of wildlife by bird watchers and wildlife oriented hikers and boaters accounts for the highest number of visitor days on the WMA with fishing, waterfowl hunting and trapping following in descending order. Recreational boating and canoeing are becoming increasingly popular with an estimated 15,000 visits annually. Other visitors include sightseers, picnickers, campers, horseback riders and water skiers. There are an estimated 36,000 total user visits annually on the WMA.

5. Administration

A total of 1,275 pounds of wild rice seed was harvested using the project's airboat to supply seed for the Department's Habitat Improvement Program.

An open house public meeting was held in Medimont to solicit input on issues to be addressed in a new management plan being written for the WMA.

Table 1. Canada goose nesting data from elevated platforms on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1987.

Year	Round Lake	Heyburn Park	Swan and Thompson Lake	Rose, Porter & Killarney Lakes	Total Nests
1987	6	3	10	7	26
1988	7	6	12	13	38
1989	8	8	14	18	48
1990	10	11	13	22	56
1991	11	8	20	26	65
1992	13	11	16	27	67
1993	14	16	20	38	88
1994	6	17	29	45	97
1995	11	26	32	28	97
1996	8	28	25	33	94

Table 2. Wood duck nesting surveys, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1987.

Year	Usable Boxes Checked	Boxes Used (%)	Hatched (%)	Abandoned (%)	Destroyed (%)	Still Active (%)
1987	187	86 (46%)	ND	ND	ND	ND
1988	283	93 (33%)	ND	ND	ND	ND
1989	180	81 (45%)	ND	ND	ND	ND
1990	241	140 (58%)	ND	ND	ND	ND
1991	257	123 (48%)	ND	ND	ND	ND
1992	279	79 (28%)	15 (19%)	23 (29%)	41 (52%)	0.00
1993	276	99 (36%)	45 (45%)	11 (11%)	19 (19%)	24 (24%)
1994	214	91 (43%)	71 (78%)	5 (6%)	7 (8%)	8 (9%)
1995	216	69 (32%)	64 (93%)	5 (7%)	0.00	0.00
1996	250	105 (42%)	94 (90%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	1 (1%)

ND - No Data

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 1996^a.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	17	15	0.88	78
Wood Duck	18	11	0.61	83
Green-Winged Teal	1	0	0.00	0
Unidentified teal	0	1	--	3
Bufflehead	1	0	0.00	0
Total	37	27	0.73	164

^a Specific areas surveyed include West Thompson Lake Marsh, Blackrock Slough and Moffitt Slough.

Table 4. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1992.

Species	Breeding Pairs					Broods					Productivity (Broods/pair)					Ducklings Produced				
	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92	96	95	94	93	92
Mallards	17	42	40	36	47	15	23	32	23	23	0.88	0.55	0.80	0.64	0.49	78	136	232	153	112
Wood Ducks	18	14	28	28	42	11	6	17	13	10	0.61	0.43	0.61	0.46	0.24	83	22	96	67	38
Teal (combined)	1	8	19	9	41	1	2	7	3	4	1.00	0.50	0.37	0.33	0.10	3	4	27	13	22
All other species combined	1	11	9	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	37	75	96	79	133	27	31	56	39	37	0.73	0.41	0.58	0.49	0.28	164	162	355	233	172

Table 5. Summary of Canada goose goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1987.

Mo-Year	No. Geese Transplanted	Trap Site	Release Site
June 1987	137	Bear Lake NWR - Reg 5	Coeur d'Alene River WMA
June 1989	116	Reno, NV	Coeur d'Alene River WMA
June 1990	151	Klamath Falls, OR	Coeur d'Alene River WMA
June 1991	325	Klamath Falls, OR	Mission Slough 85 Bull Run Lake 75 Lane Marsh 36 Moffit Slough 129
June 1992	289	Klamath Falls, OR	Bull Run Lake 189 Swan Lake 100
June 1993	65 (only 55 banded)	Lewiston - Reg 2	Swan Lake 65
June 1996	75	Lewiston - Reg 2	Swan Lake 75

Table 6. Opening weekend check station results on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1986.

Year	Number Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Hours	Ducks per Hunter	Ducks per Hour	Wood Ducks
1986	122	228	264	1.9	0.9	83 ^a
1987	93	209	402	2.2	0.5	12
1988	84	218	229	2.6	1.0	48
1989	96	215	274	2.2	1.0	9 ^b
1990	106	239	315	2.3	0.8	50
1991	102	275	206	2.7	1.3	77
1992	59	99	185	1.7	0.5	16
1993	74	196	310	2.6	0.6	53
1994	108	241	250	2.2	1.0	66
1995	122	201	338	1.6	0.6	78

^aWood duck bag restricted to two (1982-88).

Wood duck bag restrictions removed.

Table 7. Comparison of ingested lead and steel shot in hunter-harvested duck gizzards since 1986.

Year	Sample Size	Percentage With Ingested Lead	Percentage With Ingested Steel
1986	0	--	--
1987	110	21%	7%
1988	103	16.5%	4%
1989	159	14.5%	13%
1990	202	13%	14.5%
1991	198	8.5%	10%
1992	81	4%	11%
1993	189	9%	14%
1994	187	14%	9%
1995	189	13%	10%

Table 8. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA by area of recovery since 1986.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery														
			ID	CA	MT	NV	OR	UT	WA	WY	CO	NE	OH	ALTA	SAS K	NT	
1986	0	--															
1987 ^a	137	30	14		1			2	1	4					6		2
1988	0	--															
1989 ^b	116	27	7	2	1			2		6	2	1			6		
1990 ^c	151	31	15	7				1		6			1		1		
1991 ^c	325	55	17	2	1			15		9	1				9		1
1992 ^c	289	39	25	1	1	1		2		6			1		2		
1993 ^d	55	12	7					1			1			1	1		1
1994 ^e	63	11	8							1					1		1
1995	0	--															
Total	1,136	205	93	12	4	1		23	1	32	4	1	2	1	26	4	1

^a Goslings transplanted from Bear Lake NWR, Southeast Region.

^b Goslings transplanted from Reno, Nevada.

^c Goslings transplanted from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

^d Goslings transplanted from Lewiston, Clearwater Region.

^e Geese banded on the WMA by USFWS as part of NRDA.

Table 9. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1986.

Year	Number Banded	Direct Returns	Second Year Returns	Third Year Returns	Fourth Year Returns	Fifth Year and Over Returns	Percent Recovery Rate					Total Recovery Rate
							Direct	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth and Over	
1986	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1987 ^a	137	8	9	3	5	5	5.8	6.6	2.2	3.6	3.6	21.9
1988	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1989 ^b	116	3	12	4	2	6	2.6	10.3	3.4	1.7	6.0	24.1
1990 ^c	151	18	8	1	2	2	11.9	5.3	0.7	1.3	1.3	20.5
1991 ^c	325	27	7	9	7	5	8.3	2.2	2.8	2.2	1.5	16.9
1992 ^c	289	25	7	3	4	--	8.7	2.4	1.0	1.4	--	13.5
1993 ^d	55	6	5	1	--	--	10.9	9.1	1.8	--	--	21.8
1994 ^e	63	8	3	--	--	--	12.7	4.8	--	--	--	17.5
1995	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,136	95	51	21	20	18	8.4	4.5	1.8	1.8	1.6	18.0

^aGoslings transplanted from Bear Lake NWR, Region 5.

^bGoslings transplanted from Reno, Nevada.

^cGoslings transplanted from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

^dGoslings transplanted from Lewiston, Region 2.

^eGeese banded on the WMA by USFWS as part of NRDA.

Table 10. Status of Coeur d'Alene River bald eagle nest since 1992.

Year	Nest Attempt	Nest Successful	Number of Young Produced
1992	Yes	No	0
1993	Yes	No	0
1994	No	--	0
1995	Yes	Yes	2
1996	Yes	Yes	1

Table 11. Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River since 1987.

Area	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Mouth Cd'A River	--*	--	--	9	8	9	6	7	8	5
Thompson Lake	--	--	--	4	5	3	6	8	5	5
Blue/Swan Lakes	--	--	--	6	8	9	9	8	7	8
Cave/Medicine Lakes	--	--	--	2	2	5	6	2	6	7
Lane Marsh	--	--	--	3	3	2	2	3	1	1
Killarney/Hidden Lakes	--	--	--	11	11	11	13	12	16	12
Moffitt/Oehrling Sloughs	--	--	--	3	2	3	4	2	5	3
Black Rock Slough/Bull Run Lake	--	--	--	4	3	2	4	4	5	3
Porter/Rose Lakes	--	--	--	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Mission Slough	--	--	--	11	11	11	11	9	6	7
Totals	49	49	48	53	54	56	61	56	60	52

*No breakdown.

Table 12. Osprey nest surveys on the lower St. Joe River since 1987^a.

Area	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Lower St. Joe River	20	ND	ND	21	25	33	30	31	29	29

^a Includes Round Lake, Benewah Lake, Chatcolet Lake and banks of St. Joe River.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Coeur d'Alene River Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ST. MARIES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME HUNTING
2. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
3. FISHING ACCESS
4. NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME UPLAND GAME HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate and regulate big game and upland game hunting						
Maintain existing roads and trails	1211	30 miles 1 week	30 miles 1 week	3,000	3,000	Task completed Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Random field checks for hunter compliance	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Increase browse production						
Plan small clearcuts to increase browse production	1322	0		0		No activity.
Rotate electric fence exclosures	1211	1 exclosure 2 weeks	1 exclosure 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk
Maintain boundary fences to control livestock trespass	1211	7.5 miles 2 weeks	7.5 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate level of nonconsumptive users						
Maintain existing roads and trails	1211	30 miles 1 week	30 miles 1 week	1,500	1,500	Task completed.
Random field checks for compliance with camping regulations	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow and remove weeds	1211	25 acres 1 week	25 acres 1 week	2,500	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 3 weeks	10 projects 2 weeks	5,000	4,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, ruffed grouse
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	10 inquiries 2 weeks	5 inquiries 1 week	3,500	2,500	Three HIP agreements signed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Fifteen meetings attended. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer, elk, black bear
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	2 weeks	1,500	3,000	Public scoping session held to identify issues for new WMA plan. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	865	865	Tasks completed.

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$107,465
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$107,465

Benefits:

1. Supports winter populations of 350 white-tailed deer and 50 elk.
2. Estimated 1,000 hunter days use for white-tailed deer, elk, black bear and ruffed grouse hunting.
3. WMA used extensively by residents of Benewah County, particularly from St. Maries, for diverse outdoor recreational pursuits. Estimate exceeds 3,000 nonconsumptive user days.

NARRATIVE

The St. Maries Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was acquired to provide public hunting opportunity and winter range for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk.

The WMA is located in Benewah County on the lower St. Maries River about five air miles from the town of St. Maries, Idaho.

The primary management objectives for this 6,150 acre WMA are for big game and upland game hunting and big game winter range. The area is timberlands and open dry glades on south facing slopes of Lindstrom Peak extending towards the St. Maries River. The Department owns 2,400 acres and the remainder is managed under cooperative agreements with Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service. Several small clearcuts have been created to enhance habitat for white-tailed deer and elk.

1. Big game and upland game hunting

Hunting on the WMA is done primarily by residents of Benewah County. The number of hunters and success rates are relatively low. One hundred seventy-six hunters were checked with seven ruffed grouse, thirteen white-tailed deer, four mule deer and one black bear.

Numerous fallen trees and large rocks were removed from roads by project personnel. Secondary roads remained closed to discourage road hunting. Road closure signs were posted and barricades maintained. About 300 cubic yards of pit run rock was used to make repairs and road improvements after rapid snow melt left considerable damage to portions of the road in February and March.

2. Big game winter range

Since the late 1970s, small clearcuts have been created in the forest canopy to promote browse production by setting back natural succession. No timber sales were designed or let during the reporting period.

An evaluation of unfenced clearcuts during the early spring showed extensive use of redstem ceanothus by wildlife. Exclusion of deer, elk and livestock from clearcuts by fencing is proving successful in protecting preferred browse plants during early growth stages.

A total of 6.5 miles of boundary fence was maintained as a barrier to domestic livestock. Wire on boundary fences was let down in the late fall to allow for easier big game movement and to help reduce winter snow damage and raised again in the spring.

Yellow hawkweed has rapidly invaded many of the clearings on the WMA. Roadsides and parking areas were treated with the herbicide curtail to slow the spread of this noxious weed. With present technology however, control and/or management of this weed is not possible under conditions existing on the WMA.

There were no winter aerial surveys conducted in the game management unit during the reporting period.

3. Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

Due to its close proximity to the town of St. Maries, the WMA is used extensively by local residents for camping, picnicking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and other outdoor recreation unrelated to hunting and fishing.

About half the people using the WMA utilized it for nonconsumptive purposes. Horseback riding around the loop road is increasing in popularity. A local archery club held a trail shoot on the WMA that attracted several hundred participants. An estimated 1,500 nonconsumptive user days were provided.

4. Administration

Active participation in the John's Creek, Emerald Creek, and Merry Creek Grazing Cooperatives continues. Many recommendations made to cooperative landowners have been implemented to change grazing practices. Coordinated Resource Management plans have been completed for the Merry Creek unit and the John's Creek unit.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Snow Peak Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SNOW PEAK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. ROADLESS HUNTING OPPORTUNITY
2. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
3. STATEWIDE SOURCE OF MOUNTAIN GOAT TRANSPLANTS
4. NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ROADLESS HUNTING OPPORTUNITY						
Management Program - Limited motorized vehicle access						
Maintain the Buck Creek road closure.	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 1 week	1,000	1,000	The Buck Creek Road was closed and converted to a trail in FY93. Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Maintain quality hunting experience						
Provide current big game hunting seasons and methods of take	1610	1 day	1 day	100	100	General deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion seasons and a controlled moose hunt were offered. Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Continue to allow licensed outfitting						
Maintain current level of licensed outfitters	1630	1 outfitter 1 week	1 outfitter 1 week	500	500	An evaluation of Wilderness Outfitters was completed. Species benefitted: Elk,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Maintain and enhance big game winter range						
Prescribed burning	1322	50 acres 2 weeks		2,500	0	No burning done.
Assist in aerial surveys to census big game	1460	1 week		1,500	0	No surveys conducted.
STATEWIDE SOURCE OF MOUNTAIN GOATS FOR TRANSPLANTING						
Management Program - Provide mountain goats for transplanting						
Assist in trapping and transplanting goats	1460	1 week		1,700	0	No trapping conducted.
Assist in maintenance of trap site at Snow Peak lookout tower	1211	1 site 1 week		1,500	0	No maintenance necessary.
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Accommodate and evaluate level of nonconsumptive users						
Trail maintenance/relocation	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 1 week	2,500	0	Trail related activities coordinated with the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF).
Develop list of user facilities needed at trailheads	1630	7 sites 1 week	7 sites 1 week	500	500	A user survey was conducted.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and	1710	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,500	4,000	Seventeen meetings were attended.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
private industry						Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impact of proposed development	1710	25 projects 8 weeks	50 projects 10 weeks	4,000	6,000	Wildlife comments were prepared for fifty proposed developments. Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 10 weeks	67 inquiries 12 weeks	13,000	18,000	Sixty-seven habitat improvement program requests were received. Sixty-six landowners and twenty-eight agency contacts were made. Thirteen agreements were initiated. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, ringneck pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews, and evaluations	1610	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Annual work plans, annual reports, and noxious weed control plans were completed. Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing budgets	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,600	4,800	Improvements/maintenance completed on two sportsmen's access sites.

Benefits:

1. Estimated 3,500 hunter days and harvest of 130 big game animals (portion of Unit 9 attributable to Snow Peak WMA).
2. Destination area for hunters, fishermen, and other recreational users seeking unroaded recreational opportunities.
3. Statewide source of mountain goat transplants.
4. Portions of the winter range for 600-700 elk, 50 mountain goats, and an undetermined number of deer and moose.

NARRATIVE

The Snow Peak Wildlife Management Area was acquired to meet a portion of the demand from the recreating public for roadless, backcountry hunting and fishing opportunities.

In FY96, activities on Snow Peak WMA were coordinated with the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. A user survey initiated in FY94 was continued. Trails were monitored for maintenance and reconstruction needs.

1. Roadless hunting opportunity

The entire WMA is contained within Game Management Unit 9. Approximately 50% of the unit is still roadless due to its remote location and currently serves a disproportionate share of the hunting public seeking unroaded areas to hunt big game.

Wilderness Outfitters is currently licensed to provide outfitting services to the public on the WMA. The 1995 outfitting license was renewed for 1996. An evaluation of the Wilderness Outfitters was completed.

2. Big game winter range

Approximately 2,500 acres of elk and deer winter range occurs on the WMA. The bulk of the winter range lies below 4,000 feet elevation on south and west-facing slopes of Canyon Creek. Mountain goats winter on the snow-shedding rock cliffs of Canyon Creek and its tributaries. No winter range enhancements were planned or completed during the reporting period.

3. Statewide source of mountain goats for transplanting

Canyon Creek and its tributaries on the south-facing slopes of Snow Peak contain an excellent population of mountain goats. For 30 years, this population was the state's sole source of transplant stock. To date, over 180 goats have been trapped and moved to other areas of Idaho and two western states. No goats were relocated during the reporting period.

4. Roadless stream fishing opportunity for wild trout

Few areas remain in northern Idaho where anglers can fish streams with no roads nearby and catch native species not supplemented with hatchery catchables. The WMA provides this opportunity due to its remote location and relatively pristine condition.

5. Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

The WMA has a history of use by backpackers, campers, horseback riders, sightseers, and photographers unrelated to hunting and fishing.

A user survey developed by the Department was initiated on 9/25/93. Survey form distribution/collection boxes were placed at the trailheads of Trails 40, 55, 99, 100, 101 and 627. Over 100 responses have been received to date.

A user guide for the WMA was printed and made available for distribution in 1995.

Crown Pacific Inland (successor to DAW Forest Products) completed logging and quit-claimed the remaining timber in Section 11 to the Department.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Snow Peak Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

FARRAGUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WHITE-TAILED DEER WINTER RANGE
2. PROVIDE FORESTED HABITAT FOR OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES
3. RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WHITE-TAILED DEER WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Manage to enhance white-tailed deer winter range						
Manage Douglas fir and grand fir stands for snow intercept, thermal cover, and escape cover. Periodic timber harvest will be used to maintain the desired forest structural characteristics.	1322	15 acres 2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,500	Monitored tree planting associated with FY93 timber sale. Began preparation for FY96 timber sale. Species benefitted: WT deer
PROVIDE FORESTED HABITAT FOR OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES						
Management Program - Manage and enhance forested habitats to provide feeding and nesting habitat, security from predation, and security from nest parasitism primarily for passerine birds.						
Manage older-aged Douglas fir and grand fir stands to provide multi-tiered tree stands, vertical diversity of tree species, a large number of mature trees, and a large number of snags on a per acre basis.	1322	15 acres 2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,500	Monitored tree planting associated with FY93 timber sale. Began preparation for FY96 timber sale. Species benefitted: Dark-eyed juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, Townsend's warblers and Swainson's thrushes.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor changes in the nongame forest bird community.	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Continued breeding bird survey initiated in FY94. Species benefitted: Dark-eyed juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, Townsend's warblers and Swainson's thrushes
Management Program - Manage and enhance forested habitats to provide feeding and nesting habitat for ruffed grouse and wild turkeys						
Management emphasis will be on nonconsumptive use and wildlife viewing; no consumptive season will be offered.	1322	2 acres 2 weeks	2 acres 2 weeks	1,500	1,500	Planted two acres to mast producing trees and shrubs. Species benefitted: Ruffed grouse and Merriam's turkeys
RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE						
Management Program - Accommodate boating access to Lake Pend Oreille						
Access facilities will be developed and maintained by IDPR through an interagency MOU.	1211	1 week	1 week	500	500	The boat launch and parking facilities were maintained by IDPR.
Management Program - Accommodate requests from law enforcement agencies, the US Military and private shooting clubs for firearms training and competitive shooting events						
Shooting range facilities administered by IDPR through an interagency MOU.	1211	1 week	1 week	200	200	Funding for a firing line shelter to be built in FY97 was obtained.
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate white-tailed deer archery hunting activity						
Random field checks for hunter compliance.	1430	1 week	1 week	300	300	An estimated 800 user days were expended. Species benefitted: WT deer
Management Program - Accommodate WMA visitors on the existing system of trails						
Trail maintenance and improvements administered and supervised by IDPR through an	1211	6 miles 1 week	6 miles 1 week	200	200	IDPR periodically maintained the trail system. An estimated 15,000 user days

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
interagency MOU.						were expended.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Implement management plan						
Recommend and coordinate habitat improvement projects.	1630	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WT deer
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Coordinate maintenance needs, user surveys and planning efforts with IDPR.	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed.

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$0
Outside Funds	63,900
Grand Total	\$63,900

Benefits:

1. Estimated that 20% of all boat anglers fishing on Lake Pend Oreille use the Farragut boat ramp for access.
2. Winter range for 200-300 white-tailed deer.
3. Fifty-three bird species identified during the nesting season - 34 neotropical migrants and 19 residents.
4. Developed rifle and pistol ranges used by 3,000 shooters annually.
5. Trail system estimated to receive 15,000 visitor days.
6. Lake shore property estimated to receive in excess of 100,000 visitors annually at recreational facilities provided by the IDPR.

NARRATIVE

The Farragut Wildlife Management Area was acquired to protect white-tailed deer winter range and to provide public boating and fishing access to Lake Pend Oreille.

1. White-tailed deer winter range

During January and February of 1993 approximately 200 acres of Farragut Wildlife Management Area were selectively logged to improve forest canopy snow intercept characteristics. Two silvicultural prescriptions were employed.

Lodgepole pine provides relatively poor snow intercept. Consequently, approximately 50% of the lodgepole pine trees on 100 acres were thinned to release a dense understory of Douglas fir and grand fir. With reduced competition, growth of the understory will accelerate and provide excellent snow intercept characteristics at maturity.

Douglas fir and grand fir stands with $\geq 70\%$ canopy closure provide excellent wintering areas for white-tailed deer, but are susceptible to disease problems. One hundred acres of Douglas/grand fir stands were lightly thinned to promote individual tree growth and reduce competition. Vigorous growth will minimize disease problems and increase life expectancy of the stands. cursory investigation indicates the vegetation is moving in desired/anticipated direction.

Planning for a timber sale similar to that conducted in FY93 was initiated. The plan and sale will be completed in FY97.

2. Provide forested habitat for other wildlife species

Silvicultural prescriptions associated with the 1993 thinning operation were designed to incorporate the needs of non-game birds. Prescriptions did not include clearcuts which would provide habitat for brown-headed cowbirds and promote parasitism of interior forest bird nests. All snags were left intact. Significant canopy cover was maintained.

In the long term, the harvest activities which were implemented will benefit nongame species which require large diameter, mature timber. By accelerating the conversion of seral lodgepole pine stands to climax Douglas/grand fir stands and maintaining the existing stands of Douglas/grand fir, important habitat is being provided for interior forest nesting bird species.

Since the spring of 1993, breeding bird surveys have been conducted on the WMA to compare bird communities in thinned and unthinned timber stands. Results do not appear to document significant shifts in the avian community.

Approximately five acres of ground covered with concrete rubble leftover from the US Navy Fire Training School have been prepared for tree and shrub plantings. During the spring of 1995 the old fire school site and two log landings were planted to mast producing trees and shrubs. Additional planting to compensate for mortality occurred in 1996.

3. Recreation and public use

A boat ramp, docks, parking area and toilet facilities are in place and maintained by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) through an interagency MOU.

The Farragut WMA rifle range is maintained by the IDPR through an interagency MOU. During the winter of 95-96, a portion of the firing line shelter collapsed. Funding was obtained to reconstruct the structure in FY97. Portions of the perimeter fence need to be repaired. Signing along the perimeter has been increased and the need for funding to construct a low maintenance fence has been identified.

A conventional pistol range is also present and a tactical pistol range was constructed in the spring of 1993. Use of these ranges is restricted to Department of Fish and Game training sessions and cooperating law enforcement agencies. Facility maintenance is the responsibility of the regional enforcement staff.

An either-sex, archery season for deer runs from November 1 to December 1. No rifle season is authorized. The WMA is periodically patrolled during the season by the regional enforcement staff and land management personnel.

A network of trails currently exists and is heavily used by hikers, horseback riders and occasionally snowmobilers in the winter. Maintenance of the trails is coordinated with IDPR through an interagency MOU.

An additional benefit to the timber thinning operation was the opportunity it provided to educate landowners on how silvicultural activities can be used to help attain wildlife goals.

