

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Stephen P. Mealey, Director

Project W-173-D-14

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Annual Progress Report



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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ABBREVIATION CODES TO BE USED IN THIS REPORT:

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

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Tom Parker  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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. Plan and coordinate statewide management on over 360,000 acres of land owned or managed by the Dept.	1630	34 weeks	34 WEEKS	56,183	56,183	

Total PR Contract W/Overhead	\$ 56,183
License Funds	1,416,400
Grand Total	\$1,472,583

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Panhandle Region Wildlife 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 Wildlife Habitat Management Program						
Supervise Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)	1720	100 inq. 6 weeks	105 inq. 6 weeks	9,000	9,000	33 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	16,000	Supervision provided to three FTEs. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, elk, WT deer
Supervise habitat maintenance program on WMAs	1630	6 WMAs 2 weeks	6 WMAs 1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
Supervise Forestry Specialist	1322	200 acres 5 weeks	250 acres 4 weeks	9,000	9,000	Three timber sale contracts awarded. Species benefitted: WT deer
Supervise Sportsmen's Access Maintenance program	1333	46 sites 6 weeks	43 sites 5 weeks	16,000	15,000	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Supervise Albeni Falls Project wildlife habitat mitigation program funded by Bonneville Power Administration	1112	0	1 program 1 week	0	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, muskrat, yellow warbler, WT deer, bald eagle
ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS						
Management Program - Recommend land acquisitions and be responsible for transactions on Department property						
Fee title, nonwetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1111	50 acres 1.5 weeks	0	1,000	0	No acquisition proposals submitted.
Fee title, wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1112	150 acres 1.5 weeks	354 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	354 acres acquired. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, muskrat, yellow warbler, WT deer, bald eagle
Nonfee title, nonwetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1121	200 acres 2 weeks	124 acres 4 weeks	3,000	6,000	Four licenses, three easements, one lease, and one special use permit completed. Species benefitted: WT deer
Nonfee title, wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1122	200 acres 3 weeks	40 acres 1 week	3,000	1,000	One easement was 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	6 projects 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Reviewed six proposals. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	5 weeks	8 weeks	3,000	6,000	Federal Aid work plans prepared for FY99. Annual reports prepared for FY98.
Maintain files, prepare reports, editing, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	9,700	12,000	FY00 budget request completed.
Employee performance evaluations	1630	5 FTEs 2 weeks	5 FTEs 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	Five evaluations given.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	7,014	4,545	Jobs completed.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$88,214	\$85,745
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$88,214	\$85,745

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 (WMAs) and 43 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, a Utility Craftsman responsible for development and maintenance of sportsmen's access sites, and a Mitigation Specialist responsible for coordinating the wildlife habitat mitigation program for Albeni Falls Dam funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

An ADA training session was attended and an audit of the Panhandle Regional Office was completed for compliance with the ADA standards. E-mail capability has been extended to Department satellite offices for the Coeur d'Alene River and McArthur Lake WMAs.

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. Thirty-three waterfowl and one upland game projects were completed.

### 3. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Long-range planning efforts for all WMAs continued. 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 1998 goose nesting surveys, waterfowl banding summaries for 1997, duck productivity surveys for 1997, weed control plans for 1998, predator control plans for 1998, updated waterfowl band recovery report, ingested lead shot/steel shot summaries from the 1997 waterfowl season opener, and documentation reports for 1997 Beneficial Use of Water Rights on the Coeur d'Alene River and McArthur Lake WMAs.

Coeur d'Alene River WMA - All flood related repairs from the 1996 and 1997 flood events that were funded by FEMA were completed.

Farragut WMA - The WMA was inspected by GSA and a new Program of Utilization was signed for the next 5-year period. A north Idaho legislator attempted to condemn four parcels of Department property and transfer them to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation but withdrew the bill due to opposition.

Pend Oreille WMA - Low lying areas within the WMA were inundated through July 1997 by a record snowpack. Peak flows on the Clark Fork River reached 144,000 cfs and Pend Oreille Lake reached 2067.0 feet elevation - 4.5 feet over flood stage. Resource damage was minimal.

St. Maries WMA - The Department signed a cooperative agreement with the Idaho Department of Lands to provide financial assistance to resurvey the western portion of the Lindstrom Peak township.

### 4. Forestry Program

Three timber sales were set up and awarded - Elk Creek Reservoir in the Clearwater Region (R2) and Sunnyside Salvage and Wolf Lodge Salvage both in the Panhandle Region. The Sunnyside Salvage sale salvaged downed trees and broken trees from a severe windstorm that occurred May 31, 1997. The Wolf Lodge Salvage sale also salvaged trees damaged by a windstorm. The Elk Creek Reservoir sale was done to maintain canopy coverage and improve an access site.

The West Shepherd Lake sale and Farragut Lodgepole sale that were started in FY97 were completed. The Farragut Lodgepole sale was expanded when the purchaser agreed to remove merchantable timber from the boundary fences to prevent damage to utility lines and the boundary fence. This expansion was requested by Kootenai Electric Coop and GTE Northwest.

Due to potential adverse public opinion, a potential fire salvage sale in the South Fork of the Salmon River in the Southwest Region (R3) was canceled by the Department's Director.

Draft Forest Management Plans were prepared for Garfield Bay, Wolf Lodge and Sunnyside Park access sites. The Project Leader serves on the Panhandle Region Forest Management Team that is responsible for preparing timber sales on Department property that benefit wildlife.

#### 5. Sportsmen's Access Sites

Presently there are 43 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.

An access site development plan was prepared for all sportsmen's access sites in the Region.

