

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Stephen P. Mealey, Director

Project W-173-D-13

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Annual Progress Report



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ABBREVIATION CODES TO BE USED IN THIS REPORT:

Common Merganser	COME
Red-breasted Merganser	REME
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-13
 Project Leader: Tom Parker
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Statewide Wildlife 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 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	34 weeks	34 weeks	57,705	57,705	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$57,705
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$57,705

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	146 inq. 6 weeks	9,000	5,000	17 waterfowl and 1 upland game projects completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, pheasant, gray partridge
Supervise six Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	6 WMAs 6 weeks	6 WMAs 6 weeks	16,000	15,000	Supervision provided to three FTEs. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, Elk, WT deer
Supervise habitat maintenance program on WMAs	1630	6 WMA's 2 weeks	6 WMA's 1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
Supervise Forestry Specialist	1322	200 acres 5 weeks	230 acres 5 weeks	9,000	15,000	Four timber sale contracts awarded. Species benefitted: WT deer
Supervise Sportsmen's Access Maintenance program	1333	46 sites 6 weeks	46 sites 6 weeks	16,000	15,000	
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	50 acres 1.5 weeks	None	1,000	0	No acquisition proposals submitted.
Fee title, wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1112	150 acres 1.5 weeks	20 acres 1 week	2,000	1,000	One acquisition proposal submitted. No property purchased. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
Non-fee title, non-wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1121	200 acres 2 weeks	187 acres 3 weeks	3,000	4,000	Two licenses, one easement, and two special use permits completed. Species benefitted: WT deer
Non-fee title, wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1122	200 acres 3 weeks	142 acres 3 weeks	3,000	4,000	Three easements and one permit completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1630	25 meetings 3 weeks	20 meetings 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Attended 20 meetings.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 2 weeks	8 projects 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Reviewed eight proposals. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	5 weeks	8 weeks	3,000	8,000	Federal aid work plans prepared for FY98. Annual reports prepared for FY97. Preliminary draft long-range WMA plans were prepared.
Maintain files, prepare reports, editing, payroll,	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	9,700	10,000	FY99 budget request completed.

ACTIVITY purchasing, budgets	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Employee performance evaluations	1630	5 FTEs 2 weeks	5 FTE's 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Five evaluations given.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	7,014	2,714	Jobs completed

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$88,214
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$88,214

NARRATIVE

1. Supervision and Administration

The Project Leader administered the Department wildlife lands and public access sites in the five northern counties of Idaho. Included were the Coeur d'Alene River, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, Farragut, Snow Peak and St. Maries Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) and 46 sportsmen's access sites.

The Project Leader supervised three Regional Habitat Biologists and all land and habitat development projects in the Panhandle Region; a Forestry Specialist dealing with management of timber resources on Department property, and a Utility Craftsman responsible for development and maintenance of sportsmen's access sites.

2. Habitat Improvement Program

The Project Leader is the staff advisor and coordinator for the Department's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) in the Panhandle Region. The HIP program, funded by the sale of Idaho Waterfowl and Upland Bird Stamps, strives to improve habitat for waterfowl and upland game birds on private property. The primary emphasis in the Panhandle Region is on waterfowl habitat development. Seventeen waterfowl and one upland game projects were completed.

With the passage of the 1997 Farm Bill by the U.S. Congress, local farmers once again were able to enroll farmland in the Conservation Reserve Program.

3. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Long-range planning efforts for all WMAs continued. A second series of open house scoping sessions were held from October through December to display strategies to deal with issues identified in previous scoping sessions. Preliminary work has been completed on draft plans that will be completed next fiscal year.

Required plans and reports were completed and forwarded to headquarters on 1997 goose nesting surveys, waterfowl banding summaries for 1996, duck productivity surveys for 1996, weed control plans for 1997, predator control plans for 1997, updated waterfowl band recovery report, and ingested lead shot/steel shot summaries from the 1995 and 1996 waterfowl season openers.

Considerable time was spent by the Project Leader on a Land Status Report requested by the Fish and Game Commission. The report contained the acreage of Department property, present value, income generated, costs to manage, and management priorities.

Draft Forest Management Plans were prepared for Farragut WMA and Sportsmen's Park access site. The Project Leader serves on the Panhandle Region Forest Management Team that is responsible for preparing timber sales on Department property that benefit wildlife.

The Panhandle Region was subjected to a second year of major flooding from late spring through early summer due to above normal snowpack. The bulk of the damage that occurred last year on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA was not repaired in time before this year's flood event occurred. Two low head dikes and one water control structure still need to be repaired. About half of the free-standing goose nesting platforms will have to be replaced again.

4. Forestry Program

Four timber sales were set up and awarded. The Sportsman's Park Salvage Sale salvaged trees damaged by a winter ice storm. The Thompson Lake III Sale completed removal of insect-damaged ponderosa pine and thinned the remaining trees to protect the stand from further insect attacks. The West Shepherd Lake Sale and the Farragut Lodgepole Sale were partially completed and will be finished next fiscal year.

A potential fire salvage sale on the South Fork of the Salmon River in the Southwest Region (Region 3) was resurrected due to renewed interest from industry. The Forester also completed the forest inventory report on the property deeded to the Department at Craig Mountain in the Clearwater Region (Region 2) by the Bonneville Power Administration.

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, Bonner County, Benewah County, USFS, 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.

6. Acquisitions

One land acquisition proposal was submitted to Department headquarters. Two potential acquisitions are still active - the Lewis property and White property near Clark Fork. Appraisals, contaminant surveys, cultural resource surveys, and title reports have been completed on both parcels. Field reviews were conducted on three additional parcels of property for possible acquisition but no action was taken.

A proposed value for value land exchange with the Idaho Department of Lands for Department property at St. Maries WMA in Benewah County was discussed and dropped due to potential adverse public reaction.

A five-acre wetland in Bonner County was quit-claimed to the Department by Jon and Karrie Felix. The Department received a wildlife conservation easement from Crown Pacific Inland on 120 acres of property near McArthur Lake WMA in Boundary County.

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.

Three easements were completed. The Department granted utility easements to Kootenai Electric Cooperative at the Mica Bay access site on Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Twin Lakes access site. The third easement was granted to J. D. Lumber Company for road access across the Coeur d'Alene River WMA near Blackrock Slough. Two additional easements were prepared but have not been completed.

A grazing agreement was renewed at the Round Lake segment of the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in Benewah County.

A long-term easement with the Sandpoint Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, for the recreational site on the Department's Garfield Bay property in Bonner County expired 11/30/96. The Forest Service declined to renew the easement since the land exchange for the Garfield Bay property was unsuccessful. The property was subsequently licensed to the Bonner County Board of Commissioners to continue its use as a recreation site.

Two temporary Special Use Permits were prepared for group events on Department property at Garfield Bay and McArthur Lake WMA.

8. Cooperation With Other Agencies

The Project Leader represented the Department at regularly scheduled meetings of the Natural Resource Committee that deals primarily with public access and waterways improvements. Frequent contact and cooperation was continued with those agency personnel involved with providing public access - Bureau of Land Management, Kootenai County, and Bonner County Waterways Departments.

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, and wildlife mitigation proposals due to Federal and private hydroelectric facilities.

9. Other Duties

The Project Leader serves as the Panhandle Region Waterfowl Banding Coordinator, 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 three occasions.

Benefits:

1. Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) - Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties.
2. Six Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) - McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, Farragut, Coeur d'Alene River, St. Maries and Snow Peak.
3. Habitat Maintenance and development program on WMAs.
4. Development of timber sales to improve wildlife habitat.
5. Sportsmen's access maintenance and development program (46 sites).

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Panhandle 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	5 miles 1 week	5 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	St. Maries WMA
Maintain dikes	1211	6 dikes 2 weeks	6 dikes 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Coeur d'Alene River WMA Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	St. Maries WMA Species benefitted: WT deer, Elk
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	3 acres 1 week	3 acres 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Farragut WMA Species benefitted: WT deer, Merriam's turkey
Control vegetation	1211	100 acres 1 week	50 acres 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Farragut/Pend Oreille WMAs. Species benefitted: CAGO, WT deer
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests,	1630	1 week	1 week	500	500	Task completed

ACTIVITY etc.	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	869	640	Task completed

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$10,140
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$10,140

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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 1 week	125 plts 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	All nest platforms were inspected and serviced. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 platforms 1 week	5 plts 1 week	3,000	1,000	Five nest structures were added this year. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Control crows and ravens when necessary	1460	2 weeks	None	1,500	0	No control efforts were implemented.
Management Program - Provide good-quality brood habitat						
Maintain grass/legume pastures	1211	25 acres 3 weeks	25 acres 3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Reseed grazing pastures	1322	4 acres 2 weeks	None	2,000	0	No activity.
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	125 platfrms 1 week	125 plts 1 week	1,500	1,500	23 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 2 weeks	None	3,000	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	1 pr cnt 3 brd cnts	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS COGO, CITE, HOME
		Planned 2 weeks	Actual 2 weeks	Planned	Actual	
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 3 weeks	None	3,000	0	No activity.
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	60 boxes 1 week	44 boxes 1 week	1,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME, COGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 boxes 1 week	5 boxes 1 week	500	500	Five new boxes were added this year.
Manage water level	1211	600 acres 8 weeks	600 acrs 8 weeks	3,000	4,000	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 4 weeks	292 ducks 4 weeks	3,500	3,500	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	500	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						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide foraging sites for migrating shorebirds						
Conduct late summer drawdown	1211	80 acres 1 week	80 acres 1 week	600	1,500	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	800	Task completed. No young fledged. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for osprey and maintain production						
Monitor osprey nesting sites	1460	2 inspectns 1 week	2 inspec. 1 week	500	500	One nest site was found. Species benefitted: Osprey
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	45 prjts 10 weeks	6,000	10,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, pileated woodpeckers, pine marten
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvements	1720	30 inquiries 6 weeks	13 inqs 6 weeks	15,000	12,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, COGO
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents,	1610	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	3,000	Open house held to solicit input on strategies for new

ACTIVITY review, and evaluations	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Provide information to the public						
Give presentations/tours on WMA management	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, industries, and governments	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed.

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 125 elevated nesting platforms have been erected at McArthur Lake to provide nest sites secure from annual flooding and mammalian predators. Prior to the 1997 nesting season, platforms were serviced and supplied with new nest material (hay bales).

Canada goose nests declined from 39 in 1996 to 23 nests observed at McArthur Lake in 1997 (Table 1). The reason for the decline is unknown. Late nesting efforts due to cold and wet early spring conditions may not have been detected during the annual nest survey.

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 and nesting period. 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 1997. 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

Exceptional duck production occurred at McArthur Lake in 1997. While the number of breeding pairs was down, brood numbers, productivity, and duckling numbers were higher than any year since surveys began in 1992 (Tables 2 and 3). In addition, pintail and redhead broods were recorded for the first time this year.

Increased duck production may be attributable to a positive response in marsh vegetation and aquatic macro-invertebrates resulting from reservoir drawdowns in 1994 and 1995. Emergent plants have reoccupied many shallow sites that were open water areas prior to the drawdowns and macro-invertebrates were noticeably abundant in McArthur Lake this spring. Other positive influences in production may include an increasing local duck population and excellent nesting conditions.

Forty-three usable wooden nest boxes were inspected for use in July at McArthur Lake. Boxes contained seven wood duck, six common goldeneye, and three hooded merganser nests (Table 4). Five wood duck (71%), two common goldeneye (33%), and three hooded merganser (100%) nests hatched. As is typical at McArthur Lake, the number of hatched wood duck nests observed in nesting boxes accounts for only a small percentage (26% in 1997) of the broods observed during brood surveys. Either natural tree cavities are used by wood ducks, or hens move their broods to McArthur Lake from surrounding areas.

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

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

Two hundred and ninety-two ducks were trapped and banded on the WMA in July and August 1996 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 heavy and consistent in 1996.

Canada goose band recovery information since 1987 indicates 15.3% of all birds banded at McArthur Lake have been taken by hunters in six states and two Canadian provinces (Table 6). Sixty-four percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; 10% in Washington; 4% in Oregon; 7% in Montana, California and Nebraska; and 15% in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Table 7 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year. The mean direct recovery rate since 1987 has been 5.7%. The mean total recovery rate since 1987 has been 15.3%.

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. However, the nest was unsuccessful this year (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. One successful osprey nest was monitored in 1997.

5. Administration

Two scoping meetings were held in October 1996 in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry to solicit public input on strategies to address issues identified at previous meetings to be used in preparing a new management plan for the WMA.

The WMA suffered no damage during a major flood event in April 1997. The peak runoff over McArthur Lake Dam was estimated at 270 cfs. High flows were sustained throughout March and April as an exceptionally heavy snowpack melted. Periodic flows exceeding 200 cfs occurred during both months.

Table 1. Canada goose nests counted at McArthur Lake WMA since 1988.

Year	Number of Nests
1988	79
1989	92
1990	86
1991	89
1992	56
1993	52
1994	53
1995	24
1996	39
1997	23

Table 2. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on McArthur Lake WMA in 1997.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	33	15	0.45	105
Gadwall	10	0	0.00	0
Am Widgeon	19	8	0.42	43
G.W. Teal	4	0	0.00	0
B.W. Teal and Cinnamon Teal	9	5	0.56	38
Wood Duck	6	19	3.17	131
Ring-Necked Duck	8	8	1.00	50
Common Goldeneye	1	2	2.00	17
Shoveler	2	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	1	1	1.00	9
Pintail	1	1	1.00	5
Redhead	1	3	3.00	16
Unknown	0	1	--	1
Total	95	63	0.66	415

Table 3. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on McArthur Lake WMA since 1993.

Species	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>					<u>Broods</u>					<u>Productivity (Broods/pair)</u>					<u>Ducklings Produced</u>				
	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93
Mallard	33	39	56	36	25	15	7	13	16	14	0.45	0.18	0.23	0.44	0.56	105	35	85	96	73
Gadwall	10	7	8	14	9	0	2	1	2	2	0.00	0.29	0.13	0.14	0.22	0	16	11	11	18
Am Widgeon	19	20	27	26	13	8	4	3	3	4	0.42	0.20	0.11	0.12	0.31	43	34	19	21	24
GW Teal	4	9	5	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
BW and Cin Teal	9	14	21	24	20	5	1	2	2	4	0.56	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.20	38	2	14	11	15
Shoveler	2	6	5	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.25	0	0	0	3	3
Wood Duck	6	12	12	20	14	19	16	10	13	18	3.17	1.33	0.83	0.65	1.29	131	84	64	78	105
RN Duck	8	11	7	16	12	8	4	0	1	5	1.00	0.36	0.00	0.06	0.42	50	27	0	4	28
Com Gold	1	5	2	2	2	2	6	1	2	1	2.00	1.20	0.50	1.00	0.50	17	16	6	8	6
Hood Merg	1	4	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1.00	0.50	---	2.00	1.00	5	17	4	11	5
Pintail	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5	0	0	0	0
Common Merg	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
Redhead	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	---	0.00	---	0.00	1.00	1	0	5	0	13
Total	95	127	143	152	108	63	42	32	42	53	0.66	0.33	0.22	0.28	0.49	415	231	208	243	290

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at McArthur Lake WMA since 1988.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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%)
1997	43	37%	7	6	3	5 (71%)	2 (33%)	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
1996	41	73%	9	20	1	7 (78%)	6 (30%)	1 (100%)

Table 6. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA by area of recovery since 1987^a.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery							
			ID	CA	MT	OR	WA	NE	ALTA	SASK
1987	8	3	1						1	1
1988	43	3					2		1	
1989	80	9	6	1		1				1
1990	109	23	14		2		4		1	2
1991	47	9	7	1					1	
1992	50	8	6			1	1			
1993	37	3	3							
1994	29	6	3			1		1	1	
1995 ^a	21	3	3							
1996	0									
Total	424	67	43	2	2	3	7	1	5	4

^aGoslings banded at four locations on Pend Oreille WMA.

Table 7. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA since 1987.

Year	Number Banded	Direct Returns	Second Year Returns	Third Year Returns	Fourth Year Returns	Fifth Yr. and Over Returns	Percent Recovery Rate					Total Recovery Rate
							Direct	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th and Over	
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	5	8.3	2.8	2.8	2.8	4.6	21.1
1991	47	4	2	1	1	1	8.5	4.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	19.2
1992	50	3	1	2	--	--	6.0	2.0	4.0	--	--	12.0
1993	37	3	--	--	--	--	8.1	--	--	--	--	8.1
1994	29	3	--	3	--	--	10.3	--	10.3	--	--	20.7
1995 ^a	21	2	1	--	--	--	9.5	4.8	--	--	--	14.3
1996	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	424	24	11	14	6	10	5.7	2.6	3.3	1.4	2.4	15.3

^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
1997	Yes	No	0

Benefits:

1. One hundred fifty (150) Canada geese produced annually.
2. Three hundred (300) mallards, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, 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. Supports 2,000 ducks, 900 Canada geese, 300 tundra swans, and 1,500 coots during spring/fall migrations.
5. Spiny ray fishing provided for local residents.
6. Approximately 200 hunter use days from local residents for hunting mallards and Canada geese.
7. One bald eagle nest.
8. Habitat provided for approximately 100 white-tailed deer, 20 elk, 10 moose, 5 black bear.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	180 platfrms 2 weeks	180 plts 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate and add new nest structures	1211	20 platforms 1 week	None	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	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain water control structure in Morton Slough outlet	1211	1 structure 1 week	1 strctr 1 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, REDH, COME
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	180 platfrms 1 week	180 plts 1 week	2,000	2,000	99 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 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed.
Clark Fork Delta check station	1430	1 station 2 days	1 stn 2 days	700	700	85 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	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, CITE, GADW, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	100 boxes 2 weeks	100 boxes 1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Replace, relocate and add new nest boxes	1211	20 boxes 2 weeks	None	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	None	138 ducks 4 weeks	0	4,000	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						
Monitor three bald eagle nests	1460	3 sites 1 week	3 sites 1 week	1,000	800	All nests were successful. Species benefitted: Bald

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						eagle
Participate in midwinter eagle survey	1460	1 day	1 day	200	200	Task completed. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
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 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	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	None	1,000	0	None submitted.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	20 projects 3 weeks	45 prjts 6 weeks	3,000	3,000	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	13 inqrs 6 weeks	3,500	3,000	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	1,000	1,500	Open house held to solicit input on strategies for new WMA plan. Species benefitted: CAGO,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						WODU, MALL
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	2,000	1,500	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	4,987	1,227	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	4 weeks	1,300	3,300	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, WODU, MALL, CITE, AGWT, bald eagle

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$93,527
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$93,527

NARRATIVE

The Pend Oreille Wildlife Management Area is made up of thirteen 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 180 elevated nest platforms. Prior to the 1997 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 number of active Canada goose nests observed on the Pend Oreille WMA decreased slightly from 104 in 1996 to 99 in 1997 (Table 1). Forty-nine of 185 (26%) nesting structures were occupied by nesting geese in 1997. Nests on natural

islands accounted for most of the other nests observed. Particularly important were the 35 ground nests on islands at the Priest River segment of the WMA. The islands near Priest River currently support more nests (46) than any other site in the McArthur Lake Habitat District.

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 dewatered 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 1996 duck hunting season (Table 2). More hunters were checked than in 1995. However, there were fewer total ducks taken and fewer ducks per hunter in 1996. The major species taken by hunters at the Clark Fork Delta over the past three years have been American widgeon, green-winged teal, mallards, and ring-necked ducks.

Duck gizzards were again collected at the check station from hunter-killed ducks to determine the incidence of ingested lead/steel shot. From a sample of 160 gizzards only eight (5%) had ingested shot - four with lead and four with steel. Three of 42 mallard gizzards and one of 24 ring-necked ducks gizzards contained lead shot. In 1995 none of the 213 gizzards contained lead shot and only two ducks had ingested steel shot.

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

This year two breeding pair counts and three brood counts were implemented to assess production at Morton Slough (Table 3). Four duck species were represented by 18 breeding pairs and 11 broods for an over-all productivity estimate of 0.61 broods per pair.

Eleven (44%) of 25 nesting boxes in the Clark Fork Delta contained wood duck nests in 1997 (Table 4). Seven nests hatched (64%). It is important to note that the Clark Fork Delta contains old-growth cottonwood and conifers with abundant natural tree cavities. While no count of duck breeding pairs was conducted at Clark Fork, field observations indicated that breeding wood ducks and common mergansers were numerous.

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/non consumptive 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 1997 (Tables 5 and 6). 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.

The western grebe nesting colony in Denton Slough was not counted in 1996.

The duck production surveys in Morton Slough during spring/summer of 1997 consistently revealed a pair of loons. However, chicks were never observed.

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.

5. Administration

Two scoping meetings were held in October in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry to solicit public input on strategies to address issues identified at previous meetings to be used in preparing a new management plan for the WMA.

Table 1. Canada goose nests observed on the Pend Oreille WMA since 1988.