4. Administration

Development of a long-range management plan was initiated in FY96. An open house was held to solicit public input and a draft plan was written. A second open house will be held in FY97 to seek public comment prior to plan implementation.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Clearwater Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
3. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Routine operation/maintenance of 35 access areas, 2 wildlife management areas, 19 Department facilities, and 4 conservation easements	1211	6 weeks	8 weeks	10,284	13,712	Species benefitted: mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, chukar, valley quail, ruffed & blue grouse, turkeys, grey partridge, mourning doves
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Supervise and coordinate activities of 6 permanent and 4 temporary employees	1630	18 weeks	20 weeks	30,852	34,293	
Oversee the management of 2 WMAs and 4 conservation easements	1630	3 weeks 76,575 acres managed 4 conservatn easements	4 weeks	5,142	6,856	Increase in work load associated with larger WMA acreage than in FY95.
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	4 weeks 4 proposals	3 weeks 2 prop.	6,856	5,142	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 10 proposals	1 week 10 prop.	1,714	1,714	

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Management of the region's habitat program includes supervision of six permanent employees, seven temporaries, and four volunteer caretakers to coordinate activities. Projects include forest habitat prescriptions; control of several species of noxious weeds with an integrated management system; road/fence and building maintenance; access management for snowmobiles, ATVs, horseback, mountain biking, and handicapped; riparian inventories and restoration; and wildlife surveys. These activities are coordinated with the bureaus of Fisheries, Wildlife, Enforcement, Natural Resources and Policy, and the Director's office. Externally, these projects are coordinated with the BLM, USFS, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Bonneville Power Administration, Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater Management Council, and elected officers from five county governments and state and federal offices.

With the resignation of our utility craftsman, a search was initiated to select a replacement. Volunteer caretakers were also selected for Spring Valley Reservoir, Craig Mtn. WMA, Red River WMA, and the Twin Bridges access area to monitor use, perform routine maintenance, and provide a presence to lessen vandalism problems.

Manager regularly attends monthly meetings of the Clearwater Management Council, Nez Perce County Waterways Committee, and Clearwater Region Sportsmen's breakfast. Attendance provides opportunities to promote the Department's programs and to inform our publics.

Several projects were pursued for acquisition. They included a 100-acre site for construction of a 40- to 50-acre fishing and waterfowl production reservoir, a key access point to the Little Salmon River, and inholdings on the CMWMA. The reservoir site was dropped after discovery of a hazardous waste problem and negotiations continue on the CMWMA sites. The Little Salmon access was purchased and construction on the road and parking has been completed.

Manager participated in this winter's net-gunning capture operation of 92 bighorn sheep from the Snake River breaks to contain an outbreak of disease in Washington that posed serious threats to Idaho's sheep. Also participated in a bighorn sheep conference with Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) because of my knowledge of the Hells Canyon area and the history of management in the canyon; and a bighorn sheep meeting with the same groups in Lewiston to outline strategies for states, federal agencies, and FNAWS in Hells Canyon.

Assistance to other personnel on wildlife management activities included monitoring the 1996 spring flood damage to the Department's property, assisting the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, helping with the region's 12 public hearings to involve our publics in revision of our deer and elk management plans, assistance with winter aerial surveys of wildlife populations in management Units 19 and 20, and presentations to various groups as requested.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

Most of our efforts continued to be projects for food plots (2-acre maximum size) located one mile apart, winter cover, and construction of waterfowl ponds. The Department spends its Habitat Improvement Project (HIP) monies on a 75% cost-share basis for 10-year agreements on private lands, 50% cost-share for projects on public lands, and 100% on 30-year agreements.

There were 51 contacts with public agencies (mostly NRCS offices in the five counties). Latah and Nez Perce Counties make up the bulk of our projects. A total of 128 landowner contacts were made with 62 involving some level of technical assistance and 66 cost-share projects. These 66 projects involved 220 acres at a cost of \$30,648. Upland game habitat was the primary focus on 38 projects and 28 were for waterfowl. We have identified a special pheasant management area in Latah County where we will concentrate our efforts prior to the next re-authorization of the upland stamp. To maximize the impacts of these habitat projects, we coordinate closely with the local NRCS offices to link up with CRP signups.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Road maintenance	1211	2 weeks 8 miles	1 week	1,986	993	Decreased need for road repairs.
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 20 miles	1 week	1,986	993	Decrease in fence repairs.
Maintenance of tree/shrub plantings and food plots	1211	2 weeks 10 sites	2 weeks	1,988	1,988	
Noxious weed control	1211	1 week 100 acres	2 weeks	993	1,986	Increased effort to control spotted knapweed.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Administrative activities and coordination	1630	1 week	2 weeks	993	1,986	

Total PR Contract With Overhead: \$7,946
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$7,946

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Steve Nadeau
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CRAIG MOUNTAIN HABITAT DISTRICT

Management Priorities:

1. LAND ACQUISITIONS
2. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
3. DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTIONS
4. HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS
5. USER FACILITIES
6. INVESTIGATIONS
7. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
8. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
LAND ACQUISITION						
Non-fee Title, Wetland	1172	3 wks-bio	0	3,000	0	Purchase of land along Snake River.
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Area and facilities maintained	1211	4 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	4 wks-bio 5 wks-tech	12,600	13,000	Cabin improvement and maintenance on WMA.
DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTIONS						
Biological control	1311	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	1 wk-bio 1 wk tech	1,500	1,500	1,000 <u>Eustonopus</u> for star thistle control.
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT						
Water facilities development	1321	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	1,050	1,050	Spring development.
Habitat improvement development	1322	2 wks-bio 3 wks-tech	2 wks-bio 3 wks-tech	4,000	10,000	55 acres.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
USER FACILITIES						
Road and trail development	1331	1 wk-bio 4 wks-tech	1 wk-bio 4 wks-tech	8,550	5,000	22 miles rd., 20 mi. trail, signs, gates, enforcement.
Campground and parking lot development	1332	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	2,400	1,000	3 parking areas, toilets, line shack.
INVESTIGATIONS						
Utilization	1430	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	1 wk-bio 1 wk-tech	2,000	2,000	Yellowstar thistle, food plots, shrub plantings.
Life histories collections - yellow star thistle control agents	1450	2 wks-bio	2 wks-bio	3,000	3,000	Monitor collection and transplants of <u>Eustonopus</u> , <u>Banqasternus</u> .
Population evaluation	1460	7 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	7 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	12,000	11,950	Small mammal surveys, chukar surveys, big game surveys, goose production surveys.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Planned management - systems development	1610	5 wks-bio	5 wks-bio	5,000	5,000	Planning protocol, developing projects for wildlife habitat.
Strategic plan development	1620	5 wks-bio	5 wks-bio	5,000	5,000	Develop weed control plan, WMA management plan, landscape forest planning.
Coordination and administration	1630	6 wks-bio	7 wks-bio	12,000	12,600	Coordinate with IDL, USFS, Potlatch Corp., monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, student volunteers.
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	8 wks-bio	10 wks-bio	10,000	12,000	30 timber sales EA's EIS', landscape projects.
Assistance to private landowner	1720	3 wks-bio 3 wks-tech	3 wks-bio 3 wks-tech	6,019	5,019	20 HIP projects.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$88,119
Outside Funds	32,100
Grand Total	\$120,219

NARRATIVE

Introduction

Craig Mountain WMA in its entirety was acquired through several purchases and land transfers. Prior to the BPA mitigation land being acquired by the Department in 1995, the CMWMA was a 16,000-acre management area. Once the BPA lands were acquired, the WMA was enhanced to approximately 76,000 acres. Once the management authority was transferred to the Department, a decision was made to combine the two management areas into one, and to have the entire area managed by one biologist. A transition of management responsibility was completed by January 1996.

This report will cover the Craig Mountain WMA segment during the transition period from July 1, 1995 through January 1996, the period of time I worked on the WMA during this FY. The narrative will also include several other programs completed and ongoing that were conducted through the fiscal year period that entailed the use of PR funds and some outside funds used to supplement the Craig Mountain Habitat District budget.

WMA Management Priorities

- 1) Operations and Maintenance
- 2) Planning and Administration
- 3) Development-Introductions
- 4) Investigations
- 5) User Facilities
- 6) Technical Guidance
- 7) Habitat Improvements

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance projects included improving the access road to the Prince Segment gate by grading, placing water bars, and rocking along a 500 yard segment of the steepest incline along the access road. Gates were secured and signing was replaced following vandalism on the Prince gate.

The Billy Creek Cabin was improved by painting the exterior, and purchasing equipment necessary for proper operations. The lawn at Billy Creek was rototilled and raked to prepare a bed for replanting to a drought tolerant grass. Also, the Madden Creek line shack was improved by finishing the interior, replacing windows, furnishing a stove and bunks, and replacing a door. Both of these buildings were repaired to very good conditions.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Much of the planning on the WMA involved the transfer of programs over to the other biologist. Administration and planning included all purchases and activities related to maintenance and investigations, included but not limited to game and nongame monitoring, weed control, cabin maintenance, and habitat improvement.

Other programs outside the WMA included HIP, the Bitterroot Grizzly EIS (funded by outside federal funds), timber sale analyses, landscape wildlife monitoring and surveys, developing region-wide predator program, team planning, sportsmen group liaison, University coordination for course work and student biology program, and other programs.

DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTIONS

Two species of insects that are natural predators on the noxious weed yellow star thistle were reintroduced on CMWMA during the early 1990s. These species were monitored and transplanted in areas that did not appear to yet have them.

INVESTIGATIONS

Monitoring on the WMA included conducting the yellow star thistle flights, identifying new spot infestations, monitoring the YST predator insects, assisting the LC College students and U of I in monitoring herps and small mammals at permanent trap sites, monitoring vegetation recovery at these trap sites, assisting in big game surveys and waterfowl production surveys. Also, following an intensive spraying, burning, and reseeding effort, monitoring was conducted to identify the success of this attempt to recover vegetation on Dough Creek.

Outside the WMA, a landscape research project was set up to better identify wildlife habitat associations in a heavily managed forest on IDL-managed lands. Permanent survey points were identified and surveys were conducted for big game, birds, raptors and woodpeckers, herps, and other species, as well as conducting habitat ecodata plots to tie in vegetative characteristics. All was mapped on GIS. This included extensive coordination with IDL and Potlatch. Also, black bear transects for the region were developed, planned, and administered. Additionally, an attempt to coordinate an extensive effort to ground count elk in one big game unit that hopefully would improve our aerial big game counting techniques was conducted. Also 20 timber sales were visited and analyzed to identify and evaluate population characteristics and modes of diversity for management mitigation.

USER FACILITIES

This was identified under the maintenance section. Other access points were monitored and maintained.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

Technical guidance on the WMA included transfer of files and project descriptions to the new biologist. Guidance also entailed assisting in development of a landscape plan on the WMA. Oversaw the development of a monitoring program that could be continued using the LC students and faculty. Two timber sales were reviewed that were adjacent to or within the WMA boundaries, to be conducted by either IDL or private. These, too, were transferred to the new biologist.

Outside the WMA, over 20 timber sales were reviewed on IDL and 2 EIS's from the USFS. Additional reviews included salvage sale proposals from the USFS. Technical advise was given to the USFWS on the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS. This entailed 6 months of time over a 20-month period. Duties entailed extensive writing and EIS development involvement.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

During the time I was responsible for the WMA, HIP projects were conducted primarily in the Tammany/Lapwai Landscape Project Site. During the first 6 months, several projects were conducted within the project site including purchase of several food plots, improvement of a project site on Army Corps land that later wintered over 30 pheasants, involving a local birder group to plant trees and shrubs near Mann Lake for game and nongame habitat improvements, involving local cattlemen to

enhance their land along the Tammany corridor, and other projects. Food plots were continued near and in the WMA. The Tammany/Lapwai Project was also transferred to the new biologist in January, who later discontinued the project.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Jim White
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER HABITAT DISTRICT

Management Priorities:

1. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE
2. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
3. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
4. INVESTIGATIONS
5. USER FACILITIES
6. DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTIONS

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Management Program - Provide Technical Guidance						
Review of public projects- environmental review	1710	3 weeks	2 weeks	5,154	1,834	7 projects
Provide assistance to private landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks-bio 3 weeks-bio- aide	1 week	3,436 1,110	917 300	8 inquires
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Management Program - Management Areas						
Areas and facilities maintained, management areas and easements	1211	4 weeks-bio 7 weeks-bio- aide	7 weeks 15 weeks	6,872 2,590	6,419 4,500	350 acres
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program and Coordination						
Monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, inventories,	1630	4 weeks	6 weeks 1 week-aide	6,872	5,502 300	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
equipment upkeep						
Supervision	1630	1 week	2 weeks	1,718	1,834	
Management area planning	1630	3 weeks	8 weeks	5,154	7,336	
Coordination with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	5 weeks	5,154	4,570	
INVESTIGATIONS						
Management Program - Monitor Projects and Game Surveys						
Habitat - monitor habitat improvement projects on private and public land	1440	1 week-bio 5 weeks-bio aide	2 weeks	1,718 1,850	1,834	Mallard,pintail,BWT GWT,C. goose,elk WT deer
Habitat - monitor and tour projects having potential	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,436	1,834	Mallard,C.goose, WT deer
Population Evaluation - game surveys	1460	2 weeks 2 weeks-bio aide	8 weeks 2 weeks	3,436 740	7,336 600	Elk,WTD,mule deer, mallard,pintail BWT,GWT,mtn.goat
Utilization - enforce fishand game laws	1430	7 week	3 weeks	1,718	2,751	Elk,moose,WT deer, mule deer
USER FACILITIES						
Management Program - Access sites						
Boating access development	1333	1 week	1 week-aide	1,718	300	6 sites
Development - Introductions						
Establishment of Species - turkey/mtn. goat transplants	1311	1 week	2 weeks	1,718	1,834	Mtn. goat,wild turkey

Total	\$50,001
Total PR Contract	0
Outside Funds	\$50,001
Grand Total	\$50,001

NARRATIVE

WMA and Easement Descriptions

Red River WMA

314 acres, T29N, R9E, S19 and 30 in north Idaho

The WMA is bordered on two sides by the Nez Perce National Forest and on two sides by private ranches. The acreage is mainly high mountain meadow habitat surrounded by lodgepole pine timber. The Red River runs through the property and includes historical chinook salmon and steelhead trout spawning habitat. Through April and June of each year 50 to 200 elk use the meadow for early greenup and calving. There are 7 buildings on the area, including a large ranch house suitable to sleep 30 people.

The WMA was purchased in 1993 in a cooperative effort with IDFG, BLM, USFS, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Trout Unlimited. The three main purposes for acquiring the property were:

1. Elk calving habitat and watchable wildlife.
2. Salmon spawning habitat and restoration.
3. Environmental education.

Hunter use and harvest on the WMA is low due to the open meadow adjacent to a main road. Most harvest of big game is on the surrounding national forest lands.

Monitoring for wildlife, habitat, and fish will begin in 1997 and will be summarized in next year's report.

Management emphasis for FY 97 include:

- formulation of a Management Plan.
- formulation and initiation of a Monitoring Plan.
- construction of a watchable wildlife platform.
- painting of the ranch house and garage.
- reconstruct one-third of Red River on the property for salmon habitat restoration.

Koehler Conservation Easement

15-acre wetland in north Idaho, T30N, R2E, S30

IDFG is the easement manager for USFWS on the Koehler Conservation Easement. The property was obtained through FmHA. The main purpose of the easement is for protection of the wetland for use by waterfowl and furbearers. Hunter use is controlled by the private landowner.

Management activities on the easement this fiscal year include fence repair and waterfowl monitoring.

Management emphasis for FY 97 include continued maintenance of fence to protect from grazing and continued waterfowl monitoring.

Anderson Conservation Easement

21-acre riparian area along White Bird Creek in north Idaho, T4N, R1E, S1 and 12; T4N, R2E, S6

IDFG is the easement manager for USFWS on the Anderson Conservation Easement. The property was obtained through FmHA. The main purpose of the easement is for protection of the riparian along White Bird Creek having significant steelhead trout spawning habitat and historical chinook salmon spawning habitat. Hunter use is controlled by the private landowner.

Management activities on the easement this fiscal year include fence maintenance and repair.

Management emphasis for FY 97 include continued maintenance of the fence to protect riparian from cattle grazing.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Bill Rybarczyk
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CRAIG MOUNTAIN MITIGATION DISTRICT

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
3. DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTIONS
4. INVESTIGATIONS

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Routine operation/ maintenance of one 77,000 acre WMA including 70 access points.	1211	9 weeks	9 weeks	50,760	50,760	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk, BH sheep, WT deer, chukar, Valley & mtn. quail, ruffed & blue grouse, turkeys, gray partridge, mourning dove
Road maintenance	1211	2 weeks 155 mi.	1 week	11,280	5,640	Elk, mule deer, ruffed grouse, blue grouse
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 15 mi.	2 weeks	11,280	11,280	Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, chukar partridge
Noxious weed control	1211	5 weeks	9 weeks	28,200	50,760	Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, chukar partridge
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monthly reports, PR reports, Supervise and coordinate activities of 1 perm. and 4 temp. employees	1630	10 weeks	9 weeks	56,400	50,760	
Oversee mgmt. of 1 wldf. management area	1630	6 weeks	5 weeks	33,840	28,200	Elk, mule deer, pileated woodpecker, WT deer
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 3 proposals	1 week	5,640	5,640	
Assist other personnel with wildlife mgmt. activities	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	11,280	11,280	
Coop./coord. and liaison w/ other land mgmt. agencies assoc. w/ the Dept.	1630	10 weeks	9 weeks	56,400	50,760	
DEVELOPMENT/INTRODUCTIONS						
Establishment of species-- turkey transplants	1311	1 week	1 week	5,640	5,640	Completed 2 transplants
Restoration of species-- bighorn sheep transplants	1312	1 week	1 week	5,640	5,640	One disease outbreak monitored
USER FACILITIES						
Utilization - Enforce Fish & Game laws and coordinate BLM user study	1430	1 week 2 projects	1 week	5,640	5,640	1 user study completed
Habitat - Monitor habitat for selected species; and monitor habitat trend	1440	1 week	1 week	5,640	5,640	2 projects: small mammal species
Population evaluation - Monitor populations of black bear and chukar partridge	1440	1 week 2 projects	1 week	5,640	5,640	Black bear, chukar partridge

Total PR Contract
Outside Funds

\$293,314
0

Grand Total

\$293,314

NARRATIVE

The Craig Mtn. Wildlife Management Area (CMWMA) was acquired in four separate parcels beginning in 1971, with the last acquisition made in 1992. That 60,000 acre parcel was acquired by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to mitigate for wildlife losses associated with the inundation of Dworshak Reservoir and was granted to the Department in fee-title in August 1995.

The CMWMA is located in southern Nez Perce County and western Lewis County at the northern end of the Hells Canyon ecosystem. It is located within the plateau and canyon slopes of Craig Mountain, extending from the mouth of the Salmon River northward approximately 25 miles to near Waha Lake, approximately 14 miles south of Lewiston, Idaho. The forested plateau is characterized by gently rolling terrain. The plateau breaks into the canyons of the Snake River to the west and the Salmon River to the south and east. The steep, highly dissected canyons are dominated by grassland, woodland, shrubfield, and riparian habitats.

The CMWMA is the largest property on Craig Mountain, slightly exceeding 76,000 acres. Several other large parcels either border the property and/or are intermingled within the mitigation lands. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns approximately 2,000 acres located along the Snake River. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) own approximately 23,000 and 12,000 acres, respectively, intermingled within the CMWMA. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) owns approximately 23,000 acres on Craig Mountain, much of it adjoining or intermingled with the CMWMA on the northern and eastern perimeters. Additionally, there are about 3,000 acres of private inholdings scattered throughout the area.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Recreation use on the CMWMA is high. The greatest use is during the hunting season. Hunters' main quarry on the area are mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer, black bear, mountain lion, blue and ruffed grouse, chukar partridge, and wild turkey. Other important recreational activities on the area include snowmobiling, horseback riding, mushroom picking, and mountain biking. Managing recreationists and the 70 access points through which they may pass is a major ongoing task on the CMWMA.

In February 1996, severe flooding occurred in all of Nez Perce County. Two roads including the Madden Creek Road and the Capt. John Creek Road incurred severe damage at that time. The Madden Creek Road was repaired in June 1996 and the Capt. John Creek Road was scheduled for repair in July 1996.

Fence maintenance was completed on those fences that have been either constructed or repaired in order to exclude livestock from the area. Fence repairs were completed in Captain John Creek, Larabee Meadows, Benton Meadows, Soldiers Meadow, and Swamp Creek.

Noxious weeds pose the single greatest threat to canyon grasslands which comprise approximately 50% of the area. Some species are well established (yellow starthistle) while two others (spotted knapweed and white top) are new invaders which although dense in small areas, are only found in scattered locations. Considerable time and effort has been allocated through June 1996, to continue an effort to eradicate these two species. This effort was initiated in August 1993 and approximately 90% of these species have been eliminated since then. This effort will continue next year. Other noxious weeds that were controlled included Scotch thistle, Canada thistle, dalmation toadflax, and diffuse knapweed.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Intradepartmentally, activities related to forest habitat manipulations, noxious weed control, road maintenance, water quality, ATV access, snowmobile access, handicap access, hunting, archeology, cabin restoration, horseback riding, mountain biking, mushroom picking, private inholdings, tribal relations, riparian restoration, trespass livestock, and others, are coordinated with the Wildlife Bureau, Fisheries Bureau, Nat. Resource Policy Bureau, and the Director's Office.

Externally, they are coordinated with the BLM, IDL, BPA, NPT, LCSC, U of I, and the Nature Conservancy. They are also coordinated with county, state, and federal elected officials and the public.

Work on a forest inventory report for the mitigation portion of the CMWMA continues but is not yet complete. Work also continues on developing a map of the area for the public and on an overall management plan for the CMWMA.

DEVELOPMENT/INTRODUCTIONS

Two wild turkey releases were completed on the CMWMA this year. The first release was in Eagle Creek and the other in Deer Creek. Although wild turkeys summer in the headwaters of these drainages, no birds wintered in their lower ends. It is anticipated that by releasing birds in the lower elevations during winter, a tradition will be established for wintering birds in these drainages, thereby increasing the overall number of wintering flocks and ultimately the total turkey population on the CMWMA.

Bighorn sheep were reintroduced into the area with 17 animals in winter 1983. Those sheep have increased in number in conjunction with reintroductions and expanding populations in the lower Hells Canyon ecosystem in both Oregon and Washington during the same time period. In November 1995, bighorns began dying on the Washington side of the Snake River and this disease epidemic spread southward into Oregon in December 1995. A three-state monitoring effort between Idaho, Oregon, and Washington was undertaken and continues in order to determine the extent of this disease outbreak. So far, the outbreak has not affected that portion of the population located in Idaho and on the CMWMA.

INVESTIGATIONS

Because the Department has owned most of the CMWMA (60,000 acres) only since August 1995, and because intensive wildlife and plant inventories were completed as recently as 1994, little monitoring of habitat has occurred on the area to date. A contract has been entered into with the University of Idaho to develop Wildlife Habitat Relationship Models for all species inventoried on the area in 1993 and 1994, using that data and the habitat inventory data. These models will become available during the next fiscal year. Also, Lewis Clark State College is conducting some habitat monitoring in conjunction with small mammal trapping efforts they conduct each spring on the management area.

Ten black bear scent station routes were conducted again this year on the CMWMA in conjunction with the statewide black bear scent station survey. Also, the annual helicopter chukar survey was completed in August 1995. A record low number of chukars were observed on that survey and a poor chukar hunting season followed. No aerial big game surveys were conducted on winter range. If budgets allow, deer and elk aerial surveys will be conducted in the next fiscal year.

USER FACILITIES

Approximately one week during the hunting season was allocated to enforcement of hunting regulations and to evaluate hunter use and distribution on the CMWMA. A user study conducted by a graduate student at the University of Idaho, in coordination with the BLM and the Department, was completed in June 1996.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Southwest Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SOUTHWEST REGION

Management Priorities:

1. SUPERVISION
2. ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS
3. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Planning and Administration						
Supervision, planning, prepare leases, contracts, write reports, correspondence; review Land Acquisition proposals; cooperation with other agencies	1630	39 weeks	39 weeks	50,797	51,013	Species benefitted:
Technical Guidance						
Public Project Review	1710	10 weeks	10 weeks	13,000	13,080	Species benefitted:
Private Landowner Assistance	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,903	3,924	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 9,297
 Outside Funds 58,121
 Grand Total \$68,018

NARRATIVE

The project leader administered and coordinated activities in six (6) wildlife habitat districts and a public access program in the southwest Region and directly supervised six regional habitat biologists and one utility craftsman. I also indirectly supervised four wildlife technicians and eleven temporary employees.

The leader collected Artemesia cana cana and Artemesia tridentata (Wyo. x vasey) seed for planting at Luck Peak Nursery. These plants will be distributed in the spring of 1997 to six other regions for rehabilitation projects.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Southwest Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain roads	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	854	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO NSHO
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	854	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO BLGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	854	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL LSGO BLGO
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	854	Species benefitted: WODU
Control vegetation	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,500	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL GADW CITE REDH LESE
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1211	1 week	1 week	700	764	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	0 weeks	600	0.00	Species benefitted

Total PR Contract With Overhead 11,100
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$6,680

NARRATIVE

The Southwest Region maintains 60 waterfowl, upland bird, and big game public access areas. Maintenance on roads, dikes, fences, trees, and vegetation control are preformed on a continuing basis to provide for better access and wildlife habitat.