#### 6. Acquisitions

Three land acquisitions were completed - the Dave Lewis property near Clark Fork (Henderson Ranch) totaling 240 acres; the White family property (Carter's Island) also near Clark Fork totaling 97 acres; and the Wythe property at Denton Slough totaling 16.76 acres. All three properties were purchased with BPA funds as wildlife habitat mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir.

Two additional land acquisition proposals to be purchased with BPA funds were submitted to Department headquarters and approved - the Ginter property on Pack River and the Hubbard property on Boundary Creek. The Ginter property will close in January, 1999. The Hubbard acquisition has stalled as the landowner did not like the appraisal.

Field reviews were conducted on seven additional parcels of property for possible acquisition but no action was taken.

A regional land acquisition priority list was prepared and submitted to Headquarters.

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 right-of-way easements to six property owners near the southwest corner of McArthur Lake WMA, Susan Nelson at Sportsmen's Park access, and Ron Geary near Bull Run Lake on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

One lease was signed with Kootenai County for the use of a storage building at the former Department regional office. Another proposed lease with the Rose Lake Water Association for use of a well was prepared but not completed.

Three license agreements were completed. The Rose Lake Water Association was given permission to drill a well on the Rose Lake access; the Corps of Engineers was granted a temporary road right-of-way on Carter's Island; and the Idaho Department of Lands was granted a temporary road right-of-way on the St. Maries WMA. Two additional license agreements were prepared but not finalized.

A grazing trespass by four adjacent landowners at the Hauser Lake access was discovered. Steps were taken to resolve the trespass by the Kootenai County civil attorney's office.

One temporary special use permit was prepared for a group event (triathlon) on Department property at Garfield Bay.

8. Albeni Falls Dam Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Program

In mid April 1998, supervision of a Wildlife Mitigation Specialist and the mitigation program at the regional level were transferred to the Project Leader. This program is responsible for coordinating wildlife habitat mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

9. 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. The Project Leader was appointed by the Governor's office to represent the Department on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin work group charged with preparing a clean up plan for mine wastes in the lower Coeur d'Alene River Valley.

10. 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.

11. Other Duties

The Project Leader serves as the Panhandle Region Waterfowl Banding Coordinator, participated in the biannual Department physical fitness assessments and enforcement training for nonenforcement personnel, and was Acting Regional Supervisor on two occasions.

The Project Leader drafted a policy for handling easements, license agreements and special use permits on Department property and submitted the draft to Department Headquarters.

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 (43 sites).
6. Implementation of wildlife habitat mitigation program for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	1,500	1,500	Coeur d'Alene River WMA Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Farragut/St. Maries WMAs 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	

ACTIVITY etc.	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	801	801	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$9,801	\$9,801
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$9,801	\$9,801

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Pat Cole  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	0	2,000	0	No nest structures were added this year.
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	0	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	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: CAGO
Reseed grazing pastures	1322	4 acres 2 weeks	10 acres 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Reseeding in progress. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	125 platfrms 1 week	125 plts 1 week	800	800	33 active Canada goose nests observed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Check for outbreaks of disease or poisoning	1211	1 week	1 week	300	300	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	0	1,000	0	No Canada geese were banded at McArthur Lake this year.
DUCK PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Monitoring						
Document level of duck production	1460	2 pair cnts 3 brood cnts 2 weeks	2 pr cnt 3 brd cnts 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Management Program - Improve nesting and brood-rearing habitat						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide quality nesting habitat adjacent to marsh	1211	50 acres 1 week	50 acres 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Reseed dense nesting habitat	1322	24 acres 3 weeks	38 acres 3 weeks	3,000	4,000	Reseeding in progress. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	60 boxes 1 week	50 boxes 1 week	1,000	2,000	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. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME, COGO
Manage water level	1211	600 acres 8 weeks	600 acrs 8 weeks	3,000	4,000	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	564 ducks 4 weeks	3,500	3,500	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	1 site 1 week	1 site 1 week	500	500	
Random field checks for species harvested	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, GADW, RNDU
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide foraging sites for migrating shorebirds						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct late summer drawdown	1211	80 acres 1 week	80 acres 1 week	600	600	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	4 visits 1 week	500	500	One eaglet 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	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	39 proj. 10 weeks	6,000	6,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, pileated woodpeckers, pine marten
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvements	1720	30 inquiries 6 weeks	10 inqs 6 weeks	14,000	14,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, COGO
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	4,000	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
requests, time sheets, etc.)						
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	
Management Program - Provide information to the public						
Give presentations/tours on WMA management	1630	1 week	1 week	500	500	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	

#### 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 River Valley.

#### 1. Canada goose production

Approximately 125 elevated nesting platforms have been erected and maintained at McArthur Lake to provide nest sites secure from annual flooding and mammalian predators. Prior to the 1998 nesting season, platforms were serviced and supplied with new nest material (hay bales).

Canada goose nests increased from 23 in 1997 to 33 at McArthur Lake in 1998 (Table 1). This was a 43% increase from last year but 44% lower than the previous 10 year average.

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. Herbicide was applied to 10 acres of Canada goose grazing pastures to prepare them for reseeding.

No Canada geese were banded at McArthur Lake in 1998. Since 1973, 1,415 goslings have been banded. Of the total, 1,210 have been released on site and 205 have been transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

#### 2. Duck production

Sixty-two broods from 11 duck species were documented at McArthur Lake in 1998 (Table 2). While the number of duck broods was similar to 1997, the area attracted more breeding pairs resulting in a decline in overall duck productivity from 0.66 broods per pair in 1997 to 0.44 broods per pair in 1998 (Table 3). Average brood size also declined and there was a shift in production from wood ducks and American widgeon to ring-necked ducks. Mallard production and productivity remained high with 23 broods counted and 0.50 broods produced per breeding pair.