Area	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Pack River Delta	13	10	16	19	12	15	12	11	16	16
Clark Fork Delta	14	16	19	28	8	2	5	14	8	6
Morton Slough	10	12	16	8	4	3	5	3	2	3
Hoodoo Creek	8	11	11	9	7	7	8	3	2	5
Muskrat Slough	11	10	11	11	11	8	11	10	7	4
Lower Pend Oreille River	15	23	21	18	15	22	15	27	69	65
Total	71	82	94	93	57	57	56	68	104	99

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
1996	85	148	354	1.7	0.4

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed at Morton Slough, Pend Oreille WMA, in 1997.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (broods/pair)	Ducklings produced
Mallard	8	5	0.62	11
Wood duck	3	2	0.67	10
Green-winged teal	4	1	0.25	7
Common merganser	3	3	1.00	23
Total	18	11	0.61	51

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks in the Clark Fork Delta since 1988.

Year	Total Boxes	(% Used)	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1988	27	33%	9	ND	ND	6 (67%)	ND	ND
1989	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
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%)
1997	25	44%	11	0	0	7 (64%)	0	0

ND = No Data

Table 5. Status of bald eagle nest located on Fisherman Island, Pend Oreille WMA, since 1988.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
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
1997	Yes	Yes	3

Table 6. Status of bald eagle nest located in the Clark Fork Delta, Pend Oreille WMA, since 1988.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
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
1997	Yes	Yes	2

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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	190 platfrms 2 weeks	174 plats 2 weeks	6,000	5,000	Task completed. Ninety platforms lost due to flooding. Species benefitted: CAGO
Manage water levels for muskrats	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	340 boxes 2 weeks	340 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	23 boxes 1 week	2,000	1,000	Task completed. Two dikes and one water control structure will be repaired in FY98. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Maintain dikes and water level control structures	1211	12 strctrs 2 weeks	12 strctrs 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
AGWT, WODU, muskrats						
Management Program - Provide good quality brood-rearing habitat						
Maintain grass pasture	1211	150 acres 1 week	150 acres 1 week	2,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search for Canada geese	1460	190 platfrms 1 week	174 plats 1 week	2,000	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Determine wood duck nesting success	1460	250 boxes 1 week	270 boxes 1 week	2,000	2,000	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	500	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	6,000	4,000	Task completed.
Operate check stations	1430	2 stations 2 days	3 stations 2 days	500	500	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	230 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	1,000	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	1,000	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	2 nests 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	2,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: Osprey
Census osprey nest sites	1460	50 nests 1 day	69 nests 2 days	500	500	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	500	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 2 weeks	50 acres 3 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	8,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, CAGO, MALL
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 8 weeks	20 inqrs 5 weeks	12,000	8,000	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	2,000	2,000	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	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Task completed. Draft long range WMA Plan completed. Will be finalized in FY98. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	2 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	6,000	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	7,000	5,000	Tasks completed.

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

A record flood occurred in May 1997. The previous winter snowpack was 150-200% of normal. This is the second consecutive year major flooding has occurred. Of the 174 remaining elevated goose nesting platforms constructed to overcome the problem of flooding, 59 more 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.

Two low-head dikes and one water control structure that were damaged by flooding last year have not been repaired yet.

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. This year was no exception.

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 through a sharecrop agreement 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. Hay fields at Rose Lake, Blackrock 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 continues to reduce livestock trespass in nesting areas.

All elevated nesting platforms that survived the floods were checked in May. Eighty-six Canada goose nests were found - 52 on the lower Coeur d'Alene River, and 34 on the lower St. Joe River (Table 1).

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 three nest boxes were checked from June 30 through August 2. Eighty-three boxes were used by wood ducks and an additional 5 boxes were used by other wildlife species. Sixty-five wood duck nests hatched (78%); 16 were abandoned; one was destroyed; and one was still active. Table 2 contains a summary of wood duck nesting surveys since 1988.

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 1997 breeding pair/brood survey and Table 4 compares data since 1993.

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, 1,267 goslings have been transplanted from Nevada, Oregon and other Regions in Idaho (Table 5).

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 5 and 6, 1996, gizzards were collected from 230 ducks and later x-rayed by students at the University of Idaho. Ingested lead shot was found in 10% of the gizzards and ingested steel shot in 7%.

Canada goose band recovery information for goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1987 indicates 19% of all banded geese have been taken and reported by hunters representing eleven states and three Canadian provinces (Table 8). Fifty percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; 14% in Washington; 10% in Oregon; 5% in California; 7% in Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Ohio combined; and 14% in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Table 9 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year since 1987. The mean direct recovery rate has been 9.5%. The mean total recovery rate has been 19.4%.

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. Clover grass hay was removed from 40 acres by a sharecropper to allow for succulent new growth. About 10 acres was burned in the spring to improve the grass stand for wildlife use.

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 have produced young each of the past three years (Table 10).

A second bald eagle nest was documented in 1994 adjacent to Anderson Lake in a large cottonwood tree on the bank of the Coeur d'Alene River. The nest is on the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way and is approximately 1/4 mile west of the Springston bridge.

As with the Killarney Lake nest, adult bald eagles were observed on the Anderson Lake nest during the nesting season for several years, abandoning the nest each summer without producing young. In 1997 the pair again used the nest and were finally successful producing two young (Table 11).

Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River and lower St. Joe River have been conducted since 1985 (Tables 12 and 13). Osprey readily nest on a variety of structures including live and dead trees, power poles and nesting platforms erected for Canada geese. Seventy-six active osprey nests were located in the spring of 1997. 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 1,675 pounds of wild rice seed was harvested using the project's airboat to supply seed for the Department's Habitat Improvement Program.

A second open house public meeting was held in Medimont to solicit input on strategies to address issues identified in a previous meeting to be used in preparing a new management plan for the WMA.

Table 1. Canada goose nesting data from elevated platforms on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1988.

Year	Round Lake	Heyburn Park	Swan and Thompson Lake	Rose, Porter and Killarney Lakes	Total Nests
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
1997	10	24	23	29	86

Table 2. Wood duck nesting surveys, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1988.

Year	Usable Boxes Checked	Boxes Used (%)	Hatched (%)	Abandoned (%)	Destroyed (%)	Still Active (%)
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%)
1997	160	83 (52%)	65 (78%)	16 (19%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)

ND - No Data

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 1997^a.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	30	16	0.53	95
Wood Duck	16	19	1.19	111
Green-winged Teal	4	1	0.25	6
Redhead	7	1	0.14	1
Bufflehead	2	0	0.00	0
Ring-necked duck	1	0	0.00	0
Common goldeneye	1	0	0.00	0
Total	61	37	0.61	213

^aSpecific areas surveyed include West Thompson Lake Marsh, Blackrock Slough and Mission Slough.

Table 4. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1993.

Species	Breeding Pairs					Broods					Productivity (Broods/pair)					Ducklings Produced				
	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93	97	96	95	94	93
Mallards	30	17	42	40	36	16	15	23	32	23	0.53	0.88	0.55	0.80	0.64	95	78	136	232	153
Wood Ducks	16	18	14	28	28	19	11	6	17	13	1.19	0.61	0.43	0.61	0.46	111	83	22	96	67
Teal (combined)	4	1	8	19	9	1	1	2	7	3	0.25	1.00	0.50	0.37	0.33	6	3	4	27	13
All other species combined	11	1	11	9	6	1	0	0	0	0	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	61	37	75	96	79	37	27	31	56	39	0.61	0.73	0.41	0.58	0.49	213	164	162	355	233

Table 5. Summary of Canada goose goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1988.

Mo-Year	No. Geese Transplanted	Trap Site	Release Site
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	61	Lewiston - Reg 2	Swan Lake 61

Table 6. Opening weekend check station results on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1987.

Year	Number Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Hours	Ducks per Hunter	Ducks per Hour	Wood Ducks
1987	93	209	402	2.2	0.5	12 ^a
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
1996	121	284	381	2.3	0.7	136

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

^b Wood duck bag restrictions removed.

Table 7. Comparison of ingested lead and steel shot in hunter-harvested duck gizzards, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1987.

Year	Sample Size	Percentage With Ingested Lead	Percentage With Ingested Steel
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%
1996	230	10%	7%

Table 8. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA by area of recovery since 1987.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery													
			ID	CA	MT	NV	OR	UT	WA	WY	CO	NE	OH	ALTA	SAS K	NT
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	32	16	7			1		6			1		1		
1991 ^c	325	56	18	2	1		15		9	1				9	1	
1992 ^c	289	40	26	1	1	1	2		6			1		2		
1993 ^d	55	13	8				1			1			1	1	1	
1994 ^e	63	16	11						1	1				2		1
1995	0	--														
1996 ^d	61	18	17						1							
Total	1,197	232	117	12	4	1	23	1	33	5	1	2	1	27	4	1

^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 9. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1987.

Year	Number Banded	Direct Returns	Second Year Returns	Third Year Returns	Fourth Year Returns	Fifth Yr. and Over Returns	Percent Recovery Rate					Total Recovery Rate
							Direct	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th and Over	
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	3	11.9	5.3	0.7	1.3	2.0	21.2
1991 ^c	325	27	7	9	7	6	8.3	2.2	2.8	2.2	1.9	17.2
1992 ^c	289	25	7	3	4	1	8.7	2.4	1.0	1.4	0.4	13.8
1993 ^d	55	7	5	1	--	--	12.7	9.1	1.8	--	--	23.6
1994 ^e	63	8	3	5	--	--	12.7	4.8	7.9	--	--	25.4
1995	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1996 ^d	61	18	--	--	--	--	29.5	--	--	--	--	29.5
Total	1,197	114	51	26	20	21	9.5	4.3	2.2	1.7	1.8	19.4

^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 (Killarney Lake) 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
1997	Yes	Yes	2

Table 11. Status of Anderson Lake bald eagle nest since 1994.

Year	Nest Attempt	Nest Successful	Number of Young Produced
1994	Yes	No	0
1995	Yes	No	0
1996	Yes	No	0
1997	Yes	Yes	2

Table 12. Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River since 1988.

Area	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Mouth Cd'A River	--*	--	9	8	9	6	7	8	5	5
Thompson Lake	--	--	4	5	3	6	8	5	5	7
Blue/Swan lakes	--	--	6	8	9	9	8	7	8	4
Cave/Medicine lakes	--	--	2	2	5	6	2	6	7	4
Lane Marsh	--	--	3	3	2	2	3	1	1	1
Killarney/Hidden lakes	--	--	11	11	11	13	12	16	12	13
Moffitt/Oehrling Sloughs	--	--	3	2	3	4	2	5	3	2
Black Rock Slough/Bull Run Lake	--	--	4	3	2	4	4	5	3	4
Porter/Rose lakes	--	--	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
Mission Slough	--	--	11	11	11	11	9	6	7	7
Totals	49	48	53	54	56	61	56	60	52	49

*No breakdown.

Table 13. Osprey nest surveys on the lower St. Joe River since 1988^a.

Area	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Lower St. Joe River	ND	ND	21	25	33	30	31	29	29	27

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

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 three 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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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 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 3 weeks	4,000	8,000	Task completed Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Random field checks for hunter compliance	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,000	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 1 week	2,500	1,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk
Maintain boundary fences to control livestock trespass	1211	7.5 miles 2 weeks	7.5 miles 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						elk, black bear.
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate level of nonconsumptive users						
Maintain existing roads and trails	1430	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	1,000	1,000	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	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, ruffed grouse
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	10 inquiries 2 weeks	10 inquiries 2 weeks	4,000	3,500	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	1 week	2,500	2,000	Twelve meetings attended. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer, elk, black bear
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	1,000	Public scoping session held to identify strategies for new WMA plan. Species benefitted: WT deer,

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.

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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	2 miles	0	0	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	1,000	1,000	Wilderness Outfitters was maintained as a licensed outfitter. 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	0 acres	0 acres	0	0	No burning conducted.
Assist in aerial surveys to census big game	1460	1 week	0	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	0	0	0	0	No trapping conducted.
Assist in maintenance of trap site at Snow Peak lookout tower	1211	1 site	0	0	0	No maintenance performed.
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	2,500	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	1,000	1,000	A user survey was developed. Sites were periodically inspected.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	4,000	Twenty-four meetings were attended. Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impact of proposed development	1710	25 projects 9 weeks	54 projects 10 weeks	4,500	6,000	Wildlife comments were prepared for fifty-four 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 11 weeks	66 inquiries 12 weeks	12,000	12,000	Sixty-six habitat improvement program requests were received. Sixty-six landowners and eighteen agency contacts were made. Seven agreements were initiated. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, ringneck pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews, and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	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	3,000	3,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,702	4,802	Participation on forest Management Team. Transition to Level 1 enforcement status.

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 FY97, activities on Snow Peak WMA were coordinated with the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. 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 1996 outfitting license was renewed for 1997.

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

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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	40 acres 6 weeks	100 acres 6 weeks	3,500	3,500	Planned and implemented a timber sale in lodgepole pine stands to accelerate conversion to Douglas fir and grand fir. This sale will be completed in FY98. 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.						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
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	0 acres	0 acres	0	0	Existing Douglas fir and grand fir stands maintained. Species benefitted: Dark-eyed juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, Townsend's warblers and Swainson's thrushes.
Monitor changes in the nongame forest bird community.	1460	2 weeks	0	2,000	0	The breeding bird survey initiated in FY93 was completed. 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	4 acres 3 weeks	1,500	3,000	Planted four 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. Expansion of the parking area was initiated.
Management Program - Accommodate requests from law enforcement agencies, the US Military and private shooting clubs for firearms training and competitive shooting events						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Shooting range facilities administered by IDPR through an interagency MOU.	1211	1 week	2 weeks	1,000	2,000	A new firing line shelter was completed. Preparation of a range development plan was initiated. Shooting events and facility maintenance are administered by IDPR.
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate white-tailed deer archery hunting activity						
Random field checks for hunter compliance.	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	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 interagency MOU.	1211	6 miles 1 week	6 miles 1 week	1,800	200	IDPR periodically maintained the trail system. An estimated 15,000 user days were expended.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Implement management plan						
Recommend and coordinate habitat improvement projects.	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: WT deer
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Coordinate maintenance needs, user surveys and planning efforts with IDPR.	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,500	3,500	Draft long-range management plan completed.

Total PR Contract with overhead \$ 0

Outside Funds	50,602
Grand Total	\$50,602

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. Four parcels of lakefront property (157 acres) are owned in fee title and managed for public recreation. The remaining portion of the WMA (1,256 acres) was acquired from the U.S. Government with a conditional deed that requires the property to be managed for wildlife conservation purposes.

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.

A timber sale similar to that conducted in FY93 was initiated this year. The sale was not completed and will be continued in FY98.

2. Provide forested habitat for other wildlife species

Silvicultural prescriptions associated with the 1993 thinning operation were designed to incorporate the needs of nongame 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. The surveys have been completed and do not indicate 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. Two more log landings were planted to mast producing trees in 1997.

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 and the shelter was reconstructed in the summer of 1996. 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. A gate was installed in 1997 on the road accessing the pistol ranges to preclude public access.

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 is the opportunity it provides to educate landowners on how silvicultural activities can be used to help attain wildlife goals.

4. Administration

A draft long-range management plan was completed in FY97. The plan will be finalized in FY98.

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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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 43 access areas, 2 WMAs, Department regional facilities, and 5 conservation easements	1211	6 weeks	7 weeks	11,028	12,866	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 5 temporary employees	1630	18 weeks	18 weeks	33,084	33,084	
Oversee the management of	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	5,514	5,514	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
2 WMAs and 5 conservation easements		127,000 ac.				
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	4 weeks 4 proposals	3 weeks	7,352	5,514	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 11 proposals	1 week 10 proposals	1,838	1,838	
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1630	1 week	1 week	1,838	1,838	
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Cooperation, coordination with other land management agencies represented by the Department	1630	3 weeks 20-25 mtgs	4 weeks 32 mtgs	5,514	7,352	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Oversee the review of environmental impacts on proposed projects	1710	4 weeks 50 projects	4 weeks 35 projects	7,352	7,352	
Oversee financial assistance to landowners on wildlife habitat development and wildlife management practices	1720	4 weeks 90-100 projects 200 inquiries	3 weeks	7,341	5,503	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$80,861
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$80,861

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION

Management Priorities:

- 4. 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 58 miles	1 week	2,222	1,111	
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 80 miles	1 week	2,222	1,111	
Maintenance of tree/shrub plantings and food plots	1211	2 weeks 10 sites	2 weeks	2,224	2,224	
Noxious weed control	1211	1 week 1,000 acres	3 weeks	1,111	3,333	Sprayed 43 access areas to control weeds
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Administrative activities and	1630	1 week	1 week	1,111	1,111	

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

Total PR Contract With Overhead:	\$8,890
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$8,890

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Steve Nadeau
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Dworshak Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Management Priorities:

1. LAND ACQUISITION
2. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
3. INVESTIGATION
4. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
5. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
LAND ACQUISITION						
Nonfee Title, Wetland	1122	1 week-bio	none	1,232	-0-	22 acres, Latah County
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Area and facilities maintained	1211	2 weeks-bio 4 weeks-tech	none	7,392	-0-	Routine operations and maintenance
INVESTIGATIONS						
Population evaluation	1460	10 weeks-bio 24 weeks-tech	20 wks bio 20 wks tech	41,888	41,888	Small mammal surveys, nongame bird surveys. One project: big game surveys. Two projects: elk, whitetail and mule deer.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Planned management - systems development	1610	8 weeks-bio	4 wks bio	9,856	3,856	Planning protocol, developing projects for wildlife habitat.
Strategic plan development	1620	7 weeks-bio	5 wks bio	8,624	6,624	Develop landscape forest plans.
Coordination and administration	1630	10 weeks-bio	10 wks-bio	12,308	12,308	Coordinate with IDL, USFS, Potlatch Corp., monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, student volunteers.
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	10 weeks-bio	8 wks-bio	12,320	12,320	30 timber sales EA's EIS', landscape projects.
Assistance to private landowners	1720	4 weeks-bio 4 weeks-tech	3 wks-bio	9,856	4,508	20 HIP projects.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$103,476	81,504 Actual
Outside Funds	0	
Grand Total	\$103,476	

NARRATIVE

Technical Assistance:

USFWS - Finalized the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS, worked as active team member in developing recovery options. Developed slide program to be used as an audio-visual summary of the EIS.

IDL - Reviewed 20 timber sales, and worked toward development of a landscape plan for one landscape. Conducted extensive wildlife surveys on the landscape and collected data to be used to better identify management impacts.

Nez Perce Tribe - Worked with the tribe on their TE program, provided professional advice on large carnivore research and management in the Clearwater Area.

Universities and local schools - presented several lectures on wildlife management to LC college, University of Idaho, Lewiston High school, and surrounding area middle schools.

USFS - Reviewed 2 major EIS's, several salvage sales, and commented on several presale proposals and scoping documents.

Local Sporting Groups - (Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho) Provided assistance in developing a ground based elk survey technique, and attended several of their meetings. (National Wild Turkey Federation) assisted in developing management ideas and contributing goals, as well as being a member of the banquet committee.

Potlatch - Participant in the elk management cooperative among several sportsman groups, Uof I, and Potlatch Corporation. Check stations and data cooperative.

Idaho Road Management Cooperative - active member and helped create statewide goals.

Wildlife

Written 2 PR reports, bear and lion. Primary observer and survey organizer for 3 big game units, and flew over 80 hours. Conducted primary management responsibilities for regional predator management, including organizing scent station surveys, attempt to design a visual survey technique for black bears, assist research in predator management goals. Conducted extensive wildlife surveys, game and nongame on landscape along Dworshak Reservoir. Am developing wildlife management plan with IDL to better manage their land over the long term with wildlife in mind. Assisted in urban wildlife management problems by responding to local complaint situations. Develop elk and deer recommendations for team area.

Training:

Attended a short course on wildlife metapopulations. Attended group training on habitat research and management in the Selway Bitterroot wilderness, including GIS and ecosystem level fire history and vegetation mapping. Attended training on conflict resolution and team building.

Habitat

Assisted in several HIP projects, and project referrals, as well as provided information for frequent callers and visitors about the HIP program. Developed Landscape plan for endowment lands, and am continuing this endeavor. Visit 20 timber sales with IDL managers and make recommendations in the field, as well as in follow-up letters.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Bill Rybarczyk
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Craig Mountain Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CRAIG MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

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 and 20 buildings.	1211	9 weeks	9 weeks	55,404	55,404	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.	2 week	12,334	12,334	Species benefitted: Same.
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 15 mi.	2 weeks	12,334	12,334	Species benefitted: Same.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Noxious weed control	1211	9 weeks	9 wks	55,494	55,494	Species benefitted: Same.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Monthly reports, PR reports, Supervise and coordinate activities of 1 perm. and 4 temp. employees	1630	8 weeks	8 weeks	49,336	49,336	Species benefitted: Same.
Oversee mgt. of 1 wldf. management area	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	30,830	30,830	Species benefitted: Same.
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week, 3 proposals	1 week, 1 proposal	6,166	6,166	Species benefitted: Same.
Assist other personnel with wildlife mgt. activities	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	12,332	12,332	Species benefitted: Same.
Coop./coord. and liaison with other land mgt. agencies assoc. with the Dept.	1630	9 weeks	9 weeks	55,494	55,494	Species benefitted: Same.
DEVELOPMENT/INTRODUCTIONS						
Establishment of species--turkey transplants	1311	1 week	1 week	6,166	6,166	Species benefitted: Wild turkeys.
Restoration of species--bighorn sheep transplants	1312	1 weeks	0	6,166	0	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep.
USER FACILITIES						
Utilization - Comply with WMA regulations and coordinate BLM	1430	1 week 2 projects	1 week	6,166	6,166	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, WT deer,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
user study						turkeys, bighorn sheep
Habitat - Monitor habitat for selected nongame species; and monitor habitat trend	1440	1 week 2 projects	1 week	6,166	6,166	Species benefitted: Nongame birds.
Population evaluation - Monitor populations of black bear and chukar partridge	1440	1 week 2 projects	2 weeks	6,166	12,332	Species benefitted: Black bear and chukar partridge

Total PR Contract	\$320,683
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$320,683

NARRATIVE

The Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (CMWMA) was acquired in five separate parcels beginning in 1971, with the last acquisition completed in 1997. The largest parcel (60,000 acres) 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 76,600 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.