Benefits:

1. Better quality nesting and cover for waterfowl and upland birds on public access areas.
2. Increased opportunity for use of sportsmen in the largest population area of the State of Idaho.
3. Improved relations with adjoining landowners of Department owned or managed properties.
4. Control of noxious weeds and other undesirable species to agricultural areas.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Clair Kofoed
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Fort Boise Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

FORT BOISE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PHEASANT AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PUBLIC HUNTING
3. OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION
4. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PHEASANT AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Management						
Plant nesting cover and food plots	1322	11 weeks	11 weeks	8,470	8,690	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, pheasant, quail
Maintain nest structures	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	6,160	6,320	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU
Add 30 new nest structures	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted: WODU
Manage water levels for sago pond weed, emergents, and carp control	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, TSWN
Manage grazing for goose pasture	1211	3 week 60 acres	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted: CAGO
Develop food plot-irrigation system on Gold Island	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted: CAGO, R.N. Pheasant
Spray <u>Lepidium</u> to improve nesting habitat	1322	8 weeks	8 weeks	6,160	6,320	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, R.N. Pheasant
Management Program - Reduce predators to allow 30% nest success						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Remove predator habitat	1322	3 week	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted: R.N. Pheasant, MALL, CITE
Management Program - Production survey						
Duck nest success	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Turned over to Region Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
Brood counts	1460	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Hunter Management						
Maintain and enforce hunter access sites	1332	3 week	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Maintain and erect directional signs	1211	3 week	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Mow hunting lanes	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted:
Collect harvest data	1430	3 week	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Stock pheasants (state funds)	1211	2 week	2 weeks	1,540	1,580	Species benefitted:
OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Food and cover for other wildlife species						
Planting cover and food plots	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,850	3,950	Species benefitted: C. Quail, turkey
Erect and maintain nest sites	1322	3 week	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted: Am.Avocet, screech owls
Record production data	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,540	1,580	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management - Provide wetland, parking, and information for nonconsumptive use						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Enlarge parking area and erect small tower near entrance road	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Install interpretive signs	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Give tours	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Conduct winter bird census	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
Compile new brochure	1450	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,310	2,370	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review impacts of proposed habitat developments	1710	11 weeks	11 weeks	8,470	8,690	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners with habitat developments	1720	11 weeks	11 weeks	8,470	8,690	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Pheasant
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Routine operations (bills, phone calls, filing, time reporting, etc.)	1211					Species benefitted:
Preparation administrative documents (reports, budgets, memos, development proposals)		20 weeks	20 weeks	15,400	15,800	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 51,742
 Outside Funds 54,889
 Grand Total \$110,631

NARRATIVE

Pheasant and waterfowl production management was achieved by habitat manipulation and predator control. On the mainland segment nesting cover and food plots were planted, including 80 acres of corn in four fields which were left standing until February, and 200 acres of mixed grain which were left through the brood-rearing season and provided spring goose pasture. On Gold Island, the main irrigated food plots included 30 acres of winter wheat, which served primarily as spring goose pasture, 20 acres of spring wheat and 10 acres of milo for winter feed and nesting cover. Dryland mixed grain was planted on 20 acres of the island for food and nesting cover. Over 210 wood duck next boxes were maintained, 20 boxes were

relocated and 25 new boxes were installed. Existing goose nest structures were maintained and five new nesting islands were established. Water levels in ponds were manipulated and control structures modified to enhance sago pondweed and emergents. Carp were eradicated from the 40 acre Mallard Pond and significantly reduced in other ponds. Lepidium was treated on 200 new acres by spraying with Escort herbicide, with good results.

Predator habitat was reduced by removal of approximately 25 acres of Russian olives. Predator reduction efforts were initiated on the local area.

Duck nest success was monitored with a trial evaluation of pair/brood survey methods. Brood counts showed an approximate 25% increase over the average of previous years.

Hunter access sites were maintained and enforced by the addition of two new gates, one new style, 12 new directional signs and the repair or replacement of numerous existing gates and signs. Approximately 20 miles of hunting lanes were mowed to provide hunter access within the WMA. Harvest data were collected at opening weekend check stations and indicated a success rate of two birds per hunter for waterfowl and 0.2 birds per hunter for pheasants. Approximately 1,280 pheasants were stocked throughout the season under license-funded programs.

Production of other wildlife was enhanced by planting and maintenance of cover and food plots. Six new islands were used for nesting by stilts and avocets.

Wildlife appreciation by non-consumptive users appeared to hold increased interest and was aided by enlarging the parking area, installing interpretive signs and erecting an information board near the south entrance. Tours of the area were provided to 110 private individuals and 9 groups. A winter bird census conducted in January, recorded 37 separate species and 15,500 individual birds. Administration included providing technical assistance to district landowners as requested for wildlife habitat development, participation in the Reynold's Creek CRMP proposal process, and WMA administrative management.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Dick Orcutt
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

C.J. Strike Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

C.J. STRIKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PUBLIC USE
2. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
3. UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION
4. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
5. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PUBLIC USE						
Management Program - Waterfowl Hunting						
Maintain roads, ramps and parking areas - 22 miles	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,105	3,105	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, pheasant, valley quail, & deer
Maintain maximum water levels	1342	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,089	3,089	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant, Quail, CAGO, Mourning Dove
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,126	2,126	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, GADW
Management Program - Pheasant and Quail Hunting						
Protect and maintain hunting cover, mow lanes and maintain fences	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,105	3,105	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Quail
Provide grain in three or four locations (55 acres)	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,139	3,139	Species benefitted: Deer, Pheasant, Quail, MALL, CAGO
Develop farming contracts and	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,126	3,126	Species benefitted: white-

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
management direction for new land acquisition						tail deer, mule deer, pheasant, quail, mourning dove
Evaluate lands adjoining WMA for acquisition (Simplot's property)	1420	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,126	2,126	Species benefitted: MALL, wood duck, white-tail deer, pheasant, quail
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	3 weeks	3 weeks	1,113	1,113	Species benefitted: sage grouse, MALL, pheasant
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Canada Geese						
Maintain brood pasture	1440	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,139	3,139	Species benefitted: CAGO
Fence and administer limited livestock grazing	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,089	3,089	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, CAGO, deer
Maintain 158 nesting platforms; add 10 new platforms	1460	2 weeks	3 weeks 206 platforms	2,126	2,126	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO
Monitor and report production	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,139	3,139	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Mallards and teal						
Provide good-to-excellent residual nesting cover-2,000 acres	1440	10 weeks	10 weeks	10,130	10,130	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Bunte, pheasant, valley quail
Maintain 900-acre pond and marsh area	1342	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,236	5,236	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, WODU
Develop additional islands and open water areas-50 acres	1342	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,152	4,152	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1410	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,178	6,178	Species benefitted: MALL
Increase wood duck populations-10 new boxes	1440	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,139	3,139	Species benefitted: WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor, evaluate and report production	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,139	3,139	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, WODU
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Development						
Provide at least 100 acres good residual nesting cover	1440	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,178	6,178	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail
Provide grains in small scattered plots-100 acres	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,065	5,065	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail
Collect data on production and report	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,039	3,039	Species benefitted: Valley quail, pheasant
Develop HIP projects	1720	10 weeks	10 wks	10,130	10,130	Species benefitted: MALL, pheasant, valley quail
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Public awareness						
Conduct tours, give talks, make slide presentations	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,052	4,052	Species benefitted: Idaho Power HEP analysis
Management Program - Provide for other wildlife						
Evaluate need for osprey, eagle, bluebird, etc., structures	1470	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,026	2,026	Species benefitted: Adopt-A-Wetland. Reservists coordination
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets, and other reports; negotiate agreements and land acquisitions	1630	10 weeks	10 wks	10,130	10,130	Species benefitted: Land exchange with Simplot and BLM - SIKES Act
Cooperation with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,039	3,039	Species benefitted: Noxious weed spraying with County

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Weed Supervisor
Maintenance and upkeep of equipment and buildings	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,049	3,049	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 33,599
 Outside Funds 77,505
 Grand Total \$111,104

NARRATIVE

The C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located approximately 20 miles south of Mountain Home, Idaho via State Highway 78. The WMA encompasses 13,500 acres along the Snake and Bruneau rivers. WMA lands were acquired as mitigation for wildlife habitat lost following construction of C.J. Strike Dam in the early 1950's. The WMA was established to provide public hunting and fishing access, with wildlife habitat development as another primary management goal for the area.

C.J. Strike WMA borders C.J. Strike Reservoir, a 7,500 surface-acre water body extending 32 miles up the Snake River and 12 miles up the Bruneau River from C.J. Strike Dam. A diverse range of habitats defines the area including low sagebrush desert, irrigated agricultural lands and river riparian habitat.

Idaho Power Company is the major landowner with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) owning the remainder. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game provided 100 percent of the operating funds utilizing both license and federal aid funding.

C.J. Strike serves as a major wintering and production area for waterfowl. During winter months (November through February), the WMA holds 30,000 to 100,000 ducks and 8,000 to 15,000 Canada geese. Each year, 800 duck broods and 350 Canada goose broods are produced on WMA lands. The installation of 200 goose nesting platforms has helped bolster Canada goose nesting success. Numerous wood duck nest boxes have also been erected in suitable habitat, providing secure nesting areas for wood ducks, fox squirrels, long-eared owls and other wildlife.

Wildlife populations on the WMA are further enhanced through farming practices that provide year-round food and cover. Crops of corn, grain, alfalfa, and clover are left standing for wildlife use and provide excellent residual nesting cover. Five hundred broods of pheasants and California quail are successfully raise on WMA lands each year.

C.J. Strike WMA sports twelve public access sites (including Grasmere Reservoir, Cove Arm Lake and Crane Falls Lake) for visitors. Recreational activities available to C.J. Strike visitors include hunting, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, wind surfing, bird watching, sightseeing, scenic and wildlife photography, dog training, and nature study. The WMA is a favorite area for Boy Scout projects.

Limited big game hunting for mule deer and white-tailed deer is available on WMA lands, while waterfowl and upland bird hunting is very popular. Duck and goose hunting is quite good throughout most of the fall season. Upland hunters can

pursue a mixed bag of sage grouse, ringnecked pheasant, California quail, Hungarian partridge, chukar, mourning dove, and cottontail rabbit.

Anglers can pursue rainbow trout, bluegill, black crappie, perch, large- and smallmouth bass, bullheads, and channel catfish in the waters of the Snake and Bruneau rivers and C.J. Strike Reservoir. White sturgeon are also caught just below the dam and in the reservoir on a catch-and-release basis only. Fishing is fair to good throughout most of the year, and anglers can access their favorite fishing spots via eight boat ramps and numerous public access sites scattered around the reservoir.

In addition to hunting and fishing on the WMA, trapping for furbearers is very popular. Trappers must register with the WMA manager. They annually harvest 250 beaver, 3,200 muskrat, 200 skunks, 150 racoons, 50 mink and weasel, as well as 125 coyotes.

The Bureau of Land Management's Birds of Prey Natural Area is adjacent to part of the management area and offers close observations of eagles, falcons, ospreys, owls, and various hawks.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Jerry Scholten
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Boise River Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

BOISE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. BIG GAME WINTERING HABITAT
2. WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT
3. UPLAND GAME HABITAT
4. PROVIDE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTERING HABITAT						
Management Program - Protect wintering big game from undue harassment						
Close roads to unauthorized travel December through April	1211	1 day	.625 day	300	139	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
During hard winters, sign area requesting nonuse	1211	1 day	.375 day	300	84	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Program - Continue cooperative development and management of critical big game winter range						
Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Boise Front tours, meetings, and rewrite parts of plan	1211	4 days	10 days	600	2,624	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Collect data, composition mortality and production of big game	1460	12 days	20.56 days	2,500	4,773	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Manage controlled archery hunt check station	1430	3 day	4 days	500	890	Species benefitted:
Use trade agreements with livestock owners	1620	1 day	1 day	200	222	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Cooperate with USFS on fire prevention/suppression	1211	3 day	0	1,524	0	Species benefitted:
Work with USFS/SCS on improved forage species	1322	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Acquire critical winter range through fee title or lease						
Write up land description lease or purchase request	1211	1 day	.5 day	150	111	Species benefitted:
Management Programs - Manage winter range vegetation						
Use grazing or prescribed burns to maintain seral plant communities	1211	18,700 acres 8 days	2.7 days	4,000	800	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Plant grasses, forbs, shrubs to improve winter range quality	1322(D)	30,000 shrubs 16 days	14,000 shrubs 2.75 days	8,200	2,490	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and non-game. Plants planted by volunteers
Collect data on range condition production and composition	1440	2 days	0	600	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Control undesirable vegetation						
Control noxious weeds cooperatively with county weed control personnel	1211	32,000 acres 3 days	6.25 days	1,700	2,730	Species benefitted: Comply with state law
Continue to look for ways to control medusa-head	1211	1 day	0	150	0	Species benefitted:
Continue to look for ways to replace red three awn with more desirable species	1211	1 day	0	150	0	Species benefitted:
Management Programs - Develop water sources						
Maintain springs on WMA, collect data on flow	1211	58 springs 5 days	.625 days	2,500	239	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Improve and maintain fences						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain or remove existing fences and gates, replace fences	1211	20 days	0	7,200	3,200	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk Repaired by livestock operator
Remove unused fences	1211	3 days	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT						
Management Program - Make improvements to the watershed						
Rehab of burned areas	1322	Unknown	.125 day		28	Benefit:
Close roads to vehicle traffic when wet	1211	1 day	.375 day	200	83	Species benefitted: less soil loss and better water quality
Collect data on ground litter, erosion, and bare ground	1211	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: less soil loss and better water quality
Stop off-road vehicle travel and patrol	1211	3 days	3.94 day	1,517	876	Species benefitted: improve water quality
Collect data on riparian areas	1211	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: 114 birds, 33 mammals, 6 reptile, & 6 amphibian
Construct riparian structures to speed up riparian recovery	1322	2 days 1 unit	0	800	0	Species benefitted: 114 birds, 33 mammals, 6 reptile, & 5 amphibian
UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Program - Improve management of upland game habitats						
Plant food plots	1211	1 day	0	500	0	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse, & turkey
Plant shrubs, grasses, trees for cover	1211	1 day	1.07 day	300	338	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Evaluate Annual Production						
Collect brood data	1460	2 days	1.69 day	200	376	Species benefitted: game birds
Collect harvest data	1420	5 days	1.9 days	1,000	423	Species benefitted:
Collect data on species composition on WMA	1211	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse & turkey
Management Program - Access Management						
Maintain roads	1211	13 days	19.3 days	4,000	4,984	Benefits: Recreational users
Provide informational signs for access	1211	1 day	1.25 days	200	428	Benefits: Recreational users
Closed roads to unauthorized use, December-April or December-September						
Patrol area for noncompliance	1211	4 days	2.5 days	1,000	556	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptile & 8 amphibians
Management Program - Nongame						
Continue to install cavity boxes, hunting perches, and nest structures, and maintain structures	1211	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: bluebirds and wrens
Collect data on birds and other animals that use WMA	1211	1 day	0	200	0	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain/improve WMA buildings						
Maintain buildings	1211	10 days	5.875 dys	3,200	1,667	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide safe equipment to perform needed land management functions						
Maintain or repair equipment	1211	25 days	26.8 days	26,219	28,092	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians New vehicle
Lease/rent equipment as needed	1211	1 day	0	1,200	1,272	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Do administrative requests and required paperwork						
Project Administration			6.19		4577	
Annual, monthly, and other reports required by cooperating agencies	1211	20 days	18.9 days	6,000	5,212	Species benefitted:
Assist other Departments, divisions, and agencies	1710	70 days	50.8 days	11,352	12,298	Species benefitted: 250 birds, 85 mammals, 20 reptiles, 9 amphibians, and 40 fish
Other duties as assigned	1211	10 days	53.9 days	7,400	12,596	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 7,162
 Outside Funds 84,946
 Grand Total \$92,108

NARRATIVE

To provide winter forage for 7,500 mule deer and 500 head of elk. To maintain or improve the watershed, improve or maintain upland game habitat. Provide for at least 20,000 user hours for nonconsumptive use and 10,000 user hours of consumptive use.

The Boise River Habitat District is located from Boise along State Highway 55 to the Garden Valley/Lowman Road to Lowman, then along hunt unit 39 boundary to the Smith Prairie area, then along the Blacks Creek/Prairie Road to Boise and back to State Highway 55. Within the habitat district is the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The habitat district and the WMA are located within Ada, Boise, and Elmore counties.

Wildlife Management Area

The 33,200-acre WMA is located along Lucky Peak and Arrowrock reservoirs within the Boise River drainage. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game owns 17,989 acres. The remaining lands are managed by the Department through cooperative

agreements but are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Lands, Highland Livestock and Land Company, and Paul Hahn Ranch. The primary use of these lands are, (1) mule deer winter range, (2) upland game habitat and watershed protection, and (3) wildlife related outdoor experience. The WMA encompasses a large portion of the critical mule deer winter range within hunt unit 39.

During the winter of 1995-96, the WMA wintered approximately 5,400 mule deer and 400 elk. Biological information was collected from road killed mule deer only. Body condition of road killed mule deer were examined and indicated the collected animals were in good wintering condition through the winter. Only a few fawns in January and February showed less than normal body fat composition. Fall green up and the mild winter temperatures and adequate amount of winter forage provided for good winter survival. This resulted in low overall winter mortality. The majority of the winter mortality came from road kills, with additional losses from predation, old age, and/or starvation.

Winter Mortality of Mule Deer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent of Wintering Population Lost</u>
1995-96	6%
1994-95	5%
1993-94	4%
1992-93	21%
1991-92	5%

Road kills seem to be increasing, even in milder winters. The increased amount of commuter traffic from Boise County and the increase recreational traffic have increased the potential for wildlife vehicle encounters. There is a marked increase in resident deer getting hit also. There is also an increase in unauthorized people picking up the road kills so smaller percentage of kills are being picked up by WMA personnel.

Mule Deer Road Kills Picked up by WMA Personnel

<u>Year</u>	<u>Numbers Picked Up</u>
1995-96	65
1994-95	52
1993-94	38
1992-93	152
1991-92	68

Mule deer herd composition data that was collected indicated a ratio of 26 bucks and 49 fawn per 100 does. This shows a higher buck ratio a lower fawn ratio than last year. Antler shed seemed about normal this year. The sample size for animals classified was about the same as the average for the previous years. It is felt that the low fawn ratio was due to excellent fawn survival the previous year. Large numbers of yearlings were observed in the sample. A larger number than normal (19%) of one-point antlered deer were observed in the sample, 7.8 percent is the average for the last ten years.

Mule Deer Herd Composition Counts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bucks</u>	<u>Does</u>	<u>Fawns</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>
1995-96	26	100	49	2,193
1994-95	21	100	66	1,085
1993-94	24	100	57	1,767
1992-93	30	100	77	2,118
1991-92	27	100	70	2,652

Conception date information was collected from some of the road killed female mule deer. Conception dates are based on crown-rump measurements. It appears that in the 1995-96, the breeding date is longer than in the 60's, 70's, and 80's but shorter than in the past three years. We have seen an increased number of deer showing this delay or later conception date since the November-December 1991 breeding season. The average breeding dates in 1967-71, 1985-86, and 1990-91 were November 15, 13, and 13 respectively, with the range of November 5 through December 23. Of the 65 deer sampled during this time, only one deer, or 1.5 percent, was bred after December 1 and this occurred on December 23, 1969. Of the 56 deer collected from 1992 to 1995-96 breeding seasons, the range is November 3 to December 28. The average breeding date is November 16 to November 26. Is this only a short term trend? is it due to the hot dry fall weather? is it due to younger bucks doing the breeding? or a combination of these factors.

Productivity of Mule Deer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fetuses/Female</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>
1995-96	1.23	12
1994-95	1.3	3
1992-93	1.3	27
1991-92	1.21	14
1990-91	2	3
1985-86	1.28	25
1967-71	1.86	27

The summer of 1995 was hot with a record stretch of days over 90 degrees. No new fires burned on the winter range this year. The 407 acre Rocky Canyon fire of 1994 was planted with more bitterbrush seedlings by the BLM. Grazing would not be allowed in this area again this year.

Bitterbrush seedlings were in short supply this year because of problems at Lucky Peak Nursery. We received less than 14,000 of the scheduled 30,000 plants. These plants were planted by volunteers in Macks Creek and Blacks Creek areas.

The small four-plus acre fire occurred on the WMA along the lower end of Highland Valley Road in low pasture 2. Rehabilitation potential was limited and not scheduled.

The livestock grazing system, consisting of sheep and cattle, was used to help maintain the vegetation in a seral community, stimulate leader growth on bitterbrush, and reduce fuel loads for wildfire. Pastures 3 and 4 were used in 1995 and pastures 1 and 2 were used in 1996. High pasture (Picket Pin) was rested again this year because of the 1994 fire.

Brood data for chukars, huns, quail, and grouse was collected from July to September 1995 and from May until June 30, 1996. Brood size was about the same as in the past.

The number of hunters on the WMA was similar to past years for upland game, rifle deer, and elk. The 100 permit controlled archery hunt did not have the same success as last year. The weather was not favorable. The remaining approximately 350 archery hunters harvested at least 10 deer off the WMA. The estimated 375 rifle hunters harvested at least 10 deer and 2 elk. Upland game hunters harvested over 700 birds.

The Boise State University "Fall Raptor Migration in Southwestern Idaho" continued to be conducted on Lucky Peak Mountain. a total of 3,656 raptors were observed in the fall of 1995. Seventeen different species of raptors were identified and observed. Five hundred and seven were trapped and banded including two northern pygmy owls. Sharp-shinned, cooper's, and northern goshawk were the most frequently trapped and banded raptor.

A list of passerine observed at Lucky Peak Mountain contained at least 43 different species that migrated over the mountain in September and October.

The project leader is the only permanent staff member assigned the WMA and habitat district.

Habitat District

Written comments concerning wildlife were made for the various habitat altering activities within the habitat district.