Increased duck production for the past two years 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 have been noticeably abundant in McArthur Lake the past two springs.

Fifty usable wooden nest boxes were inspected for use in July at McArthur Lake. Boxes contained fourteen wood duck, five common goldeneye, and five hooded merganser nests (Table 4). Five wood duck (36%), three common goldeneye (60%), and three hooded merganser (60%) nests hatched. As is typical at McArthur Lake, the number of hatched wood duck nests observed in nesting boxes accounts for a smaller percentage (50% in 1998) 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).

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. Herbicide was applied to 38 acres in need of rehabilitation. This area will be prepared for reseeding to establish dense nesting cover.

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

Five hundred and sixty-four ducks were trapped and banded on the WMA in July and August 1997 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 1997.

Canada goose band recovery information since 1988 indicates 16.3 percent of all birds banded at McArthur Lake have been taken by hunters in six states and two Canadian provinces (Table 6). Sixty-five percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; 12 percent in Washington; 6 percent in Oregon; 7 percent in Montana, California and Nebraska; and 10 percent in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Table 7 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year. The mean direct recovery rate since 1988 has been 5.8%. The mean total recovery rate since 1988 has been 16.3%.

Since 1991, 4,857 ducks, primarily mallards, have been trapped and banded during the summer at McArthur Lake WMA, Morton Slough on the Pend Oreille WMA, and Mission Slough near the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. Band recovery information since 1991 pooled for all three WMAs indicates 379 banded birds (7.8%) have been taken by hunters in seven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 30% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of

the returns came from Washington; 24% from California; 13% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1997 has been low - 5.2%.

#### 4. Nongame production and appreciation

One pair of bald eagles has nested on the WMA since 1988. The pair has successfully fledged nine young since 1990 and was successful 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 1998.

#### 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.

Table 1. Canada goose nests counted at McArthur Lake WMA since 1989.

YEAR	NUMBER OF NESTS
1989	92
1990	86
1991	89
1992	56
1993	52
1994	53
1995	24
1996	39
1997	23
1998	33

Table 2. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on McArthur Lake WMA in 1998.

SPECIES	BREEDING PAIRS	BROODS	PRODUCTIVITY (BROODS/PAIR)	DUCKLINGS PRODUCED
Mallard	46	23	0.50	106
Gadwall	7	2	0.29	15
Am Widgeon	17	3	0.18	19
G.W. Teal	8	1	0.13	4
B.W. Teal and Cinnamon Teal	23	1	0.04	5
Wood Duck	8	10	1.25	46
Ring-Necked Duck	20	14	0.70	100
Common Goldeneye	2	4	2.00	22
Shoveler	5	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	1	1	1.00	4
Pintail	3	1	0.33	7
Redhead	2	2	1.00	15
Total	142	62	0.44	343

Table 3. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on McArthur Lake WMA since 1994.

Species	Breeding Pairs					Broods					Productivity (Broods/pair)					Ducklings Produced				
	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94
Mallard	46	33	39	56	36	23	15	7	13	16	0.50	0.45	0.18	0.23	0.44	106	105	35	85	96
Gadwall	7	10	7	8	14	2	0	2	1	2	0.29	0.00	0.29	0.13	0.14	15	0	16	11	11
Am Widgeon	17	19	20	27	26	3	8	4	3	3	0.18	0.42	0.20	0.11	0.12	19	43	34	19	21
GW Teal	8	4	9	5	11	1	0	0	0	0	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4	0	0	0	0
BW and Cin Teal	23	9	14	21	24	1	5	1	2	2	0.04	0.56	0.07	0.10	0.08	5	38	2	14	11
Shoveler	5	2	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0	0	0	0	3
Wood Duck	8	6	12	12	20	10	19	16	10	13	1.25	3.17	1.33	0.83	0.65	46	131	84	64	78
RN Duck	20	8	11	7	16	14	8	4	0	1	0.70	1.00	0.36	0.00	0.06	100	50	27	0	4
Com Gold	2	1	5	2	2	4	2	6	1	2	2.00	2.00	1.20	0.50	1.00	22	17	16	6	8
Hood Merg	1	1	4	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	1.00	1.00	0.50	---	2.00	4	5	17	4	11
Pintail	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.33	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7	5	0	0	0
Redhead	2	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15	16	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.00	---	0.00	---	0.00	0	1	0	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>243</b>

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at McArthur Lake WMA since 1989.

Year	Total Boxes	(% ) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1989	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1990	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
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%)
1998	50	48%	14	5	5	5 (36%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)

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%)
1997	41	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1998	36	67%	8	16	0	5(63%)	8(50%)	0

Table 6. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA by area of recovery since 1988.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery							
			ID	CA	MT	OR	WA	NE	ALTA	SASK
1988	43	3					2		1	
1989	80	9	6	1		1				1
1990	109	24	14		2	1	4		1	2
1991	47	9	7	1					1	
1992	50	9	6			1	2			
1993	37	4	4							
1994	29	6	3			1		1	1	
1995 <sup>a</sup>	21	4	4							
1996	0									
1997	0									
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>a</sup> Goslings banded at four locations on Pend Oreille WMA.

Table 7. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at McArthur Lake WMA since 1988.