The Department holds two easements on roads across private land to allow for public access to the WMA. These are commonly referred to as the Ponack and Gaiser access roads. It was necessary to conduct some maintenance of these roads this year in cooperation with the private landowners along those routes.

On the Gaiser access road, a cattle guard was cleaned and reset, a culvert installed, water bars installed and replacement gravel spread on the road where it had washed away.

On the Ponack road, two culverts were replaced, a cattle guard removed, several water bars installed, and replacement gravel spread on the road. Adjoining landowners had the ditches cleaned and the gravel graded as necessary and appropriate.

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 Lake 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 1997, to continue an effort to eradicate these two species. This effort was initiated in August 1993 and approximately 95% 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 was completed. Work also continues on developing a map of the area for the public and on an overall management plan for the CMWMA.

DEVELOPMENT/INTRODUCTIONS

An effort was initiated to provide a demonstration area to show how the Department will restore ponderosa pine/Douglas fir savannah cover types in the appropriate locations on Craig Mtn. This demonstration project was accomplished by allowing the public to cut firewood from selected trees within the project area.

Two wild turkey releases were completed on the CMWMA this year. The first release was in Cottonwood Creek and the other in Dough 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 caused an acute dieoff in that portion of the population located in Idaho and on the CMWMA. A transplant of bighorn sheep originally scheduled for this year in Lower Hells Canyon was postponed for at least one year because of the 1995/96 disease outbreak.

INVESTIGATIONS

Because the Department has owned a majority 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. The initial models were completed this year. This effort with the U. of I. is continuing in an effort to refine the models for at least 20 species occurring on the WMA. 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 1996. Chukar numbers were substantially higher than the record low numbers observed in August, 1995. Aerial big game surveys were conducted for mule deer and elk this year. Population estimates indicate that mule deer have declined while elk numbers have increased slightly since the last survey in December 1994.

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.

The Department received a private donation to repair old existing cabins on the WMA for public use. A total of three cabins were renovated during the past year.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Jim White
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Clearwater Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Management Program - Management Areas						
Areas and facilities maintained, management areas and easements	1211	7 weeks-bio 15 weeks-bio-aide	10 weeks bio 4 weeks-bio-aide	6,657 4,800	9,510 1,280	350 acres
Provide assistance to private landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks-bio 1 week-bio-aide	0	1,902 320	0	
INVESTIGATIONS						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Monitor Resource Users, Habitat and Populations						
Population Evaluation - population levels, distribution, sex and age structure, recruitment rates	1460	8 weeks-bio 1 week-bio-aide	8 weeks-bio 1 week-bio-aide	7,608 320	7,608 320	species: mtn. goat, elk, moose, harlequin ducks, mule and WT deer
Utilization - enforce fish and game laws, check stations, hunter use	1430	5 weeks-bio 2 weeks-bio-aide	5 weeks-bio	4,755 640	4,755	elk, moose, WT deer, mule deer, black bear
Habitat - habitat inventory, quality and monitoring	1440	2 weeks-bio 2 weeks-bio-aide	1 week-bio 4 weeks-bio-aide	1,902 640	951 1,280	species: elk, WT deer, waterfowl and songbirds
DEVELOPMENT						
Management Program - species introductions, habitat improvement, facilities development						
Habitat Improvement Development - habitat alterations and restoration	1322	4 weeks-bio 4 weeks-bio-aide	8 weeks-bio	3,804 1,280	8,657	# of sites: 1 acres: 314
Introductions - establishment of species to previously unoccupied habitat	1311	1 week	0	951	0	# of animals: species:
Introductions - restoration of species into previously occupied habitat	1312	2 weeks-bio 1 week-bio-aide	2 weeks-bio	1,902 320	1,902	# of animals: 1 species: mtn. goat
User facilities - misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks-bio 4 weeks-bio-	2 weeks-bio 4 weeks-bio-	1,902 1,280	1,902 1,280	# of sites: 1

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned aide	Actual aide	Planned	Actual	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of Public Projects - environmental review of public projects	1710	3 weeks	1 week-bio	2,853	951	# of projects: 4
Assistance to private landowners - assistance on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks	1 week-bio	1,902	951	# of inquires: 2
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and Administration - management area plans, engineering, program admin. and administrative activities	1630	10 weeks-bio 2 weeks-bio aide	10 weeks-bio 1 week-bio- aide	9,510 640	9,510 320	

Total	\$56,937
Total PR Contract	0
Outside Funds	\$56,937
Grand Total*	\$56,937

*Planned total differs from actual cost due to unplanned reduction in budget for temporary personnel.

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 species is on the surrounding national forest lands.

Monitoring for birds began in June 1996. Other wildlife and vegetation monitoring began in 1997 and will be summarized in an annual December monitoring report for the WMA. The report will be on file at the Kamiah Field Station, the Lewiston Regional Office, and Boise Headquarters.

Management emphasis and projects for FY97 were:

- formulation of a Management Plan
- initiation of wildlife and habitat monitoring
- completion of an Education Plan
- painting of the ranch house and garage
- noxious weed control
- construction of a watchable wildlife platform
- stream restoration on upper 1/3 of Red River for chinook salmon spawning
- remodel 3 bathrooms in the ranch house
- construction of septic, water and electrical systems for machine shed and 3 camper hookups in machine shed yard for stream restoration crew
- begin to install potable water to the ranch house
- begin to design interpretive signs for watchable wildlife viewing

Management emphasis for FY 98 includes:

- completion of a Management Plan
- formulation of a Monitoring Plan
- continuation of wildlife and habitat monitoring
- noxious weed control
- installation of potable water to the ranch house
- installation of interpretive signs for watchable wildlife
- stream restoration on middle 1/3 of Red River for chinook salmon spawning
- initiate design for a self-guided nature trail

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 and is minimal.

Management activities on the easement this fiscal year include fence repair, establishment of permanent photo points, and waterfowl monitoring.

Management emphasis for FY 98 includes continued maintenance of fence to protect habitat from overgrazing, continuation of photo points, 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 zone along White Bird Creek having significant steelhead trout spawning habitat and historical chinook salmon spawning habitat. Frequent wildlife species include Mule deer, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, mountain quail, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, and songbirds.

Hunter use is controlled by the private landowner.

Management activities on the easement this fiscal year include fence maintenance and establishment of permanent photo points.

Management emphasis for FY 98 includes continuation of permanent photo points and continued maintenance of the fence to protect riparian zone from overgrazing by cattle.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	53,352	\$51,440	Species benefitted:
Technical Guidance						
Public Project Review	1710	10 weeks	10 weeks	13,680	13,190	Species benefitted:
Private Landowner Assistance						
	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,128	3,957	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 9,885
Outside Funds	58,702
Grand Total	\$68,587

NARRATIVE

The program leader administered, coordinated, supported, and provided assistance for six (6) wildlife habitat districts and a public access program in the Southwest Region and directly supervised six (6) regional habitat biologist and one utility craftsman. He also indirectly supervised four (4) wildlife technicians and eleven (11) temporary employees.

He has been a participant on the habitat evaluation, terrestrial, and planning teams and committee for the development of a new plan for C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area. These processes will continue unto the next period.

The leader collected and provided Artemesia cano corn seed to the Lucky Peak Nursery for transplant production. Transplants were distributed to BLM and state projects. Plants are being grown by Ward's Nursery in Garden Valley for distribution and transplanting in the spring of 1998.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	2 weeks	1,600	1,948	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO NSHO
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	0	1,600	0	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO BLGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,948	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL LSGO BLGO
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	6 weeks	1 week	7,200	976	Species benefitted: WODU
Control vegetation	1211	5 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	1,948	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL GADW CITE REDH LESE
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1211	1 week	1 week	800	976	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	1 week	765	976	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$8,772
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$8,772

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 areas 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-13
 Project Leader: Clair Kofoed
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	8 weeks	12,078	8,344	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, pheasant, quail
Maintain nest structures	1211	8 weeks	6 weeks	8,784	6,258	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU
Add 30 new nest structures	1322	5 weeks	4 weeks	5,490	4,172	Species benefitted: WODU
Manage water levels for sago pond weed, emergents, and carp control	1211	5 weeks	8 weeks	5,490	8,344	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, TSWN
Manage grazing for goose pasture	1211	3 week	2 weeks	3,294	2,086	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		60 acres				
Develop food plot-irrigation system on Gold Island	1322	5 weeks	4 weeks	5,490	4,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, R.N. Pheasant
Spray <u>Lepidium</u> to improve nesting habitat	1322	8 weeks	6 weeks	8,784	6,258	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, R.N. Pheasant
Management Program - Reduce predators to allow 30% nest success						
Remove predator habitat	1322	5 weeks	3 weeks	5,490	3,129	Species benefitted: R.N. Pheasant, MALL, CITE
Management Program - Production survey						
Duck nest success	1460	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,392	4,172	Turned over to Region Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
Brood counts	1460	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,490	5,215	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Hunter Management						
Maintain and enforce hunter access sites	1332	3 week	3 weeks	3,294	3,129	Species benefitted:
Maintain and erect directional signs	1211	3 week	2 weeks	3,294	2,086	Species benefitted:
Mow hunting lanes	1211	5 weeks	3 weeks	5,490	3,129	Species benefitted:
Collect harvest data	1430	3 week	3 weeks	3,294	3,129	Species benefitted:
Stock pheasants (state funds)	1211	2 week	2 weeks	2,196	2,086	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Food and cover for other wildlife species						
Planting cover and food plots	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,490	5,215	Species benefitted: C. Quail, turkey
Erect and maintain nest sites	1322	3 week	3 weeks	3,294	3,129	Species benefitted: Am.Avocet, screech owls
Record production data	1460	1 weeks	1 week	1,090	1,043	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management - Provide wetland, parking, and information for nonconsumptive use						
Enlarge parking area and erect small tower near entrance road	1332	3 weeks	1 week	3,368	1,043	Species benefitted:
Install interpretive signs	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,294	3,129	Species benefitted:
Give tours	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,294	4,172	Species benefitted:
Conduct winter bird census	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,294	3,129	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review impacts of proposed habitat developments	1710	11 weeks	10 weeks	12,078	10,430	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners with habitat developments	1720	11 weeks	14 weeks	12,079	14,602	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Pheasant
Management Program - Administrative duties						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Routine operations (bills, phone calls, filing, time reporting, etc.)	1211					Species benefitted:
Preparation administrative documents (reports, budgets, memos, development proposals)	1211	20 weeks	18 weeks	21,960	18,774	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 98,732
Outside Funds	60,672
Grand Total	\$159,404

NARRATIVE

Pheasant and waterfowl production continued to increase due to better habitat conditions and a continued decline in avian and mammalian predators. Duck broods increased by 35%, while average brood size went from 4.2 to 7.8 ducklings. Pheasants and California quail showed similar gains. Food plots left (80 acres of corn) for waterfowl saw heavy use in winter by Canada geese and mallards. A new wetland pond was started to bring another 13 acres to the total pond acreage. This development will be managed for brood/nesting habitat. Silt removal continued to be a time consuming and costly management activity. Two weeks were spent in January removing 4,000 yards of material from the upper water delivery system. Carp control was successful in removing fish from 80% of the WMA ponds. Response by sago pond weed helped boost nesting redheads by 18%. One brood of canvasbacks was also observed. Nest structures (210) for wood ducks were maintained and Canada goose structures were removed as new nesting islands kept the goose pair numbers static. Weed control continued with poison hemlock becoming a major problem this year. New outbreaks were treated and a total of 110 acres of hemlock was sprayed. Perennial pepperweed is now in decline, but 75 acres still required spraying. Canada thistle continues to be a problem and bio-control agents will be used to try and stop this difficult weed. Bio-control effort of purple loosestrife is continuing and results of previous bio-control efforts are beginning to show up on the WMA.

Predator management is still a top priority on the WMA. Live traps were used to remove skunks and domestic cats throughout the spring nesting period. Russian olive trees were sprayed, dozed, and burned to remove corvid nesting habitat. A total of 65 acres were treated. Areas treated were seeded with tall wheatgrass and legumes.

Duck nest success was gauged with indicated pair and brood counts this year. Over-all production rose sharply. Data was recorded and sent to the regional population biologist.

Hunting management continued to challenge the staff to provide a quality experience, while numbers of users grew alarmingly with the population of the area. Access sites were maintained and hunting trails mowed. Six new stiles were erected in response to public input. Harvest data collected on opening weekends, showed 2.7 birds/hunter (n=125) for ducks and .2 birds/hunter on pheasants (n=96). State funds were used to stock 1,280 game farm roosters on the management area.

A peregrine falcon tower was initiated on Gold Island and should see use by spring of 1998. The winter bird census showed 42 species and 11,000 individuals. Most of the ducks were counted on the nest area including 4,300 mallards. Robins numbered 2,000.

Habitat improvement programs increased and grew to include one shelter-belt shrub planting (400 trees) and six food plots. Two wetland projects were also finished.

Administration activities included technical assistance and membership in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan regional committee. Input was also given on a BLM grazing plan for the Reynold's Creek drainage. Maintenance work was performed on the area residence and a new roof and siding were installed.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Dick Orcutt
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	2 weeks 6 miles	3,210	2,140	Species benefitted: Equipment failure
Maintain maximum water levels	1342	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,140	4,280	Dikes were repaired, trapped beaver. Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant, Quail, CAGO, Mourning Dove

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,126	2,126	Species benefitted: MALL, GADWA, CAGO
Management Program - Pheasant and Quail Hunting						
Protect and maintain hunting cover, mow lanes and maintain fences	1322	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,210	4,280	Fences repaired, new waste ditch built. Species benefitted: Pheasant, Quail, MALL, white-tailed deer
Provide grain in three or four locations (55 acres)	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,210	3,210	Species benefitted: Deer, Pheasant, Quail
Develop farming contracts and management direction for new land acquisition	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,140	2,140	Species benefitted: Deer, pheasant, mourning dove, quail, MALL, CAGO
Evaluate lands adjoining WMA for acquisition (Owen's property)	1420	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,070	1,070	Species benefitted: Deer, CAGO, MALL, GADW, Pheasant, Quail
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	1 weeks	1 week	3,210	3,210	Species benefitted: Quail, Pheasant
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Canada Geese						
Maintain brood pasture	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,140	2,140	Species benefitted: CAGO
Fence and administer limited livestock grazing	1334	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,210	4,280	Trespass grazing. Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, CAGO
Maintain 158 nesting platforms; add	1460	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,140	3,210	Repair flood damaged structures.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
10 new platforms						Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO, MALL
Monitor and report production	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,210	3,210	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO, MALL
Management Program - Mallards and teal						
Provide good-to-excellent residual nesting cover-2,000 acres	1440	10 weeks	10 weeks	10,700	10,700	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Bunte
Maintain 900-acre pond and marsh area	1342	5 weeks	7 weeks	5,350	7,490	Pump repairs. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, WODU, CITE, GADW
Develop additional islands and open water areas-50 acres	1342	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,140	2,140	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, CITE, GADW
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1410	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,420	6,420	Species benefitted: MALL
Increase wood duck populations-10 new boxes	1440	1 weeks	1 week	1,070	1,070	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor, evaluate and report production	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,210	3,210	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Development						
Provide at least 100 acres good residual nesting cover	1440	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,420	6,420	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide grains in small scattered plots-100 acres	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,350	5,350	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail
Collect data on production and report	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,070	1,070	Species benefitted: pheasant, valley quail
Develop HIP projects	1720	10 weeks	10 weeks	10,700	10,700	Species benefitted: Pheasant, valley quail, MALL
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Public awareness						
Conduct tours, give talks, make slide presentations	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,280	4,280	Species benefitted: Re-licensing process
Management Program - Provide for other wildlife						
Evaluate need for osprey, eagle, bluebird, etc., structures	1470	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,140	2,140	Species benefitted: Great-horned owl
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets, and other reports; negotiate agreements and land acquisitions	1630	10 weeks	12 weeks	10,700	12,790	Species benefitted: white-tailed deer, CAGO, MALL, WODU, pheasant, valley quail
Cooperation with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,210	3,210	Species benefitted: Deer, pheasant, quail
Maintenance and upkeep of equipment and buildings	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,185	3,185	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, white-tailed deer

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 26,922
Outside Funds	88,510
Grand Total	\$115,432

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 was acquired through mitigation from Idaho Power after construction of C.J. Strike Dam in 1952. The reservoir extends upstream 32 miles on the Snake River and 12 miles on the Bruneau River creating a 7,500 surface acre reservoir. The 13,500 acre WMA is managed and operated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Twelve public access sites including Grasmere Reservoir, Cove Arm Lake, and Crane Falls Lake are available and maintained for outdoor enthusiasts who may enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, bird watching, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, Boy Scout projects, dog training, and wildlife studies.

The WMA is a major production and wintering areas for waterfowl. Annually, 650 Canada goose broods and 800 duck broods, mostly mallards, are producing on the WMA. Winter counts range from 30,000 to 100,000 ducks and 8,000 to 15,000 Canada geese. The largest numbers of waterfowl usually arrive in November and leave in February. Waterfowl hunting is very good throughout most of the season with 10,000 hunters harvesting 40,000 ducks and 6,500 geese. Hunters also enjoy a mixed bag of sage grouse, pheasants, valley quail, Hungarian partridge, chukar, cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, mule deer, and white-tailed deer.

The WMA annually produces 500 broods of pheasant and valley quail. To supplement the hunting pressure on pheasants, 1,500 roosters are released on the area throughout the hunting season using state funds.

Crops of corn, wheat, and clover are left standing for wildlife use and provide excellent residual nesting cover for all species.

Rainbow trout, bluegill, black crappie, perch, bullheads, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass are the predominant species of game fish in the reservoir. Fishing is fair to good throughout the year. Sturgeon are also caught just below the dam and in the reservoir on a catch-and-release basis only. Channel catfish offer the angler a real challenge and many are caught in the six to ten pound category.

In addition to hunting and fishing on the WMA, trapping for furbearers is very popular. Trappers must register with the WMA manager and annually harvest 150 beavers, 2,300 muskrat, 200 skunks, 175 racoons, 50 mink and weasel, as well as 75 coyotes.

History and sightseeing of the area are endless. Wagon wheel marks from the Oregon Trail are still visible as well as the original ferry crossing across the Snake River. The Bureau of Land Management's Birds of Prey Natural Area touches part of the management area offering close observations of eagles, falcons, osprey, owls, and various hawks.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Jerry Scholten
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	1 day	300	223	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
During hard winters, sign area requesting nonuse	1211	1 day	0	300	0	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,	1211	1 day	7.19 days	300	1,606	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
meetings, and rewrite parts of plan						
Collect data, composition mortality and production of big game	1460	18 days	21.5 days	6,840	4,803	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Manage controlled archery hunt check station	1430	1 day	5.25 days	300	1,043	Species benefitted:
Use trade agreements with livestock owners	1620	1 day	.25 days	300	56	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Cooperate with agencies on fire prevention/suppression on WMA	1211	1 day	.625 days	300	140	Species benefitted:
Find improved forage species	1322	1 day	0	300	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	1 day	300	336	Species benefitted:
Try to pick up IDL leases	1211	1 day	.69 days	300	402	All wildlife
Management Programs - Manage winter range vegetation						
Use grazing or prescribed burns to maintain seral plant communities	1211	18,700 acres 4 days	2.75 days	1,520	730	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Plant grasses, forbs, shrubs to improve winter range quality	1322(D)	14,000 Shrubs 100 acres seeded 7 days	10.4	8,660	4,214	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and non-game
Collect data on range condition	1440	1 days	.5 days	300	112	Species benefitted: Mule deer and

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
production and composition						elk
Management Programs - Control undesirable vegetation						
Control noxious weeds cooperatively with county weed control personnel	1211	32,000 acres 2 days	4.5 days	2,300	2,924	Species benefitted: Comply with state law
Continue to look for ways to control medusa-head & red 3 AUM	1211	1 day	.875 days	300	194	Species benefitted:
Management Programs - Develop water sources						
Maintain springs on WMA, collect data on flow	1211	58 springs 1 day	.375	1,500	84	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Develop springs or ponds	1321(D)	1 day	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk and non-game
Management Programs - Improve and maintain fences						
Maintain or remove existing fences and gates, replace fences	1211	10 days	2.625 days	5,000	586	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT						
Management Program - Make improvements to the watershed 1.				MAINTAIN STRUCTURE AND FACILITIES		
Rehab of burned areas	1322	Unknown	3		596	Benefit:
Collect data on ground litter, erosion, and bare ground	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: less soil loss and better water quality
Patrol for off-road vehicle travel	1211	1 day	4.125 days	300	844	Species benefitted: improve water quality

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Collect data on riparian areas	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: 114 birds, 33 mammals, 6 reptile, & 5 amphibian
UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Program - Improve management of upland game habitats						
Plant riparian areas	1211	1 day	.25 days	300	56	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse, & turkey
Management Program - Evaluate Annual Production						
Collect brood data	1460	1 day	.125 days	300	28	Species benefitted: game birds
Collect harvest data	1420	2 days	2 days	600	447	Species benefitted:
Collect data on species composition on WMA	1211	1 day	.125 days	300	238	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse & turkey
Management Program - Access Management						
Maintain roads	1211	11 days	10.56 days	4,180	2,300	Benefits: Recreational users
Provide informational signs for access	1211	2 days	.19	600	43	Benefits: Recreational users
Assist with raptor/mesorhine migration route	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: birds
Update species list on WMA	1211	1 day	1 day	300	223	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptile, & 8 amphibians
ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Maintain/improve WMA buildings						
Maintain buildings	1211	10 days	8 days	3,000	2,194	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Provide safe equipment to perform needed land management functions						
Maintain or repair equipment	1211	27 days	23.8 days	9,500	10,717	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
Lease/rent equipment as needed	1211	1 day	1 day	300	689	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Do administrative requests and required paperwork						
Project Administration	1211	28 days	13.125 days	6,960	7,812	wildlife
Annual, monthly, and other reports required by cooperating agencies	1211	10 days	10 days	2,700	2,154	Species benefitted:
Assist other Departments, divisions, and agencies	1710	54 days	53.125 days	16,500	10,557	Species benefitted: 250 birds, 85 mammals, 20 reptiles, 9 amphibians, and 40 fish
Other duties as assigned	1211	44 days	56.475 days	11,500	13,232	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 6,080
Outside Funds	63,504
Grand Total	\$69,584

NARRATIVE

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 Black's Creek/Prairie Road to Boise and back to State highway 55. Within the habitat district is the Boise Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The habitat district and the WMA are located within Ada, Boise, and Elmore counties.