- ACHD's proposed loop road
- BLM's trails and Ridges to Rivers trails
- Isaacs Canyon/Micron interchange
- McGrath land exchange/pond
- Packer John/Zimmer Creek prescribed burn
- Allotment Management Plan Deer Creek
- Boise Foothills Coordinate Resource Management Plan
- Bogus Basin expansion
- Payette Estates subdivision
- Frazer Reservoir
- Oregon Trail development
- Rush skeleton weed task force
- Danskin grazing system
- War Eagle subdivision
- Boise County Comprehensive Plan
- Crosstimbers subdivision
- Ada County Emergency Wildlife Plan
- Elk Creek beaver flooding plan
- Weigh Station relocation
- Boise Foothills Plan
- Johnny Gulch timber sale
- Clear Creek Subdivision
- Boise Basin Trails
- Harris access

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Tim Shelton
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Payette River Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

PAYETTE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION
2. UPLAND GAME BIRD AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
3. PUBLIC HUNTING
4. PUBLIC FISHING
5. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
CANADA GOOSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Maintain, relocate, and provide needed nesting structures						
Maintain nesting platforms, structures-150 boxes	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted: CAGO
Signing - Public relations	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted:
Removal of vegetation on 40 acres for production and brooding areas	1440	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted: CAGO
Evaluating goose use	1460	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Improve waterfowl production and brood-rearing ponds						
Establish and enlarge pond sites on Birding Island segments	1342	3 days	3 days	738	696	Species benefitted: CAGO
Placement of 15 goose nesting platforms	1322	3 days	3 days	738	696	Species benefitted: CAGO
Removal of gravel for pond	1342	2 days	3 days	492	696	Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
enlargement						CAGO, GADW, AGWT, CITE, WODU
Management Program - Increase use of existing goose pasture						
Replant pasture, as needed	1440	2 days	0	492	0	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Enforce regulation for spring closures						
Signing management area	1333	2 days 10 signs	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: CAGO
Advertising in local papers to reduce conflicts between public and nesting geese	1211	1 day 3 articles	1 day	246	232	Species benefitted: CAGO
Patrolling area to inform public of closures	1332	2 days 800 acres	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Trapping and shooting of problem animals	1470	2 days	1 day	492	232	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
Evaluation of predator damage	1470	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Establish grass-legume plantings						
Establish undisturbed nesting cover	1322	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, GADW, WODU, RNDU, REDH
Maintain fencing projects to protect nesting cover from grazing	1211	1 mile 1 week	0 No grazing	1,231	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GUDU, AGWT, CITE, WODU, LESC RNDU, REDH
Management Program - Plant trees and shrubs for nesting cover						
Establish tree and shrub planting through HIP agreements	1322	5,000 annly 6 weeks	6 weeks	7,386	6,960	Species benefitted: RNDU, WODU, MALL, GADU, AGWT, CITE, LESC, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Evaluate cover to determine best area and cover type	1440	1 weeks	1 week	1,236	1,160	Species benefitted: REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, CITE, GADW, LESC
Build ponds with nesting islands and fenced nesting zones	1341	1 weeks	1 week	1,236	1,160	Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, AGWT, CITE, REDH, RNDU, LESC, RUDU
Management Program - Construct, maintain, and install wood duck boxes						
Clean, install wood duck boxes	1440	175 boxes 3 days	2 weeks	738	2,320	Species benefitted: WODU
Work with local Habitat Groups and scout troop to maintain wood duck boxes	1440	3 days	1 week	738	1,160	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor nest success	1460	1 week 175 boxes	3 days	1,236	696	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, WODU, GADW, LESC, RUDU, REDH
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Increase high quality hunting and maintain hunter visits at present rates						
Maintain pond water levels for quality hunting	1211	1 week	1 week	1236	1,160	Species benefitted: CITE, REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Evaluate hunter usage	1430	3 days	3 days	738	696	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Access management with hunters using key areas	1430	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: ALL SPECIES FOUND ON WMA
Management Program - Provide and maintain parking areas, signs, and fencing						
Maintain parking lots	1332	1 day	1 day	246	232	Species benefitted:
Signing all boundaries and closures	1211	1 day	1 day	246	232	Species benefitted:
Litter patrol and old fence removal	1211	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Enhance vegetation for upland game birds and hunters						
Maintain hunting cover	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted: MALL, GADU, AGNT, CITE, WODU, REDH, LESC, RNDU, RUDU
Maintained fences to protect nesting and hunting cover	1211	2 day	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: CITE, MALL, GADU, WODU, AGWT, REDH, LESC, RNDU
Establish food plots for cover and winter food	1322	17 acres 1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted:
Habitat manipulation to remove rank stands	1322	50 acres 2 days	3 days	492	696	Species benefitted: CAGO
Enforce grazing agreements	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,160	Species benefitted: CAGO
PUBLIC FISHING						
Management Program - Provide access sites that are assigned to projects						
Maintain and inspect all access signs	1211	2 days 30 signs	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Conduct tours, increase public contacts and awareness						
Conduct tours with school-aged students	1510	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted:
Work with Eagle Scouts and Boy Scout groups on environmental items	1510	1 week 1 day	1 week	492	1,160	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Evaluation of nongame species on WMA						
Conduct species list and abundance	1410	2 days	0	492	0	Species benefitted:
Habitat improvements for nongame species	1440	2 days	2 days	492	464	Species benefitted: REDH, LESC, MALL, GADU, WODU, CITE, AGWT, RUDU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Working with private landowners on HIP developments	1720	5 weeks	4 weeks	6,155	4,640	Species benefitted: RUDU, MALL, AGWT, GADU, REDH, LESC, WODU, CITE
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	3 weeks; 15 evaluations	3 weeks	3,693	3,480	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1610	2 weeks 6 annually	2 weeks	2,520	2,320	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1610	2 weeks; administrative responsibilities	2 weeks	2,520	2,320	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training required for upgrade in position						
Improvement of technical skills		3 weeks; 4 training schools	3 weeks	3,693	3,480	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)		8 weeks; 4 days	9 weeks 2 days	10,961	10,904	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$8,000
Outside Funds	56,000
Grand Total	\$64,000

NARRATIVE

The Payette River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was purchased in several segments beginning in 1960. The last acquisition was in 1983 and was a donation. The WMA was purchased to protect significant Canada goose production areas and provide for public hunting. The WMA comprises 879 areas of developed ponds, natural wetlands, river bottoms, grass dominated uplands, and sagebrush flats.

A portion of the management area is used to raise agricultural crops such as corn, alfalfa and wheat which are left unharvested for wildlife.

Payette River WMA is located in Payette County with the largest portion, the Birding segment, being ten miles east of the town of Payette.

Benefits Provided

Waterfowl: the WMA has a substantial population of Canada geese nesting on islands and mainland areas on both the Payette and Snake rivers. The production of this population is directly affected by the volume of flow in the Payette River between February 15 and May 15 during nest selection and incubation periods. High water increases flooding of established nests while low water causes predation. Nesting pair numbers found on the Payette River fluctuate between 175 and 300 annually. The wintering population of Canada geese is approximately 2,000 with an additional 500 whitefronts migrating through the area in February and March.

Wintering duck population on the Payette have greatly fluctuated over the last 20 year years. This fluctuation is dependant on the number of birds wintering on Lake Lowell. In the 1960's wintering duck counts on Lake Lowell were estimated at 750,000. Due to drought conditions on the nesting areas winter counts at Lake Lowell had dropped to 125,000 by the mid-1980's. Most of the ducks harvested on the management area are Mallards.

Duck production is found to occur on most of the Payette WMA with the uplands producing mallards, cinnamon teal, green-wing teal, wood ducks, gadwall, and pintails. The divers being produced on the ponds are redheads, ruddy ducks and scaup.

Big Game: Mule deer are the most abundant big game animal on the WMA with no more than 50 deer being found at any one time.

Upland Game Birds: Pheasant and valley quail are the most common upland birds found on the WMA and combined harvest is approximately 200 birds, but additional planting of game farm pheasants are stocked to increase hunting opportunity.

Rio Grande turkeys were established in 1982 after transplanting twelve females and four males. Another release of four females was made in 1994. In the five hunting seasons approximately 20 to 25 toms have been taken by hunters.

Furbearers: Muskrats, beaver, mink, raccoon, fox, and coyote are on the WMA. Trapping efforts on these species have decreased as a result of the depressed fur market.

Nongame Species: There are between 10 and 15 bald eagles that use the management area during the winter. Golden eagles use the area occasionally throughout the year. Other hawks and falcons using the area are rough-legged, ferruginous, red-tail, goshawk, coopers, sharp-shinned, harrier, kestrel, prairie and gyrfalcon.

Hunter Use and Harvest

The area provides for an estimated 2,500 hunter user days annually and numbers are increasing every year. Higher numbers of waterfowl hunters use the area compared to upland game bird hunters. Mallards are the most common duck harvested and the bulk of the remainder are wood ducks, green-winged teal, and golden eyes.

Pheasant and California quail are harvested on the WMA. Mule deer are occasionally harvested and no more than ten animals would be taken during any one year.

Wildlife Production

Canadian goose production was poor on the Payette River Islands in 1996 because of extremely high water. A survey of two production ponds on the WMA indicated high nesting density. Two ponds totaling 20 acres had 65 goose nesting pairs with a 90 percent hatching success.

Upland game bird production was excellent in 1996. Large brood sizes and higher numbers of broods of California quail and pheasants were observed during late spring.

Water Level Control Management

Water levels were very high on the Payette River causing one dike to wash out and increasing water levels in all ponds.

A new nine acre pond is planned to be built in the fall of 1996.

Noxious Weed Control

A Temporary employee was hired to spray poison hemlock on the WMA. Over \$7,000 were expended in hemlock control. Two methods of biological control were performed in purple loosestrife and Canada thistle by placing 1,200 beetles and 500 eggs on plants.

Habitat Projects

A 15-acre food plot of spring wheat was planted and a 17-acre corn field planted in 1995. These fields were maintained for winter cover and food. A 12 acre nesting cover plot was planted and irrigated for permanent nesting and hunting cover.

The Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) developed 18 private properties in the Payette, Washington, and Adams counties by establishing food plots, shrub and tree plantings and developing wildlife ponds.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Mark Fleming
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Andrus (Brownlee) Wildlife Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ANDRUS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
2. UPLAND GAME BIRD WINTER RANGE
3. UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION
4. PUBLIC HUNTING
5. WILDLIFE VIEWING
6. OUTDOOR RECREATION
7. MAINTAIN STRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
MAINTAIN STRUCTURE AND FACILITIES						
Management Program - Maintain two houses and four trailers						
Maintain houses and trailers, and repair as needed	1211	8 weeks 2 houses 3 trailers	8 weeks 2 houses 4 trlrs	8,912	7,776	Species benefitted:
Maintain barns, corrals, and general items	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,342	2,916	Species benefitted:
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Improve deer and elk winter range						
Monitoring upland vegetation condition	1440	4 weeks 12,000 acres	4 weeks 12,000 ac	4,456	3,888	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Controlling livestock and fence maintenance	1334	6 weeks; 110 miles	6 wks; 110 miles	6,684	5,832	Species benefitted: Elk
Big game census	1460	2 weeks	4 weeks	4,456	3,888	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	1 week 900 trees	2,228	1,926	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & upland wildlife
Management Program - Wetland rehabilitation						
Water developments, inspections	1321	2 weeks 50 sites	2 weeks 50 sites	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Riparian zone monitoring	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 wks, 5 mi/stream	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Wildlife pond rehabilitation	1321	2 weeks 4 sites	1 week 2 sites	2,228	972	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & upland wildlife
Management Program - Hunter access						
Develop management plan for access	1610	1 week	1 week	1,114	972	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Protect gates protecting access	1334	6 weeks 18 gates	5 weeks 18 gates	6,684	4,860	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
UPLAND GAME BIRD WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Protect important upland game bird winter habitat						
Fencing/keeping cattle in appropriate pastures	1470	2 weeks 330 pairs	2 weeks 330 pairs	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: Columbia sharptail, Gray partridge
Monitoring riparian zones	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: Forest grouse, turkey
Maintaining water developments	1321	2 weeks 50 sites	3 weeks 50 sites	2,228	2,944	Species benefitted: Grey partridge, chukar
Monitoring upland habitat	1440	2 weeks	2 wks;30 transacts	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 1,000 plants	0 weeks 0 plants	2,228	0	Plants ordered from BLM; not mailable Species benefitted: Turkey, forest grouse
Planting winter feed plots	1322	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,228	2,916	Species benefitted: turkey

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		50 acres	20 acres			and gray partridge
Weed control	1322	2 weeks 100 acres	7 weeks 400 acres	2,228	6,804	Species benefitted: chukar, gray partridge
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Upland game bird nesting cover						
Upland habitat monitoring	1440	2 weeks 500 acres	2 weeks 500 acres	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted: chukar, gray partridge, sage grouse
Improve desirable nesting habitat	1322	4 weeks; 2,000 plants	4 wks 1000 acre	4,456	3,888	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Riparian zone maintenance	1440	4 weeks 5 miles	4 weeks 5 miles	4,456	3,888	Species benefitted: turkey, forest grouse
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide hunter access on WMA						
Checking hunters in and out of 18 locked gates - 2,500 user days	1331	10 weeks; 18 locked gates	16 weeks 18 locked gates	11,140	15,552	Species benefitted:
Road maintenance	1331	8 weeks 50 miles	4 weeks 30 miles	8,9120	3,888	Species benefitted:
Enforcement of regulations and road closures-18 gates	1331	6 weeks	5 weeks	6,684	4,860	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk
Interviewing hunters and public relations	1430	4 weeks 1,000 hntrs	5 weeks 1,000 htr	4,456	4,860	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE VIEWING						
Management Program - Nonconsumptive wildlife use						
Checking individuals in and out of locked gates - 500 user days	1331	4 weeks	2 weeks 500 user/ days	4,456	1,944	Species benefitted:
Public tours-250 user days	1630	2 weeks	2 wks;	2,228	1,944	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual 250 user/day	Planned	Actual	
OUTDOOR RECREATION						
Management Program - Nonhunting use						
Checking hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, etc., into locked gates and onto WMA - 500 user days	1630	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,456	2,916	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	2 weeks; 8 reviews	3 weeks 6 reviews	4,456	2,916	Species benefitted: ek, mule deer, wild turkey
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Review and evaluate planning documents relating to WMA	1630	6 weeks	8 weeks	6,684	7,776	Species benefitted: deer, elk, chukar
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents, reports, budgets, purchasing requests, etc.	1610	8 weeks	10 weeks	8,912	9,720	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training requirements for upgrading position						
Improve technical skills	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,456	3,888	Species benefitted:
Administrative access program	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,684	5,832	Species benefitted:
Other regional duties as assigned	1610	25 weeks	19 weeks	27,850	18,468	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$149,664
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$149,664

NARRATIVE

The name of the WMA was changed by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission from Brownlee WMA to Andrus WMA this year.

Maintain Structures and Facilities

The Andrus Wildlife Management Area (AWMA) has more structures and facilities than any other wildlife management area in Idaho. There are six residences, one workshop with attached vehicle bays, eighteen other structures consisting of horse barns, corrals, sheds, and loading chutes. The area has nineteen fenced pastures that include one hundred and ten miles of fence. There are fifty miles of gravel roads on the area. Maintenance of these facilities are implemented according to planned work projects and as new maintenance requirements are identified throughout the annual period.

During the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996, the following work projects were completed:

The exterior of three facilities were painted, two office rooms were painted, new carpeting and linoleum were installed in the trailer house, unserviceable electric wiring and outlets in older residence were replaced; water pumps and water systems in tow residences were repaired; maintenance of headquarter area grounds and parking areas, and repair and maintenance of livestock facilities as required.

Big Game Winter Range

The Andrus Wildlife Management Area provides critical winter range for both deer and elk. Of the approximately 24,000 acres that comprise the management area, fifty to seventy percent of the area provides suitable winter range for big game. The following work projects have been completed:

Implementation of a rest-rotation grazing system, monitoring of livestock distribution, monitoring of range condition, maintenance of one hundred and ten miles of fence and fifty water improvements within nineteen pasture systems; implementation of controlled motorized vehicle access program; maintenance of road access gates and associated sign posting; ground and aerial surveys of wintering big game on the management area; planted nine hundred pine trees; monitored condition of plant communities and water quality within riparian areas; and the enforcement of road closures during the months of January through April to protect wintering big game herds.

Upland Game Bird Winter Range

The management area provides both winter cover and food for a variety of upland birds. Chukar, gray partridge, California quail, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, sage grouse, and wild turkey winter on the area. The following projects have been completed:

Food plots of wheat were planted and left unharvested for use by wintering upland birds. Livestock grazing in sagebrush, upland and riparian plant communities were intensely monitored to prevent adverse impacts to those communities; 55 wild turkeys were provided with supplemental winter feed as required; restrictions on off-road vehicle use were implemented and enforced; and a noxious weed control program was implemented on the management area.

Upland Game Bird Production

The management area provides nesting habitat for chukar, gray partridge, California quail, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, sage grouse, and wild turkey. The following projects have been completed.

Installed thirty transects in selected upland and riparian plant communities within the pasture rotation system and collected vegetation baseline data; monitored pre-and post-grazing range conditions, monitored livestock distribution and range condition within pasture rotation system; mapped and evaluated condition of water improvements on the area using GPS equipment; and mapped location of noxious weed infestations on management area using GPS equipment.

Public Hunting

The management area provides the public with a variety of hunting opportunities. The area encompasses parts of Game Management Units 22 and 31. The following projects have been completed:

Provided vehicle access for 665 hunters who used the controlled access gates on the area; maintained fifty miles of gravel roads and eighteen access gates; provided information to the public and collected harvest data from hunters; enforced hunting regulations and responded to reported violations on the area; and repaired culverts and built anti-erosion structures where needed.

Wildlife Viewing

The management area provides the public year-round opportunities to view wildlife in a natural setting.

Provide 500 user days to individuals using controlled access gates on area while viewing wildlife.

Outdoor Recreation

Provided technical assistance on the impacts that logging, grazing, and mining activities would have on associated wildlife habitats. This assistance was provided to the following agencies or organizations:

United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land management, Idaho Department of Lands, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Rocking M Cattle Company.

Planned, wrote, and implemented rest rotation grazing plan for the management area; planned, wrote, and implemented noxious weed control plan for the management area; facilitated public review of Andrus Wildlife Management Area final draft management plan; attended training symposiums, seminars, and classes that would enhance technical knowledge of wildlife management; created filing system to be used on the management area; processed invoice documents, big game, and upland bird harvest reports, monthly equipment use reports, budgets, and purchasing requests; did other regional duties as assigned.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Andy Ogden
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Nampa Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

BIG SMITH WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION
3. PUBLIC USE
4. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
5. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Canada Geese						
Maintain brood pasture	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,072	1,040	Species benefitted: CAGO
Fencing and administering controlled livestock grazing	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,072	1,040	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, GADW, Upland birds
Maintain goose platforms and remove unneeded platforms	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Mallards and Teal						
Provide residual nesting cover	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, CITE, WODU, AMWI, Upland birds
Maintain wood duck boxes	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted: WODU
Develop HIP projects	1322	20 weeks	22 weeks	20,720	22,880	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, WODU, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, CAGO, NOPI, Upland birds

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Development						
Provide residual nesting cover	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, CITE, NOPI, CAGO, CITE, Upland birds
Develop HIP projects	1322	50 weeks	45 weeks	51,800	46,800	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE WODU
PUBLIC USE						
Management Program - Waterfowl Hunting						
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted:
Maintain roads, ramps, and parking areas	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,072	1,040	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Upland Bird Hunting						
Maintain cover and fencing	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,072	3,120	Species benefitted:
Assist with pheasant releases	1480	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide for Other Wildlife						
Protect and enhance nongame bird and mammal habitat	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,072	2,080	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets and other reports	1630	6 weeks	8 weeks	6,216	8,320	Species benefitted:
Cooperation with other	1630	6 weeks	9 weeks	6,216	9,360	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
agencies						

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 0
 Outside Funds 108,200
 Grand Total \$108,200

NARRATIVE

The Nampa Habitat District includes all or parts of the Ada, Canyon, Payette, Gem, and Owyhee counties with the only Department owned lands involved at the Smith Wildlife Area (240 acres) in Gem County.

The Smith Wildlife Area (WA) has been managed in the past to produce Canada goose brooding pasture but emphasis has been shifted to provide residual nesting cover for waterfowl and upland game. Goose nesting structures, etc. will still be emphasized on the area.

Personnel activities in the Nampa District are aimed more at Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) and government agency contacts than other districts in the Region.

Benefits Provided

Waterfowl The Smith WA provides goose nesting areas, upland game and duck nesting cover as well as brood rearing and public hunting cover.

HIP Habitat Improvement Program efforts to plant trees and shrubs, grow food plots and nesting cover, and construct and maintain small ponds on private and public properties in local areas.

Administration Personnel provide comments to other government agencies regarding burn plans, EA's, EIS's, and administer the wildlife tracts program on BLM lands.

Big Game Department owned lands in this District do not supply significant big game habitat.

Upland Birds Pheasants are the priority species of concern for the Habitat Improvement Program and are relatively common in suitable areas of the District. Production on Department owned land is estimated at less than 100 pheasant and 100 quail.

Furbearers The Smith WA provides habitat for muskrat, mink, beaver, raccoon, and fox.

Nongame Species The Smith WA is commonly used by nesting osprey, redtailed hawks, etc. as well as a nesting colony of great blue herons. Bald eagles often use the area during the winter. A wide variety of riparian-dependant, neo-tropical, migrant passive birds are found on the area.

Hunter Use and Harvest The Department owned lands in the District probably provide about 1,000 hunter user days and 2,000 fisherman user days.

Wildlife Production Canada goose production was poor in 1996 due to adverse river flows during the nesting period. Duck and upland game production is estimated to be about average but should increase with efforts to provide more nesting and brooding cover for pheasant and quail.

Noxious Weed Control Biological control efforts have proven successful in controlling musk thistle and it is hoped 1996 releases of biological controls for Canada thistle and poison hemlock will also help control these noxious weeds.

Habitat Projects District personnel were involved in over 50 projects on private lands to improve upland bird and waterfowl habitat. We also developed and/or maintained about 650 acres of BLM lands in the Wildlife Tracts Program.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Frank DeShon
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Magic Valley Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain buildings	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted:
Maintain roads and trails	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,000	3,600	Species benefitted:
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,500	2,700	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Maintain fences, remove unneeded fences	1211	8 weeks	5 weeks	5,000	2,900	Species benefitted: Deer, Mountain Sheep, Pronghorn
Misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,000	4,300	Species benefitted:
Parking lot development	1332	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	1,800	Species benefitted:
Water level management	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	3,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	6 weeks	5 weeks	4,000	3,600	Species benefitted: Upland, Waterfowl
Maintain herbaceous seedings	1322	6 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	2,600	Species benefitted: Upland & Waterfowl
Control vegetation	1211	6 weeks	7 weeks	4,000	4,200	Species benefitted: All
Rangeland rehabilitation	1322	6 weeks	4 weeks	5,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Upland, Nongame
Farmland rehabilitation	1322	6 weeks	5 weeks	5,000	5,200	Species benefitted: Upland
Establish food plots	1322	6 weeks	9 weeks	5,000	7,900	Species benefitted: Upland,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Assistance to private landowners	1720	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,000	2,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl, Upland, Aquatic
Prepare reports, purchaserequests, etc.	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	2,000	1,800	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	2,000	1,800	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$59,418
 Other Funds 0 Grand Total \$59,418

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Centennial Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CAMAS PRAIRIE CENTENNIAL MARSH

CAREY LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION
3. WATERFOWL HUNTING

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION
3. WATERFOWL HUNTING

Activity specific to project

* Activity specific to project

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program						
Develop and manage wetland and upland habitats, emphasizing production and migration habitats for ducks and geese		3,800 acres				Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
#Excavate at least two 2-acre brood ponds for each quarter section of wetland or upland nesting habitat	1341	4 weeks	0	4,680	0	Construction Funds not available Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Maintain 200 goose nesting platforms	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,940	2,940	Species benefitted: CAGO
Develop and maintain dense nesting cover	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain water delivery system utilizing wells, piping and ditching	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Rehabilitate dikes to dense nesting cover	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Develop, install, maintain, and evaluate 25 nesting boxes and duck nesting structures	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Maintain water levels for brood rearing habitat	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
#Restore riparian systems by encouraging beaver activity	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Utilize sharecroppers to perform farming activities consistent with waterfowl production goals	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds, Antelope
#Develop and maintain goose pasture	1322	1 week	2 weeks	1,770	2,940	Mowed and irrigated myself Species benefitted: CAGO
Monitor waterfowl production with breeding pair and brood counts	1460	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION						
Management Program						
Develop and manage wetlands						Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
for migrating and nesting shorebirds						GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Provide stabilized water levels varying in depth from 1-24 inches throughout the nesting period	1322					Done in conjunction with waterfowl water manipulation. Species benefitted:
Encourage emergent vegetation on brood pond areas	1322	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Same. Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
#Where possible provide weekly fluctuations of water levels no more than 2 inches	1322					Same. Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
#Conduct tours, give talks and provide community with information	1630	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: All
Maintain species observation list	1630	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: All
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program						
Provide attractive habitat for waterfowl during hunting season						Species benefitted: Man
#Utilize brood ponds and water system to provide some fall water	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Utilize 2,000 acre feet water right to provide year-round water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Monitor hunter use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted:
FISHING						
*Management Program						
Provide year-round fishing opportunities consistent with waterfowl production hunting goals						No time required
Water levels needed for waterfowl production and hunting will benefit fishery needs						No time required
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	7 weeks	8,190	8,190	Species benefitted: All
Assistance to landowners	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted: All
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program						
Maintain Department lands and facilities	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted: All
Control noxious weeds on project areas	1211	1 week	3 weeks	1,170	3,510	Species benefitted: Man Sprayed weeds myself
Maintain project buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted:
Maintain and repair equipment	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,340	3,510	Old equipment needed more maintenance Species benefitted:
Management Program						
Administrative duties						Species benefitted:

nesting structures will be tried when it can be determined how to deal with the ice. Fishing use on Carey Lake is estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 visits annually.

One-third of the over 300 goose platforms on the WMAs and surrounding area are repaired and refurbished each year. Twenty-five new platforms were installed at Carey Lake. Four acres of goose pasture are kept irrigated and mowed throughout the summer on Centennial Marsh.

Upland Game

Sage grouse are increasing on Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh, approximately 100 were observed on the area this year. The hunting pressure on them is light. Mourning doves nest on the area. Hungarian partridge have also been sighted on the Centennial Marsh.

Big Game

Pronghorn antelope and mule deer utilize Centennial Marsh throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The pronghorns are the only one hunted to any extent on the area. Elk and moose are occasionally sighted on the area. No big game winter on Centennial Marsh. Carey Lake WMA is utilized by mule deer throughout the year.

Nongame Species

Centennial Marsh is heavily used by shorebirds throughout the spring and summer. These include but are not limited to American avocets, Black terns, Willits, Soras, American bitterns, and Sandhill cranes, of which 10 nests were observed. Black-necked stilts exploded on the marsh this year with approximately 300 observed. All of these shorebirds nest on the marsh.

Carey Lake WMA is also used by a diverse number of shorebirds, many of which nest on the area.

Wildlife Education and Appreciation

Centennial Marsh's largest user group are the bird and wild flower watchers. They total approximately 2,000 visits a year. Two school groups and numerous smaller groups were provided talks and tours of the marsh.

Carey Lake receives considerable bird watching use. A tour was given to 120 school children on the area.

Technical Assistance

Participated in the Willow Creek Watershed Restoration project with USFS, BLM, NRCS, Pacific Rivers Council, and private landowners.