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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	5 <sup>th</sup> Yr. and Over	
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	6	8.3	2.8	2.8	2.8	5.5	22.0
1991	47	4	2	1	1	1	8.5	4.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	19.2
1992	50	3	1	2	1	2	6.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	18.0
1993	37	3	--	--	--	1	8.1	--	--	--	2.7	10.8
1994	29	3	--	3	--	--	10.3	--	10.3	--	--	20.7
1995 <sup>a</sup>	21	2	1	1	--	--	9.5	4.8	4.8	--	--	19.0
1996	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1997	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	416	24	10	13	7	14	5.8	2.4	3.1	1.7	3.4	16.3

<sup>a</sup> Goslings banded at four locations on Pend Oreille WMA.

Table 8. Status of bald eagle nest located on McArthur Lake WMA since 1989.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
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
1998	Yes	Yes	1

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Pat Cole  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate and add new nest structures	1211	20 platforms 1 week	10 plts 1 week	1,000	500	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Provide good quality brood habitat						
Continue sharecrop agreement at Denton Slough	1211	25 acres	0	500	0	No hay was cut this year. Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain water control structure in Morton Slough outlet	1211	1 structure 1 week	1 strctr 1 week	500	500	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	1,500	1,500	91 active Canada goose nests observed.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Species benefitted: CAGO
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 weeks	4 sites 1 week	500	500	
Clark Fork Delta check station	1430	1 station 2 days	1 stn 2 days	1,000	500	82 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	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	Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, CITE, GADW, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	100 boxes 2 weeks	100 boxes 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Replace, relocate and add new nest boxes	1211	20 boxes 2 weeks	10 boxes 1 week	1,000	500	Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Management Program - Trapping and Transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	0	268 ducks 4 weeks	0	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for two pairs of bald eagles and maintain production						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor three bald eagle nests	1460	3 sites 1 week	3 sites 1 week	500	500	2 of 3 nests were successful. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Participate in midwinter eagle survey	1460	1 day	0	200	0	
Management Program - Accommodate and evaluate nonconsumptive users						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 1 week	4 sites 1 week	500	500	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow and remove weeds	1211	20 acres 1 week	20 acrs 2 weeks	1,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisition						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 1 week	1,000 ac. 2 weeks	500	700	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, MALL, AMWI, COME, AGWT, COGO, GADW, RNDU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	20 projects 3 weeks	35 prjts 6 weeks	3,500	3,500	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	10 inqrs 5 weeks	2,500	2,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,890	2,086	
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, WODU, MALL, CITE, AGWT, bald eagle

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$86,990	\$84,686
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$86,990	\$84,686

#### 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 1998 nesting season, platforms located at the Clark Fork River delta, Pack River delta, mouth of Priest River and mouth of Hoodoo Creek were inspected for maintenance needs.

The Clark Fork River delta includes a sharecrop agreement to provide low, green forage for Canada geese. The area is normally mowed and grazed annually in the summer and a portion of the hay is used in goose nesting structures located throughout northern Idaho. No hay was cut this year. 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 99 in 1997 to 91 in 1998 (Table 1). Forty-four of 185 (24%) nesting structures were occupied by nesting geese in 1998. Nests on natural islands accounted for most of the other nests observed. Particularly important were the 31 ground nests on islands at

the Priest River segment of the WMA. The islands near Priest River currently support more nests (40) 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 dewateres most of the shallow marshlands, exposing large mudflats. This makes mid-to-late-season hunting difficult even though large numbers of ducks and geese remain.

A hunter check station was operated at the Clark Fork River Driftyard during the opening weekend of the 1997 duck hunting season (Table 2). Approximately the same number of hunters were checked as in 1996. However, there were more total ducks taken and less effort per hunter in 1997. The major species taken by hunters at the Clark Fork Delta over the past four years have been American widgeon, green-winged teal, mallards, and ring-necked ducks.

Since 1991, 4,857 ducks, primarily mallards, have been trapped and banded during the summer at McArthur Lake WMA, Morton Slough on the Pend Oreille WMA, and Mission Slough near the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. Band recovery information since 1991 pooled for all three WMAs indicates 379 banded birds (7.8%) have been taken by hunters in seven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 30% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of the returns came from Washington; 24% from California; 13% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1997 has been low - 5.2%.

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

For the second year, two breeding pair counts and three brood counts were conducted to assess production at Morton Slough (Table 3). Mallards were represented by 14 breeding pairs and 2 broods for an over-all productivity estimate of 0.14 broods per pair.

Nine (36%) of 25 nesting boxes in the Clark Fork Delta contained wood duck nests in 1998 (Table 4). Three nests hatched (43%). 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/nonconsumptive use

Two pairs of bald eagles have nested on the WMA for over 10 years. One pair on Fisherman Island in Oden Bay and one pair in the Clark Fork Delta. However, only the Clark Fork Delta nest successfully hatched young this year (Table 5). One adult eagle was observed near Fisherman Island early in the nesting period but no nest was found. The Fisherman Island nesting territory had been active since 1982 making it one of the oldest eagle nesting territories in northern

Idaho. Prior to 1998, eagles using this nest successfully fledged 21 young during the past eleven consecutive years. 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.

Western grebe nests in Denton Slough were counted on two occasions. On July 7, thirteen incubated nests, four nests under construction, and 85 grebes were counted. On July 31, seven incubated nests, three nests under construction, and 74 grebes were counted.

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.

Benefits:

1. Fifty (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.

Table 1. Canada goose nests observed on the Pend Oreille WMA since 1989.

Area	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Pack River Delta	10	16	19	12	15	12	11	16	16	15
Clark Fork Delta	16	19	28	8	2	5	14	8	6	10
Morton Slough	12	16	8	4	3	5	3	2	3	5
Hoodoo Creek	11	11	9	7	7	8	3	2	5	3
Muskrat Slough	10	11	11	11	8	11	10	7	4	5
Lower Pend Oreille River	23	21	18	15	22	15	27	69	65	53
Total	82	94	93	57	57	56	68	104	99	91

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
1997	82	183	275	2.2	0.7

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed at Morton Slough, Pend Oreille WMA, in 1998.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	14	2	0.14	11
Total	14	2	0.14	11

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks in the Clark Fork Delta since 1989.