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 uses 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 1996-97, the WMA wintered approximately 5,700 mule deer and 400 elk. The Eighth Street Fire and subsequent loss of wintering habitat may have forced some wintering mule deer to relocate to the WMA. Supplement blocks were used in an attempt to hold mule deer within the unburned portion of the Island and Rocky Canyon. One hundred-ten blocks were placed on the Island and sixty along the Chief Point Ridge. The use of the supplement blocks worked well on the Island and ridge until March when spring green-up occurred. The deer then moved into the burned areas, utilizing the green-up. The 40 Rocky Canyon blocks were left too high on the ridges and only 21 blocks were used. I feel that the supplement blocks can be used to redirect some wintering mule deer use into more desired areas.

The winter started out looking like it was going to be very severe. Deep snows in December forced the animals into lower elevations. Rains and moderating temperatures in January removed most of the snow on the WMA leaving snow only at higher elevations. Temperature and snow depth on the WMA would make this less than an average winter severity, even though the snow pack was almost double the average in the high country. Devastating floods and landslides in January and this spring destroyed many riparian areas and wildlife habitat. On the WMA some washing of the roads was the only evidence of the floods.

Even with the moderate wintering conditions on the WMA, the average bitterbrush utilization was 64%. The utilization on rabbitbrush was the highest ever seen on the WMA. Heavy use was observed on young cana silver sage but very light use on the older plants. Some use was observed on wedge leaf ceanothus which normally does not receive any. Green grass was available for most of the winter. Basin, foothill, and mountain big sagebrush received about normal use.

Biological information was collected from road killed mule deer only. Body condition of road killed mule deer were examined and indicated that the collected animals were in good condition through December. In January about 10% more does were in poor condition than the 15-year average, but the percent in good or better was average. January fawns were very close to the average. February and March showed normal body fat composition for does and fawns.

The winter mortality transect indicated an above average winter loss. The majority of the winter mortalities came from road kills and predation. Old age and/or starvation also contributed to the numbers. Coyotes appear to be very effective predators on mule deer. The transect method that has been used in

the past to determine estimated winter mortality may give a very low mortality estimate. The preliminary work with radio collared deer that Chad Bishop is doing in Black's Creek, also indicates that our mortality figures may be low. Using the old transect method, the winter mortality was 8%. In reality this may be closer to 18%.

Winter Mortality of Mule Deer	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent of Wintering Population Lost</u>
1996-97	8%
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 increasing recreational traffic have increased the potential for wildlife vehicle encounters. There is also a marked increase in resident deer getting hit. There is an increase in unauthorized people picking up the road kills so a smaller percentage of total kills are being picked up by WMA personnel. This is mainly true in the late fall and early winter.

Mule Deer Road Kills Picked up by WMA Personnel	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Numbers Picked Up</u>
1996-97	106
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 19 bucks and 61 fawn per 100 does. This shows the lowest buck ratio ever recorded. The fawn ratio increased over last year. Antler shed seemed about normal this year. The sample size for animals classified was 2,430 animals.

Mule Deer Herd Composition Counts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bucks</u>	<u>Does</u>	<u>Fawns</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>
1996-97	19	100	61	2,430
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 19 road killed female mule deer. Conception dates are based on crown-rump measurements. It appears that most of the 1996-97 breeding occurred within 24 days in November. From 1991 to 1996, we were seeing 4 to 18% of the females being bred in December. 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%, 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 19 with 8.2% bred after December 1. Of the 19 deer collected in 1996-97, none were bred in December and the average was November 12. This compares with the 1967-71 and 1985-91 data. The range for the total samples collected since 1967 for the average breeding season is November 16 to November 26. Was the delayed conception dates a short-term trend? was it due to the hot dry fall weather or younger bucks doing the breeding? Or was it a combination of these and other factors?

Conception Dates of Female Mule Deer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Range</u>
1996-97	Nov.12, 1996	19	Nov. 1-24
1995-96	Nov.16, 1995	12	Nov. 7-Dec.6
1994-95	Nov. 6, 1994	3	Nov.23-Nov.29
1992-93	Nov.18, 1992	24	Nov. 3-Dec.28
1991-92	Nov.24, 1991	11	Nov. 8-Dec.22
1967-71	Nov.13, 1967-71	27	Nov. 5-Dec.23

Production information that was gathered from road and predator kills, indicated that the 1.53 fetuses per doe has increased from last year and is moving back to the 1985-1991 averages of 1.59.

Productivity of Mule Deer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fetuses/Female</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>
1996-97	1.53	19
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 new fiscal year, July 2, started with a major fire on the island called the North Shore Fire. It burned approximately 1,750 acres of prime mule deer winter range. It was estimated that the area supported at least 625 head of deer. A small ten acre fire burned in Lydile Gulch causing little damage because of the quick response time of the BLM. The Eighth Street Fire which would have a direct effect on the WMA started August 26, 1996 and burned 15,300 acres. There was at least 12,000 acres winter range for at least 700 mule deer and 200 elk. From 1992-96, over 60% of the winter range from Arrowrock and Lucky Peak reservoirs through the Boise Foothills to Highway 44 and Horseshoe Bend summit has been burned. Even though substantial portions of the winter range has been or will be re-planted to sagebrush, bitterbrush, and other shrubs, it is going to take 10 to 15 years for these plants to support very many animals during periods of snow cover. the amount of the shrub component that bitterbrush will make up will be substantially less after each fire.

Sixty-seven thousand five hundred bitterbrush seedlings were planted by the BLM on 320 acres of the North Shore Fire in the spring of 1997. In addition, 12,000 bitterbrush seedlings were planted by volunteer groups in the North Shore Fire area. The WMA personnel also planted 14,000 silver sagebrush (cana) on the Boise Front and Charcoal Creek and 7,000 bitterbrush in Charcoal Creek. Shrub seedling plantings are scheduled by the BLM for the Eighth Street Burn in 1998.

In addition to the seedling plantings, 100 acres of the North Shore fire was drill seeded with Secar Wheatgrass (5 lb/A), small burnett (1 lb/A), and bitterbrush (2 lb/A). Mountain sagebrush and Basin sagebrush seed were flown on the snow on BLM land on both the North Shore and Eighth Street fires.

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 three and four were to be used in 1997 and pastures one and two were used in 1996. High pasture (Picket Pin) was rested in 1996 because of the 407 acre, 1994 fire. The island (LP4), which was in the rotation schedule, was rested because of the North Shore fire. The rotation cycle would be LP3, HP3, and HP4. If other pastures were needed that decision would be made at that time.

Brood data for chukars, huns, quail, and grouse was collected from July to September 1996 and from May until June 30, 1997. 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 (1,000), rifle deer (350), and elk (75). The 100 permit controlled archery hunters were not very successful. The animals had not moved to the winter range. The approximately 350 archery hunters harvested at least six (6) deer and no elk off the WMA. The estimated 375 rifle hunters harvested at least eleven (11) deer and one (1) elk. Upland game hunters harvested over 900 birds.

The Boise State University "Fall Raptor Migration in Southwestern Idaho" continued to be conducted on Lucky Peak Mountain. Not only are we gaining valuable knowledge about the migrating raptors but are getting valuable documentation of land birds in the southern portion of Idaho. This will give us a better understanding for the land bird migration. For the 1997 fall season, the WMA would like to provide mist nests to the Raptor Research Center for land bird migration banding.

A list of birds observed at Lucky Peak Mountain contained over 120 different migrating species. Two species, band-tailed pigeon and pinyon jay, are additions to the WMA's bird list. This is the northwestern most record of the pinyon jay and the second sighting in this part of the state since 1947.

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

HABITAT DISTRICT

Written comments concerning wildlife were made for the various habitat altering activities within the habitat district. These include the following:

Boise County

- River Park Subdivision
- Robie Spring Subdivision
- Alder Creek segregation
- Dent segregation
- Rock Pit

Ada County and City of Boise

- Harris Ranch
- Tower extension
- Weed management
- Campbell division
- Foothills land mitigation - private

Bureau of Land Management

- Trails and ridges to river trails
- Eighth Street Fire rehabilitation and monitoring
- Fire protection and emergency wildland fire plan
- Jew allotment
- Little Ranch permits

Rush Skeleton weed task force

Boise Foothills coordinated management plan

Forest Service

- Land exchanges
- Alexander Flats noxious weed control and rehabilitation
- Poor Man Burn
- Eighth Street timber salvage
- Garden Valley flood damage to winter range

State Lands

- Thorn Creek Sale
- Road reconstruction in Minah and Thorn creeks
- Railroad timber sale
- Zimmer Creek burn
- Land exchange with IF&G, USFS, and State Lands
- Section 26 prescribed fire

Highway Department

- Scent barriers
- Road kills

Department of Agriculture
Vegetation management task force

Boise State University
Raptor Research

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Tim Shelton
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	1,343	Species benefitted: CAGO
Signing - Public relations	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,343	Species benefitted:
Removal of vegetation on 40 acres for production and brooding areas	1440	1 week	0	1,231	0	Species benefitted: CAGO No grazing
Evaluating goose use	1460	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,343	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	806	Species benefitted: CAGO
Placement of 15 goose nesting platforms	1322	3 days	1 week 3 days	738	2,149	Species benefitted: CAGO Replace platforms because of flooding
Removal of gravel for pond	1342	2 days	0 days	492	0	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 days	492	0	Species benefitted: CAGO No grazing
Management Program - Enforce regulation for spring closures						
Signing management area	1333	2 days 10 signs	2 days 20 signs	492	521	Species benefitted: CAGO
Advertising in local papers to reduce conflicts between public and nesting geese	1211	1 day 3 articles	1 DAU	246	269	Species benefitted: CAGO
Patrolling area to inform public of closures	1332	2 days 800 acres	2 days	492	521	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Trapping and shooting of problem animals	1470	2 days	2 days	492	521	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
Evaluation of predator damage	1470	2 days	2 days	492	521	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	521	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, GADW, WODU, RNDU, REDH
Maintain fencing projects to protect nesting cover from grazing	1211	1 mile 1 week	1 week 1 mile	1,231	1,343	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	4,500 annly 4 weeks	7,386	5,172	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	1,343	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	1,343	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	3 days	738	806	Species benefitted: WODU
Work with local Habitat Groups and scout troop to maintain wood duck boxes	1440	3 days	3 days	738	806	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor nest success	1460	1 week 175 boxes	0	1,236	0	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	2 weeks	1236	2,686	Species benefitted: CITE, REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Evaluate hunter usage	1430	3 days	3 days	738	806	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Access management with hunters using key areas	1430	2 days	2 days	492	521	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	269	Species benefitted:
Signing all boundaries and closures	1211	1 day	1 day	246	269	Species benefitted:
Litter patrol and old fence removal	1211	2 days	2 days	492	521	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	1,343	Species benefitted: MALL, GADU, AGNT, CITE, WODU, REDH, LESC, RNDU, RUDU
Keep fencing maintained to protect against grazing	1211	2 day	4 days	492	1,076	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 32 acres	1,231	1,343	Species benefitted:
Habitat manipulation to remove rank stands	1322	50 acres 2 days	2 days	492	521	Species benefitted: CAGO
Enforce grazing agreements	1211	1 week	0	1,231	0	Species benefitted: CAGO
ACCESS						
Management Program - Provide access sites that are assigned to projects						
Maintain and inspect all access signs	1211	2 days 30 signs	2 days	492	521	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	521	Species benefitted:
Work with Eagle Scouts and Boy Scout groups on environmental items	1510	1 week 1 day	1 week 1 day	492	1,612	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Evaluation of nongame species on WMA						
Conduct species list and abundance	1410	2 days	2 days	492	521	Species benefitted:
Habitat improvements for nongame species	1440	2 days	2 days	492	521	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	5 weeks	6,155	6,715	Species benefitted: RUDU, MALL, AGWT, GADU, REDH, LESC, WODU, CITE
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	3 weeks; 15 evals	1 week	3,693	1,343	Species benefitted: Reduced responsibilities
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1610	2 weeks 6 annually	2 weeks	2,520	2,686	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,520	2,686	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training required for upgrade in position						
Improvement of technical skills		3 weeks; 4 training schools	2 weeks	3,693	2,685	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)		8 weeks; 4 days	14 weeks	10,961	18,000	Species benefitted: Turkey trapping and transplanting

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$29,456
 Outside Funds 40,381
 Grand Total \$69,837

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 acres 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 1960s 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-1980s. 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. Sixty (60) Rio Grandes were released on or near the management area in February of 1997. In the six 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 3,000 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 fair on the Payette River Islands in 1997 but extremely high water did cause damage to many platforms. 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% hatching success.

Upland game bird production was good in 1997. Late season production boosted California quail populations. Pheasant production was good to very good because of excellent nesting cover from a wet winter.

Water Level Control Management

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

A new 9-acre pond was built in the fall of 1996 and added good waterfowl production for 1997.

Noxious Weed Control

A temporary employee was hired to spray poison hemlock on the WMA. Over \$6,000 were expended in hemlock control. Canada thistle and purple loosestrife were also sprayed with limited success.

Habitat Projects

Twenty-five acres food plots of spring wheat and annual rye were planted and an 8-acre corn field was planted on the north side. 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 20 private properties in the Payette, Washington, and Adams counties by establishing food plots, shrub and tree plantings and developing wildlife ponds.

Trapping and Transplanting

Area manager assisted in trapping and transplanting 258 Merriam and Rio Grande turkeys in the southwest region to help reduce hunter concentration and increase bird numbers.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Mark Fleming
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Brownlee Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CECIL D. 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 4 trailers	5 weeks 2 houses 4 trlrs	11,760	9,558	Species benefitted:
Maintain barns, corrals, and general items	1334	3 weeks	2 weeks	4,410	3,186	Species benefitted:
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Improve deer and elk winter range						
Monitoring upland vegetation condition	1440	5 weeks 12,000 acres	3 weeks	7,350	6,372	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Controlling livestock and fence maintenance	1334	6 weeks; 110 miles	6 weeks 110 mi	8,820	9,558	Species benefitted: Elk
Big game census	1460	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,880	3,186	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	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & upland wildlife
Management Program - Wetland rehabilitation						
Water developments, inspections	1321	3 weeks 50 sites	2 weeks 50 sites	4,410	3,186	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Riparian zone monitoring	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 weeks 5 miles	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Wildlife pond rehabilitation	1321	2 weeks 4 sites	1 week 2 ponds	2,940	1,593	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & upland wildlife
Management Program - Hunter access						
Develop management plan for access	1610	1 week	1 week	1,470	1,593	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Protect gates protecting access	1334	6 weeks 18 gates	5 weeks 18 gates	8,820	7,963	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 370 head	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted: Columbia sharp-tail grouse
Monitoring riparian zones	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 weeks 10 sites	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted:
Maintaining water developments	1321	4 weeks 50 sites	2 weeks 50 sites	5,880	3,186	Species benefitted: Grey partridge, chukar
Monitoring upland habitat	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks 30 sites	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 1,000 plants	1 week 1,000 plts	2,940	1,593	Species benefitted: Turkey, forest grouse
Planting winter feed plots	1322	2 weeks 50 acres	2 weeks 12 acres	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Weed control	1322	6 weeks 600 acres	5 weeks 150 acr	8,820	7,965	Species benefitted:
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Upland game bird nesting cover						
Upland habitat monitoring	1440	2 weeks 500 acres	2 weeks 11,000 acr	5,880	3,186	Species benefitted:
Improve nesting habitat	1322	4 weeks; 2,000 plants	2 weeks 2,000 ac	5,880	3,186	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Riparian zone maintenance	1440	4 weeks 5 miles	3 weeks 5 miles	5,880	4,779	Species benefitted:
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide hunter access on WMA						
Checking hunters in and out of 18 locked gates - 10,000 user days	1331	16 weeks; 18 locked gates	16 weeks 18 gates	23,520	28,674	Species benefitted:
Road maintenance	1331	8 weeks 50 miles	6 weeks 30 miles	11,760	9,558	Species benefitted:
Enforcement of regulations and road closures-18 gates	1331	6 weeks	4 weeks	8,820	6,372	Species benefitted:
Interviewing hunters and pubic relations	1430	6 weeks 500 hunters	4 weeks 700 hntrs	8,820	6,372	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE VIEWING						
Management Program - Nonconsumptive wildlife use						
Checking individuals in and out of locked gates - 1,000 user days	1331	4 weeks	3 weeks	5,880	6,372	Species benefitted:
Public tours-500 user days	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted:
OUTDOOR RECREATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Nonhunting use						
Checking hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, etc., into locked gates and onto WMA - 500 user days	1630	4 weeks	3 weeks	5,880	4,779	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	4 weeks; 8 reviews	2 weeks 6 revws	5,880	3,186	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Review and evaluate planning documents relating to WMA	1630	6 weeks	5 weeks	8,820	7,965	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents, reports, budgets, purchasing requests, etc.	1610	10 weeks	6 weeks	14,700	9,558	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training requirements for upgrading position						
Improve technical skills	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,880	6,372	Species benefitted:
Administrative access program	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	8,820	6,372	Species benefitted:
Other regional duties as assigned	1610	16 weeks	16 weeks	23,384	25,488	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$205,540
Outside Funds 0
Grand Total \$205,540

Year-to-date with overhead \$174,733
Encumbered with overhead \$ 18,491
Available operating w/overhead \$ 12,316
\$205,540

NARRATIVE

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, and 18 other structures consisting of horse barns, corrals, sheds, and livestock loading chutes. The management area consists of 19 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.

Big Game Winter Range

The AWMA provides critical winter range for both deer and elk. Of the approximately 24,000 acres that comprise the management area, 50 to 70% 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 110 miles of pasture fence and 50 water improvements within 19 pastures; implementation of vehicle access program; ground and aerial surveys of wintering big game animals on the area; planted 3,000 trees and shrubs, monitored condition of plant communities and water quality within riparian areas, and enforced road closures during the months of January through April to protect wintering big game herds.

Upland Game Bird Winter Range

The AWMA provides both cover and food for wintering upland birds. Chukar, gray partridge, California quail, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, and wild turkeys winter on the AWMA. The following projects have been completed:

Food plots of wheat were planted and left unharvested for use by wintering upland game birds. Livestock grazing in sagebrush, upland and riparian plant communities was monitored to prevent adverse impacts to those communities; 175 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.

Upland Game Bird Production

The AWMA provides nesting and brood-rearing habitat for chukar, gray partridge, California quail, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, and wild turkey. The following work projects have been completed:

Installed and monitored 30 vegetation transects in selected upland and riparian plant communities within the pasture rotation system; mapped and inventoried water improvement structures on the area using G.P.S. equipment; monitored pre- and postrange condition within pasture rotation system; collected harvest data and upland bird wings from hunters using the area.

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 fro 770 hunters who used the controlled access gate system on the area; maintained 30 miles of roads and eighteen access gates; provided information to the public and collected harvest data; enforced hunting regulations and responded to reported violations on the area; and repaired culverts and built anti-erosion barriers where needed.

Wildlife Viewing

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

Provided 200 user days to individuals using controlled access gates on area while viewing wildlife.