Member of the Wood River RC&D beaver committee locating and evaluating sites suitable for beaver reintroduction.

Looked at and commented on numerous grazing allotment EAs for the USFS.

Wrote agreements and performed maintenance on BLM shelterbelts on their wildlife tracts.

Looked at, attended P&Z meetings, and provided comments on 17 subdivisions for Blaine County.

Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

Completed one riparian fencing and one riparian restoration project. Two wildlife pond projects were completed. The design and survey on a 60-acre wetland construction project with BLM and Ducks Unlimited was completed. Five pair-brood ponds were designed and laid out on Idaho Department of Fish and Game hatchery property. Ten Canada goose nesting platforms were installed on private ground and 4 wood duck nesting boxes.

Noxious Weed Control

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. On Centennial Marsh approximately 50 scattered acres of Canada thistle were treated with herbicides. For the third year on Carey Lake WMA, the Canada thistle was treated with two different biological control agents.

Administration

Two scoping meetings were held in Gooding and Burley to solicit public input on the operation and management of the WMAs. The information will be used in writing new long-range management plans for the Wildlife Management Areas.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Bill Gorgen
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Hagerman Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

HAGERMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

BILLINGSLEY CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WINTERING WATERFOWL
2. HUNTING
3. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
4. UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION
5. FISHING
6. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME BIRD HUNTING
2. WINTERING WATERFOWL
3. WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION
4. FISHING
5. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

*Activities without a planned cost are outside-funded (D.J., license, etc.)

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WINTERING WATERFOWL						
Management Program - Provide winter habitat						
Maintain winter habitat at current level (ponds and associated vegetation)	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Control access to wetland habitat during winter	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain waterfowl hunting area well outside the WMA boundary	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Prohibit vehicle access to marsh complex	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Allow public viewing of waterfowl from selected sites	1211	1 observ blind	1 observ blind			Species benefitted:
HUNTING						
Management Program - Hold waterfowl in Magic Valley						
Maintain winter habitat at current level (ponds and associated vegetation)	1211	77 acres	77 acres			Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Control access to wetland habitat during winter	1211	77 acres	77 acres			Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain waterfowl hunting area well outside the WMA boundary	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Prohibit vehicle access to marsh complex	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nest sites and brood raising habitat						
Irrigate alfalfa goose grazing and brood rearing habitat	1322	34 acres 5 weeks	34 acres 7 weeks	4,500	6,300	Species benefitted: CAGO
Irrigate food plots	1322	30 acres 5 weeks	10 acres 4 weeks	4,500	3,600	20 acres of fall seedings failed Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain irrigation system	1211	1 week	1 week	1,900	1,900	Species benefitted: CAGO,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
(pump, mainline, pipe, etc.)						MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain uplands in an undisturbed condition except where Canada goose pasture is provided	1211	670 acres	670 acres			Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain fence	1211	5.5 mi 4.0 mi 1 week	5.5 mi 4.0 mi 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain stable water levels	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 2 weeks	900	1800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Measure and record water flows	1211	Monthly 2 weeks	Monthly 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain dikes	2.5	2.5 miles 2 weeks	2.5 mile 2 weeks	5,500	5,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain and clean water structures	1211	22 structrs 2 weeks	22 struc 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain Canada geese nesting structures	1211	20 structrs 4 structrs 1 week	20 struc 4 struc 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	9 boxes 2 weeks	9 boxes 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: WODU
Management Program - Provide brood rearing habitat						
Provide Canada goose pasture	1322	9 acres	9 acres	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
through cooperation with an adjacent landowner		2 weeks	2 weeks			
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor populations	1460	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Monitor artificial nest utilization	1211	26 nests 14 nests 2 weeks	-----	1,800	-----	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nest sites						
Irrigate alfalfa nesting cover	1322	35 acres 5 weeks	34 acres 5 weeks	4,500	4,500	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Irrigate food plots	1211	30 acres 5 weeks	30 acres 5 weeks	4,500	4,500	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain uplands in an undisturbed condition except where Canada goose pasture is provided	1211					Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Limit vehicle access	1211					Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Management Program - Improve winter habitat						
Irrigate planted trees and shrubs	1211	30 acres 2 weeks	30 acres 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain residual alfalfa	1211	34 acres 1 week	34 acres 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain shrub, tree, and riparian habitat	1211	760 acres 2 weeks	760 acres 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
FISHING						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Monitor and regulate fisheries program						
Stabilize impoundment water levels	1211					Species benefitted:
Prohibit boat motors	1630					Species benefitted:
Litter clean-up	1211					Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Monitor nongame species						
Maintain species observation list	1630	1 week	-----	900	-----	Species benefitted:
Provide wildlife viewing opportunities by maintaining access roads	1211	1.5 mi	1.5 mi 1 week		900	Species benefitted:
Maintain parking areas	1211					Species benefitted:
Maintain wildlife viewing blind	1211					Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	7 weeks	4,800	4,800	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	5 weeks	5 weeks	4,500	4,500	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations, meetings, coordination with other agencies, etc.	1630	8 weeks	8 weeks	7,200	7,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,700	2,700	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
(reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)						NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Management Program - WMA, facilities and equipment maintenance						
Maintain shop, storage buildings, box car, residence and lawn	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain equipment tractors, drills, grader, trailers, etc.	1211	2 weeks	----	1,800	----	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain regulatory signs	1211	1 week	2 weeks	900	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	3,600	4,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Custodial functions (vegetation monitoring, vehicle closure compliance checks, misc. monitoring of the WMA, etc.)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$48,388
Outside Funds	74,673
Grand Total	\$123,061

NARRATIVE

Benefits:

The 880-acre Hagerman WMA is located along highway 30, two miles south of Hagerman, Idaho. The WMA contains 77 acres of open water and emergent marsh vegetation, 210 acres of cottonwood-willow riparian habitat, and over 460 acres of sagebrush grass. Additional narrow belts of aquatic and riparian habitats occur along Riley Creek, natural springs, and irrigation ditches and drains. Approximately 70 acres are irrigated for waterfowl and upland game bird nesting habitat and food plots. There are 30 acres of irrigated tree and shrub plantings. A Department trout hatchery is located in the middle of the WMA.

The WMA produces approximately 400 ducklings annually. In 1990, 187 goslings were observed. The WMA is an important wintering area for waterfowl. During December, January, and February over 50,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese use this area. As a result, waterfowl hunting is provided to many hunters when the birds fly outside the WMA. The WMA is used year-round for wildlife viewing. Wintering waterfowl provide spectacular viewing as they fly to and from the WMA. A portion of the WMA opens to fishing on March 1 each year. Hundreds of fishermen come to the WMA at this time, and later when the balance of the area opens to fishing.

The 284-acre Billingsley Creek WMA is located one and one-half miles northeast of Hagerman, Idaho. The WMA's marsh, meandering stream, and shrub and riparian vegetation provide important year-round habitat for wildlife. The WMA is open to upland game bird (pheasants and quail) and waterfowl hunting during established seasons. Because Billingsley Creek remains ice-free through the winter, the WMA supports several hundred wintering waterfowl. The WMA is located near several Magic Valley communities and provides fishing for brown and rainbow trout.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Dave Musil
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Niagara Springs Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

NIAGARA SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. UPLAND GAME BIRD AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. HUNTING
3. WINTERING WATERFOWL
4. FISHING ACCESS
5. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

* Work performed and reported under Magic Valley Region Habitat Maintenance

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
UPLAND GAME BIRD AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide high quality nesting habitat						
Irrigate grass/alfalfa habitat	1211	207 acres	207 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail
Reseed degraded nesting habitat	1322	20 acres	20 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	22 boxes	22 boxes	*	*	Species benefitted: CAGO
Reseed dryland habitat	1322	2.3 acres	2.3 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Mule Deer
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	212 boxes	80 boxes	*	*	Species benefitted: WODU, Screech Owl, Am. Kestrel, Red Squirrel, Northern Flicker. 19% used by Wood Ducks with 47% success.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						High water prevented completion.
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain woody cover	1211	9 plantings	9 plantng	*	*	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. A drip irrigation system was installed on the skunkbrush sumac hedgerow (2 rows) north of the hatchery nesting plot.
Replant mortalities in woody cover	1211	9 plantings	3 plantng	*	*	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. 206 Rocky Mountain Juniper 1-gallon container stock were planted in the 3 shelterbelts between the pivot pads on the west end of the property
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat to sustain and increase huntable populations						
Maintain food plots	1211	16 acres	8 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. One 8-acre plot was not planted.
Plant aquatic vegetation in existing ponds	1322	100 bulrush	0	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Shorebirds. 1995 planting was not successful, so did not plant more.
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads and trails for hunting						
Maintain water delivery systems to ponds	1211	2 miles	2 miles	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, CAGO
Maintain water levels in ponds	1211	4 ponds		*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Shorebirds, CAGO
Maintain roads for access	1211	5 miles	5 miles	*	*	Species benefitted: Humans
WINTERING WATERFOWL						
Management Program - Develop and maintain habitat for wintering waterfowl						
Maintain water level in ponds	1211	4 ponds	4 ponds	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO. Over 500 mallards were observed at one time on the ponds during severe cold in February 1996.
Maintain grazing fields for waterfowl	1211	21 acres	21 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: CAGO, AMWI, MALL
FISHING ACCESS						
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads, and trails for fishing access						
Maintain impoundment dikes, ditches, and roads	1211	2 dikes 5 mi of road	2 dikes 5 mi of road	*	*	Species benefitted: Rainbow trout, Humans. Dikes were mowed to provide foot access
Manage water levels to maintain fish populations	1211	4 ponds 2 mi of canal	4 ponds 2 mi of canal			DJ Funding. Species benefitted: Rainbow Trout. The trout spawn in the canal and the area has a 2 trout creel limit.
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide educational opportunities						
Provide information tours upon request and brochure of the WMA	1630	1 week	0 weeks	850	0	Species benefitted: No tours were requested. The bird checklist is in final draft.
Maintain access roads	1211	5 miles 2 wks	5 miles 2 wks	*	*	Species benefitted: Entrance road graded, dike roads mowed, puncture vine

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						sprayed in 1996.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	3 weeks	7 weeks	2,550	\$5,950	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl
Assistance to private landowners	1720	32 weeks	12 weeks	34,000	\$10,200	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Administration and Coordination						
Administer WMA, coordination with other agencies	1630	6 weeks	7 weeks	5,100	5,950	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,400	3,400	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife
Maintain files and prepare administrative reports	1630	4 weeks	1 week	3,400	8,650	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	21 weeks	2,700	17,850	Species benefitted: Elk, Sage Grouse, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep

Total PR Funds	\$0
Total PR Contract With Overhead	0
Other Funds	52,000
Grand Total	\$52,000

NARRATIVE

Description: The Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area (NSWMA) is located in south-central Idaho along the north bank of the Snake River. The area is 0.5 miles wide and 3.5 miles long (957 acres) with an additional 22 acres on 8 islands. The area includes river bottom land and 400 ft. tall cliffs with talus slopes. The land is owned by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and has 12 cfs of water rights for irrigation of 250 acres and 10 acres of 4 artificial ponds. Approximately 535 acres are native rangeland with 75 acres in riparian habitat.

Benefits: The NSWMA produces 10-30 Canada goose broods and a minimum of 30 duck broods annually. Approximately 500 geese used goose pasture areas on the WMA. Approximately 5,000 ducks and several hundred Canada geese winter on the area and adjacent Snake River. The area provides year-round habitat for ring-necked pheasants, California quail, mule deer, wild turkey, Nuttall's cottontail rabbit, and yellow-bellied marmots. Several raptor species nest in the cliffs and songbirds are plentiful throughout the area. The area provides hunting and fishing opportunities and watchable wildlife viewing for the public.

The waterfowl pre-season banding project was discontinued on the area in 1995. Summarizing the 1991-1994 trapping seasons, we banded: 877 duckling and 240 adult mallards; 225 duckling and 96 adult wood ducks; 19 duckling and 2 adult cinnamon teal; and one pintail duckling.

Another release of 300 Centoryhchus litura Canada thistle stem boring weevils were released this time in the cattails receiving water from the outlet of the lower pond. A continual effort is being undertaken to spray other areas of the WMA infested with Canada thistle and bull thistle. Another introduced thistle flower boring weevil (Rhinocyllus conicus) was found attacking Canada thistle on the area. This insect was introduced into the U.S. during the 70's and will attack any large headed thistle.

The Habitat Improvement Program is funded by the sale of upland game bird and waterfowl hunting stamps. Projects are cost shared 75% with private landowners to provide food plots, woody cover establishment, and pond developments to benefit game and nongame species.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Tony Apa
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Minidoka Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

BIG COTTONWOOD CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT
2. YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT HABITAT
3. RIPARIAN RECOVERY, HEALTH, AND FUNCTION
4. WILD TURKEY HABITAT
5. UPLAND BIRD HABITAT
6. MULE DEER HABITAT
7. PUBLIC ACCESS FOR NONMOTORIZED PUBLIC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT IMPROVEMENT						
Management Program - Improve bighorn sheep habitat						
Irrigate grass/alfalfa habitat	1322	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Reseed degraded habitat	1322	1 week	0 weeks	1,500		Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Layout range riparian transects and photo points	1440	2 weeks	*	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Remove unneeded corrals and buildings	1211	2 weeks	1 week and *	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences and remove	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
unneded ones			and *			
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain 160 acres alfalfa	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, pheasants, chukars
Evaluate turkey habitat	1440	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Turkeys
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain road closure for improved hunting and protection of bighorns						
Maintain road closure	1211	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, turkeys
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	19 weeks	11 weeks	21,400	21,400	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	10 weeks	6 weeks	10,000	10,000	Species benefitted: Pheasants, quail, chukars
ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and administration	1630	11 weeks	15 weeks	9,000	10,500	Species benefitted:

Time shortages covered by 10 weeks of sick and annual leave.

*Time covered by Regional Habitat Maintenance Budget.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$0
Other Funds	52,000
Grand Total	\$52,000

NARRATIVE

Description: The Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Management Area is located in south-central Idaho along Big Cottonwood Creek thirty miles south of Burley. The WMA was purchased in 1993 and has 814 acres, with 160 detached from the main part on Cottonwood Creek. There are 2-1/2 miles of Cottonwood Creek on the property. Fish and Game has 8.8 cfs of water rights for irrigation of 389 acres of farmland and 4 acres of food plots for upland game. Approximately 425 acres are native rangeland, with 45 acres in riparian habitat. Most of Cottonwood Creek is in a deep canyon with numerous lava outcrops and ledges.

Benefits:

The WMA is the site of bighorn sheep reintroductions and also a site for wild turkey and California quail introductions. There are upland birds as well as big game using the area. As rangelands are restored and farmland is restored to rangeland, big game populations will benefit. Conversion of some farmland to upland bird habitat is also planned. Two, 2-acre food plots were planted. Cottonwood Creek has a population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout that will benefit from removal of grazing along the creek.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Southeast Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

1. SUPERVISION
2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
3. PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SUPERVISION						
Management Program - Oversee Regional Habitat-Related Activity						
Supervise two permanent employees	1630	25 weeks	20 weeks	30,216	24,172	Species benefitted:
Oversee the management of five wildlife management areas	1630	8 weeks	13 weeks	9,274	15,080	Species benefitted: Mgmt. initiation required more fieldwork.
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	1 week	1 week	1,210	1,210	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Review/develop planning documents	1620	7 documents 2 weeks	7 2 weeks	2,420	2,420	Species benefitted:
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	7 proposals 1 week	7 1 week	1,210	1,210	Species benefitted:
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,420	2,420	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, pheasant
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Assist with the investigation and review of proposed projects	1710	25 projects 2 weeks	12 1 week	2,420	1,210	Species benefitted:
Oversee assistance to landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	45 contacts 6 weeks	45 6 weeks	7,260	7,260	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperate With Other Agencies						
Coordinate with other land management agencies and represent the Department	1630	8 meetings 1 week	10 2 weeks	1,210	2,420	Species benefitted:Big game, upland game, waterfowl
PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM						
Management Program - Administer Access						
Coordinate maintenance and development of regional access sites; continue work on Yago Creek access road and other non-fisheries related access sites.	1332 1333	20 access sites 6 weeks	20 6 weeks	7,260	7,260	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$64,874
Other	0
Grand Total	\$64,874

NARRATIVE

In the past year a greater effort has been made to monitor all Habitat Improvement Program projects prior to agreement signing. The initial effort to begin on the ground management of the Blackfoot River WMA has involved considerable planning and on-the-ground fieldwork.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Barbara Slott
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Southeast Region Habitat Management

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

EAST HABITAT DISTRICT AND GEORGETOWN, MONTPELIER, PORTNEUF AND BLACKFOOT RIVER WMAs

Management Priorities:

1. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
2. PUBLIC ACCESS
3. RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION
4. OTHER WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Vegetation Rejuvenation						
Coordinate with Bureau of Land Management to conduct prescribed burns on Portneuf WMA	1710	.5 week	.5 week	720	720	Coordination took place in 1995, burns conducted in 1995 and 1996. Species benefitted: mule deer, elk, moose, upland game
Complete management plan for the Blackfoot River WMA to include vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns and grazing	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,320	4,320	Species benefitted: elk, mule deer, CAGO, cutthroat trout
Assess the effectiveness of experimental aerial application of fertilizer on Montpelier, Georgetown and Portneuf WMAs	1332	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,880	2,880	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk, sharp-tailed grouse
Control noxious weeds on all areas	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,760	5,760	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk, upland game
Management Program - Control Trespass Grazing						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Repair and maintain boundary fencing; erect electric fence along the Blackfoot River; investigate fence problem at south end of Portneuf WMA	1211	25 miles 3 weeks	25 miles 4.5 weeks	4,320	6,480	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, waterfowl, cutthroat trout
Management Program - Provide Security						
Maintain winter road/trail closures with gates and signing	1211	.5 week	.5 weeks	720	720	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk, moose
PUBLIC ACCESS						
Management Program - Provide Access						
Maintain signs and information boards; place signs at Blackfoot R. WMA	1211	1 week	1 week	1,440	1,440	Species benefitted:
Place boundary markers and other information signs at Georgetown Summit and Blackfoot River WMA's	1211	1 week	1 week	1,440	1,440	Species benefitted:
Provide access roads/trails and parking areas	1211	.5 week	.5 week	720	720	Species benefitted:
Develop plan with Engineering for relocation of Portneuf WMA south access	1322	.5 week	0 week	720	0	Species benefitted: This project needs further evaluation.
Control noxious weeds in cooperation with counties	1211	(See winter range)				Species benefitted:
Monitor hunter and angler use, enforce regulations and WMA management policies	1211	1.5 weeks	1.5 wks	2,160	2,160	Species benefitted:
RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION						
Management Program - Grazing Management						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Repair and maintain boundary fencing; erect electric fence along the Blackfoot River.	1211	(See winter range)				
Coordinate land-use trade agreement with neighboring landowner			2 weeks		2,880	Long term benefits to include vegetation rejuvenation onsite, stream condition improvements on/offsite.
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Nesting and Brooding Habitat						
Vegetation rejuvenation through burning, herbicides, and grazing	1322	(See winter range)				Species benefitted: Ground nesting birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.
Provide nest sites with structures and by preserving snags	1322	.5 week	.75 wks	720	1,080	Species benefitted: CAGO, bluebirds, bats, kestrels
Management Program - Monitor Grouse Breeding Populations						
Conduct lek counts and drumming counts	1460	1 week	.25 week	1,440	360	Species benefitted: sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Management Program - Provide Public Access						
Plan and host the Ducks Unlimited dedication at the Blackfoot River WMA		2 weeks	2 weeks	2,880	2,880	
Compile species lists for distribution	1630	2 weeks	1 weeks	2,880	1,440	Species benefitted: mule deer, waterfowl, upland game
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	8 projects 2 weeks	8 2 weeks	2,880	2,880	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 6 weeks	25 6 weeks	8,640	8,640	Species benefitted: mule deer, waterfowl, upland game
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluation	1620	15 documents 6 weeks	15 9 weeks	8,640	12,960	Conducted public scoping meetings and began development of long-range management plans.
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	8,640	8,640	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,320	4,320	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperation With Other Agencies						
Coordinate and meet with citizen working groups associated with Portneuf and Blackfoot River WMAs		3 weeks	1 weeks	4,200	1,440	
Work with faculty and students at ISU on inventories at Blackfoot River WMA		1.5 weeks	1.5 week	2,160	2,160	
Fencing and monitoring conservation easements			1 week		1,440	
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	1630	4 weeks	1 week	5,760	1,440	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$0
 Other Funds 79,200
 Grand Total \$79,200

NARRATIVE

During FY96, noxious weed control remained a major effort. The temporary personnel spent many weeks spraying, cutting and pulling dyer's woad, Canada thistle, hoary cress, and yellow toadflax.

Public meetings were held in Pocatello and Soda Springs to gather input on the long-range future management of BRWMA, PWMA, GSWMA and MWMA. A draft of the long range management plans will be completed during FY97.

A coordinated effort by the regional volunteer coordinator and me resulted in all of the goose nesting boxes in the region being monitored and/or serviced this past winter. The goose nest structure database was also updated to reflect work done in winter 1996.

1. Portneuf Wildlife Management Area

The 3,100-acre Portneuf WMA is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Pocatello in Bannock County. The WMA lies to the west of Haystack Mountain just east of the Portneuf River and Old Highway 91. It is bounded on the east by Bureau of Land Management property and the Caribou National Forest. The WMA provides: 1) winter range for approximately 300-500 mule deer, a few elk, and up to 30 moose, 2) public hunting, 3) grouse production, and 4) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

Major projects completed during the past fiscal year include a patchy, 40-acre prescribed burn on a sagebrush-covered bench and knoll south of Crane Creek and collection of bitterbrush seeds to be grown for future plantings.

A road management plan has been implemented on the WMA to control unauthorized access during the winter and to eliminate off-road use during the hunting seasons. Noxious weeds have been controlled by temporary employees and through cooperation with Bannock County (inmate labor detail).

Data have been collected from vegetation transects on the WMA for three years. Data will be used to monitor effects of various vegetation treatments on the WMA. An experimental aerial fertilization project was conducted in the fall of 1992. About 200 acres on each of the Portneuf, Montpelier, and Georgetown Summit WMAs were fertilized. In comparing the transect data from 1993 and 1994, the height and percent cover of native grasses increased on both fertilized and unfertilized transect sites; height and percent cover of forbs decreased on both fertilized and unfertilized sites. These results were probably a result of a drier year in 1994 than in 1993 (See Table 1).

A 40-acre site was fertilized using 60 pounds of N/acre in the fall of 1995. We will monitor vegetation transects on and off of this treatment site.

Sharp-tailed grouse strutting counts have been made annually since 1986; however, none were made in 1995 due to weather conditions and time constraints (See Table 2). Two hundred thirty mule deer and twelve moose were observed during late winter/early spring aerial surveys (funded by a separate project).

2. Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area

Georgetown Summit WMA is located in Bear Lake County approximately 12 miles southeast of Soda Springs. It includes 1,655 acres, all of which are managed as big game winter range, primarily for elk. The Department purchased 775 acres and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) purchased the remaining 880 acres. The portion of the property purchased by RMEF has been leased to the Department.

Use priorities are: 1) elk and mule deer winter range, 2) public hunting of big game and upland game, and 3) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

This WMA is bordered by property belonging to the Idaho Department of Lands. The IDL ground is leased to the Georgetown Grazing Association in which the Department now has a 50% interest. Noxious weeds were treated by temporary personnel in the early summer. A farming agreement with a neighbor was renewed. This agreement covers land adjacent to the Bear River.

3. Montpelier Wildlife Management Area

The Montpelier WMA is located in Bear Lake County northeast of Montpelier and includes 2,500 acres, 800 of which are leased from the Idaho Department of Lands or the Bureau of Land Management. This WMA is divided by Montpelier Canyon and U.S. Highway 89. The MWMA was acquired as winter range for mule deer.

Use priorities include: 1) mule deer and elk wintering, 2) public hunting of big game and upland game, 3) grouse production, and 4) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

One of the major concerns on this WMA is the presence of the Bear Lake County landfill on Department property. We are working with the county to divest the Department of this site. The site was surveyed and we are awaiting the transfer.

4. Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area

The newest WMA in the southeast region is the Blackfoot River WMA. It is a 1,720-acre parcel of land with a section of IDL land leased to the Department for a total of 2,360 acres. The WMA is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Soda Springs.

The primary management goals for the Blackfoot River WMA are: 1) the restoration of riparian habitat in the Blackfoot River system, 2) public access for hunting and fishing, and 3) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

A waterfowl brood survey was conducted in July 1995; 11 broods were observed on the river, along with many other ducks and 23 species of nongame birds.

An intensive effort was made to work out a land-use trade with neighboring cattle ranchers at the BRWMA. We hope to gain off-site habitat benefits for fish and wildlife by trading cattle use on our uplands in exchange for riparian protection on cooperator's property. In order to prepare for the presence of cattle on the BRWMA, a great deal of time went into erecting and fixing fences on the area. Due to concerns regarding this year's agreement, there will be no livestock grazing on the BRWMA this year. Prospects of a future agreement with the Bear Lake Grazing Company have been diminished; however, we will continue to seek a land-use trade that will enhance cutthroat trout habitat.