Year	Total Boxes	Total Nests (%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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
1998	25	36%	7	1	1	3 (43%)	0	0

ND = No Data

Table 5. Status of bald eagle nests located on Fisherman Island and in the Clark Fork River Delta, Pend Oreille WMA, since 1989.

Year	Fisherman Island		Clark Fork Delta	
	Occupied	Number Young Fledged	Occupied	Number of Young Fledged
1989	Yes	3	Yes	1
1990	Yes	3	Yes	1
1991	Yes	1	Yes	Unknown
1992	Yes	1	No	0
1993	Yes	2	Yes	2
1994	Yes	1	Yes	2
1995	Yes	1	Yes	1
1996	Yes	2	Yes	1
1997	Yes	3	Yes	2
1998	No	0	Yes	2

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: John Nigh  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	175 platfrms 5 weeks	275 plats 5 weeks	8,500	8,500	Replaced 100 platforms lost due to flooding in 1996/97. Species benefitted: CAGO
Manage water levels for muskrats	1211	1 week	1 week	500	500	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	340 boxes 2 weeks	340 boxes 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Replace, relocate, and add new nest boxes	1211	25 boxes 1 week	25 boxes 1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Maintain dikes and water level control structures	1211	12 strctrs 3 weeks	12 strcts 3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Two dikes and one water control structure repaired. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Management Program - Provide good quality brood-rearing habitat						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain grass pasture	1211	150 acres 1 week	150 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	One sharecrop agreement renewed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search for Canada geese	1460	175 platfrms 1 week	175 plats 1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO
Determine wood duck nesting success	1460	250 boxes 1 week	250 boxes 1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Document level of upland nesting duck production	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE
Monitor waterfowl mortality outbreaks	1460	1 week	1 week	500	500	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 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	
Operate check stations	1430	3 stations 2 days	3 stations 2 days	500	500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AGWT
Field checks for compliance with WMA restrictions	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, AGWT
Collect waterfowl gizzards and livers for analysis	1440	150 samples 2 days	208 smpls 2 days	500	500	Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, AGWT, WODU
BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate big game and upland game hunting activity						
Provide checkpoint for successful elk and bear	1430	1 site 1 week	1 site 1 week	500	500	Species benefitted: Elk, black bear, mountain lion

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
hunters required to check in						
Management Program - Forage production						
Maintain cereal grain/clover pasture for big game and upland game	1211	40 acres 1 week	40 acres 1 week	1,000	1,000	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	2 nests 1 week	2 nests 1 week	500	500	Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Management Program - Maintain osprey nest sites and nest success						
Maintain artificial nest platforms	1211	25 strctres 1 week	25 strctrs 1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: Osprey
Census osprey nest sites	1460	50 nests 1 day	85 nests 2 days	500	500	Species benefitted: Osprey
Management Program - Accommodate nonconsumptive users						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 days	4 sites 2 days	1,000	1,000	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 2 weeks	50 acres 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AGWT, WT deer
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisitions						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 1 week	100 acres 1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AGWT, CAGO, muskrats

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	25 projects 9 weeks	25 prjcts 9 weeks	8,000	8,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, CAGO, MALL
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 8 weeks	25 inqrs 5 weeks	10,000	5,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, MALL, WT deer, elk
Harvest wild rice for HIP program on private wetlands	1720	10 inquiries 1 week	5 inqries 1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, AGWT, muskrats
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	5,000	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	3,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	4,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	5,000	6,211	

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

Eighty-nine piling nesting platforms for Canada geese were driven to replace similar pilings lost during flood events in 1996 and 1997. In addition, 20 ten-foot high free-standing tower platforms were replaced. Installation of 30 additional tower platforms will be necessary to restore the number of platforms to pre-flood numbers. Several tower platforms were salvaged, repaired, or replaced prior to the nesting period. All remaining platforms were inspected and maintained.

Two low-head dikes damaged by flooding in 1996 and 1997 were repaired and new water control structures installed in them. The Swan Lake channel outlet water control structure was also repaired.

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

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

Goose pastures were maintained 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.

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. Seventy-eight Canada goose nests were found - 46 on the lower Coeur d'Alene River, and 32 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 July 24 through August 13. Eighty-three boxes were used by wood ducks and an additional 10 boxes were used by other wildlife species. Fifty-seven wood duck nests hatched (69%); 17 were abandoned; and 9 were destroyed. Table 2 contains a summary of wood duck nesting surveys since 1989.

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. Mission Slough was added in 1997. Table 3 contains the results of the 1998 breeding pair/brood survey and Table 4 compares data since 1994. In 1998, 110 breeding pairs produced 39 broods for a productivity rate of 0.35 broods per pair.

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 initially declined to a low in 1992 (Table 7). Since then the incidence of lead has increased to former levels. On October 4, and 5, 1997, gizzards were collected from 230 ducks and later x-rayed by students at the University of Idaho. Ingested lead shot was found in 13% of the gizzards and ingested steel shot in 11.5%.

Canada goose band recovery information for goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1988 indicates 20 percent of all banded geese have been taken and reported by hunters representing ten states and three Canadian provinces (Table 8). Forty-nine percent of all returns came from geese shot in Idaho, primarily in the five northern counties; fifteen percent in Washington; thirteen percent in Oregon; six percent in California; six percent in Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Ohio combined; and twelve percent in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Table 9 contains a breakdown of goose band recoveries by year since 1988. The mean direct recovery rate has been 10.2 percent. The mean total recovery rate has been 20.0 percent.