Administration

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, Habitat Improvement Project cooperators, and Rocking M Ranch.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Andy Ogden
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	1 week	0 week	1,040	0	Species benefitted: CAGO
Fencing and administering controlled livestock grazing	1211	1 week	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	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,072	3,120	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	49 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	1 week	1 week	2,072	1,040	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Upland Bird Hunting						
Maintain cover and fencing	1211	3 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	8 weeks	8 weeks	6,216	8,320	Species benefitted:
Cooperation with other agencies	1630	6 weeks	9 weeks	6,216	9,360	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$	0
Outside Funds		110,758
Grand Total		110,758

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 maintained 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, neotropical, 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-13
 Project Leader: Tony Apa
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Magic Valley Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Supervise Habitat Program in Magic Valley Region	1630	24 weeks 5 WMAs 5 perm pers	24 weeks	30,150	30,150*	Species benefitted:
Supervise Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	24 weeks	24 weeks	30,150	30,150*	Species benefitted:
Review Lands Proposed for Purchase	1630	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500*	Species benefitted:
Review of Public Projects	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	3,000*	Species benefitted:
Assistance to Private Landowners	1720	1 Week	1 week	1,500	1,500*	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$84,076
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$84,076

*Work was conducted by 2 permanent staff (6 months and 1 month) and 1 acting supervisor (5 months).

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Tony Apa
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	4 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted:
Maintain roads and trails	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted:
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences, remove unneeded fences	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:
Parking lot development	1332	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:
Water level management	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Maintain herbaceous seedings	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Control vegetation	1211	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted:
Rangeland rehabilitation	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Farmland rehabilitation	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Establish food plots	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Assistance to private landowners	1720	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Upland Game
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$61,119
Other Funds	0
Grand Total	\$61,119

NARRATIVE:

The work performed on this project was done by 5 temporary personnel and 1/2 of a permanent person's time. The work was performed on Big Cottonwood, Centennial Marsh, Niagara Springs, Billingsly Creek, Carey Lake, and Hagerman Wildlife Management Areas.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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
Maintain 200 goose nesting platforms; install new platforms	1211	4 weeks 200 platfrms	4 weeks	4,680	4,680	Species benefitted: CAGO
Develop and maintain dense nesting cover	1322	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 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	0 weeks	3,510	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Develop, install, maintain, and evaluate nesting boxes and duck nesting structures	1211	1 week 25 structures	0 weeks	1,170	0	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	4 weeks	3,510	4,680	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	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,340	3,510	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 for migrating and nesting shorebirds						Species benefitted: MALL, 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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
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 10 tours/ contacts	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, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Monitor hunter use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	9 weeks	8,190	10,530	Species benefitted: All, An increase in public projects

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assistance to landowners	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted: All
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program						
Maintain Department lands and facilities	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,340	2,340	Species benefitted: All
Control noxious weeds on project areas	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,340	2,340	Species benefitted:
Maintain project buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,170	1,170	Species benefitted:
Maintain and repair equipment	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,340	2,340	Species benefitted:
Administrative duties						Species benefitted:
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,340	2,340	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative reports	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,510	3,510	Species benefitted:
Coordinate with other agencies	1630	4 weeks	2 weeks	4,680	2,340	Species benefitted: Time picked up in review of public projects.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,340	4,680	Species benefitted: Added 2 weeks of winter elk feeding

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$66,652
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$66,652

NARRATIVE

Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area was acquired in 1987 and 1988. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy combined efforts to make the first purchase. Additional purchases followed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. It now provides 3,100 acres of wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and many other wildlife species. Bird watchers comprise the largest public user group on the area.

Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area was acquired in 1949 by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide a waterfowl production and migration stop over area. The WMA encompasses 365 acres of shallow lake and wetlands, 385 acres of sagebrush/grass, lava outcroppings and cropland.

Benefits Provided

Waterfowl

Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh provides a spring stop over area for 2,000 to 10,000 migrating northern pintails, mallards other assorted waterfowl and shorebirds. The numbers vary widely depending upon when the marsh thaws and opens up. The marsh is primarily a production area. Of the 100 Canada goose platforms on the area, 75 were used, for a total of approximately 300 Canada geese. Ground nesting geese are as successful. Approximately 12 nests found each year were destroyed by predators. Ravens seem to be the primary predator. Approximately 450 juvenile ducks were observed, with portions of the marsh uncounted. As the water levels return to predrought conditions, its is more difficult to conduct accurate brood counts. During the drought all the birds were confined to the brood ponds by early to mid-June, now the marsh is holding natural water until late-July to early-August. The longer water period seems to have extended the nesting season, with young broods observed in mid-May and hens still on nests in late-July. This results in broods of all ages scattered throughout the marsh where they aren't visible to count. Due to a break in our recent drought and a late freeze-up, the marsh flooded in the fall for the second time in 8 years. The reflooding of the marsh provided excellent habitat for the fall migrants. Four days of rain in late-December on a 3 feet of snow pack followed by a week of 25 below temperatures filled and froze the marsh. The ice damaged 4 goose nesting structures and a pump-out standpipe on the irrigation mainline.

Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area is utilized by 10,000 to 20,000 waterfowl each spring during the migration. The numbers dependent on when the marsh thaws. The area is used by 400 to 500 tundra swans and 20 to 30 trumpeter swans. The water levels in Carey Lake are the highest in 14 years which has made Carey Lake even more attractive to waterfowl and shorebirds. Twelve new goose nesting platforms were installed for a total 44. Twenty-eight of the platforms were utilized, for approximately 125 Canada geese, numerous ground nesting geese were observed and appeared to be successful. Juvenile duck counts totaled approximately 300. Carey Lake is heavily used by fall migrants, but is also heavily hunted with an estimated 1,000 hunter days and due to its small size the birds don't stay long. Over water duck 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 Centennial Habitat District are reconditioned each year. Twelve new platforms were installed at Carey Lake and 20 new platforms were installed on the west end of Camas Prairie. Four acres of goose pasture are kept irrigated and mowed throughout the summer on Centennial Marsh. Twelve Wood Duck nesting boxes were installed on Soldier Creek.

Upland Game

Sage grouse populations appear lower than in 1996 on Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh. Approximately 50 birds were observed on the area this year compared to 100 last year. The hunting pressure on sage grouse is light. Morning doves numbers are the highest observed in the last 9 years. Grey 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. Pronghorn are hunted on the area. Pronghorn antelope production looks good with most does having twins and 2 does in the area observed with triplets. Elk and moose are occasionally sighted on the area. No big game winter on Centennial Marsh. Carey Lake WMA is utilized by mule deer through out the year.

Nongame Species

Centennial Marsh is heavily used by shorebirds throughout the spring and summer. These include but not limited to American avocets, Black terns, Willits, Soras, American bitterns and Sandhill cranes of which 10 nests were observed. Black-necked

stilts were very numerous on the marsh this year with approximately 250 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 100 school kids on the area.

Technical Assistance

I participated in the Wardrop-Sampson Creek Vegetation Management project with USFS,,NRCS, and private land owners.

I am a member of the Wood River RC&D beaver committee. I locate and evaluate sites suitable for beaver reintroductions.

I evaluated and commented on numerous grazing allotments EA'S for the USFS.

I preformed maintenance on BLM shelterbelts on their wildlife tracts.

I evaluated, attended P&Z meetings, and provided comments on 8 subdivision for Camas and Blaine County.

I participated with Anderson Ranch Interagency Mitigation team. I contacted landowners concerning acquisition or conservation easements.

I worked with N.R.C.S. on new CRP contracts and renewals, grass seedings and shrub plantings

Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

I completed one wetland fencing and one pond-wetland project. The construction on a 30 acre wetland project with BLM and Ducks Unlimited will be completed this summer. Five pair-brood ponds were blasted on Idaho Department of Fish and Game hatchery property. Eight acres were sprayed in preparation for reseeding to dense nesting cover. Five Canada goose nesting platforms were installed on private ground and 12 Wood duck nesting boxes.

Noxious Weed Control

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. On Centennial Marsh approximately 20 scattered acres of Canada thistle were treated with herbicides. For the fourth 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 WMA's. The information will be used in writing new long-range management plans for the Wildlife Management Areas. I worked on Centennial Marsh and Carey Lake WMA management plans until they were put on hold awaiting a format change.

I supervised a temporary technician during the painting and repairing outhouses on accesses areas. The temporary technician also preformed chemical weed control throughout the Centennial Habitat District.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Bill Gorgen
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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 observatn blind	1 obs. 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	19 acres 2 weeks	4,500	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO
Irrigate food plots	1322	30 acres 5 weeks	15 acres 3 weeks	4,500	2,700	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain irrigation system (pump, mainline, pipe, etc.)	1211	1 week	1 week	1,900	900	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
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, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain fence	1211	5.5 miles 4.0 miles 1 week	0 miles 0 miles 0 weeks	900	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain stable water levels	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, 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, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain dikes	2.5	2.5 miles 2 weeks	2.5 mi. 2 weeks	5,500	5,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain and clean water structures	1211	22 structrs 2 weeks	22 stuct 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESL, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain Canada geese nesting structures	1211	20 structrs 4 structrs 1 week		900		Species benefitted: CAGO No maintenance done
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	30 boxes 2 weeks	30 boxes 0 weeks	1,800	0	Species benefitted: WODU No maintenance done
Management Program - Provide brood rearing habitat						
Provide Canada goose pasture through cooperation with an adjacent landowner	1322	9 acres 2 weeks	26 acres 2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO Private land pasture equals 20 acres.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor populations	1460	1 week		900	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, Not accomplished
Monitor artificial nest utilization	1211	26 nests 30 boxes 2 weeks		1,800	0	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO, Not accomplished
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nest sites						
Irrigate alfalfa nesting cover	1322	35 acres 5 weeks	19 acres 3 weeks	4,500	2,700	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail, Split with waterfowl nesting
Irrigate food plots	1211	30 acres 5 weeks	15 acres 2 weeks	4,500	1,800	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	15 acres 0 week	900	0	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail. Split with waterfowl nesting.
Maintain shrub, tree, and riparian habitat	1211	760 acres 2 weeks	760 ac. 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		2 weeks	0	1,800	Species benefitted: Considerable litter pickup.
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Monitor nongame species						
Maintain species observation list	1630	1 week		900	0	Species benefitted: Not accomplished
Provide wildlife viewing opportunities by maintaining access roads	1211	1.5 miles	1.5 miles			Species benefitted: Completed through another budget.
Maintain parking areas	1211					Species benefitted: Done through another budget
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 week	1,800	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain regulatory signs	1211	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,600	3,600	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 \$52,384
 Outside Funds 38,922
 Grand Total \$91,306

This Progress Report accounts for 52 weeks (Gorgen) and 15 weeks of temporary time. Approximately 18 weeks of temporary time was used at Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area.

Actual costs reported under this report equals \$60,300.00.

NARRATIVE

Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (HWMA) is located approximately 2 miles south of Hagerman, Idaho, in southwestern Gooding County. State Highway 30 divides a portion of the management area.

Land acquisition for HWMA began in 1940. The area now consists of 880 acres including 223 acres licensed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (a mostly dry land portion of Hagerman National Fish Hatchery).

HWMA includes 16 ponds that are heavily used by waterfowl in the winter and by fishermen during the spring and summer months. The spring-fed water that flows through the ponds is relatively warm providing open water for approximately 50,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese during winter months. Mallards are most numerous with a variety of other ducks represented. HWMA has always been closed to waterfowl hunting. Because of the waterfowl sanctuary that is provided by this closure, waterfowl remain in the Magic Valley* and provide hunting in several counties when they fly to and from the management area. Waterfowl viewing is spectacular during the winter months and is enjoyed by many people. Limited upland game and deer hunting (shotgun only) is provided on HWMA. Four controlled muskrat and mink trapping permits are issued each year resulting in the harvest of several hundred muskrats and a few mink.

HWMA is located in close proximity to a number of communities. As a result the area receives hundreds of fishermen each season. The March 1 opening on a portion of the area is extremely popular. This early fishing opening does conflict with the goal to enhance waterfowl production. Hagerman State Fish Hatchery (located on HWMA) stocks an average of 51,000 trout annually on the management area to satisfy angler demand. Most of these fish are rainbow trout with some being Kamloops.

One cooperative agreement exists with an adjacent landowner. Through this agreement, livestock grazing is allowed on 7 acres of HWMA. In exchange, several hundred Canada geese are allowed to graze undisturbed on 20 acres of adjacent irrigated private pasture.

Water is available to irrigate sixty-three acres for waterfowl and upland game habitats (e.g., nesting cover, food plots, goose pasture). This year man-power limitations restricted our ability to maximize the value of these acres to provide habitat. With proper management, waterfowl depredations on private land could possibly be reduced if large food plots were provided on the management area. To accomplish this, a worker is needed in the spring and fall to plant and irrigate food crops.

*An eight-county area in south-central Idaho

Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) was purchased from the McCarter Cattle Company, Inc. in 1963. The area was purchased with federal aid for fisheries (DJ) funds. Ongoing management is funded by federal aid to wildlife (PR) funds and Fish and Game license monies.

The 284 acres of Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area lie in the Hagerman Valley near the Snake River and two miles northeast of the town of Hagerman. The area is traversed by a meandering 1.25 mile section of Billingsley Creek. BCWMA elevations range from 2,950 feet on the creek, to 3,200 feet on the canyon rim. Several springs originate along the basaltic rim rock and feed a lowland marsh before entering Billingsley Creek. In 1994 rectangular weirs were placed to measure the water from each spring. A yearly report is sent to the Idaho Department of Water resources containing this data. Because the creek is spring fed by water that is approximately 58 degrees, it remains open all winter.

Five different wildlife habitats, as defined by Judd and Brown (1973 Department employees) exist in this management area:

1. Billingsley Creek meanders through the WMA with an average depth of six feet and a width of 25 feet. The stream is rich in aquatic plants which harbor many aquatic insects. Rainbow trout and German brown trout are abundant and fast growing. It is also an important area for mallards during extremely cold winters when nearby waters are frozen. Waterfowl also use this habitat for brooding.
2. The marsh covers approximately 82 acres. Most of the marsh is covered with bulrush, broadleaf cattail, and hardstem bulrush. There are many other aquatic plants here that provide cover for waterfowl and other wildlife.
3. The mixed shrub-steppe habitat is approximately 83 acres. It is intermixed with Russian olive, black cottonwood, greasewood, sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Many different wildlife species utilize the area, including valley quail, ring-necked pheasants, hawks, nongame birds, small mammals, and reptiles.
4. The escarpment shrub habitat of the basaltic rim covers approximately 92.5 acres. Small pockets of eroded and windblown soils have provided sufficient soils to support big sagebrush and grasses. Raptors, small birds, small mammals and reptiles are at home there.
5. The big sagebrush habitat covers 18.85 acres. This habitat is above the canyon walls. The chief types of vegetation are big sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. It provides winter and hunting escape cover for pheasants and raptor feeding areas.

The area naturally supports excellent wildlife habitat and is open to upland game, waterfowl, and deer hunting (shotgun only). Duck hunting is excellent when the weather turns cold and nearby waters freeze over. Ducks are attracted to slow flowing, but open Billingsley Creek.

Two controlled muskrat and mink trapping permits are issued each year. Several hundred muskrats and a few mink are taken each year by trappers. Noxious weeds are controlled on the WMA to limit spread to adjacent private land, and reduce displacement of desirable cover and/or forage vegetation. Control efforts have centered on Canada thistle; however, purple loosestrife is now present along Billingsley Creek. Loosestrife control had been done in previous years by spraying individual plants with the chemical Rodeo. In 1996 biological control was conducted with the placement of 500 eggs of root-boring weevils near the mouth of Florence Spring.

BCWMA is a relatively small piece of property, but has important wildlife and public values. Duck hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, canoeing, hiking and other activities are enjoyed by people that use the area.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Dave Musil
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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

* Additional work performed by temporary employees and recorded 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	200 acres	200 ac 2 weeks	*	* \$2,058	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail
Reseed degraded nesting habitat (J8 constructed wetland, see narrative)	1322	13.4 acres	0 acres (1.5 weeks)	*	* (\$1,544)	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	23 boxes	22 boxes	*	*	Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	200 boxes	72 boxes .5 weeks	*	* \$514	Species benefitted: WODU, Screech Owl, Am. Kestrel, Red Squirrel, Northern Flicker (see narrative for use)
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain woody cover	1211	9 plantings	0.5 weeks	*	* \$514	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds
Replant mortalities in woody cover	1211	9 plantings	157 trees 0.5 weeks	*	* \$514	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. 157 1-gallon- sized Rocky Mountain junipers were planted in the 3 shelterbelts between the center pivot locations.
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat to sustain and increase huntable populations						
Maintain food plots	1211	16 acres	8 acres 1 week	*	* \$1,029	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. Dwarf corn and proso white millet were planted. The 8-acre cooperative farming agreement food plot provided by the adjacent land owner is no longer in operation. This plot was mitigation for trespass farming an adjacent

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						BLM parcel. The farmer is no longer farming the BLM.
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads and trails for hunting						
Maintain water delivery systems to ponds	1211	2 miles	2 miles 3 weeks	*	* \$3,087	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, CAGO. The canal was severely blocked by Russian thistle several times during the spring of 1997.
Maintain water levels in ponds	1211	4 ponds	4 ponds 1 week	*	* \$1,029	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey, Shorebirds, CAGO
Maintain roads for access	1211	5 miles	5 miles 0.5 weeks	*	* \$514	Species benefitted: none. The North Side Canal Company graded the road accessing the west end of the WMA during their construction of the J8 wetland.
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
Maintain grazing fields for waterfowl	1211	21 acres	21 acres 1 week	*	* \$1,029	Species benefitted: CAGO, AMWI, MALL, mourning doves, California quail. The wheel line winter wheat field supported 260 to 300 CAGO during the winter after hunting season along with >40

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						AMWI.
FISHING ACCESS						
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads, and trails for fishing access						
Maintain impoundment dikes, ditches, and roads	1211	3 ponds, 5 mi/roads; 2.2 miles canals/dikes	3 ponds, 5 miles/roads; 2.2 mi. canals/dikes	*	*	Species benefitted: Rainbow trout, Humans
Manage water levels to maintain fish populations	1211	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 miles)	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 mi.)	*	*	DJ Funding. Species benefitted: Rainbow Trout
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: none. No tours were requested.
Maintain access roads	1211	5 miles 2 weeks	5 miles 2 weeks	*	*	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	3 weeks	5 weeks	\$2,550	\$5,145	Species benefitted: Upland Game
Assistance to private landowners	1720	32 weeks	4.5 weeks	\$34,100	\$4,630	Species benefitted: Upland Game
ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Administration and Coordination						
Administer WMA, coordination with other agencies	1630	6 weeks	5 weeks	\$5,100	\$5,145	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	4 weeks	10 weeks	\$3,400	\$10,290	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife. Frank DeShon retired as Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager and I was acting manager for 5 months until the position was filled.
Maintain files and prepare administrative reports	1630	4 weeks	2 weeks	\$3,400	\$2,058	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Watchable Wildlife
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	12 weeks	2,700	\$14,402	Species benefitted: Elk, Sage Grouse, Mule Deer. This also includes assisting the game manager, fisheries manager, hunter education instructor, information specialist, training, physical fitness instructor, attending weekly staff meetings, and other Department meetings.

Total PR Funds	\$ 0
Total PR Contract With Overhead	0
Other Funds	53,502
Grand Total	\$53,502

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 12.44 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 5,000 ducks and several hundred Canada geese winter on the area. 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 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. A special pheasant management project is underway in Gooding County and funded through HIP. The project involves comparing habitat treatments and predator control effects on pheasant population.

New Wetland Development

The IDFG was approached by the North Side Canal Company during 1996 and proposed a constructed wetland to clean irrigation return flows going into the Snake River via the J8 drain. The Department has a 2.44 cfs water right provided by this drain. The NSCC provided the machinery, labor, materials, and engineering while the Department provided the land, technical advice, plant materials, and labor. NSCC enlarged the existing sediment pond (from 1.8 acres to approximately 5 acres) adjacent to the canyon rim. A lateral ditch was constructed connecting the sediment pond to the canyon rim at the site of a previous spill used during the 1960's to irrigate the west side of the area. Another sediment pond (approx. 1.5 acres) was built to capture sediment coming from the re-established canyon rim spill. The sediment pond empties into 2 shallow (\pm 3 feet deep and approximately 12 acres total) before spilling back into the Snake River. Hardstem bulrush nursery stock (n=837) were planted in one of ponds during the summer of 1997. One low (<5 feet tall) berm creating the lower pond was seeding in the spring to Indian ricegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, basin wildrye, cicer milkvetch, lewis flax, and small burnet. The other pond's berm was not completed until the summer of 1997 and was too late for a dormant seeding. It will be planted in the fall of 1997. Proposed plans are to create a shallow (<12 inches deep) wetland filter between the lower sediment pond and the ponds to filter out additional suspended nutrients (nitrates). The habitat destroyed by the development was cheatgrass infested dryland for the sediment ponds and irrigated silver sagebrush, crested wheatgrass, and immigrant forage kochia (Kochia prostrata) for the ponds. Additional wetland species will be planted in 1998 now that the system has had a chance to show where the fluctuating waterline occurs. The J8 drain fluctuates dramatically (0-15 cfs) depending on the needs of water users. Higher flows occur during hay cutting and wheat harvest when the farmers temporarily shut their irrigation systems down.