Table 1. Vegetation Transect Data - Portneuf, Montpelier and Georgetown Summit WMA's

	1993		1994		1995	
	Fertilized	Control	Fertilized	Control	Fertilized	Control
Average Bitterbrush Leader Length	a	a	9.13 cm	9.35 cm	13.16 cm	10.48 cm
Average Perennial Grass Height	47.15 cm	38.44 cm	51.4 cm	39.36 cm	53.62 cm	50.35 cm
Ave. Perennial Grass Percent Cover	20.65%	18.26%	25.1%	14.85%	18.26%	18.23%
Ave. Annual Grass Percent Cover	10.19%	9.09%	13.77%	11.61%	19.45%	12.77%
Ave. Dyer's Woad Percent Cover	5.13%	1.56%	4.25%	2.17%	0%	4.00%
Ave. Thistle Percent Cover	.63%	.07%	.41%	.55%	4.37%	1.50%
Average Forb Height	33.85 cm	33.65 cm	22.41 cm	24.85 cm	27.44 cm	28.76 cm
Average Forb Percent Cover	16.68%	15.68%	12.15%	11.13%	12.96%	17.07%

^a Not measured

Table 2. Peak sharp-tailed grouse lek counts at Portneuf WMA, 1986-91.

Year/Section	7	12	13	18	19	24	25	30	Total
1986	1		3	3		11		2	20
1987	Insufficient Data								
1988					1	8	1	25	35
1989			2		3	4		22	26
1990			a				0	40	40
1991	10	a	a	s	a	4	0	16	30
1992	2	0	0	3	1	29	11	20	66
1993	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
1994	a	a	1	0	2	a	4	8	15
1995	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
1996	a	a	a	a	16	2	0	5	23

^a Not checked.

^b Due to weather conditions no reliable data available.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Dean Rose
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Southeast Region Habitat Management

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

WEST HABITAT DISTRICT AND STERLING WMA

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PUBLIC HUNTING
3. PHEASANT PRODUCTION
4. OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nesting cover						
Provide grass/legume nest cover	1211	2 weeks 80-100 acres	2 weeks	1,600	1,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treatment of nest cover through grazing/burning	1211	2 weeks 300 acres	3 weeks	1,600	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Noxious weed control	1211	8 weeks	10 weeks	6,400	8,000	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Manage water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Monitor muskrat populations and manage trapping	1460	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Russian olives control	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Work with private contractor to provide 10 small ponds - mechanical excavation and/or blasting on Plunkett Segment	1341	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Service mallard nest structures	1211	27 strctrs 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Service goose nest structures	1211	75 structres 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Maintain escape cover and water levels	1211	.5 week	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct brood survey, breeding pair counts, nest searches, and monitor use of all nest structures (assisted by research/game management)	1460	100 structures 3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide access						
Provide parking areas	1332	12 parking areas 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted:
Upgrade one parking area	1332	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	800	Plunkett/Wells
Maintain Handicap blind	1334	.5 week	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted:
Construct parking area at Littlehole	1332	2 weeks	not complete	1,600	0	Species benefitted:
Maintain gates, stiles, and foot bridges	1211	3 weeks	1 week	2,400	800	Species benefitted:
Maintain signs/information boards	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted:
Maintain hunting cover and provide food plots to attract game	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Enforce regulations and WMA management policies	30 (M)	2 week	2 weeks	1,600	1,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
PHEASANT PRODUCTION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide Brood Stock						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets - storm cover	1322	21 acres 4 weeks	4 weeks	3,200	3,200	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Provide high energy grains adjacent to storm cover	1322	25 acres 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide brood habitat - treat with burning/grazing		2 weeks	See Wtfl Productn	1,600	N/A	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Provide nesting cover by fencing	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	1,600	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Provide Nesting Habitat						
Provide irrigated grass/legume nesting cover through coop. farming	1211	90 acres 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct crow counts, nest searches and brood surveys (assisted by research/game management)	1460	1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Assist with duck nesting success and pheasant habitat use research	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Production						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets	1322	(See pheasant production)				Species benefitted:
Service kestrel and bluebird nest boxes	1211	25 boxes .5 week	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds
Install additional nest boxes	1211	10 boxes .5 week	not complete	400	0	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide viewing opportunity						
Provide brochure, species lists, signage, information boards and parking areas	1211	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	5 projects .5 week	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 1 week	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Coordinate with "Adopt-a-Wetland" group to maintain a portion of wetlands	1211	15 structres .5 week	.5 week	400	400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluate	1630	5 documents 1 week	3 week	800	2,400	Species benefitted:
Provide tours and information on policies and goals, respond to concerns of neighboring landowners	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,200	3,200	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	1 week	800	800	4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land	33	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,600	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
management agencies						

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$0
Other Funds	\$54,800
Grand Total	\$54,800

NARRATIVE

The Sterling Wildlife Management Area (SWMA) is approximately 3,300 acres located 5 miles northeast of Aberdeen, Idaho in Bingham county. The main goals of the WMA are waterfowl production, public hunting, pheasant production, and other wildlife appreciation and production.

The area is used extensively by a wide variety of shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl (wintering and resident), upland gamebirds, song birds (wintering and resident), as well as some small mammals (including furbearers) and deer (see Table 1).

This project will provide for the production of about 200 goslings, 1,000 ducklings, and 200 cock pheasants. The project will provide 4,000 man days of hunting opportunity and 2,000 man days of wildlife viewing opportunity. The project will provide 70 acres of high energy grain for winter food and 1,600 acres of dense winter storm cover.

Additional technical and financial assistance will be given to private landowners through the Habitat Improvement Program (15 weeks). Technical review of projects that may impact wildlife habitat off the project area will require 5 weeks of work.

During FY96, noxious weed control continued to be a major issue. A helicopter was contracted to spray 300 acres of Canada thistle. This method of spraying will be done again in the spring of 1997. The temporary work crew spent 230 man hours treating weeds on the WMA.

An intensive effort was made to treat Russian olive sprouts in the American Game, Harder, Johnson and Vanderford segments. This effort is a part of the study to determine the affects of Russian olive trees and magpies on waterfowl production. In 1996, the above listed areas were cleared of all Russian olive trees.

Results of the waterfowl nesting study showed a significant increase in waterfowl production (21% nest success in treatment vs. 11% in control) as a result of Russian olive tree removal.

The monthly office day in the South Bingham Soil Conservation District office in Aberdeen continues to provide the residents access to Department personnel.

Public meetings were held in Aberdeen and Pocatello to collect public input on the future management of SWMA. Attendance was light but comments were incorporated into a draft of the long-range management plan. The plan will be completed during FY97.

The first Youth Pheasant hunt was held on the SWMA during FY96 and attracted 18 first-time youth hunters. This activity was planned by the Department's Information and Education bureau. The execution of the event was handled by the regional Landowner Sportsman Coordinator the regional Volunteer program.

The last 14 of the planned potholes were blasted on the Thompson and Plunkett segments. Each pothole measured approximately 80 feet by 40 feet. All holes filled with water and were attracting waterfowl in the spring. The edges of the holes were seeded to native grasses.

A culvert was placed, by the county, under Midway road to allow water from a neighbor to run onto Department land. This water is providing an additional 15 acres of shallow surface water that may improve vegetation conditions on part of the Johnson segment.

Two hundred six muskrats and 1 mink were harvested by the permittee this season. This compares with 75 in 1995 and 93 in 1994.

As in past years, a local dog club held a field trial on the WMA. One hundred twenty-five participants were on site for the three day event.

Pheasant brood routes were conducted on, but not limited to, the WMA. The 1995 route documented 1 brood. This is compared to the past two years when no broods were observed.

Results from the waterfowl nest success study showed a slight decrease in total number of breeding pairs of ducks counted on the WMA (489 in 1995, 418 in 1996, See Table 2). Brood counts were also conducted. However, at the time of the most recent data, the counts were incomplete (Table 3). Total nests found on the WMA were up from 261 in 1995 to 324 in 1996 (Table 4).

Table 1. Species List for Sterling WMA, 1996

Birds	Northern Shrike	Northern Harrier	Amphibians
Ring-necked Pheasant	Loggerhead Shrike	Northern Goshawk	Northern Leopard Frog
Grey Partridge	Starling	American Kestrel	
Sharp-tail Grouse	Warbling Vireo	Roughed-legged Hawk	
Mourning Dove	Marsh Wren	Turkey Vulture	
Yellow Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird	Red-tailed Hawk	
Audubon's Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Swainson's Hawk	
McGillivary's Warbler	Common Snipe	Great Horned Owl	
Yellow Breasted Chat	American Avocet	Short-eared Owl	
House Sparrow	Blacknecked Stilts		
Western Meadowlark	Western Grebe	Mammals	
Brewer's Blackbird	Double-crested Cormorant	Mule Deer	
Brown Headed Cowbird	Tundra Swan	Antelope	
Lazuli Bunting	American Coot	Blacktailed Jackrabbit	
Evening Grosbeak	American White Pelican	Cottontail Rabbit	
Cassin's Finch	Herring Gull	Mink	
American Goldfinch	California Gull	Muskrat	
Green-tailed Towhee	Franklin's Gull	Marmot	
Rufous-sided Towhee	Forster's Tern	Porcupine	
Savannah Sparrow	Great Blue Heron	Red Fox	
Vesper Sparrow	Black-crowned Night Heron	Striped Skunk	
Chipping Sparrow	Snowy Egret	Raccoon	
Brewer's Sparrow	White-faced Ibis	Coyote	
Song Sparrow	Killdeer	Badger	
Oregon Junco	Long-billed Curlew		
Common Night Hawk	Willet	Reptiles	
Calliope Hummingbird	Wilson's Phalarope	Common Garter Snake	
Red Shafted Flicker	Snow Goose	Great Basin Rattler	
Hairy Woodpecker	Canada Goose	Blue Racer	
Eastern Kingbird	Northern Pintail	Gopher Snake	
Western Kingbird	Wood Duck	Rubber Boa	
Western Wood Pewee	American Widgeon	Western Fence Lizard	
Horned Lark	Mallard	Sagebrush Lizard	
Violet-green Swallow	Gadwall	Skink	
Black Billed Magpie	Cinnamon Teal		
Common Raven	Green-winged Teal	Fish	
Common Crow	Blue-winged Teal	Chubs	
Black Capped Chickadee	Northern Shoveler		
Dipper	Redhead		
Sage Thrasher	Canvasback		
Robin	Lesser Scaup		
Hermit Thrush	Ruddy Duck		
Buby Crowned Kinglet	Ring-necked Duck		
Cedar Waxwing	Bald Eagle		
	Golden Eagle		

Table 2. Number of breeding pairs of ducks¹ counted on the Sterling WMA during spring of 1996 (1995).

SPECIES	NUMBER OF PAIRS	PERCENT OF PAIRS
Mallard	133 (149)	31.8 (30.5)
Gadwall	66 (85)	15.8 (17.4)
Cinnamon Teal	54 (58)	12.9 (11.9)
Northern Shoveler	38 (45)	9.1 (9.2)
Blue-winged Teal	5 (14)	1.2 (2.9)
Northern Pintail	13 (11)	3.1 (2.2)
Green-winged Teal	3 (8)	0.7 (1.6)
Total Dabblers	312 (370)	74.6 (75.7)
Redhead	79 (78)	18.9 (16.0)
Lesser Scaup	27 (41)	6.5 (8.3)
Total Divers	106 (119)	25.4 (24.3)
TOTAL All DUCKS	418 (489)	100 (100)

¹Ruddy duck pair counts were not included due to difficulties in observing birds because of their diving behavior.

Table 3. Number of duck broods observed on Sterling WMA during early summer 1996¹(1995).

SPECIES	NUMBER OF BROODS	PERCENT OF BROODS
Mallard	25 (27)	32.1 (27.3)
Gadwall	12 (25)	15.4 (25.3)
Northern Shoveler	7 (11)	9.0 (11.1)
Cinnamon Teal	7 (9)	9.0 (9.1)
Redhead	17 (13)	21.8 (13.1)
Lesser Scaup	6 (11)	7.1 (11.1)
Blue-winged Teal	1 (2)	1.3 (2.0)
Northern Pintail	3 (1)	3.8 (1.0)
Green-winged Teal	0 (0)	0.0 (0.0)
TOTAL	78 (99)	100 (100)

¹Incomplete data, field season was ongoing.

Table 4. Number and species of duck nests discovered on Sterling WMA during 1996 (1995).

SPECIES	NUMBER OF NESTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Mallard	165 (140)	50.9 (53.4)
Gadwall	31 (27)	9.6 (10.3)
Northern Shoveler	35 (25)	10.8 (9.5)
Redhead	38 (24)	11.7 (9.2)
Cinnamon Teal	26 (18)	8.0 (6.9)
Lesser Scaup	19 (16)	5.9 (6.1)
Northern Pintail	6 (6)	1.9 (2.3)
Blue-winged Teal	2 (4)	0.6 (1.5)
Green-winged Teal	2 (2)	0.6 (0.8)

TOTALS	324 (261)	100 (100)
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State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Steve Schmidt
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Upper Snake Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Supervise habitat program in Upper Snake Region for five habitat management districts, five wildlife management areas, and 53 access areas. First line supervisor to 6 permanent employees Second line supervisor to 3 permanent employees Third line supervisor to 7-9 temporary employees	1630	18 weeks	18 weeks	27,075	27,075	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Develop planning documents review, and evaluate	1620	10 weeks	10 weeks	15,042	15,042	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchase requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	10 weeks	10 weeks	15,042	15,042	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	3,008	4,512	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review wildlife habitat impacts and provide recommendations on 100 project proposals submitted by state and federal agencies and private entities.	1710	5 weeks	4 weeks 75 projects	7,520	6,016	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Review wildlife habitat improvement project designs and provide recommendations on Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) projects prepared by habitat biologists for private landowners. Administer 40 HIP cooperative agreements and regional budgets. Coordinate HIP project implementation with staff and private landowners.	1720	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,008	3,008	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$70,695

Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$70,695

NARRATIVE

Supervision:

The wildlife staff of the Upper Snake Region of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are divided into two sections: the wildlife population section and the wildlife habitat section. The project leader for this project number is the Regional Habitat Manager (Manager) for the wildlife habitat section in the Upper Snake Region. The regional office for the Regional Habitat Manager is located in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The regional wildlife habitat section has several principal responsibilities: 1) administer all the Department owned wildlife management areas in the region, 2) administer all the hunting and fishing access areas in the region, 3) administer the Department's Habitat Improvement Program for waterfowl and upland birds in the region, and 4) provide the region's analysis, review, and formal or informal responses to projects submitted to the IDFG regional office by other state and federal agencies, or private entities. As such, the Regional Habitat Manager oversees wildlife habitat management in the Upper Snake region. This position supervises nine full time permanent employees and 7-9 seasonal employees. This includes the supervision of five regional wildlife habitat biologists, one utility craftsman (access area coordinator), one senior land manager, and two wildlife technicians. The regional habitat section is divided into five habitat districts each of which contain at least one major Department owned wildlife management area. The major wildlife management areas in the Upper Snake Region are the Tex Creek WMA, Sand Creek WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Market Lake WMA, Chilly Slough WMA, and the Cartier Slough WMA. In addition, the region is involved in the administration of 53 hunting and fishing access areas.

Management Plans:

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager oversees the section's development and implementation of a number of planning documents including WMA annual work plans, coordinated resource management plans (with other agencies), cooperative agreements, land use trades, and five year and long term management plans. During the report period a significant amount of time was spent with the section scoping and developing long range management plans for the region's wildlife management areas.

Administration:

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager evaluates employee work performance and conducts annual performance evaluations. Annual inspections are made of Department facilities, houses, and wildlife management areas. Records are maintained on all aspects of the section in the Idaho Falls regional office. Annual budgets are developed with the staff. Budgets are monitored and all expenditures approved by the Regional Habitat Manager. The section's routine reports are prepared and/or approved by the Manager.

Other Duties:

The Manager also functions as the region's computer coordinator and spends considerable time assisting other staff with computer or network problems. Duties include collecting data at game check stations, creel surveys, and a monthly assignment as the front desk duty officer. This section also includes mandatory Department training for physical fitness and CPR. Other meetings are mandatory such as the Intra State Training School held in June of 1996.

Provide Project Review and Recommendations:

The region's wildlife habitat section is responsible for providing the region's analysis, review, and formal or informal responses to projects submitted to the IDFG regional office by other state and federal agencies, or private entities. During this report period the Manager with input from the habitat staff completed recommendations on 75 projects submitted

to the Idaho Falls regional office. These projects ranged from USDA Forest Service timber sales to BLM grazing allotment plans, to reviewing private developers plans for new subdivisions.

Administer Habitat Improvement Program (HIP):

The Manager supervises the efforts of the regional habitat section in the administration of the Department's Habitat Improvement Program in the Upper Snake Region. The annual goals and objectives of the region's HIP program are established by the Manager. Project types and prototype designs are developed by the Manager and implemented by the regional wildlife habitat biologists. The Manager approves all HIP cost-sharing agreements with private landowners in the region. The Manager maintains the regional HIP database and oversees the annual regional HIP budget.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Jim Moore
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Upper Snake Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance on five wildlife management areas						
Maintain roads	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,065	2,065	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain dikes	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,098	3,098	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain fences	1211	1 week	1 week	1,032	1,032	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,032	1,032	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Control vegetation	1211	1 week	1 week	1,032	1,032	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,065	2,065	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Misc. Construction or maintenance projects (as assigned)	1211	7 weeks	7.5 weeks	7,228	10,228	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T & E species. Typical

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$17,552
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$17,552

NARRATIVE

Road Maintenance

Roads were maintained on five wildlife management areas within the Upper Snake Region. Public roads as well as administrative roads were kept in safe driving conditions. Roadside mowing was done where required. Culverts were cleaned and kept in usable condition. Cattle guards were cleaned and repaired as needed.

Dike Maintenance

Major maintenance was done on the M-4 dike at Market Lake WMA. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards of material were hauled to repair dike erosion. An old culvert and water structure were placed on the main dike at Market Lake WMA. The west slough dikes were graded at Mud Lake WMA. Gravel was hauled for surfacing of the Cartier WMA east dike and channel crossing.

Fence Maintenance

Provided assistance with fence construction and repair projects at Chilly Slough, Mud Lake WMA, Market Lake WMA, and Tex Creek WMA.

Tree and Shrub Maintenance

Routinely irrigated shelter belt planting adjacent to Roberts Gravel Pond. Serviced and repaired pull behind regional HIP tree planter for spring use.

Vegetation Control

Assisted Mud Lake WMA personnel with weed spraying. Assisted with road and dike mowing at Cartier WMA.

Reports and Meetings

Routinely filled out monthly equipment reports. Attended quarterly habitat section meetings with regional habitat section staff.

Miscellaneous Projects

Repaired WMA equipment for Mud Lake and Market Lake wma's. Assisted with goose platform refurbishing at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, and Island Park Reservoir. Cleaned and repaired irrigation ditch at Mud Lake WMA.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Don Kemner
 Assistant: Mark Sands
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Market Lake Habitat District

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MARKET LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. WATERFOWL HUNTING
3. NONGAME PRODUCTION
4. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
5. UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING
6. BIG GAME WINTERING

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Dike maintenance and repair						
Vegetation development on dikes	1342	3 weeks 3 sites	3 weeks 2 sites	6,000	6,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, NOPI
Haul dirt and gravel to eroded areas on dikes	1211	2 sites	2 sites 2 weeks	6,000	6,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANU, REDH
Repair and/or replace water control structures	1211	2 weeks 3 structures	2 weeks 2 structures	6,000	6,000	Species benefitted: REDH, GADW, MALL, CANU
Management Program - Water manipulation and vegetation control						
Investigate diversity and quantity of wetland plant seeds within WMA impoundments	1440	5 weeks	0	4,082	0	Species benefitted: AMWI, GADW, MALL, NOPI
Develop a water manipulation schedule for marshes; monitor and control water levels	1440	5 weeks	6 weeks	4,000	5,442	Species benefitted: CITE, CAGO, MALL, GADW

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Use fire, mechanical, or chemical methods to enhance vegetation structural diversity in main marsh	1322	2 weeks 150 acres	1 week 150 acres	5,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANU, REDH, RUDU
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	1 week 71 platforms	1 week 71 platforms	1,400	1,440	Species benefitted: CAGO
Conduct nest searches for overwater nesters	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, RUDU, REDH, CANU
Construct and install ten new goose nest platforms	1211	1 week	1 week	1,900	1,900	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Cover plantings						
Interseed or plant satellite cover areas	1322	1 week 20 acres	3 weeks 20 acres	3,000	4,500	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, Ring-necked pheasant
Establish test plots of potential nesting cover	1322	1 week 20 acres	1 week 20 acres	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: NSHO, NOPI, BWTE
Establish nesting cover on islands	1322	1 week 1 acre	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, LESC, CAGO
Management Program - Control human visitors						
Maintain boating and nesting area closures	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, LESC, CANU, REDH
Management Program - Planting, mowing and water control						
Plant 20 acres of small grains	1211	3 weeks 20 acres	5 weeks 20 acres	5,000	6,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, LSGO, Elk
Maintain 100 acres of alfalfa/grass for waterfowl forage	1211	1 week 100 acres	1 week 100 acres	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, white-tailed deer, moose, elk
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,000	4,000	Species benefitted: CAGO
Rotate water levels in	1211	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: NSHO,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
marshes						NOPI, MALL, AGWT
Management Program - Disease monitoring and control						
Monitoring for botulism and avian cholera outbreaks	1410	1 week	3 weeks	1,000	3,500	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AGWT, NSHO
Disease control and cleanup	1211	2 weeks	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Monitor harvest						
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week 4 stations	1 week 4 stations	800	1,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NSHO, NOPI
Restrict access to promote better quality hunting	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Planting, nesting structures and shelters						
Plant fruit and seed producing trees in shelterbelts	1322	1 week 1 acre	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: Northern oriole, American robin, western bluebird, white-crowned sparrow, mountain bluebird
Install bird houses on WMA shelterbelts	1322	1 week 20 boxes	1 week 15 boxes	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: Western bluebird, tree swallow, house wren
Monitor nesting colonies	1460	1 week	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: White-faced ibis, Franklins gull, black-crowned night heron, black tern
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Facility construction						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Construct an observation blind on main marsh	1334	3 weeks	0	6,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CANU, NOPI, REDH
Construct an information kiosk	1334	1 week 1 site	1 week 1 site	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANU, peregrine falcon
Management Program - Provide tours and information programs						
Provide guided tours of the WMA and present programs on the WMA	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	2,800	3,500	Species benefitted: MALL, peregrine falcon, CANU, white-faced ibis
Management Program - Signing						
Repair and replace directional, information, and regulatory signs	1211	1 week	2 weeks	1,100	2,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Elk, peregrine falcon
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation rehabilitation						
Maintain 20 acres of tree and shrub shelter belts	1211	1 week 20 acres	2 weeks 20 acres	3,600	5,000	Species benefitted: White-tailed deer, house wren, ring-necked pheasant, long-eared owl
Plant 10 acres of corn or sorghum annually	1211	2 weeks 10 acres	3 weeks 10 acres	3,000	4,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge
Monitor and replant seedings where needed	1440	2 week 3 acres	2 weeks 3 acres	3,200	3,200	Species benefitted: MALL, NSHO, ring-necked pheasant
BIG GAME WINTERING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation manipulation						
Maintain and/or regenerate growth of palatable forage	1322	1 week 15 acres	1 week 15 acres	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Pronghorn, mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer
ADMINISTRATION						

WMA presently encompasses 5,071 acres of land that provides a combination of wetlands, sagebrush dominated uplands, and river bottom habitat for wildlife.

A portion of the management area is used to raise agricultural crops, such as, hay and small grains which are left unharvested for use by wildlife.

Market Lake WMA is located in Jefferson County, two miles north of Roberts, Idaho and 17 miles north of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Benefits Provided

Waterfowl: The WMA provides a staging area for waterfowl during spring and fall migrations. Peak numbers of ducks present on the WMA during the spring migration ranged from 50,000-80,000, with northern pintails and mallards being making up 85-90% of the flight. Other, less abundant ducks included; gadwall, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, American widgeon, northern shoveler, redhead duck, canvasback, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup, greater scaup, common goldeneye, Barrow's goldeneye, bufflehead, ruddy duck, common merganser, hooded merganser, and red-breasted merganser.

Approximately 30,000 snow geese staged at the WMA during spring migration as well as 3,000-4,000 Canada geese. Approximately 500 tundra swans and 20 trumpeter swans used the WMA during spring migration.

Forty acres of small grain crops where left unharvested for use by staging waterfowl.

The WMA provided nesting and brood rearing habitat for resident ducks and Canada geese.