Since 1991, 4,857 ducks, primarily mallards, have been trapped and banded during the summer at McArthur Lake WMA, Morton Slough on the Pend Oreille WMA, and Mission Slough near the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. Band recovery information since 1991 pooled for all three WMAs indicates 379 banded birds (7.8%) have been taken by hunters in seven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 30% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of the returns came from Washington; 24% from California; 13% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1997 has been low - 5.2%.

## 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 four years (Table 10). This year the pair built a new nest in another large cottonwood tree approximately 100 yards upstream from the previous nest tree.

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. The nest again produced young this year (Table 11).

Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River and lower St. Joe River have been conducted since 1985. Osprey readily nest on a variety of structures including live and dead trees, power poles and nesting platforms erected for Canada geese. Eighty-five active osprey nests were located in the spring of 1998 (Tables 12 and 13). 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.

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.

Table 1. Canada goose nesting data from elevated platforms on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1989.

Year	Round Lake	Heyburn Park	Swan and Thompson Lake	Rose, Porter and Killarney Lakes	Total Nests
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
1998	7	25	20	26	78

Table 2. Wood duck nesting surveys, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1989.

Year	Usable Boxes Checked	Boxes Used (%)	Hatched (%)	Abandoned (%)	Destroyed (%)	Still Active (%)
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
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	0
1996	250	105 (42%)	94 (90%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	1 (1%)
1997	160	83 (52%)	65 (78%)	16 (19%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
1998	180	83 (41%)	57 (69%)	17 (20%)	9 (11%)	0

ND - No Data

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 1998<sup>a</sup>.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	56	24	0.43	141
Wood Duck	36	15	0.42	69
Green-winged Teal	10	0	0.00	0
Cinnamon Teal	4	0	0.00	0
Gadwall	4	0	0.00	0
Total	110	39	0.35	210

<sup>a</sup> Specific areas surveyed include West Thompson Lake Marsh, Moffitt Slough, Blackrock Slough and Mission Slough.

Table 4. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1994.

Species	Breeding Pairs					Broods					Productivity (Broods/Pair)					Ducklings Produced				
	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94	98	97	96	95	94
Mallards	56	30	17	42	40	24	16	15	23	32	0.43	0.5 3	0.8 8	0.55	0.80	141	95	78	136	232
Wood Ducks	36	16	18	14	28	15	19	11	6	17	0.42	1.1 9	0.6 1	0.43	0.61	69	111	83	22	96
Teal (combined)	14	4	1	8	19	0	1	1	2	7	0.00	0.2 5	1.0 0	0.50	0.37	0	6	3	4	27
All other species combined	4	11	1	11	9	0	1	0	0	0	0.00	0.0 9	0.0 0	0.00	0.00	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	110	61	37	75	96	39	37	27	31	56	0.35	0.6 1	0.7 3	0.41	0.58	210	213	164	162	355

Table 5. Summary of Canada goose goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1989.

Month-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 1988.

Year	Number Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Hours	Ducks Per Hunter	Ducks Per Hour	Wood Ducks
1988	84	218	229	2.6	1.0	<sup>a</sup> 48
1989	96	215	274	2.2	1.0	<sup>b</sup> 9
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
1997	106	254	300	2.4	0.8	124

<sup>a</sup> Wood duck bag restricted to two (1982-88).

<sup>b</sup> 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 1988.

Year	Sample Size	Percentage With Ingested Lead	Percentage With Ingested Steel
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%
1997	208	13%	11.5%

Table 8. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA by area of recovery since 1988.

Year	Number Banded	Number Returns	Area of Recovery													
			ID	CA	MT	NV	OR	WA	WY	CO	NE	OH	ALTA	SAS K	NT	
1988	0	--														
1989 <sup>a</sup>	116	27	7	2	1		2	6	2	1				6		
1990 <sup>b</sup>	151	32	16	7			1	6				1		1		
1991 <sup>b</sup>	325	62	18	2	1		21	9	1					9	1	
1992 <sup>b</sup>	289	40	26	1	1	1	2	6				1		2		
1993 <sup>c</sup>	55	13	8				1		1			1		1	1	
1994 <sup>d</sup>	63	17	12					1	1					2		1
1995	0	--														
1996 <sup>c</sup>	61	21	17					3							1	
1997	0	--														
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>a</sup> Goslings transplanted from Reno, Nevada.

<sup>b</sup> Goslings transplanted from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

<sup>c</sup> Goslings transplanted from Lewiston, Clearwater Region

<sup>d</sup> Geese banded on the WMA by USFWS as part of NRDA.

Table 9. Summary of band recoveries of Canada geese banded at Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1988.

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	
1988	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1989 <sup>a</sup>	116	3	12	4	2	6	2.6	10.3	3.4	1.7	6.0	24.1
1990 <sup>b</sup>	151	18	8	1	2	3	11.9	5.3	0.7	1.3	2.0	21.2
1991 <sup>b</sup>	325	28	7	10	7	10	8.6	2.2	3.1	2.2	3.1	19.1
1992 <sup>b</sup>	289	25	7	3	4	1	8.7	2.4	1.0	1.4	0.4	13.8
1993 <sup>c</sup>	55	7	5	1	--	--	12.7	9.1	1.8	--	--	23.6
1994 <sup>d</sup>	63	8	3	5	1	--	12.7	4.8	7.9	1.6	--	27.0
1995	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1996 <sup>c</sup>	61	19	2	--	--	--	31.1	3.3	--	--	--	34.4
1997	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,060	108	44	24	16	20	10.2	4.2	2.3	1.5	1.9	20.0

<sup>a</sup> Goslings transplanted from Reno, Nevada.