Wood Duck Box Use

Only 72 of the 200 wood duck boxes were checked. High flows in the Snake River created unsafe conditions for maintenance of all the boxes. Of the 72 checked, 10 were damaged beyond use or were lost due to the flooding of 1996 and the current flooding in early 1997. Of the 62 boxes maintained: 50% were not used, 18% were used by fox squirrels, 15% by wood ducks, 8% by screech owls, 5% by northern flickers, and 3% by unknown occupants. Of the 9 boxes used by wood ducks, 3 had successful hatches, 2 were unsuccessful, and 4 had unknown success. We will attempt to clean all boxes this fall before potential flooding occurs in late winter. Two boy scouts have agreed to construct replacement wood duck boxes as part of their eagle scout projects.

Winter Wheat Field

The wheel line # 3 winter wheat field (5.9 acres) has been successful at providing grazing for Canada geese and American widgeon. The field was planted in the fall of 1995 and the standing grain was mowed in the summer of 1996. The geese immediately began eating the downed grain. The field was watered in late September and early October and the unused grain germinated creating a lush green carpet. After the hunting season in January 1997, the geese again attended the field. The field was watered in early summer creating another excellent grain crop. The field was mowed in mid July 1997. The field will be replanted in the Fall of 1997 and re-established. The other goose pastures have not equaled the success of wheel line # 3. During the early summer of 1997, the cottonwood pasture had very little use by goslings (one group of 6 seen) probably due to the high water that occurred during June. Very few goslings were seen along the river during the high flows. The Snake River reached all time historic flows (>30,000 cfs) during mid-June 1997 due melting of heavy snow packs in eastern Idaho. It was also at high levels earlier during January 1997.

Enhancements

The shelterbelt adjacent to the entrance drive was converted from sprinkler to drip irrigation. The slope is steep and a break in the line could mean instant erosion to the fragile sandy soil. The drip irrigation should alleviate the this threat.

Compost from a nearby dairy was used in 1997 to fertilize 3 of the 6 food plots in an attempt to increase fertility of the sandy soil. Irrigation sets were shorter in duration and more frequent in order to decrease the leaching of soil nutrients away from the corn. A used corn planter was also purchased in 1997 to provide a more even seeding. A grass seeder was used in the past with marginal success. Fish waste from the nearby State Fish Hatchery was used to fertilize the cottonwood goose pasture.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Tony Apa
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Minidoka Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

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	3 weeks 2 weeks**	900	2,700	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Reseed degraded habitat	1322	1 week	1 week 1 week**	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual*	Planned	Actual	
						chukars, grey partridge
Layout range riparian transects and photo points	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks**	1,800	0	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Remove unneeded corrals and buildings	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	900	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences and remove unneeded ones	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain 160 acres alfalfa	1322	2 weeks	6 weeks**	1,800	0	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, pheasants, chukars
Evaluate turkey habitat	1440	1 week	2 weeks 1 week**	900	1,800	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	14 weeks	21,400	15,768	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	10 weeks	5 weeks	10,000	5,000	Species benefitted: Pheasants, quail, chukars
ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual*	Planned	Actual	
Coordination and administration	1630	11 weeks	20 weeks	9,000	16,364	Species benefitted: Includes 5 weeks of annual and sick leave and holidays

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	53,533
Grand Total	\$53,533

*48 weeks of work completed, position was vacant for 4 months.

**Work performed through the Regional Habitat Maintenance budget.

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. 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/Accomplishments:

1. Three hundred bales of grass/alfalfa hay were harvest on the WMA in the 1996 growing season. Benefits received from the current years crop included the seeding of 160 acres of dryland habitat to grasses and forbs during the winter of 1996-97.
2. 1.5 miles of fence were constructed to replace net-wire fence on the northern portion of the WMA. Work was accomplished by a sharecrop agreement from the 1995 hay crop.
3. 1 mile of post and pole fence is 3/4 completed. It replaces 1 mile of net-wire fence. New fence (wire and post and pole) enhances bighorn sheep and deer movement on and through the WMA.
4. 15 Rio Grande wild turkeys were released to augment the population.
5. All irrigation ditches on the WMA were reconditioned and 8 new irrigation checks were installed to allow for more efficient irrigation of grass/alfalfa pasture and food plots.

6. A fruit orchard (planted during settlement time) was cleaned of dead wood and pruned to improve fruit production for a wild turkey winter food source.
7. During the 1996 growing season 2 corn/sorghum food plots were planted and irrigated for the 1996-97 winter. The plots functioned well as a winter food source for turkeys, grey partridge, ring-necked pheasants, and California quail, although the food quantity was not sufficient. A new food plot was added in the spring of 1997 (3 plots-4 acres). All food plots were fertilized to provide additional winter food for the 1997-98 winter.
8. Riparian transect trend photos were taken for 1996.
9. Eight avian point transects were established and data was collected for 1996.
10. Bighorn sheep 1997 spring lamb production resulted in a 75 lambs/100 ewes ratio.
11. Conducted the first wild turkey youth (12 - 14 years old) hunt (3 permits, 100% success).

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Southeast Region Wildlife Habitat Management

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION

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	15 weeks	30,216	22,200	Species benefitted:
Oversee the management of 5 wildlife management areas	1630	16 weeks	16 weeks	18,774	23,680	Species benefitted:
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	1 week	1 week	1,210	1,480	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Review/develop planning documents	1620	7 documents 2 weeks	12 4 weeks	2,420	5,920	Species benefitted: Long range plans.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	7 proposals 1 week	7 1 week	1,210	1,480	Species benefitted:
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,420	2,960	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Assist with the investigation and review of proposed projects	1710	25 projects 2 weeks	10 1 week	2,420	1,480	Species benefitted:
Oversee assistance to landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	45 contacts 6 weeks	35 4 weeks	7,260	5,920	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperate With Other Agencies						
Coordinate with other land management agencies and represent the Department	1630	8 meetings 1 week	12 2 weeks	1,210	2,960	Species benefitted:
PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM						
Management Program - Administer Access						
Coordinate maintenance and development of regional access sites; monitor Yago Creek access road and other non-fisheries related access sites.	1332 1333	20 access sites 6 weeks	20 6 weeks	7,260	8,880	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead

\$76,811

Other	0
Grand Total	\$76,811

NARRATIVE

Work on long-range plans for 5 WMA's required considerable time expenditure in the fall of 1996. Additional planning was also dedicated to a grazing scheme that would provide offsite benefits on the Blackfoot River WMA. In the spring of 1997 additional time was dedicated to coordinating with the NRCS in establishing guidelines for CRP enrollment and our involvement in project costsharing.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

East Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

GEORGETOWN, MONTPELIER, PORTNEUF AND BLACKFOOT RIVER WMAS

Management Priorities:

10. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
2. PUBLIC ACCESS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING
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 perform controlled burn on Portneuf WMA	1710	.5 week	0	720	0	No burns conducted in spring of 1997
Complete management plan for the Blackfoot River WMA to include vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns and grazing	1630	3 weeks	6 weeks	4,200	9,540	Completed drafts for Blackfoot River, Montpelier, Portneuf and Georgetown Summit WMAs Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, waterfowl, cutthroat trout.
Negotiate grazing plans for Blackfoot River and Georgetown Summit WMAs			3 weeks		4,770	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule deer, Waterfowl, cutthroat trout

Coordinate the planting of 10,000 bitterbrush seedlings on Portneuf and Montpelier WMAs, along with other sites			4 weeks		6,360	Species benefitted: Mule deer, upland game
Assess the effectiveness of experimental aerial application of fertilizer on Montpelier, Georgetown and Portneuf WMAs	1332	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,880	4,770	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Control noxious weeds on all areas	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,760	6,360	Species benefitted: Moose, mule deer, elk, upland game
Management Program - Control Trespass Grazing						
Repair and maintain boundary fencing; investigate fence problem at south end of Portneuf WMA	1211	25 miles 3 weeks	25 miles 4 weeks	4,380	6,360	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer, waterfowl, cutthroat trout
Management Program - Provide Security						
Maintain winter road/trail closures with gates and signing	1211	.5 week	.5 week	720	800	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer
PUBLIC ACCESS						
Management Program - Provide Access						
Maintain signs and information boards; place signs at Blackfoot R. WMA	1211	1 week	.5 week	1440	800	Species benefitted:
Place boundary markers and other information signs at Georgetown Summit and Blackfoot River WMAs	1211	1 week	.25 week	1,440	400	Species benefitted:

Provide access roads/trails and parking areas	1211	.5 week	.5 week	720	800	Species benefitted:
Develop plan with Engineering for relocation of Portneuf WMA south access	1322	.5 week	0 week	720	0	Species benefitted:
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 week	1.5 weeks	2,160	2,390	Species benefitted:
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, reptile and amphibians
Provide nest sites with structures and by preserving snags	1322	.5 week	0	720	0	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Monitor Grouse Breeding Populations						
Conduct lek counts and drumming counts	1460	1 week	.25 week	1,440	400	Species benefitted: sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Management Program - Provide Public Access						
Compile species lists for distribution	1630	2 weeks	0	2,880	0	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						

Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	8 projects 2 weeks	4 proj. 1 week	2,880	1,590	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 6 weeks	25 land-owners, 6 weeks	9,540	9,540	Species benefitted: upland gamebirds, waterfowl
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluation	1620	15 documents 6 weeks	7 doc. 3 weeks	8,640	4,770	Including long-range management plans for WMAs
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	8,640	9,540	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,320	4,770	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 week	4,200	1,590	
Work with faculty and students at ISU on inventories at Blackfoot River WMA		1.5 weeks	1 week	2,160	1,590	
Coordinate with Bear Lake County to transfer landfill site at Montpelier WMA			3 weeks		4,770	
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	1630	4 weeks	1 week	5,760	1,590	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	82,503
Grand Total	\$82,503

NARRATIVE

During FY97, 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.

A draft of the long range management plans for all four WMAs was completed during FY97.

A coordinated effort with regional volunteers and BLM personnel resulted in the planting of 10,000 bitterbrush seedlings at six mule deer winter range sites throughout the region including Portneuf and Montpelier WMAs.

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, 4) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

Major projects completed during the past fiscal year include planting bitterbrush seedlings on a portion of last year's prescribed burn 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 WMA's 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. Data collected during FY97 showed no significant difference (p <.05) in any vegetation parameter

between the fertilized and unfertilized sites with the exception of cheatgrass. Cheatgrass cover was higher in the fertilized areas than in the unfertilized areas.

Sharp-tailed grouse strutting counts have been made annually since 1986. During the spring of 1997, the habitat manager surveyed the north end of the PWMA twice, but did not observe any birds (See Table 1).

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, 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 percent 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.

We received a 50% cost-share from RMEF to survey and fence the boundary between the WMA and a neighbor's private property. This will prevent trespass grazing by the neighbor's cattle. The survey and fencing are to be completed during FY98.

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 is 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, 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. Department personnel hosted a public meeting in Montpelier to discuss the transfer of approximately 420 acres of Department property to Bear Lake County. This property includes the present landfill as well as the proposed landfill expansion site. We received no negative comments and have proceeded with the transfer.

4. Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area

The Blackfoot River WMA includes 1,720 acres 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 and is bisected by about 7 miles of the upper Blackfoot River.

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, 3) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

A waterfowl brood survey was conducted in August, 1996; 10 broods were observed on the river (Table 2), along with six male ducks.

We still 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 establish neighbor relations, a great deal of time went into erecting and fixing fences on the area. 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. 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
1997	0	a	0	0	a	a	a	a	a

^a Not checked.

^b Due to weather conditions no reliable data available.

Table 2. Blackfoot River WMA Waterfowl Brood Count

Date	Species	No. Of Broods	No. young/brood
6/22/95	Mallard	3	10, 9, 7
	Common Merganser	1	5
7/11/95	Teal	3	7, 9, 6
	American Widgeon	4	7, 7, 5, 2
	Gadwall	3	6, 9, 9
	Mallard	1	7
8/5/96	Teal	3	2, 2, 4
	American Widgeon	2	5, 4
	Gadwall	2	2, 2
	Mallard	3	9, 5, 3

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

West Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

STERLING WILDLIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

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	1 week	1,600	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treatment of nest cover through grazing	1211	2 week 300 acres	1 week	1,600	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Noxious weed control	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	6,400	9,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Manage water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	800	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Pheasants
Monitor muskrat populations and manage trapping	1460	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Service mallard nest structures	1211	27 structures 1 week	1 week	800	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Service goose nest structures	1211	20 structures 1 week	75 2 weeks	800	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide brood habitat						
Maintain escape cover and water levels	1211	.5 week	.5 week	400	600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Provide goose pasture through controlled grazing	1211	1 week 2-5 acres	.5 weeks	800	600	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 2 weeks	4 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide access						
Provide parking areas	1332	12 parking areas 1 week	1 week	800	1,200	Species benefitted:
Upgrade one parking area	1332	2 weeks	Not Completed	1,600	0	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain Handicap blind	1334	.5 week	.5 week	400	600	Species benefitted:
Construct parking area at Littlehole	1332	2 weeks	Not Completd	1,600	0	Species benefitted:
Maintain gates, stiles, and foot bridges	1211	3 weeks	.5 weeks	2,400	600	Species benefitted:
Maintain signs/information boards	1211	3 weeks	1 weeks	2,400	1,200	Species benefitted:
Maintain hunting cover and provide food plots to attract game	1322	3 weeks	2 week	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Enforce regulations and WMA management policies	30 (M)	2 weeks	.5 weeks	1,600	600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
PHEASANT PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Brood Stock						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets - storm cover	1322	21 acres 4 weeks	4 weeks	3,200	4,800	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Provide high energy grains adjacent to storm cover	1322	25 acres 1 week	25 1 week	800	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide brood habitat - treat with grazing/burning	1211	2 weeks	.5 weeks	1,600	600	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Management Program - Provide Nesting Habitat						
Provide nesting cover by fencing	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	2,400	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide irrigated grass/ legume	1211	90 acres	90	800	1,200	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
nesting cover through coop. farming		1 week	1 week			Pheasants
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct crow counts, nest searches and brood surveys (assisted by research/game management)	1460	1 week	1 week	800	1,200	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Assist with duck nesting success and pheasant habitat use research	1460	3 weeks	2 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	25 .5 week	400	600	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds
Install additional nest boxes	1211	10 boxes .5 week	10 .5 week	400	600	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds
Management Program - Provide viewing opportunity						
Provide brochure, species lists, signs, information boards and parking areas	1211	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	600	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	5 projects .5 week	5 .5 week	400	600	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 2 weeks	25 1 week	800	2,400	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Coordinate with "Adopt-a-Wetland" group to maintain a portion of wetlands	1211	15 structres .5 week	15 .5 week	400	600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluate	1630	5 documents 1 week	6 3 weeks	800	3,600	WMA long range plan
Provide tours and information on policies and goals, respond to concerns of neighboring landowners	1630	3 weeks	2 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	4,800	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 week	3 weeks	800	3,600	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	33	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	1,200	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 0
Other Funds \$62,400

Grand Total

\$62,400

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 game birds, song birds (wintering and resident), as well as some small mammals (including furbearers) and deer.

This project provides for the production of about 250 goslings, 1,000 ducklings, and 200 cock pheasants. The project also provides 4,000 days of hunting opportunity and 2,000 days of wildlife viewing opportunity. The project also provides 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 FY97, noxious weed control continued to be a major issue. The temporary work crew spent 1000 hours treating weeds, mostly Canada thistle 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 (See Project No. W-16-R-20 and Project No. W-16-R-23). In 1996, the above listed areas were cleared of all Russian olive trees. Nesting success on this treatment area has been compared to that of a control area (no tree removal) for the past 5 years.

To determine current nesting success, a total of 63 nests were located of which 54 had known results. This number is down from previous years because the graduate project has ended and searches were conducted, when time permitted, by Department staff. Apparent nest success was 38% (11 out of 29) in the treatment area and 40% (10 out of 25) in the control area. When all data was corrected by the Mayfield method of calculating nesting success, the rates dropped and shifted to 15% and 10% on the treatment and control areas respectively. These findings are similar to recent findings though somewhat lower.

However, these results do not reflect "over water" nesting, which had been included in past years. Previous years data suggested that over water nests have a higher success rate than upland nests. A mammalian predator reduction program was initiated in the study area to document impacts on waterfowl nesting success. Predator removal was limited to feral house cats, raccoons, and skunks on the treatment area only using live traps. A total of 1095 trap nights resulted in 8 feral cats, 17 skunks, and 2 raccoons being removed. Total cost of the operation was \$2222.45 or \$82.31 per predator removed. The trapping operation was terminated in early May, about the time that waterfowl nesting was beginning to peak. Nest success rates suggest that the predator

removal effort had little effect, especially considering that those nests least available to mammalian predators (over water nests) were not sampled this year. It has been theorized that predator removal should have been conducted throughout the breeding season to be effective. Given the configuration of the land ownerships (trapping was conducted on WMA property only) it is likely that predators re-occupied territories which were emptied. We also had very little success capturing raccoons which seem to be a key predator in the area.

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

The second Youth Pheasant hunt was held on the SWMA and attracted 40 first-time youth hunters. This activity was planned by the Department's Information and Education bureau assisted by other regional personnel. The execution of the event was handled by the Department's Volunteer program. Our direct involvement included designating hunt areas and managing other public use.

The first Waterfowl Hunters' clinic was held on the WMA again planned by the I and E personnel with assistance by other regional personnel. Twenty-nine hunters attended the event.

Seven potholes were blasted on the Fingal segment. Each pothole measured approximately 70 feet by 40 feet. All holes filled with water and were attracting waterfowl in the spring.

A culvert was placed, by the county, under Midway road to allow water from a neighbor to irrigate a shelterbelt on Department land.

Thirty-eight muskrats were harvested this season. This compares with 206 in 1996, 75 in 1995 and 93 in 1994. Access was a problem for this particular trapper so that trapping effort was not as intense as in past years.

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 1996 route documented 1 rooster but no broods. This is compared to the last year's 1 brood and 1994 when no broods were observed.

All goose platforms were inspected to determine use. Of the 69 platforms sampled, 56 (81%) were used.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Steve Schmidt
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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. Supervise nine permanent personnel (three as second in line supervisor). Third line supervisor to six-nine temporary employees.	1630	18 weeks	20 weeks	28,308	31,453	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	8 weeks	7 weeks	12,581	11,008	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						COME
Maintain files and records, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchase requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	9 weeks	10 weeks	14,154	15,726	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
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	3,145	4,718	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 project proposals submitted by state and federal agencies and private entities.	1710	8 weeks 125 projects	5 weeks 65 projects	12,581	7,863	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						COME
Review wildlife habitat improvement project designs and provide recommendations on Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) projects prepared by habitat biologists for private landowners. Administer HIP cooperative agreements and two regional HIP budgets. Coordinate HIP project implementation with staff and private landowners.	1720	2 weeks 40 agreements	2 weeks 23 agreemnt	3,145	3,144	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	\$73,914
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$73,914

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 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 9 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 access areas.

Management Plans

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager oversees the section's development and implementation 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 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. The RWHM assisted with many WMA projects including the waterfowling workshop and International Migratory Bird Day events at the Market Lake WMA.

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 and a monthly assignment as the front desk duty officer. This section also includes mandatory Department training for physical fitness and CPR. Many other miscellaneous and mandatory meetings are included.

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 65 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-13
 Project Leader: Jim Moore
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,597	2,398	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	4 weeks	2 weeks	4,796	2,398	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						COME
Maintain fences.	1211	1 week	1 week	1,199	1,199	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 - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings.	1211	1 week	1 week	1,199	1,199	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	1,199	1,199	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						COME
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc. WMA long range plans development.	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,597	4,796	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	4 weeks	6 weeks	4,796	7,194	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	\$20,393
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$20,393

NARRATIVE

Road Maintenance

Roads were maintained on five WMAs within the Upper Snake Region. Public as well as administrative roads were kept in safe driving condition. Road side mowing was done as required. Culverts were kept in working condition. Cattle guards were cleaned as needed and a new cattle guard and six new gates were installed at Mud Lake WMA.

Dike Maintenance

Hand rails were built and installed on nine water control structures at Market Lake WMA. Approximately 300 cubic yards of coarse sand was hauled for road surface on M-4 dike at Market Lake WMA. West slough dikes were graded and widened at Mud Lake WMA and an old culvert was removed and blocked in the west slough segment of Mud Lake WMA.

Fence Maintenance

Provided assistance with fence construction and repair projects at Mud Lake, Market Lake, and Sand Creek WMA's.

Tree and Shrub Maintenance

Routinely irrigated shelterbelt tree planting adjacent to Roberts Gravel Pond. Planted 150 new trees around Roberts Gravel Pond. Due to the Snake River flood of June 1997, some, if not all, new tree plantings and many of the old shelterbelt trees may need to be replanted.

Vegetation Control

Assisted Mud Lake WMA personnel with weed spraying. Repaired and calibrated truck mounted weed sprayer for Market Lake WMA. Poured concrete pad for chemical storage shed at Tex Creek WMA. Assisted Cartier WMA personnel with the building of a foot bridge for better access to the south end of the WMA. Certified as a Professional Chemical Applicator with the State of Idaho.