Approximately 1,700 acres of wetlands were maintained for waterfowl production. There was 180 acres of suitable residual seeded upland vegetation available for duck nesting. Approximately 20 acres of nesting vegetation was planted on the WMA for future nesting.

Big Game: The WMA has resident deer herd of approximately 40 animals consisting of white-tailed deer and mule deer. There were 200 elk that wintered on the WMA and used the grain crops and native grasses. There were as many as 5 moose using the WMA during the fall months.

Nongame Species: There were 1,500-2,000 white-faced ibis and Franklin's gulls nesting on the WMA. Other species nesting on the WMA included; black terns, black-crowned night herons, snowy egrets, and ring-billed gulls. A small population of Forster's terns, American avocets and black-necked stilts nest on the WMA. A tri-colored heron was sighted on May 11-12. This is a first sighting of this species in Idaho.

White pelicans, cattle egrets, common egrets and double crested cormorants use the WMA during spring and summer, but do not nest on the WMA.

Great horned, short eared and long eared owls nest on the WMA. Red-tailed hawks and Swainson's hawks, and American kestrels also nest on the WMA. Osprey are occasionally seen, but do not nest on the WMA. Golden eagles use the WMA during spring migration.

Threatened and Endangered Species: An immature female peregrine falcon was observed on the WMA during April. Five bald eagles wintered on the WMA and 5-10 eagles where observed during spring migration.

Upland Game: Small populations of ring-necked pheasants and gray partridge reside on the WMA. Mourning doves also nest on the WMA. Sage grouse use the WMA and adjacent federal land. This population has declined but very little else is known about the population. Cottontail and jack rabbits also reside on the WMA.

Surveys:

A sandhill crane survey was conducted on May 1st, 6th, and 13th. The survey indicated two pairs nested on the WMA and ten singles stopped during migration. A survey on July 8th indicated each pair produced at least 1 colt. It is unknown if the colts fledged.

A raptor and corvid survey on June 10 and 24 indicated 1 great horned owl and 1 red tailed hawk nested on the WMA. Thirteen active magpie nests were located. However, many magpie young were fledged at the time of the survey. The magpie data is a minimum count only.

Two pheasant crow count routes were run in May on the WMA. The counts indicated that there were a minimum of 8 roosters on the WMA. Also, two pairs of grey partridge were counted.

Trapping and Transplanting Activities:

In the fall of 1995, 342 male adult ring-necked pheasants were released on the WMA to provide additional hunting opportunity. This project is funded by IDFG license funds.

Five hundred and six ducks were trapped and banded during July and August 1995. Most ducks banded were mallards. Eighty-four percent of the mallards were adults.

Disease Outbreaks:

WMA personnel monitored and searched the marshes for sick or dead birds during July, August, and the first week of September, 1995. No signs of botulism were found.

Environmental Conditions:

There was little snow run off and little spring rain during 1996. The early summer was dry and hot. Water levels in the main marsh dropped quickly and required supplemental water via the WMA irrigation system. The east springs marsh and sandy marsh area held water better than usual during a hot, dry early summer. This was probably because the water level in the Van Leuven slough stayed 3-5 feet higher than normal until early July (1996). The slough stayed high because the Snake River was flowing high.

Information and Education Activities:

Two hundred and fifty people were guided on bird watching tours of the WMA on International Migratory Bird Day (May 11). Another 100 people conducted self guided tours of the WMA. Informational displays, video tapes, and slide shows were also viewed by the public. The activities were co-sponsored by the Snake River Audubon Club and the Targhee National Forest. A local restaurant sold food and drinks.

A waterfowling workshop was conducted for the public on September 9th. One hundred and fifteen people attended the workshop. Informational seminars and demonstrations included; duck and goose calling, decoying, shotgun patterning, shotgun hunting

instructions, waterfowl hunting regulations, duck identification, handling retriever dogs and waterfowl hunting safety and ethics. The workshop was co-sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, Skyline Gun Club, Idaho Falconer's Association, and the Robert's Lions Club.

During the spring waterfowl migration, approximately 5,000 people visited the WMA.

Noxious Weed Control:

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. Approximately 500 acres were treated with herbicides. Biological control agents targeting Canada thistle were released in June 1996. Approximately 12 miles of roads and dikes were mowed as a method of weed suppression.

Sharecrop Agreement:

A one year sharecrop agreement, with possible two year extension, involving 93 acres was advertised and signed. Per the agreement, the Department will receive 40 percent of the hay and 33 percent of the grain produced on the 93 acres. The grain will be left standing in the field for wildlife forage. The hay is used to bait big game in the winter to prevent depredations on private property.

Planned Projects for FY 97:

Install a boat ramp on Marshes 3 and 4.

Construct a causeway across a canal to better access main marshes cells for habitat management, water management and waterfowl hunting.

Host a waterfowling workshop on September 7th.

Host International Migratory Bird Day in May 1997.

Implement habitat improvement projects.

Maintain roads, dikes, water control structures and fences.

Continue removal of non-necessary fences.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Tom Maeder
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Mud Lake Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

MUD LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. WEED MANAGEMENT
3. WATERFOWL HUNTING
4. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
5. DEPREDATION CONTROL
6. UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING
7. PUBLIC FISHING

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Enhance and increase upland nesting cover						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	2 weeks 120 acres	3 weeks	8,000	8,000	Russian knapweed will be controlled on the WMA. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Plant nesting cover	1322	1 week 35 acres	2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Nesting cover will be planted in the north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Alfalfa cover set-aside	1322	1 week 60 acres	2 weeks	1,900	2,400	Alfalfa will be irrigated then inter-seeded with grass to establish permanent nesting cover in north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Fence improvement	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Fence will be replaced to

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		2 miles				protect waterfowl nesting habitat. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Road Closure	1211	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	West slough roads will be closed to minimize disturbance to breeding waterfowl. Species benefitted: MALL, REDH, LESC, CAGO
Management Program - enhance overwater nesting cover and provide brood habitat						
Flood west slough	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	6,000	6,000	The Jernberg well will be operated to flood west slough. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Monitor hydrophyte development in west slough	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Water levels and plant growth in west slough will be monitored so the needs of breeding waterfowl are met. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Manipulate wetland vegetation to attract breeding waterfowl	1322	1 week 10 acres	1 week	1,600	1,600	10 acres will be disced on Mackenzie point to provide breeding, overwater nesting, and brood areas. Species benefitted: MALL, REDH, NOPI, LESC
Install water control structure to west slough	1342	1 week 1 structure	0	1,000	0	A water control structure will be installed to west slough to create more wetlands. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Coordinate with Canal Company	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate wetland and lake water levels with Canal Company. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						CAGO, CANV
Fence maintenance	1211	1 week	1 week	2,500	2,500	Maintain fences to protect wetlands. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Management Program - Monitor waterfowl production						
Monitor waterfowl nesting	1450	2 weeks	0	2,000	0	Nest search to monitor duck recruitment. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	Repair nest structures and replace nesting material. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, mountain bluebird, American kestrel
Erect 10 new platforms	1211	1 week 10 platforms	1 week	2,000	2,000	Construct 10 new platforms to replace structures lost due to age. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Control waterfowl diseases						
Monitor for and control disease outbreaks	1410	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Regularly patrol WMA to monitor for waterfowl disease outbreaks. Species benefitted: MALL, LSGO, RUDU, CANV
Management Program - Enhance and increase goose pasture						
Plant 20 acres of small grains	1322	2 weeks 20 acres	1 week	5,500	5,500	Plant winter wheat around irrigation pond to attract waterfowl. Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, NOPI
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1322	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	Mow goose pasture on

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		20 acres				Mackenzie point and 5 miles of dikes. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW
WEED CONTROL						
Management program - Weed control						
Irrigate and harvest alfalfa	1322	1 week 273 acres	1 week	17,000	19,000	Assistance to share-cropper in farming north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, CAGO
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate weed control activities with county weed supervisor, extension services, canal company, and High Country RC&D. Species benefitted: AMWI, CITE, NSHO, NOPI
Conduct prescribed burns	1322	1 week 10-20 acres	0	1,000	0	Conduct a prescribed burn to control Russian knapweed in east slough. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Integrate biological control	1322	1 week 15 acres	0	3,000	0	Use biological control methods for Canada thistle control in west slough. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Evaluate control methods	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Monitor weed control methods. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management program - road and water level improvements						
Improve roads and access	1211	1 week	2 weeks	2,000	2,500	Maintain 2 access areas and 1

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
areas						wildlife observation area with associated facilities and roads. Species benefitted: Double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, great egret
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate enforcement with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and access with canal company. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, NOPI, CANV
Management program - Monitor harvest						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Monitor waterfowl harvest and WMA use through hunter checks. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Evaluate nongame production						
Evaluate nongame production and habitat use	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Monitor nongame use and production on WMA. Species benefitted: White-faced ibis, black-necked stilt, northern harrier, short-eared owl
Monitor and maintain nesting boxes and platforms	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Monitor and repair nongame nesting boxes and platforms. Species benefitted: American kestrel, mountain bluebird, red-tailed hawk, northern saw-whet owl
Management Program - Enhance public information program						
Conduct tours	1211	1 week 10 tours	1 week	1,000	1,000	Conduct 10 WMA tours for scouts, schools, and other

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						interested groups. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, REDH, white-faced ibis
DEPREDATION CONTROL						
Management Program - Provide lure crops for waterfowl						
Improve irrigation capabilities	1211	1 week 30 acres	1 week	5,500	5,500	Improve north agricultural fields' irrigation system to more acres of goose pastures and/or grain lure crops. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, mule deer, moose
Plant spring or fall grains	1322	2 weeks 20 acres	1 week	4,500	2,000	Plant winter wheat lure crop in north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, pronghorn antelope
Provide goose pasture from existing alfalfa fields	1322	359 acres				Provide goose pasture through existing farming operations on north and west agricultural fields. Species benefitted: CAGO, long-billed curlew, mule deer, moose
Management Program - Service depredation complaints						
Service depredation complaints and repair zon guns	1720	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Assist landowners with wildlife depredation complaints. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, moose, white-faced ibis
Monitor and evaluate depredation problems	1720	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Monitor waterfowl use on local landowner property. Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, NOPI
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Enhance upland game production						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	2 weeks 50 acres	2 weeks	4,000	5,000	Control Russian knapweed in east slough. Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Plant 5-20 acres of winter food plots	1322	1 week 5-20 acres	1 week	2,000	2,000	Plant corn or millet food plots on north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Management Program - Upland game hunting						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Monitor upland game harvest and WMA use through hunter checks. Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Check water levels and dikes	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Monitor water levels and repair and maintain dikes. Species benefitted: REDH, CANV, MALL, LESC
Maintain fence	1211	3 weeks 33 miles	1 week	4,000	3,000	Repair and maintain fences. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Maintain road	1211	1 week 18 miles	1 week	4,000	4,000	Repair and maintain roads. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week 5 miles	1 week	4,000	4,000	Repair and maintain dikes. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, LESC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain buildings	1211	1 week	3 weeks	3,000	6,000	Repair and maintain headquarters, shops, and access areas. Species benefitted: LSGO, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	6 weeks	5 weeks	5,000	5,000	Perform duties of regional habitat biologist in the Mud Lake habitat district. Species benefitted: Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, sage grouse
Assist landowners on wildlife	1720	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,500	3,000	Assist landowners with HIP projects and other wildlife habitat concerns. Species benefitted: Gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, MALL, CAGO
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1710	3 weeks 20 projects 30 meetings	3 weeks	3,500	3,500	Assist other agencies on wildlife/habitat projects and attend meetings on habitat issues. Species benefitted: Sage grouse, elk, sharp-tailed grouse, mountain goat
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks	8 weeks	3,000	6,000	Work on WMA planning, progress, review, and evaluation reports. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain files, prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,500	4,000	General WMA operations. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,018	3,518	Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						NOPI, CAGO, sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$134,018
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$134,018

NARRATIVE

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area

The 8,853-acre Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County is 3 miles north of Terretton, Idaho, and 30 miles northwest of Idaho Falls. The WMA is adjacent to the 3,000 acre Mud Lake. Land acquisition was started in 1940, with the purchase of 607.14 acres. The latest purchase was made in 1969. Today, there are 5,889 acres that have been purchased. There are also 2,705 acres of U.S. Government withdrawn land and 259 acres of land that are leased from the State of Idaho within project boundaries.

Mud Lake was once a sump area where Camas Creek disappeared and extended several miles farther southeast, south, and west from its present diked area. Bordering farmlands have been established in areas once covered by water. The water of Mud Lake is not controlled by Fish and Game, but is used for irrigation of the surrounding farmland. The local canal company pumps water into the lake from nearby wells. The water enters the lake by way of Camas Creek or the Sparks Canal.

The WMA habitat is shallow lake (average depth 5 feet) grading up through bulrushes (Scirpus spp.), cattails (Typha latifolia) into salt grass (Distichlis spp.), and willows (Salix spp.), and finally into big sagebrush (Artemisia spp.). Approximately 450 acres within the boundary are under cultivation by sharecroppers.

Wildlife

The WMA was acquired to provide additional breeding and nesting areas for waterfowl and produces over 3000 waterfowl a year. The WMA is primarily managed for breeding and migrating waterfowl. Although Mud Lake has a high potential for producing waterfowl, flooding is a frequent problem. The lake is used for storing irrigation water, and most years the lake level rises after incubation has started. The Department has built many islands, but wave action, ice, and flooding have eroded many of them. Nesting platforms have been constructed above the high-water line, and have increased goose production on the WMA. Weed management will also be a high priority, as Russian Knapweed has taken over some waterfowl nesting areas.

There are 28 species of waterfowl and 49 species of water and shorebirds that use Mud Lake with the most common being Canada geese, mallard, gadwall, widgeon, pintail, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, redhead, lesser scaup, ruddy ducks, sandhill cranes, western grebes, and eared grebes. Trumpeter swans and peregrine falcons have recently appeared on the WMA. Spring use is highest, with up to 5,000 Canada geese, 50,000 snow geese, and 150,000 ducks using the area. Nesting colonies of white-faced ibis, double-crested cormorants, great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons, cattle egrets and Franklin's gulls are found on the area. Fall use has up to 2,500-5,000 Canada geese and 20,000-60,000 ducks present for the hunting season.

Pheasant populations declined drastically during the early 1970's in the Mud Lake area. Populations recovered slightly after 1978, but are still far below former levels. There are large numbers of mourning doves produced on the WMA. Hungarian partridge and sage grouse commonly are found on the WMA.

Cottontail rabbits are quite common on the WMA, but numbers fluctuate with cycles in the populations. Jackrabbit populations also fluctuate and, at peak populations, can seriously reduce residual nesting cover.

Moose, elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer use of the WMA has increased in the last ten years. Approximately 10-40 elk, 60-120 deer and 40-60 antelope have been observed on the WMA during most winters. About 60 deer, 10 moose, and 30 antelope are year-round residents.

Mud Lake had a fish kill during the winter of 1992-93. Because Mud Lake is so shallow, the possibility of another kill is high. The lake has been restocked with large-mouth bass, yellow perch, Lahotan cutthroat trout, brown trout, tiger muskie, bluegill, and channel catfish. It presently supports mainly a yellow perch and Lahotan cutthroat trout fishery, with Utah chubs and suckers still common species.

Public Use

Mud Lake WMA provides over 10,000 user days, with waterfowl hunting providing over 1,000 user days. The WMA also provides opportunity for wildlife viewing, picnicking boating, fishing, big game hunting, and upland bird hunting.

Waterfowl hunting is one of the heaviest uses of the area. Most waterfowl hunting occurs in the first part of the season as Mud Lake tends to freeze early. Most of the hunting occurs in the marsh areas around the main body of the lake.

The number of pheasant hunters has declined during the past 5 years. Over 95 percent of the harvest is game farm cocks planted on the farm land on the north side of the lake under a project funded entirely by license funds. Interior roads in the pheasant hunting area have been open to the public during the season.

Other hunting for deer, antelope, cottontails, jackrabbits, sage grouse, mourning doves, and coyotes totals about 500 visits a year, and appears fairly constant.

Fishing is also popular on Mud Lake, especially during the spring and winter. Largemouth bass are the primary species sought by local fishermen in the spring. Winter ice fishing for yellow perch is very popular.

There are two boat docks on the WMA, one each, on the south side and north side of Mud Lake. Both boat docks have outhouses and picnic areas, and overnight camping is permitted.

Another picnic area with an outhouse is located in the center of the WMA. An observation tower is located at this area and allows a good view of the cormorant and heron colony during the spring and summer.

Eighteen miles of road are maintain and provide access to the majority of the WMA. Various access points, informational displays, and parking areas are maintained for the public.

1995-1996 Conditions

Waterfowl production was moderately good in 1995 considering the amount of early flooding. Good production throughout the Pacific Flyway resulted in large fall numbers of ducks on the WMA. Mud Lake froze early in November, but thawed back and had open water until mid December. Waterfowl hunting on the WMA was good to excellent.

In 1996, run-off from late snow melt and late pumping by the canal company to prevent flooding resulted in the loss of many early waterfowl nests. As of August, it appears that there was a strong renesting effort and late nesting waterfowl did well, especially gadwall.

A dry spring and early summer has resulted in mediocre grass conditions and very little regrowth after grazing.

Peregrine falcons successfully hatched a nest in the nesting tower.

There was an increase in the sightings of white-tailed deer on the WMA. In the months of June and July white-tails were seen weekly.

1995-1996 Projects

A month was spent preparing for and giving open houses to the public on the Mud lake WMA management plan. Public input is critical to sound WMA management. All input on waterfowl and weed management was positive. Most people believe the waterfowl management is on track. The most complaints were about the lack of pheasants on the WMA. Most wanted sustainable populations on the WMA and some wanted more stocking. The increase of red fox in the area was also a concern. Also, improving the fishery of Mud Lake was major concern for some people.

Weed control activities continued on approximately 160 acres of the WMA. The application of Curtail herbicide and a surfactant at or just before bud of Russian knapweed resulted in great control in 1995. This combination was tried again in 1996. Tordon herbicide was also used in a couple of small plots. A test plot was established with Wilber-Ellis to test the effects of Telar and Veteran 720 on knapweed. Mowing of knapweed will be suspended because of the lack of temporary time.

Approximately 100 acres were seeded to nesting cover, mainly in the wildfire burn. A local custom seeder was used for some of the work with good results.

Developed a 1 year share-crop agreement on the west agriculture fields. The IDFG's share will be in the form of a food plot.

Continued share-crop activities on the north agricultural fields. Improved the irrigation canal.

Both the B well and the 125 hp irrigation well had extensive work done. The B well had its 75 hp motor replaced with a 100 hp motor and had the head shaft replaced. The 125 hp irrigation well had the head shaft and bearings replaced.

Roads on Mackenzie Point, Duck Trap Point, and Green Island were brushed out in some areas where willows were over growing the roads. The access road to Green Island had gravel added and was improved.

The Mud Lake WMA informational signs and picnic tables were painted.

Over a hundred goose structures were maintained.

Several miles of temporary electric fencing was used to try to improve grazing on the WMA.

1996-1997 Planned Projects

Plan to develop an agreement with Owsley Canal Company to deliver water to the far western portion of west sloughs.

Plan on installing a water control structures in west slough to create more wetlands if an agreement with Owsley Canal Company can be reached.

Will work on developing food plots for upland game on and off the WMA.

Will try to disc open some bulrush choked wetland.

Will improve exits on HIP predator fence.

Will continue to control weeds.

Will continue share-crop activities.

Plan on improving the north boat ramp access facilities for waterfowl hunters. Plan on adding fire rings.

Will paint observation tower.

Will try to replace 2 miles of boundary fence.

Mud Lake Habitat District

Objective

To provide technical assistance to other state and federal agencies in the Mud Lake habitat district. To review and provide recommendations on projects of other agencies and entities that affect wildlife and wildlife habitat in habitat district. To assist landowners in planning, funding, and installing habitat projects on private lands.

1995-1996 Projects

U.S. Forest Service

Worked on IDFG comments for the Environmental Assessment on renewal of USFS grazing permits for Mammoth-Coal Kiln, Grouse Canyon, East Indian-Modoc, and East Beaver Allotments. All the allotments were in fairly good shape but the EA was vague on some subjects.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Dry Creek, Alex Draw East, Bear Gulch, Little Kay, and Van Noy timber salvage sales. All but the Dry Creek sale were small sales. Three of the sales have been withdrawn by the Forest Service. The Dry Creek and Van Noy timber salvage sales are still pending.

Met with the Forest Service on developing the Modoc Coordinated Resource Management Plan. The CRMP will encompass several allotments in the Modoc Creek drainage. The CRMP will consist of the Forest Service, BLM, Idaho Department of Lands and several permittees. The CRMP will include private land. The CRMP is in early development but has the potential to really improve grazing in the drainage.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Echo Bay mineral exploration. Echo Bay wanted to expand its drilling exploration for gold near Kilgore. The drilling would be low impact and would not create any substantial problems.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Stoddard Creek land exchange. The USFS wanted to trade an isolated piece of property for a parcel near the Stoddard Creek campground. The exchange would better define Forest boundaries and protect a high use area from development.

Bureau of Land Management

Worked on IDFG comments for the Birch Creek land exchange. The BLM wants to trade isolated tracks in the Salmon area with the Nature Conservancy for a ranch that encompasses a large portion of the Birch Creek fen. The ranch will be managed as an ecological area. The fen is a unique area and has several rare and endangered plants. The isolated tracts around Salmon were commented on by the Salmon IDFG.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Coal-Kiln Allotment. The BLM wants to convert the allotment from sheep to cattle. The allotment has been rested for 4 years and initial grazing will be conservative.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Attended an informative wetland identification and delineation course.

Worked on signing a portion of IDFG's Kaufman access area into the Wetland Reserve Program. The parcel is part of the Birch Creek fen and has several rare and endangered plants. The agreement will help protect a spring and improve vegetation along Birch Creek.

Attended a meeting on the Camas Creek rehabilitation. Part of Camas Creek that runs through Blain Larsen's property has severe erosion problems from past channelization and moving of the creek bed. The meeting focused on a draft plan to remedy the erosion problems. This project is still pending.

Idaho Department of Lands

Initiated a meeting with IDL, BLM, USFS, and NRCS to discuss sagebrush control projects in the Dubois-Kilgore area. It was an informational meeting.

Worked on IDFG comments for Morgan Crater Allotment sagebrush control project. IDL and the permittee want to use Spike herbicide to reduce the amount of sagebrush on IDL land. The main reason appears to be that the IDL wants an increase in IDL AUMs. The surrounding area has already had several recent control projects in the near vicinity and cumulative impacts were not considered. This project is still pending.

Developed IDFG comments for the Ching Creek timber sale. The IDL is proposing a shelterwood cut on Ching Creek. This project is still pending.

1996-1997 Planned Projects

Will continue to review and monitor sagebrush control projects.

Will look for grouse leks in district as they apply to sagebrush control projects.

Will work with county and state agencies on weed control in district.

Will look at and review USFS and IDL purposed timber sales.

Will coordinate waterfowl activities with Camas NWR.