<sup>b</sup> Goslings transplanted from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

<sup>c</sup> Goslings transplanted from Lewiston, Clearwater Region.

<sup>d</sup> Geese 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
1998	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
1998	Yes	Yes	2

Table 12. Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River since 1989.

Area	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Mouth C d'A. River	--*	9	8	9	6	7	8	5	5	6
Thompson Lake	--	4	5	3	6	8	5	5	7	7
Blue/Swan Lakes	--	6	8	9	9	8	7	8	4	9
Cave/Medicine Lakes	--	2	2	5	6	2	6	7	4	5
Lane Marsh	--	3	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	0
Killarney/Hidden Lakes	--	11	11	11	13	12	16	12	13	13
Moffitt/Oehrling Sloughs	--	3	2	3	4	2	5	3	2	2
Black Rock Slough/Bull Run Lake	--	4	3	2	4	4	5	3	4	3
Porter/Rose Lakes	--	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1
Mission Slough	--	11	11	11	11	9	6	7	7	6
Totals	48	53	54	56	61	56	60	52	49	52

\*No breakdown.

Table 13. Osprey nest surveys on the lower St. Joe River since 1989<sup>a</sup>.

Area	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Lower St. Joe River	ND	21	25	33	30	31	29	29	27	33

<sup>a</sup>Includes Round Lake, Benewah Lake, Chatcolet Lake and banks of St. Joe River.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: John Nigh  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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 1 week	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Random field checks for hunter compliance with WMA regulations	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	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	0	0	No activity
Rotate electric fence enclosures	1211	1 enclosure 2 weeks	1 enclosure 1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk
Maintain boundary fences to control livestock trespass	1211	7.5 miles 2 weeks	7.5 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate level of nonconsumptive users						
Random field checks for compliance with camping regulations.	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 1 week	50 acres 1 week	2,500	2,500	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 3 weeks	11 projects 3 weeks	3,000	3,000	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	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer, elk, black bear
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	4 weeks	4 weeks	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	2,279	2,279	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$101,279	\$98,490
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$101,279	\$98,490

NARRATIVE

The St. Maries Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was acquired to provide public hunting opportunity and winter range for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. The WMA is located in Benewah County on the lower St. Maries river about five air miles from the town of St. Maries, Idaho.

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

1. Big game and upland game hunting

Hunting on the WMA is done primarily by residents of Benewah County. The number of hunters and success rates are relatively low. Thirty-four hunters were randomly checked with four ruffed grouse, one white-tailed deer, and one mule deer.

Numerous fallen trees and rocks are removed from roads each year by project personnel. Secondary roads remain closed to discourage road hunting. Road closure signs are posted and barricades maintained.

2. Big game winter range

From 1967 - 1980, seven small clearcuts were created in the forest canopy to promote browse production by setting back natural succession. No timber sales were designed or let during the reporting period.

Exclusion of deer, elk and livestock from clearcuts by fencing has proved successful in protecting preferred browse plants during early growth stages.

A total of 7.5 miles of boundary fence was maintained as a barrier to domestic livestock. Wire on boundary fences was let down in the late fall to allow for easier big game movement and to help reduce winter snow damage and raised again in the spring.

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

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

3. Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

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

About half the people using the WMA utilized it for nonconsumptive purposes. Horseback riding around the loop road is increasing in popularity. 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: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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 FY 93. 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	1630	1 outfitter	1 outfitter	1,000	1,000	Wilderness Outfitters was

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
licensed outfitters		1 week	1 week			maintained as a licensed outfitter. Species benefitted: Elk, 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	1,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mountain goats
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 St. Joe River 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 continued. Sites were periodically inspected.
ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	3 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	4,000	Nineteen meetings were attended. Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impact of proposed development	1710	25 projects 9 weeks	49 projects 10 weeks	4,500	4,500	Wildlife comments were prepared for forty-nine proposed developments. Species benefitted: Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 10 weeks	66 inquiries 12 weeks	12,000	12,000	Sixty-six HIP requests were received, 65 landowners and 7 agency contacts were made, 16 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	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,702	3,702	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 FY98, activities on the Snow Peak WMA were coordinated with the St. Joe River 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 1997 outfitting license was renewed for 1998.

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 elk, 50 mountain goats, and an undetermined number of deer and moose.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	50 acres 6 weeks	100 acres 6 weeks	3,500	3,500	Completed a timber sale in lodgepole pine stands to accelerate conversion to Douglas fir and grand fir. 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	0	0	0	0	The breeding bird survey was completed in FY96. 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	1,500	Fertilized 4 acres of 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 completed.
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	1,000	Preparation of a range development plan was continued. 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	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	1,800	IDPR periodically maintained the trail system. An estimated 6,200 user days were expended.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Implement management plan						
Recommend and coordinate habitat improvement projects	1630	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: WT deer
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Coordinate maintenance needs, user surveys and planning efforts with IDPR	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	4,931	4,931	Cleared trees by use of a timber sale from powerline/telephone line corridors at the request of local utilities.

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$0	\$0
Outside Funds	\$50,533	\$50,533
Grand Total	\$50,533	\$50,533

## 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 completed this year.

### 2. Provide forested habitat for other wildlife species

Silvicultural prescriptions associated with the 1993 and 1997/1998 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.

Breeding bird surveys were conducted on the WMA from 1993 to 1996 to compare bird communities in thinned and unthinned timber stands. The surveys did 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 were 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. IDPR completed a major improvement to the boat launch in FY98. Parking was tripled and traffic flow improved.