Reports and Meetings

Routinely filled out monthly equipment reports on all heavy equipment and trucks. Attended quarterly section meetings with regional WMA managers and staff. Filled out all flood related equipment, personnel, and expense reports for flood related compensation.

Miscellaneous Projects

Repaired WMA equipment for Mud Lake and Market Lake WMA's. Assisted with goose platform refurbishing at Market Lake and Sand Creek WMA's. Assisted with hay hauling for winter feeding of big game throughout the region. Operated equipment and coordinated personnel and equipment from our department during the Snake River flood for most of the month of June.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Don Kemner
 Assistant: Mark Sands
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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	2 weeks 3 sites	1 week 1 site	6,000	4,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, NOPI
Haul dirt and gravel to eroded areas on dikes	1211	2 sites 2 weeks	1 week 1 site	6,000	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Repair and/or replace water control	1211	2 weeks	1 week	6,000	4,000	Species benefitted: REDH, GADW,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
structures		3 structures	1 struc			MALL, CANV
Management Program - Water manipulation and vegetation control						
Develop a water manipulation schedule for marshes; monitor and control water levels	1440	5 weeks 10 sites	11 weeks 10 sites	4,000	12,900	Species benefitted: CITE, CAGO, MALL, GADW
Use fire, mechanical, or chemical methods to enhance vegetation structural diversity in marshes	1322	1 week 300 acres	1 week 300 acres	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, RUDU
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	2 weeks 61 platforms	.5 week 61 pltfm	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: CAGO
Conduct nest searches for overwater nesters	1460	1 week 1 project	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, RUDU, REDH, CANV
Construct and install ten new goose nest platforms	1211	1 week	.5 week	1,900	950	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Cover plantings						
Establish plots of nesting cover and irrigate	1322	3 weeks 20 acres	4 weeks 20 acres	4,000	5,500	Species benefitted: NSHO, NOPI, BWTE, MALL
Management Program - Control human visitors						
Maintain closures during nesting season.	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, LESC, CANV, REDH
Control vehicle access to promote better quality hunting	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Construct boat and foot access into marshes	1333	2 weeks 1 site Jefferson Co.	1 week 3 sites Jeff Co	7,000	4,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Management Program - Planting, mowing and water control						
Plant 20 acres of small grains, irrigate, and mow	1322	3 weeks 20 acres	3.5 wks 20 acres	5,000	7,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, LSGO, Elk
Maintain 100 acres of alfalfa/grass for waterfowl forage	1211	1 week 100 acres	1 week 70 acres	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, white-tailed deer, moose, elk
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Disease monitoring and control						
Monitoring for botulism and avian cholera outbreaks	1410	2 weeks 1 project	1 week 1 proj	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AGWT, NSHO
Disease control and cleanup	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	4,000	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	2.5 wks 9 stations	800	3,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NSHO, NOPI
NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Planting, nesting structures and shelters						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Plant fruit and seed producing trees in shelterbelts and maintain	1322	2 weeks 1 acre	.5 week 1 acre	3,000	750	Species benefitted: Northern oriole, American robin, western bluebird, white-crowned sparrow, mountain bluebird
Install bird houses on WMA shelterbelts	1322	1 week 20 boxes	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: American kestrel, tree swallow, house wren, northern flicker
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						
Construct an observation blind on main marsh	1334	3 weeks	0	6,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CANU, NOPI, REDH
Management Program - Provide tours and information programs						
Provide guided tours of the WMA and present programs on the WMA	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,800	3,500	Species benefitted: MALL, peregrine falcon, CANV, white-faced ibis
Develop self guided tour route	1630	2 weeks	0	1,900	0	Species benefitted: Peregrine falcon, CAGO, MALL, NOPI
Management Program - Population Monitoring						
Sage grouse lek survey	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,500	Species benefitted: sage grouse
Upland bird surveys	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,500	Species benefitted: Pheasants and

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						gray partridge
Management Program - Signing						
Repair and replace directional, information, and regulatory signs	1211	1 week	.5 week	1,100	550	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	0	3,600	0	Species benefitted: White-tailed deer, house wren, ring-necked pheasant, long-eared owl
Plant 10 acres of corn or sorghum and irrigate	1322	2 weeks 10 acres	2 weeks 10 acres	3,000	3,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge
Monitor and replant seedings where needed	1440	2 week 3 acres	0	3,200	0	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						
Management Program - Maintain Improvements						
Control noxious weeds	1211	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,500	7,000	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		1,000 acres	1,000 ac			CAGO, Elk
Maintain 12 miles of fence	1211	2 weeks	1 week	800	800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sage thrashed, Brewers sparrow
Maintain 17 miles of road	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,500	1,200	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Removal of 5 miles of old fence	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	1,000	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, moose, and sandhill cranes
Maintain 8 miles of dikes	1211	3 weeks	1 week	4,000	2,500	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE
Management Program - Technical Assistance						
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2 weeks	2.5 wks	1,800	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, LESC, CANV
Assist landowners	1720	1 week 5 inquiries	1 week 35 inqu.	1,800	4,000	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, CAGO, MALL
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	1 week 3 proposals	0 weeks 25 prop.	1,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks 6 plans	5 weeks 6 plans	3,000	4,500	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, NOPI
Maintain files, prepare monthly and annual reports, budgets	1630	2 weeks 4 reports	3 weeks	2,526	4,576	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH

Total PR Contract With Overhead

\$113,526

Other Funds	46,275
Grand Total	\$159,801

NARRATIVE

Market Lake Wildlife Management Area was established in 1956 by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to provide habitat for waterfowl, a hunting area for the public, and public access to those wishing to view wildlife in a natural setting. The 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 number of ducks present on the WMA during the spring migration ranged from 50,000-80,000 with northern pintails and mallards 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 900 tundra swans and 40 trumpeter swans used the WMA during spring migration.

Forty acres of small grain crops were 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 a resident deer herd of approximately 40 animals consisting of white-tailed deer and mule deer. There were as many as 5 moose using the WMA during the fall months. Approximately 210 elk migrated through WMA, but did not winter there.

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.

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

Great-horned, short-eared, and long-eared owls nest on the WMA. Red-tailed hawks, 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 10 eagles were 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 March 31, April 14, and April 28, 1997. The survey indicated 6 pairs and 6 singles on the WMA. It is unknown if any pairs nested on the WMA in 1997.

A shorebird survey of the main marsh and triangle marsh was conducted on May 6, 1997. Water levels were too high to create good shorebird habitat. Few shorebirds were counted. Three point count transects were established to monitor noxious weeds.

Height-density stations to monitor nesting cover quality were established in two fields.

Members of the local Audubon Club checked 20 bluebird nest boxes for nesting birds. Results were not finalized at the time of this report.

Circular plot point count surveys for territorial birds were conducted in two areas of the WMA.

Sage grouse leks on adjacent federal land were surveyed in the spring of 1997.

A survey of waterfowl hunters concerning crowded hunting conditions was conducted in 1996. Fifty-four percent of the responses indicated crowded conditions did not exist. Thirty-five percent indicated crowded conditions occurred sometimes but limits on hunters using the marshes was not desired.

Bald eagles wintering on the WMA were surveyed twice. The results are given under the threatened and endangered species section.

Trapping and Transplanting Activities

In the fall of 1996, 335 male adult ring-necked pheasants were released on the WMA to provide additional hunting opportunity.

Disease Outbreaks

WMA personnel monitored and searched the marshes for sick or dead birds during July, August, and the first week of September, 1996. A botulism outbreak occurred in marsh numbers 3 and 4. Approximately 500 ducks and 50 gulls, ibis, and egrets died during the outbreak.

Environmental Conditions

Water levels in the main marsh required supplemental water during July, August, and September, 1996, via the WMA irrigation system. The east springs marsh and sandy marsh area held water better than usual during a hot, dry 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 east springs and sandy marshes were at high levels during spring 1997. The Van Leuven slough stayed high until early July because the Snake River was a record high flows during the spring and early summer.

Information and Education Activities

Two hundred people were guided on bird watching tours of the WMA on International Migratory Bird Day (May 17). 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 Idaho Fish and Game, Snake River Audubon Club, Targhee National Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Idaho Native Plant Society. A local restaurant sold food and drinks.

A waterfowling workshop was conducted for the public on September 7th. Ninety-seven 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, Idaho Falconer's Association, and Idaho Fish and Game.

During the spring waterfowl migration, approximately 6,000 people visited the WMA. Tours were conducted for 1,000 school children visiting the WMA. Topics discussed during the tours were: wetlands, wildlife management, and wildlife identification.

Noxious Weed Control

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. Approximately 500 acres were treated with herbicides. Approximately 12 miles of roads and dikes were mowed as a method of weed suppression.

Sharecrop Agreement

A one year sharecrop agreement, with possible one year extension, was signed to farm 93 acres. 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.

Developments

Three boat ramps were installed on the main marsh. The ramps increased public access to the marshes and were heavily used by waterfowl hunters.

Other Activities

Ten weeks of temporary time was eliminated in fall 1996 during Department wide budget cuts.

Water was pumped for two weeks out of the main marsh in late November 1996 to reduce high water levels. The water was pumped into an old reservoir on adjacent Federal lands.

Seventeen and one-half days of temporary time and permanent personnel time was spent assisting with flood control and hazardous waste cleanup during the 1997 spring flood of the Snake River.

Assist Landowners

Thirty of the thirty-five inquiries reported in the table are covered by labor other than the one week reported. However, the expenses of these inquiries are reported.

Review Environmental Impacts

The labor involving the 25 proposals listed in the table are not covered by PR funds. However, the expenses involved are covered by PR funds.

Planned Projects for FY 98

Construct fuel spill containment area. Construction is scheduled for August 1997.

Construct a causeway across a canal to better access main marsh cells for habitat management, water management, and waterfowl hunting. Construction is scheduled for August 1997.

Paint outside surface of residence house.

Host International Migratory Bird Day in May 1998.

Investigate upgrading capacity of sinkwells.

Implement habitat improvement projects.

Maintain roads, dikes, water control structures and fences. Continue removal of non-necessary fences.

Conduct prescribed burn of 700 acres of juncus meadow / bulrush marsh during fall 1997.

Conduct prescribed burn of 80 acres of juncus meadows during spring 1998.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Tom Maeder
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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 160 acres	2 weeks 110 acres	10,000	7,400	Russian knapweed will be controlled on the WMA. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Plant nesting cover	1322	1 week 80 acres	.5 week 30 acres	6,500	2,500	Nesting cover will be planted in west sloughs. Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Fence improvement	1211	1 week 2 miles	0	2,000	0	Fence will be replaced to 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	1 week	1 week	8,000	8,000	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	0	3,900	0	10 acres will be disced on Mackenzie point to provide breeding, overwater nesting, and brood areas. Provide material for wetland vegetation planting in west slough. Species benefitted: MALL, REDH, NOPI, LESC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Install water control structures to west slough	1342	2 weeks 1 structure	0	5,500	0	Water control structures 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, 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	1 week	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	2 weeks	1 week	4,000	2,000	Repair nest structures, replace nest structures, and replace nesting material. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, mountain bluebird, American kestrel
Management Program - Control waterfowl diseases						
Monitor for and control disease outbreaks	1410	1 week	.5 week	1,000	500	Regularly patrol WMA to monitor for waterfowl disease outbreaks. Species benefitted: MALL, LSGO,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						RUDU, CANV
Management Program - Enhance and increase goose pasture						
Plant 20 acres of small grains	1322	2 weeks 20 acres	1 week 15 acres	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 20 acres	1 week 20 acres	2,000	2,000	Mow goose pasture on 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 346 acres	18,500	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	1,500	0	Conduct a prescribed burn to control Russian knapweed in east slough and on Green Island.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Integrate biological control	1322	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 areas	1211	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	Maintain 2 access areas and 1 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.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						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	0	1,500	0	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	0	1,500	0	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 10 tours	1,000	1,000	Conduct 10 WMA tours for scouts, schools, and other interested groups. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, REDH, white-faced ibis
DEPREDATION CONTROL						
Management Program - Provide lure crops for waterfowl						
Plant spring or fall grains	1322	2 weeks	1 week	4,500	1,405	Plant winter wheat lure crop in

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		20 acres	15 acres			north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, pronghorn antelope
Provide goose pasture from existing alfalfa fields	1322	359 acres	440 acres	0	0	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						
Management Program - Enhance upland game production						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	1 week 50 acres	1 week 50 acres	4,500	4,500	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	2 weeks 5-20 acres	1 week 10 acres	3,000	3,000	Plant corn or millet food plots on north agricultural fields, west

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						agricultural fields, and along south lake shore. 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	3 weeks 33 miles	4,000	4,000	Repair and maintain fences. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Maintain road	1211	1 week 18 miles	1 week 18 miles	4,000	4,000	Repair and maintain roads. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week 5 miles	1 week 5 miles	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	2 weeks	3,500	3,500	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	6 weeks	5,500	5,500	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	2.5 weeks	2.5 weeks	3,500	3,500	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	5 weeks	3,000	3,000	Work on WMA planning, progress, review, and evaluation reports. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files, prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	17.5 weeks	3,500	3,500	General WMA operations. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 weeks	7 weeks	3,099	3,099	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$110,904
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$110,904

NARRATIVE

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area

The 8,853-acre Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County is 3 miles north of Terreton, 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 3,000 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, Lahontan cutthroat trout, brown trout, tiger muskie, bluegill, and channel catfish. It presently supports mainly a yellow perch and Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery, with Utah chubs and suckers still common species.

Public Use

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% of the harvest is game farm cocks planted using state funds on the farmland on the north side of the lake. 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 maintained and provide access to the majority of the WMA. Various access points, informational displays, and parking areas are maintained for the public.

1996-1997 Conditions

Waterfowl production was moderately good in 1996. Good production throughout the Pacific Flyway resulted in large fall numbers of ducks on the WMA in 1996. Mud Lake froze in early December. Waterfowl hunting on the WMA was good to excellent.

In 1997, the canal company held off pumping until late spring, anticipating late run-off from snow melt. The result was a late rise of Mud Lake water levels and a loss of many mid to late first attempt duck nests. As of August, it appears that there was a strong renesting effort and late nesting waterfowl did well, especially gadwall. Broods in July were composed mostly of class 1 or class 3 ducklings.

A wet spring and summer has resulted in very good grass conditions and moderate regrowth after grazing. Peregrine falcons successfully hatched a nest in the nesting tower.

There was an increase in the sightings of moose on the WMA.

1996-1997 Projects

Time was spent preparing and working on the WMA management plan. The plan is currently on hold until direction is received from the new IDFG Director.

The property value of the WMA was calculated for the IDFG Commission.

Weed control activities continued on approximately 160 acres of the WMA. The application of Curtail and Tordon herbicide and a surfactant at or just before bud of Russian knapweed resulted in great control in 1996. This combination was tried again in 1997. Another test plot was established with Wilber-Ellis to test the effects of new herbicides on knapweed. Approximately 60 to 100 acres of knapweed was mowed in 1997.

Approximately 60 acres were seeded to nesting cover in 1996. Frequent rains in 1997 has resulted in vigorous sprouting in these seeded areas.

A one year share-crop agreement for the west agriculture fields was developed and a new sharecropper was the highest bidder. The IDFG's share will be in the form of hay and a food plot.

A five acre food plot was planted and is doing well in the north agriculture fields.

Share-crop activities were continued on the north agricultural fields.

The pipeline from the B well had a break from ice and was repaired.

Repairs were made to the 125hp irrigation well.

The Jernberg well was operated to flood portions of west sloughs for waterfowl habitat.

Roads on Mackenzie Point, Duck Trap Point, and Green Island were brushed out in some areas where willows were over growing the roads.

Over a hundred goose structures were maintained.

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

The Kastor observation tower was painted.

New boat docks were installed at both boat ramps.

A used cattle guard and 3 new cattle gates were installed on the WMA.

New windows were installed in the headquarters.

Many projects were reduced or not completed because of a cut in temporary labor.

1996-1997 Planned Projects

Plan to continue 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 structure in west slough to create more wetlands if an agreement with Owsley Canal Company can be reached.

Will continue to control weeds.

Build irrigation pipe racks.

Paint headquarters.

Install new WMA entrance and boundary signs.

Remodel headquarters bathroom.

Install the rest of the new windows in headquarters.

Will try to improve the Green Island road.

Will try to establish food plots for upland game on and off the WMA.

Will try to disc open some bulrush choked wetland.

Will continue share-crop activities.

Plan on adding fire rings to both boat ramps.

Will try to improve exits on HIP predator fence.

Will try to replace two 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 effect wildlife and wildlife habitat in the habitat district. To assist landowners in planning, funding, and installing habitat projects on private lands.

1996-1997 Projects

U.S. Forest Service:

Met with the Targhee Forest and the regional wildlife staff to delineate big game winter ranges for the new forest plan. The main point of dissension was the question of what is critical/important winter range (how many animals and how often it is used). IDFG delineated all winter range and the USFS was interested in critical winter range.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Beaver Creek vegetation plan. The Targhee Forest is developing a comprehensive vegetation management plan for the Beaver Creek drainage and wanted comments on the major issues in the drainage. This project is still pending.

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

Bureau of Land Management:

Worked on IDFG comments for a land exchange between the BLM and IDL. IDL wants to consolidate land holding around Sage Junction in order be able to lease land for a truck stop. The parcels the BLM would acquire are scattered throughout the region and many are important wildlife habitats. The vegetative condition should improve on the acquired parcels under BLM management polices.

Reviewed BLM's new riparian area inventory methods and source for inventory records. This will provide a lot of useful information on riparian vegetative condition on BLM lands. The inventory manual and source book is now kept in the regional office.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Birch Creek Ranches land exchange. Ted Sorenson wants to acquire isolated tracks near Reno Point to convert to agricultural land so he can use his water rights. Ted has offered various parcels in various areas. This project is still pending.

Worked on IDFG comments for the 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 BLM wants to treat their portion of the allotment to prevent degradation from occurring from activities on other portions of the allotment. The surrounding area has already had several recent control projects in the near vicinity and cumulative impacts need to be considered by IDL and BLM. This project is still pending.

Provided comments on the construction of a fence between Wigwam and Mahogany Butte allotments. This fence is perpendicular to the main antelope migration route/corridor in the Birch Creek valley. The BLM has made several modifications from standard fence design to permit easier antelope passage. This project will require further monitoring.

Natural Resource Conservation Service:

Helped work on the IDFG involvement in the 1997 CRP sign up. Met with Clark County landowners on establishing CRP riparian buffer strips along Camas Creek.

Worked on enrolling a portion of IDFG's Kaufman access area into the Wetland Reserve Program still continuing. 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.

Idaho Department of Lands:

Worked on IDFG comments for the Ching Creek timber sale. The IDL is proposing a shelterwood cut on Ching Creek. Douglas fir regeneration on this parcel appears to be marginal at best and the proposed cut may not leave enough shelterwood trees.

Worked on IDFG comments for the Sheridan Ranch grazing plan. The IDL has developed a grazing plan for the ranch to improve upland and riparian conditions on several mixed ownership allotments. Sheridan Creek was historically a very important trout spawning and brooding area. The ranch manager wants to use water and salt to disperse cattle from Sheridan Creek. This will most likely not work, so the IDFG recommended a riparian pasture system. The IDL wants to develop a sagebrush control/management plan with the IDFG for the ranch at a later date.

Worked with the IDL on renewing a grazing lease on WMA. A 259.3 acre parcel of WMA is IDL land leased by WMA. A management plan has been drafted for this parcel. This project is still pending.

High Country RC&D:

Attended an interagency weed control meeting for the Centennial Mountain area of Idaho and Montana.

Participated in an interagency weed spray day in the Beaver Creek drainage.

Teton Valley Land Trust:

Worked on IDFG comments for placing the Dr. Gobel property under a conservation easement. The property is over 5,000 acres and constitutes the majority of private land in the Medicine Lodge drainage. The easement may protect many scenic and wildlife values associated with the Medicine Lodge drainage.

Habitat Improvement Program (HIP):

Signed a HIP contract for five goose boxes along Camas Creek.

Looked at a possible shelter project. Wildlife benefits were slight and IDFG declined cost-sharing on the project.

Worked on a possible fencing project to protect springs in upper Indian Creek. This project is still pending.

Looked at the possibility of developing a pond project on Ching Creek. This project depends on the landowner getting permission to divert the water. His request has been appealed by the Mud Lake Water Users.

Signed a HIP contract with Jefferson County to develop a shelterbelt around the Mud Lake landfill.

Developed two corn food plots on WMA.

1997-1998 Planned Projects

Will continue to review and monitor sagebrush control projects.

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

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

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

Will coordinate waterfowl activities with Camas NWR.