Will work on Mud Lake water right adjudication.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Dennis Aslett
 Assistant: Anna Owsiak
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Sand Creek Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SAND CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities

1. ELK WINTERING
2. MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING
3. SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION
4. PUBLIC HUNTING
5. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
6. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION
7. PUBLIC FISHING

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ELK WINTERING						
Management Program - Cooperative development and management of elk winter range						
Monitor four use trade agreements	1630	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer, sage grouse
Assist wildlife management staff in census, winter movements, and marking	1460	1 weeks	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sage grouse
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase, lease, easement, or use trade	1111	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Management Program - Increase elk use of transition ranges						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide legumes and grains for elk feed	1322	3 weeks 150 acres	2 weeks 100 acres	4,000	2,600	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, MALL, GAGO
Establish and conduct a range monitoring program to assess big game use of transition range. Monitor and report use.	1460	2 weeks	1 week	1,900	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Monitor hunting season and make recommendations to improve elk use of transition areas	1430	4 weeks	3 weeks	3,600	3,900	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose
MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING						
Management Program - Increase forage production						
Rotomow 50 acres of decadent bitterbrush	1322	1 week 50 acres				Species benefitted: Moose, mule deer, elk, sharptail grouse
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd composition counts	1460	1 weeks	1 week		1,300	Species benefitted: Deer, moose, elk, sage grouse
Assess possibilities for land acquisition, use trade, lease	1111	1 week	1 week		1,300	Species benefitted: Deer, elk, moose, sage grouse
SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Vegetation and water management						
Identify lek areas on WMA and adjacent lands	1450	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	2,600	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharptail grouse
Maintain good residual cover adjacent to leks	1440	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharptail grouse
Monitor use of water developments	1440	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Deer, elk, moose, sage and sharptail grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Identify winter areas and cooperate with other agencies to protect winter habitat	1460	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	1,300	Species benefitted: Sage and sharptail grouse, moose, elk
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Conduct annual lek counts	1460	1 week	2 weeks	900	2,600	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharptail grouse
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	2,600	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharptail grouse, doves, ruffed grouse
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management program - Maintain current hunting level, improve quality						
Develop an access management plan for motorized vehicles	1620	2 weeks	2 weeks WMA brochure	1,800	2,600	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, CAGO
Maintain hunter access roads	1211	2 weeks	1 week	5,000	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, sage grouse, sharptail grouse
Provide information and signing on area closures, monitor area closures	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	2,600	Species benefitted: CAGO, elk, deer, moose
Improve facilities for nonmotorized access	1331	1 week	1 week	2,000	1,300	Species benefitted: Moose, deer, elk, CAGO
Work with five private landowners to maintain public access	1720	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sage grouse
Make recommendations for hunting seasons	1630	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, MALL, CAGO
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and	1430	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
visitor use						
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide quality nesting cover and food crops						
Provide 50 acres of grain	1322	2 weeks 50 acres	2 weeks 46 acres	5,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, BUFF, GRSC
Improve nesting cover on 20 acres in the pond area	1440	2 weeks 20 acres	1 week 20 acres	3,000	1,300	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, AMWI, GADW
Provide additional nesting structures: five grouse, five bufflehead	1440	1 week	1 week 5 goose structures	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, BUFF
Continue signing and patrolling nesting areas to prevent disturbance	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,700	3,900	Species benefitted:
Monitor waterfowl production and report findings	1460	1 week	2 weeks	900	2,600	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production						
Conduct tours, give programs	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,600	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Evaluate nongame habitat needs, implement habitat developments	1440	2 weeks				Species benefitted: Kestrals, sand hill crane, osprey, great blue heron
Maintain a nature trail in the pond area and monitor use	1331	2 weeks	1 week	2,500	1,300	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sand hill crane
Provide and protect nesting areas for trumpeter swans	1440	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,500	3,900	Species benefitted: Trumpeter swan, CAGO, MALL, AMWI
Management Program - Regulate and monitor trapping						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Require trappers to register with area manager and report harvest. Submit annual report	1430	1 week	1 week	900	1,300	Species benefitted: Beaver, muskrat, mink, fox
Maintain furbearer habitat in pond areas	1440	1 week		800		Species benefitted: Mink, muskrat, beaver, fox
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	5,500	Species benefitted:
Check water levels and dikes	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	3,900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Swan, BUFF
Maintain fence	1211	4 weeks 55 miles	4 weeks 55 miles	4,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Replace fence	1211	3 weeks 3 miles	2 weeks 2 miles	10,000	7,000	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, grouse
Maintain road	1211	2 weeks 5 miles		5,000		Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, grouse
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks 2.5 miles	2 weeks 2.5 miles	4,500	3,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, swan, BUFF
Maintain buildings and structures	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	2,600	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review and comment on proposed habitat projects	1710	10 weeks 20 projects	6 weeks 14 projects	10,500	7,200	Species benefitted: Great gray owl, elk, deer, moose
Assist five landowners on wildlife projects	1720	2 weeks	1 week 2 projects	1,800	1,300	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, pheasant, partridge
Cooperate with other agencies, attend coordination meetings	1710	4 weeks	4 weeks 10 meetings	5,000	5,200	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse

Management Priorities

1. Elk Wintering
2. Mule Deer and Moose Wintering
3. Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Production
4. Public Hunting
5. Waterfowl Production
6. Wildlife Appreciation and Other Wildlife Production
7. Public Fishing

Summary of Activities

1. Elk Wintering

- a. Cooperative development and management of elk winter range.

Four existing use trades were monitored and no significant changes were made. Use trades provided 2,000 sheep and 110 cattle AUMs this year. These agreements are a cooperative effort involving Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands and private landowners.

Assistance was provided to the wildlife population staff for winter elk population and herd composition counts. Snow fall was light and temperatures moderate until late January and elk did not migrate in significant numbers to winter range until that time. Elk were counted in February with the following results: A total of 3,283 elk were counted with 1623 cows, 693 calves, and 967 bulls. The ratios were 60 bulls and 43 calves per 100 cows.

- b. Acquire critical winter range.

Potential opportunities for winter range acquisition were monitored but no new proposals were submitted.

- c. Increase elk use of transition ranges.

One hundred acres of alfalfa and 30 acres of grain were provided for big game forage on transition range at the Sand Creek Ponds.

Range monitoring transects were established on transition ranges and elk pellet transects will be established this fall.

Hunting seasons were monitored but due to mild and wet conditions, elk harvest in general was very light and elk movements minimal until after hunting seasons ended. Recommendations were submitted for appropriate changes in hunting seasons and controlled hunt permit levels.

2. Mule Deer And Moose Wintering

- a. Increase forage production.

No brush mowing was conducted this year due to personnel shortage created when the Wildlife Technician transferred and the position was not refilled for several months.

Assistance was provided for winter deer and moose population surveys. Counts were done in February which limits herd composition for both species due to antler drop earlier in the winter. Survey results are as follows:

The raw count on deer was 2297 and the sightability count was 2733. There were 794 fawns, 1283 unclassified adults (does and bucks with no antlers), 148 antlered, and 72 unclassified. The fawn ratio was 55 per 100 adult deer.

Moose were counted incidentally during elk and deer counts and there were 219 total moose with 5 large bulls, 18 small bulls, 16 unclassified bulls, 63 cows, 47 calves, and 70 unclassified.

One land acquisition proposal for moose winter range was resubmitted for consideration.

3. Sage And Sharp-tailed Grouse Production

a. Vegetation and water management.

Lek searches were conducted as time allowed on the WMA and adjacent lands. One new potential sharptail lek was noted south of the Crooked Road in a recent prescribed burn area. The sharptail lek identified in Rick's Pasture last spring was confirmed and mapped this year. The CRP ground east of the Sand Creek Road was searched but no new leks were documented.

A considerable amount of time was spent assisting the sage grouse research team in locating leks, trapping birds, and providing technical assistance.

Comment letters and technical assistance was provided to protect known production and wintering areas. Locations of sage grouse that were observed during big game winter flights were noted. The Sand Creek Pond area continues to be a significant sharp-tailed grouse winter area.

Use of the 5 wildlife guzzlers on the Sand Creek desert was monitored through the summer. Four of the five are receiving sage grouse use, all have nongame species and mule deer use. One guzzler apparently has a leak and did not have water for the entire summer.

b. Evaluate annual production

The Grassy sharp-tailed grouse lek route produced no confirmed leks this year for the third year in a row. The Sand Creek route had two of four leks active. A total of 14 birds was recorded which is down from 17 to 20 recorded in previous years. One of the four leks has been inactive for several years and the one north of the rifle range may have moved and was not located. In addition, the Chokecherry Ridge sharptail lek was active and 20 males were noted on one count.

Eight active sage grouse leks were noted in the area and several were used as trap sites for the sage grouse research project. They included Jenkins Well, Weredeer, Miller's Corral, two on the Crooked Road, Sand Creek Road, and two on the Red Road.

The Red Road check station was operated on the opening weekend of grouse season with the following results:

A total of 369 hunters were checked with 100 sage grouse and 28 sharptails. The birds per hunter was .35. This is the lowest number of both hunters checked and sage grouse taken on record. The birds per hunter was up slightly from the record low of .18 in 1993. The sharptail harvest was also up slightly from last year with birds being taken in some of the old

burns. Birds were scattered throughout the season and the desert was green all summer and into the fall. Ample water and green vegetation was available through the hunting season.

Wing barrels were used for the first time and placed at the Red Road check station site, the Sand Creek Road, and the Ashton cutoff road. A total of 18 sharptail wings were collected with 9 adult and 9 juvenile birds. Fifty two sage grouse wings were collected but were not aged.

4. Public Hunting

- a. Maintain current hunting level and improve quality.

Vehicle traffic is restricted to designated roads on much of the WMA and Targhee Forest to protect habitat, provide security for wildlife, and promote quality hunting. Cooperation with adjacent landowners has been essential in allowing hunting on much of the private lands in the area. Project personnel sign or provide signs for landowners and monitor hunters during the hunting seasons.

Hunter access roads were maintained through cooperation with Fremont County, seven landowners, and by using Department equipment.

Information was provided and posted at all necessary locations to inform hunters of area closures. Signs were monitored and replaced as necessary and the WMA and surrounding areas were patrolled regularly to monitor hunter activities.

New facilities to promote nonmotorized use included putting gates in the new fences to allow horse and foot traffic access in designated areas.

Hunter check stations for big game were minimal due to a wet fall and very low harvest rate throughout the hunting season. Recommendations for changes in hunting seasons were compiled and submitted.

5. Waterfowl Production

- a. Provide quality nesting cover and food crops.

In the fall of 1995, 30 acres of grain were left standing for wildlife use. In 1996, 63 acres of grain were planted and will be left standing for waterfowl use in the fall.

Nesting cover is being increased by leaving 80 acres of alfalfa and grass standing adjacent to the ponds. These fields were previously cut for hay.

Five new goose nesting structures were added at the ponds. No new bufflehead boxes were installed.

The waterfowl nesting areas around the ponds were signed and patrolled frequently. Disturbance was noted on occasion by anglers particularly near the ponds that are closed for swan nesting.

Goose production was monitored and included a total of 121 goslings. Ten of twenty goose platforms were used. Duck production was not monitored this year.

6. Wildlife Appreciation and Other Wildlife Production

- a. Maintain public contact, monitor nongame species, and increase trumpeter swan production.

Tours were given to scout, 4-H, school, and sportmen's groups as well as tours involving Department and other agency personnel. Presentations were given to school groups, scout groups, at regional meetings and at public meetings. A poster display highlighting the WMA was created and used at public meetings and schools to provide information about the WMA. A new WMA brochure was completed and has been distributed to numerous groups and individuals.

The nature trail has not yet been completed due to the transfer of the Wildlife Technician to Market Lake.

In 1995, all five of the trumpeter swan cygnets produced survived to flight stage. In the spring of 1996, trumpeter swan nesting territories were signed and protected throughout the nesting period. Three nests were documented for the second year including Pond 4, Pond 2, and the Swan Pond. Hatching dates were June 20 for Pond 4 with 3 cygnets (only one survived after the first week), June 24 for the Swan Pond with 1 cygnet, and June 27 for Pond 2 with four cygnets. At the end of the fiscal year, 6 cygnets were still alive. Survival data will be included in next year's annual report.

A pair of adult bald eagles was frequently seen in the pond area throughout the spring. Efforts were made to locate a potential nest site but were not successful.

7. Administration

- a. Maintain improvements.

Weed control included spraying 61 acres of grain crops, 12 acres of fallowed fields, and 20 acres around campgrounds, dikes, islands, and roadways primarily for Canadian thistle. Knapweed was controlled by hand pulling, spraying, and the release of 1500 seed head gall flies at the Parker HQ. Musk thistle was also spot treated on the Mortimer segment.

Dikes and water levels were checked frequently especially in the spring with high water levels. Run off was high but no major problems occurred.

All fences were maintained and 1 1/2 miles of new fence were constructed on the north boundary of the WMA by the St. Anthony work crew. In addition, 1/2 mile of fence was replaced adjacent to Pinnock.

All roads and dikes were maintained using Department equipment and personnel. Excessive vegetation was removed and encroaching trees and willows on dikes were sprayed.

All buildings and structures were maintained. The water system in the 2nd HQ was once again repaired. The generator at the 2HQ is presently in the shop for repair.

- b. Technical assistance.

Fourteen comment letters were submitted and included grazing allotments, timber sales, land exchanges, easements, and other wildlife related projects.

Assistance was provided to four landowners on wildlife projects, one agreement was signed and two are pending.

A total of 14 coordination meetings were attended and subjects included weed control, grouse conservation plans, work camp activities, range tours, project proposal meetings, and habitat section meetings.

The Sands Habitat Management Plan Revision has still not been initiated so no input was given.

Training included computer class, GPS, flight safety, CDL, grouse wing bee, enforcement, ISTS, wetland plant identification course, physical fitness, and firearms.

c. Administrative duties.

All necessary plans, budgets, evaluations, and special reports were prepared and submitted. Files were maintained and updated.

Other duties included becoming more proficient on computers, assisting population biologists in transplanting moose; responding appropriately to various calls from the public or other agencies; assisting the sage grouse research students with their projects on the WMA; assisting other WMA's on fence maintenance, goose platform maintenance, Waterfowl Day, and waterfowl nest searching; providing personnel for the fair booth; and assisting fisheries with planting fish, monitoring anglers at the Sand Creek Ponds, and Free Fishing Day.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Terry Thomas
 Assistant: Paul Faulkner
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Tex Creek Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

TEX CREEK HABITAT DISTRICT

Management Activities

1. PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
2. STATE ENDOWMENT LANDS
3. BLM LAND IN EASTERN IDAHO
4. HIP PROGRAM
5. 7,000 ACRES FISH AND GAME LAND
6. SOUTH FORK OF SNAKE RIVER IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Tex Creek Habitat District including one Forest Service district, Idaho Department of Lands land, Bureau of Land Management land, and South Fork River Planning Committee						
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review project proposals and provide recommendations on projects submitted by state, federal, and other entities.	1710	10 weeks	10 weeks 17 projects	8,100	8,100	Species benefitted: Sharptail grouse, elk, mule deer, sage grouse
FISH AND GAME LANDS						
Management Program - Big Game Wintering						
Monitor utilization by big game during winter	1450	6 weeks 7,000 ac	5 weeks	5,800	4,800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose
Maintain winter forage on F&G lands	1211/ 1440	9 weeks	9 weeks	6,800	6,800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharptail grouse
Implement coordinated resource management plan	1322	7 weeks	5 weeks	6,700	5,700	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharptail grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor hunter harvest and public use on F&G lands	1430	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	2,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharptail grouse
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM						
Management Program - HIP						
Waterfowl habitat projects	1322	3 weeks 5-10 proj	7 weeks 7 projects	3,000	5,500	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, NOPI
SOUTH FORK OF SNAKE RIVER IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY						
Management Program - Goose management						
Adopt-A-Wetland program on the South Fork River	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$34,394
Outside funds	0
Grand Total	\$34,394

NARRATIVE

Projects

Management Program, Technical Assistance

The Tex Creek Habitat District encompasses much of Bonneville County and includes the Palisades District of the Targhee National Forest, a portion of the Medicine Lodge Resource Area of the US Bureau of Land Management, a Natural Resource Conservation Service District and lands owned and managed by the Idaho Department of lands as well as many thousands of acres of privately held property. The physiography of the land is diverse, ranging from irrigated wheat fields to alpine mountain goat habitat.

The Project Leader was responsible for reviewing project proposals and submitting comments on projects by the US Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In all, comments were prepared on 10 Forest Service grazing allotment renewals, a proposed snowmobile route through big game winter range, four Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) timber sales, one controlled burn project with IDL and one brush control project with NRCS.

The Project Leader was involved in the South Fork Mitigation Group and the South Fork MOU Group. Both groups are dedicated to improving habitat and coordination between agencies and other interested parties on issues dealing with the South Fork of

the Snake River. The Assistant has been actively involved in the South Fork Biological Weed Control Group and was largely responsible for securing over \$50,000 in funding for biological control of weeds in this area.

Fish and Game Lands

The Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area comprises over 28,000 acres in eastern Bonneville County. It originated as mitigation for winter range losses due to the construction and filling of Ririe and Teton Dams. Idaho Department of Fish and Game has continued to add to the management area as key pieces of property have become available. To date, over 7,000 acres have been acquired by IDFG and are managed primarily as big game winter range. Tex Creek WMA is currently the winter home for 3,500 elk, 4,000-6,000 mule deer, and up to 50 moose. It provides year round habitat for these species and others, including sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, blue and ruffed grouse and many species of songbirds, raptors, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.

Big game use was monitored on the winter range via ground patrols on snowmobiles by the manager, his assistant and other employees as the situation warranted. All big game animals wintered well during the winter of 95-96 and were well dispersed on the WMA. Fertilized fields were utilized heavily, including several fields that have had little or no use in the past several years.

A sightability count was scheduled for the WMA but a fly over in the helicopter demonstrated that the open conditions of last winter would make a meaningful survey unlikely. However, I&E did make a flight to videotape elk and deer use on the WMA.

Forage management on the WMA included haying 600 acres of grass and alfalfa mix fields. Several hundred acres had not been manipulated in many years and were developing a high residual cover making them less attractive to elk. Fields were mowed in July to avoid nesting birds as much as possible.

Four hundred acres were fertilized and as mentioned, proved to be highly attractive to elk.

Winter wheat was sharecropped in alternating strips on 400 acres of state property. The ripe grain was harvested and this year's crop was drilled. The green forage was to provide winter forage for wintering mule deer. However, Russian Wheat Aphids attacked the crop and destroyed it. The crop was reseeded this spring with spring wheat.

The coordinated resource management plan which use trades some spring and fall grazing on IDFG lands for no grazing on privately held critical winter range was implemented again this year. The fall grazing on Bull's Fork substituted for mechanical harvesting and the timing removed residual vegetation from some areas which hastened green up. This in turn helped to keep elk off the neighboring private wheat fields and on the WMA. The spring trade gave the private land a much needed rest.

An intensive effort was made to locate and document all existing sharp-tailed grouse leks on and near the WMA. This effort was largely unsuccessful leading to the conclusion that sharp-tailed grouse numbers have declined significantly in Bonneville County.

Hunters were frustrated in the fall of 1995. Many had trouble finding animals on the WMA. However, one group which put in a lot of time killed six deer for nine hunters. Elk did not arrive on the WMA for the late cow elk hunt due to a very late fall. Therefore, the harvest on the WMA was very light. During the general season, numerous bull were seen on the Meadow Creek unit and several were harvested.

A new WMA brochure was developed and printed during this fiscal year. Information was updated and the format of the brochure changed to meet the new style being used by other WMA's in the state.

Much time was spent preparing poster displays for WMA scoping meetings that were held in March of 1996. This was an attempt to receive comment from the public on what they would like to see on the WMAs.

Habitat Improvement Program

A major waterfowl project on the WMA has been in the development stages and the bid was finally let for the construction of 3 ponds. These ponds will all be in series and will provide 12 acres of open water.

One private waterfowl project was completed and another initiated in the Swan Valley area. These projects are close together and are near another project established in 1991. In all the complex should prove beneficial to waterfowl.

Other waterfowl projects included working at Chilly Slough, servicing goose boxes at Island Park Reservoir, marsh burning at Market Lake WMA, ordering wood duck boxes and coordinating the construction of 20 goose boxes.

Four shelter belts have been approved in the Ririe area for upland birds. One shelter belt was planted, but the other three landowners opted to wait until next year before beginning their projects.

One corn food plot was established but was later canceled when the landowner decided it was not going to make corn.

South Fork of Snake River in Bonneville County

The South Fork of the Snake River was at near record high flows well into July this year due to a heavy snowpack in the Snake River Drainage.

One renewal Adopt a Wetland agreement was signed with Boonena, a company from Swan Valley. Two other agreements, the Idaho Falls Ducks Unlimited and the B&F Distributing agreements, were renewed with minor boundary modifications.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-12
 Project Leader: Robin Holmquist
 Period: 7/1/95-6/30/96

Salmon Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

SALMON REGION

Management Duties:

1. HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN SALMON REGION
2. BACKCOUNTRY RANCHES
3. BIG GAME AND FURBEARER HABITAT MANAGEMENT
4. SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS AND ACCESS AREAS IN SALMON REGION
5. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN SALMON REGION						
Program - Improve waterfowl habitat on public and private land						
Identify waterfowl habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 proj.	595	595	Species benefitted:MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to seven other agencies	1710	1 week 10 projects	1 week 10 proj.	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to ten private landowners for development of waterfowl habitat	1720	1.5 week 10 projects	1.5 week 10 proj.	1,790	1,790	Species benefitted:MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking and trapping CAGO	1460	1 week 2 projects	1 week 2 proj.	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Program - Improve upland bird habitat on private and public land						
Identify upland bird habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 proj.	595	595	Species benefitted:Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Chukar
Provide technical assistance to other four agencies	1710	.5 week 10 sites	.5 week 10 sites	595	595	Species benefitted:Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to 25 private landowners for development of upland habitat	1720	1 week 30 sites	1 week 30 sites	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Evaluate need for chukar water developments	1410	.5 week 5 devel.	.5 week 5 devel.	595	595	Species benefitted:Chukar
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week	1 week	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
BACKCOUNTRY RANCHES						
Program - Maintain big game winter and spring forage						
Monitor big game forage use by elk, deer, BH sheep	1440	1.5 weeks 8 properties	1.5 wks. 8 prop.	1,790	1,790	Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Monitor commercial use agreement	1630	1 week 2 properties	1 week 2 prop.	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Assist wildlife staff in census, winter movement, marking, and trapping	1460	1.5 weeks 3 projects	1.5 wks. 3 proj.	1,790		Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Provide technical assistance for backcountry commercial grazing permits	1710	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Program - Recreational public use						
Work with 3 other agencies and 40 private and 5	1620	1 week	1 week	1,195	1,195	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
commercial users to identify needs and coordinate changes in ranch use						
Develop public use areas to limit conflicts with wildlife and various user groups	1332	.5 week 3 sites	.5 week 3 sites	595	595	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Forest Grouse
Program - Administrative sites for management activities						
Building repairs such as new roof and removal of unwanted buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Move and remove fences	1211	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Maintain irrigation system provide for wildlife and administrative packstock	1211	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	Species benefitted:Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
BIG GAME AND FURBEARER HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Program - Evaluate ungulate use of winter and summer ranges in Salmon Region						
Assist other 3 agencies in the monitoring of commercial grazing allotments on public lands to protect big game habitat	1440	5 weeks 20 allotmnts	5 weeks 20 allot	5,965	5,965	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to other 4 agencies	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,385	2,385	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to 20 private landowners for big game habitat improvements	1720	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd comp counts	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,385	2,385	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Sage Grouse						
Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase or easement	1630	1 week 5 proposals	1 week 5 proposl	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Program - Monitor furbearer habitat						
Evaluate methods for determining furbearer habitat in Salmon Region and use of that habitat.	1440	2 weeks 1 project	2 weeks 1 proj.	2,385	2,385	Species benefitted: Wolverine, Fisher, Marten, Raccoon, Lynx, Fox, Otter, Beaver,
Provide technical assistance to other 4 agencies for furbearer habitat improvements	1710	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	
SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS AND ACCESS AREAS IN SALMON REGION						
Program - Maintain maximum wildlife use on Department controlled properties						
Maintain fences to control trespass livestock	1211	1 week 4 miles	1 week 4 miles	1,190	1,190	Species benefitted: Mule Deer,MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant
Control public access into sensitive habitat areas by signing and barriers	1211	1 week 6 sites	1 week 6 sites	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted: Mule Deer,MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant
Supervise routine maintenance and construction of access areas to maintain wildlife habitat and provide public access	1610	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,770	4,770	Species benefitted: Mule Deer,MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant, Whitetail Deer, Mink
Program - Maintain improvements						
Supervise weed control and train 5 personnel in proper methods of control	1610	1 week	1 week	1,190	1,190	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Supervise routine maintenance	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,385	2,385	
Cooperate with other 5 agencies for joint maintenance of access areas	1630	1.5 weeks	1.5 wks.	1,790	1,790	
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION						
Program - Maintain public contact						
Conduct tours and presentations to promote habitat preservation and development	1610	.5 week	.5 week	595	595	
Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	2 weeks 40 projects	2 weeks 40 proj.	2,385	2,385	
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2.5 weeks	2.5 wks.	2,987	2,987	
Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1620	2 weeks 6 documents	2 weeks 6 doc.	2,385	2,385	
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,965	5,965	
Other duties (as assigned)	1610	1 week	1 week	1,190	1,190	

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$62,027
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$62,027

NARRATIVE

A major portion of the Salmon Region riparian land is in private ownership affecting both waterfowl and upland birds. Census work with Canada goose, sage grouse, and mourning doves indicates needs for increasing habitat management and assistance on private property while at the same time there are increasing numbers of small property owners interested in managing their land for aesthetics and habitat. Coordinating voluntary wildlife management plans for both private and public land should continue through the next few years.

Back country ranch properties continue to have moderate to heavy wildlife and public use. Loon Creek was the only property identified for a commercial agreement during 1996 and may be the only agreement for 1997. The entire agreement was completely rewritten and reviewed as to the new Department policy to prioritize all uses of the property and adjust management.

Noxious weed control on Department land is a high priority, with emphasis to control non-native and highly invasive plants such as Knapweed, Rush Skeleton Weed, and Leafy Spurge. Coordinating with the county, state, and federal agencies has allowed the Salmon Region to identify problems and adjust management for control of noxious weeds.

The United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have intensified concern for forest carnivores, amphibians, and other species that may indicate ecological "health." For the past three winters, the Salmon Region has kept abreast of current work on these species and continues assisting with monitoring forest carnivores.

Public access management will continue to occupy habitat management time. Public use of access sites appears to be increasing and requires management changes to allow an increase in use while limiting land damage. Monitoring of access site use needs to be done to set maintenance priorities for the limited staff and maintain or improve current conditions.

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