Will try to work on Mud Lake water right adjudication.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Dennis Aslett
 Assistant: Anna Owsiak
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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. Establish monitoring transects	1630	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	900	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, moose
Assist wildlife management staff in census, winter movements, and marking	1460	1 week	No Census	900	0	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sage grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase, lease, easement, or use trade	1111	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Management Program - Increase elk use of transition ranges						
Provide legumes and grains for elk feed	1322	3 weeks 100 acres	2 weeks 100 acres	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Establish and conduct a range monitoring program to assess big game use of transition range. Monitor and report use.	1460	4 weeks	0	4,000	0	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Monitor hunting season and make recommendations to improve elk use of transition areas	1430	2 weeks	3 weeks	1,800	3,000	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	0	1,500	0	Species benefitted: Moose, mule deer, elk, sharp-tailed grouse
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd composition counts	1460	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Deer, moose, elk, sage grouse
Assess possibilities for land	1111	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Deer, elk,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
acquisition, use trade, lease						moose, sage grouse
SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Vegetation and water management						
Identify lek areas on WMA and adjacent lands, report results	1450	5 weeks	4 weeks	4,500	5,000	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Maintain good residual cover adjacent to leks	1440	1 week		900		Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor use of water developments	1440	1 week	1 week	900	1,500	Species benefitted: Deer, elk, moose, sage and sharp-tailed grouse
Identify winter areas and cooperate with other agencies to protect winter habitat	1460	2 weeks	1 week	1,800	900	Species benefitted: Sage and sharp-tailed grouse, moose, elk
Assist on sage grouse research project	1470	4 weeks	2 weeks	3,600	1,800	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Conduct annual lek counts	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, doves, ruffed grouse
PUBLIC HUNTING						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management program - Maintain current hunting level, improve quality						
Maintain hunter access roads	1211	2 weeks	1 week	5,000	2,500	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Provide information and signing on area closures, monitor area closures	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, elk, deer, moose
Improve facilities for nonmotorized access	1331	1 week	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: Moose, deer, elk, CAGO
Work with five private landowners to maintain public access	1720	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sage grouse
Make recommendations for hunting seasons	1630	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, MALL, CAGO
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	900	1,500	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide quality nesting cover and food crops						
Provide 50 acres of grain	1322	2 weeks 50 acres	2 weeks 60 acres	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, BUFF, GRSC
Improve nesting cover on 20 acres in the pond area	1440	2 weeks 20 acres	2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, AMWI, GADW
Provide additional nesting structures: five goose, five bufflehead	1440	1 week	0	1,500	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, BUFF

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Continue signing and patrolling nesting areas to prevent disturbance	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	1,800	2,400	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Monitor waterfowl production and report findings	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	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	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,900	4,900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Evaluate nongame habitat needs, implement habitat developments	1440	1 week	0	900	0	Species benefitted: Kestrels, sand hill crane, osprey, great blue heron
Maintain a nature trail in the pond area and monitor use	1331	1 week	5 weeks	2,500	3,100	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sand hill crane
Provide and protect nesting areas for trumpeter swans	1440	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,500	2,700	Species benefitted: Trumpeter swan, CAGO, MALL, AMWI
Management Program - Regulate and monitor trapping						
Require trappers to register with area manager and report harvest. Submit annual report	1430	1 week	1 week	900	900	Species benefitted: Beaver, muskrat, mink, fox
Maintain furbearer habitat in pond areas	1440	1 week	0	800	0	Species benefitted: Mink, muskrat, beaver, fox
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Map infestations and control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	6 weeks	4,000	8,000	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer
Check water levels and dikes	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	5,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Swan, BUFF
Maintain fence	1211	5 weeks 55 miles	5 weeks	6,400	6,400	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Replace fence	1211	3 weeks 3 miles	1 week 1/4 mile	10,000	1,200	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, grouse
Maintain road	1211	1 week 5 miles	1 week	2,800	2,800	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, grouse
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks 2.5 miles	1 week	4,500	900	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, swan, BUFF
Maintain buildings and structures	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	8,000	10,000	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review and comment on proposed habitat projects	1710	10 weeks 20 projects	8 weeks 17 proj	10,500	8,400	Species benefitted: Great gray owl, elk, deer, moose
Assist five landowners on wildlife projects	1720	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, pheasant, partridge
Cooperate with other agencies, attend coordination meetings	1710	4 weeks	3 weeks	5,000	3,750	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Provide technical assistance to revise the Sands Habitat Management Plan	1710	4 weeks	0	3,600	0	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Attend training	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,000	5,000	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	4 weeks	9 weeks	3,600	10,752	Species benefitted:
Maintain records; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	15 weeks	7,000	17,500	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	5 weeks	6,002	15,000	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$151,302
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$151,302

NARRATIVE

Background

The Sand Creek Habitat District includes the Ashton Ranger District of the Targhee National Forest, portions of the Medicine Lodge Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, Fremont County south of Island Park Ranger District, Jefferson County east of I-15 and north of state Highway 33, and the 31,156 acre Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area.

The Sand Creek habitat district and Wildlife Management Area headquarters is located two miles north of Parker and the secondary headquarters is 17 miles north of St. Anthony. Although not a continuous tract of land, the WMA extends for approximately 20 miles from Parker northeast to the Targhee Forest on Big Bend Ridge. The WMA consists of 17,290 acres of Department owned land; 1,000 acres of land reserved by the BLM for wildlife use; 9,667 acres of BLM land withdrawn from livestock grazing; and 2,198 acres of state owned land that is being leased by the Department for wildlife use.

The WMA was originally purchased and managed to provide winter range for the Sand Creek elk herd. Although the primary focus today is still on elk winter range, the program has been expanded to include providing deer and moose winter range, habitat for sage and sharp-tailed grouse production and

wintering, waterfowl production at the five Sand Creek Ponds, public hunting and fishing, and wildlife appreciation. Today, the WMA and surrounding lands are home to 3,000-3,500 wintering elk, 1,500-2,000 wintering deer, and 250 to 400 wintering moose.

The Sand Creek Habitat District is staffed by a permanent Habitat Biologist, a permanent Wildlife Technician, and budget cuts this year reduced the temporary labor time from 4.5 months to 3 months.

Management Priorities

11. 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. Administration

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.

The elk census was not conducted this year.

- b. Acquire critical winter range.

Potential opportunities for winter range acquisition were monitored but no new proposals were submitted. However, comments were submitted on several potential projects within the winter range area that may affect winter habitat.

- c. Increase elk use of transition ranges.

One hundred acres of alfalfa and 60 acres of wheat and barley were provided for big game forage on transition range at the Sand Creek Ponds.

Range monitoring transects were established on transition range in conjunction with a sage grouse research project in the area.

Hunting seasons were monitored. An early snowstorm in late October resulted in significant movements of big game to winter ranges. Although the weather moderated, most elk remained on the winter range and the hunting success rates were generally good. Recommendations were submitted for appropriate changes in hunting seasons and controlled hunt permit levels.

2. Mule Deer And Moose Wintering

- a. Increase forage production.

Due to budget constraints, rotomowing of bitterbrush was not conducted this year.

Assistance was provided for a mule deer census in December. A total of 2,925 deer were counted which is an all time high count and is nearly 600 over the last highest count in 1993-94. The herd composition was 26 bucks and 79 fawns per 100 does.

Moose were counted in conjunction with the deer survey. A total of 323 moose were counted with 125 cows, 89 calves, 52 small bulls, 29 large bulls, 6 unclassified bulls, and 22 unclassified animals. The herd composition count was 70 bulls and 71 calves per 100 cows. Moose are approaching, if not exceeding, record numbers in this area.

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

3. Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Production

- a. Vegetation and water management.

A concerted effort was made this spring to identify sharp-tailed grouse leks on CRP areas adjacent to the WMA. The purpose was not only to document active leks, but to provide adequate data for the CRP renewal program this year. Volunteers were used to conduct some of the searches. A total of six active leks were located that had not previously been documented. All had at least 10 males attending.

Comment letters and technical assistance was provided to other agencies and individuals to protect known production and wintering areas.

Use of 5 wildlife guzzlers on the Sand Creek desert was monitored throughout the summer. Four of the five are receiving sage grouse use and all five are being used by nongame species and mule deer.

b. Evaluate annual production.

The Grassy sharp-tailed grouse lek route produced no confirmed leks this year for the fourth year in a row. The Sand Creek route had two of four leks active and scattered birds at a third lek. Although a total of 33 birds were counted on the Sand Creek route as the high number (up from 17-20 in recent years), 21 of those were on one lek that is located in a CRP field.

Two sage grouse leks were checked. The only remaining lek on the Sand Creek Road was checked only once and only 2 males were documented. Miller's Corral lek had 38+ males on one survey.

Hunter numbers were down due to a major change in the sage grouse season in particular. The season was reduced from a month long to one week and the bag limit was reduced from two to one bird. Most hunters reported seeing birds and wing data indicated that production was good. The sharp-tailed season remained the same and success was good in some areas.

4. Public Hunting

a. Maintain current hunting level and improve quality.

Vehicle traffic is restricted to designated routes 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.

Hunter check stations for big game were operated on an occasional basis. Recommendations for changes in hunting seasons were prepared and submitted.

5. Waterfowl Production

- a. Provide quality nesting cover and food crops.

In the fall of 1996, 63 acres of wheat and barley were left standing for wildlife use.

Sixty acres of permanent nesting cover were planted near the ponds and on the Mortimer segments. No hay was cut this year which left 80 acres of hay and grass fields for nesting cover.

No new nesting structures were provided.

The waterfowl nesting areas around the ponds were signed and patrolled regularly. Disturbance appeared to be minimal.

Waterfowl production was not adequately 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 sportsmen'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. The WMA poster display was used on several occasions and a wildlife poster contest was conducted in the are 4th grade classes to promote awareness of the WMA.

The first half of a self-guided nature trail was designed and completed this year. The design is completed for the second half and it will be completed next spring.

In 1996, only one of 8 trumpeter swan cygnets survived to flight stage. In the spring of 1997, swan nesting territories were signed and protected throughout the nesting season. Three territories were once again documented for the third year including Pond 2, 4, and the Swan Pond. The Swan Pond nest was abandoned early in the season. Three cygnets hatched on Pond 2 and one on Pond 4 in the third week of June.

7. Administration

a. Maintain improvements.

Weed control included spraying 63 acres of grain, 20 acres around campgrounds, dikes, islands, and roadways primarily for Canadian thistle, and summer fallowing 30 acres. In addition, knapweed was hand pulled and sprayed around both headquarters facilities. Several small infestations of leafy spurge were located, mapped, and sprayed on the WMA.

Dikes and water levels were checked frequently especially during the abnormally high runoff that occurred this spring. Snow pack was approximately 130% of normal.

All fences were maintained and no new fences were constructed.

All roads and dikes were maintained using Department equipment and personnel. Fremont County road crews were also used to maintain some roadways.

All buildings and structures were maintained. The generator at the second headquarters was repaired and seems to be working properly. The shop at the second headquarters was cleaned and the inside painted. Most of the WMA equipment is old and repairs are frequent. One new snowmachine was acquired this year.

b. Technical assistance.

Comments and assistance was provided for 17 proposed projects in the habitat district including land exchanges, habitat projects, an elk ranch, grazing allotments, easements, subdivisions, CRP signup, HIP projects, and area closures.

Assistance was provided for five landowners on either HIP projects or CRP.

A total of 15 coordination meetings were attended and subjects included weed control, grouse conservation plans, prison work camp projects, JCC projects, range tours, project proposal meetings, coordination with other agencies, and habitat section meetings.

The Sands Habitat Management Plan is on hold at the present time.

Training included plant identification, computer classes, boater safety, CPR, physical fitness, enforcement, and firearms.

c. Administrative duties.

All necessary plans, budgets, evaluations, and special reports were prepared and submitted. A long range WMA plan was prepared, revised, and submitted. A long range WMA plan was prepared, revised, and submitted for review.

Information for several articles and news releases covering the Sand Creek WMA 50th anniversary were prepared and submitted. Included were the history of the WMA and associated wildlife resources.

Other duties included assisting population biologists in transplanting moose, responding appropriately to various calls from the public or other agencies, assisting other WMA's Free Fishing Day, providing assistance for the Department booth at the county fair, monitoring anglers on the Sand Creek Ponds, assisting the sage grouse research team, and hosting the Sand Creek WMA 50th Anniversary Celebration at the second headquarters.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Terry Thomas
 Assistant: Paul Faulkner
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

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. Monitor existing projects and their impacts on	1710	12 weeks 20 projects	12 weeks 21 projects	12,250	12,250	Species benefitted: Sharp-tailed grouse, elk, mule deer, sage grouse, moose, mountain goats

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
wildlife.						
FISH AND GAME LANDS						
Management Program - Big Game Wintering						
Monitor utilization by big game during winter	1450	3 weeks 7,000 acres	3 weeks	4,800	3,800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose
Maintain winter forage on F&G lands	1211/ 1440	8 weeks	7 weeks	6,800	6,800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Implement coordinated resource management plan	1322	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor hunter harvest and public use on F&G lands	1430	1 week	2 weeks	2,000	4,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM						
Management Program - HIP						
Waterfowl habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 5-10 projects	3 weeks 4 proj	4,000	6,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, NOPI
Upland bird habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 5-10 projects	1 week 4 proj	4,000	2,000	Species benefitted: Gray partridge, pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse
SOUTH FORK OF SNAKE RIVER IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY						
Management Program - Goose management						
Adopt-A-Wetland program on the South Fork River	1322	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$ 37,850
Outside funds	344,649
Grand Total	\$382,499

NARRATIVE

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 and submitting comments on projects proposed by the US Forest Service (USFS), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and the US Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In all, 21 projects were reviewed. Field reconnaissance was significant and included horse packing into mountain goat country, snowmobiling into potential sage grouse winter ranges, and floating a river. Projects included grazing management, trail reconstruction, river rehabilitation, sagebrush control, and big game winter range protection.

The Project Leader was involved in the South Fork Mitigation Group and the South Fork MOU Group. Both groups are dedicated to improving/acquiring habitat and coordination between agencies and other interested parties with issues pertaining to the South Fork of the Snake River. The Assistant has been actively involved in the South Fork Biological Weed Control Group and was instrumental in obtaining significant outside funding for biological control of weeds in target areas.

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. Considerable time was invested this year into the purchase of an additional 2,200 acres of critical deer and elk winter range. This sale is nearly complete and will boost the Department owned portion of the WMA to almost 10,000 acres or one third of the WMA.

Tex Creek WMA is currently the winter home for 3,500 elk, 4,000-6,000 mule deer, and up to 100 moose. It provides year round habitat for these species and others, including Columbian 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 Project Leader, his assistant, and other employees. Big game wintered well. There was a significant amount of snowfall this past winter, but warm temperatures throughout the winter kept snow from accumulating on many slopes and the forage base was readily available.

Deer and elk sightability helicopter counts were flown in units 66 and 69. Moose were counted incidentally to these counts. Numbers were up slightly from previous flights.

Forage management on the WMA included rotomowing selected fields. Mowing occurred in July to lessen the impact on nesting birds. Fall fertilization was conducted but did not appear to have the desired impact this spring.

Winter wheat was share cropped in alternating strips on 400 acres of state property. Most of the ripe grain was harvested, but about 20 acres was left standing. Spring barley was planted in the lower terraces that would have normally been in fallow rotation in an effort to eliminate wild rye. This strategy worked very well and produced additional grain that was left standing.

The coordinated resource management plan which trades grazing on IDFG lands for no grazing on privately held critical winter range was implemented again this year. Spring grazing on the WMA reduced the need for mechanical treatments and rested the private ground, thus reserving the available forage for elk and deer. Fall grazing on Bull's Fork substituted for mechanical treatment, reduced residual build-up, and hastened spring green-up. The net effect was to reduce elk use on neighboring winter wheat fields.

Sharp-tailed grouse surveys were conducted again this year. Two historical leks were relocated. Conditions precluded attempts to locate leks south of Idaho Falls in areas proposed for sagebrush treatment.

Sharp-tailed grouse hunting in the fall of 1996 was the best it has been in recent years. This was following favorable spring weather and points to the ability of an upland bird population to rebound quickly and to the regulatory effect of spring weather. Forest grouse hunting was also excellent with hunters reporting many birds and limits.

Habitat Improvement Program

A major project was undertaken on the Tex Creek WMA this year with the construction of three ponds on Pipe Creek. These ponds were completed in the fall of 1996 and were filled in the spring of 1997. The uppermost pond has held nearly full pool all summer of 1997. However, the other two ponds will require additional work due to engineering problems.

A large and complex waterfowl project is underway in the Swan Valley area. This project involves over 20 acres and the involvement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and NRCS as well as the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Another waterfowl project was initiated in the Willow Creek drainage. It consists of excluding livestock from approximately one mile of Mill Creek. This is a joint fish/waterfowl project.

Two shelterbelts have been completed in the Ririe area for upland birds. The Project Leader has been in contact with several other landowners including one who is interested in a complex of habitat improvements on his 40 acres. Several landowners have dropped from the program for financial reasons.

South Fork of Snake River in Bonneville County

The spring of 1997 produced record flows from Palisades dam and surrounding watersheds. Over 40,000 cfs was recorded at Heise. The resultant high water destroyed bridges, farmlands, and homes downstream of Heise. Adopt-a-Wetland groups have not been on the river to survey the damage to their sections of the river, but it is expected that all nesting structures have been lost. Replacement of these structures will begin this fall and will likely take several years. However, this will provide the opportunity to reevaluate the location of the structures and look for opportunities to lessen visual impacts and improve nesting.

The Idaho Falls Chapter of the Idaho Conservation Officers Association has renewed their agreement and has indicated they would like to begin a more serious effort in their area of responsibility.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-13
 Project Leader: Robin Holmquist
 Period: 7/1/96-6/30/97

Salmon Region Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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						
Management Program - Improve waterfowl habitat on public and private land						
Identify waterfowl habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 projects	655	655	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week 10 projects	1 week 15 projects	1,310	1,310	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to	1720	1.5 week	1.5 week	1,965	1,965	Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
private landowners for development of waterfowl habitat		10 projects	10 projects			CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking and trapping	1460	1 week 2 projects	1 week 2 projects	1,310	1,310	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Management Program - Improve upland bird habitat on private and public land						
Identify upland bird habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 projects	655	655	Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	.5 week 10 sites	.5 week 15 sites	655	655	Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to private landowners for development of upland habitat	1720	1 week 30 sites	1 week 20 sites	1,310	1,310	Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Evaluate need for water developments	1410	.5 week 5 devel.	.5 week 5 devel.	655	655	Species benefitted: Chukar
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week	1 week	1,310	1,310	Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
BACKCOUNTRY RANCHES						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Maintain big game winter and spring forage						
Monitor big game forage use	1440	1.5 weeks 8 properties	1.5 weeks 8 properties	1,965	1,965	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Monitor commercial use agreement	1630	1 week 2 properties	1 week 1 property	1,310	1,310	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 weeks 3 projects	1,965	1,965	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Provide technical assistance for backcountry commercial grazing permits	1710	.5 week	.5 week	655	655	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Management Program - Recreational public use						
Work with other agencies, private and commercial users to identify needs and coordinate changes in ranch use	1620	1 week	1 week	1,310	1,310	
Develop public use areas to limit conflicts with wildlife and various user groups	1332	.5 week 3 sites	.5 week 3 sites	655	655	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Forest Grouse
Management Program - Administrative sites for management activities						
Building repairs such as new roof and removal of unwanted buildings	1211	1 week	1.5 week	1,310	1,965	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Move and remove fences	1211	.5 week	0.0 week	655	0	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Maintain irrigation system provide for wildlife and administrative packstock	1211	.5 week	.5 week	655	655	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
BIG GAME AND FURBEARER HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Management Program - Evaluate ungulate use of winter and summer ranges in Salmon Region						
Assist other agencies in the monitoring of commercial grazing allotments on public lands to protect big game habitat	1440	5 weeks 20 allotments	5 weeks 20 allotments	6,550	6,550	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,620	2,620	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	655	655	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	2,620	2,620	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase or easement	1630	1 week 5 proposals	1 week 3 proposals	1,310	1,310	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Management Program - Monitor furbearer habitat						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Evaluate methods for determining furbearer habitat in Salmon Region and use of that habitat.	1440	2 weeks 1 project	2 weeks 1 project	2,620	2,620	Species benefitted: Wolverine, Fisher, Marten, Raccoon, Lynx, Fox, Otter, Beaver
Provide technical assistance to other agencies for furbearer habitat improvements	1710	.5 week	.5 week	655	655	
SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS AND ACCESS AREAS IN SALMON REGION						
Management Program - Maintain maximum wildlife use on Department controlled properties						
Maintain fences to control trespass livestock	1211	1 week 4 miles	1 week 4 miles	1,320	1,320	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	1,310	1,310	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	5,240	5,240	Species benefitted: Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant, Whitetail Deer, Mink
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Supervise weed control and train personnel in proper methods of control	1610	1 week	1 week	1,310	1,310	
Supervise routine maintenance	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,620	2,620	
Cooperate with other agencies for joint maintenance of access areas	1630	1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	1,965	1,965	
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain public contact						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct tours and presentations to promote habitat preservation and development	1610	.5 week	.5 week	655	655	
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	2 weeks 40 projects	2 weeks 40 projects	2,620	2,620	
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2.5 weeks	2.5 weeks	3,275	3,275	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1620	2 weeks 6 documents	2 weeks 6 documents	2,620	2,620	
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,550	6,550	
Other duties (as assigned)	1610	1 week	1 week	1,323	1,323	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$68,143
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$68,143

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