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 FY99.

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 6,200 visitor days.
6. Lake shore property estimated to receive in excess of 50,000 visitors annually at recreational facilities provided by the IDPR.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Clearwater Region Wildlife 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	
<b>OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE</b>						
Routine operation/ maintenance of 43 access areas, 2 wildlife management areas, Department regional facilities, and 5 conservation easements	1211	6 weeks	7 weeks	10,626	12,397	Species benefitted: mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, chukar, valley quail, ruffed & blue grouse, turkeys, grey partridge, mourning doves
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Supervise and coordinate activities of 6 permanent and 5 temporary employees	1630	18 weeks	16 weeks	31,878	28,336	
Oversee the management of	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	5,313	5,313	127,565 Dept. acres managed;

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
2 WMAs, 13 WHAs, 5 conservation easements						easement acres= 40
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	4 weeks 2 proposal acquisitions 2 easements	5 weeks	7,084	8,855	Acquired 1,303 acres, 3 donations in progress
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 17 proposals	1 week	1,771	1,1771	
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1630	1 week	1.5 weeks	1,771	2,656	
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Cooperation, coordination with other land management agencies as requested	1630	3 weeks 20-25 mtgs	2.5 weeks 18 mtgs	5,313	4,428	
<b>TECHNICAL GUIDANCE</b>						
Oversee the review of environmental impacts on proposed projects	1710	4 weeks 50 projects	4 weeks	7,084	7,084	Reviewed 42 projects
Oversee financial assistance to landowners on wildlife habitat development and wildlife management practices	1720	4 weeks 90-100 projects 200 inquiries	4 weeks	7,071	7,071	56 projects completed

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$77,911
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$77,911

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
<b>OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE</b>						
Road maintenance	1211	2 weeks 58 miles	0.5 weeks	2,126	531	No problems with runoff/erosion
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 80 miles	2.5 weeks	2,126	2,658	Repairs to fence boundaries for grazing management
Maintenance of tree/shrub plantings and food plots	1211	2 weeks 10 sites	2 weeks	2,126	2,126	
Noxious weed control	1211	1 week 1,000 acres	2 weeks	1,063	2,126	Extra effort made to prevent establishment of new invader species
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Administrative activities and	1630	1 week	1 week	1,063	1,063	

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

Total PR Contract With Overhead:	\$8,504
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$8,504

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Steve Nadeau  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Dworshak Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Management Priorities:

1. LAND ACQUISITIONS
2. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
3. INVESTIGATIONS
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	1 week-bio	1,232	1,232	22 acres, Latah County
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE						
Area and facilities maintained	1211	2 weeks-bio 4 wks-tech	2 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	7,392	7,392	Routine operations and maintenance
INVESTIGATIONS						
Population evaluation	1460	10 wks-bio 24 wks-tech	10 wks-bio 24 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	
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Planned management - systems development	1610	8 weeks-bio	8 wks-bio	9,856	9,856	Planning protocol, developing projects for wildlife habitat.
Strategic plan development	1620	7 weeks-bio	7 wks-bio	8,624	8,624	Develop landscape forest plans.
Coordination and administration	1630	10 wks-bio	10 wks-bio	12,308	12,308	Coordinate with IDL, USFS, Potlatch Corp., monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, student volunteers.
<b>TECHNICAL GUIDANCE</b>						
Review of public projects	1710	10 wks-bio	10 wks-bio	12,320	12,320	30 timber sales EA's EIS', landscape projects.
Assistance to private landowners	1710	4 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	4 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	9,856	9,856	20 HIP projects.

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

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: Jim White  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Salmon River 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	8 weeks-bio 6 wks-tech units-350 ac	9 weeks-bio 12 wks-tech units-350 ac	9,608 3,000	17,698 6,000	
Provide assistance to private landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	1 week-bio contacts - 8	contacts - 0	949	0	# of inquires = 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 3 week-bio-aide	12 weeks-bio	8,092 1,500	11,388	species = WT deer, mule deer, elk, moose
Utilization - enforce fish and game laws, check stations, hunter use	1430	5 weeks-bio 2 weeks-bio-aide	5 week-bio	5,245 1,000	5,245	elk, moose, WT deer, mule deer
Habitat - habitat inventory, quality and monitoring	1440	2 weeks-bio 2 weeks-bio-aide	1 week-bio 2 weeks-aide	1,898 1,000	949 1,000	species = elk, songbirds, riparian/meadow vegetation
DEVELOPMENT						
Management Program - species introductions, habitat improvement, facilities development						
Habitat Improvement Development - habitat alterations and restoration	1322	4 weeks-bio sites = 3 acres - 350	5 weeks-bio sites = 3 acres - 350	3,796	5,698	
Introductions - establishment of species to previously unoccupied habitat	1311	1 week # animals = 100	# of animals = 0	949		species = turkeys
Introductions - restoration of species into previously occupied habitat	1312	3 weeks-bio 1 wk-tech # animals = 12	1 week-bio # animals = 4	2,847 500	949	species = mtn. goat
User facilities - misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks-bio # sites = 3	2 weeks-bio # sites = 2	1,898	1,898	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of Public Projects - environmental review of public projects	1710	2 weeks # projects = 10	2 weeks # projects = 5	1,898	1,898	
Assistance to Private Landowners - assistance on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks # contacts = 6	1 week # contacts = 4	1,898	949	# of inquires = 4
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and Administration - management area plans, engineering, program admin. and administrative activities	1630	10 weeks-bio	10 weeks-bio	9,490	10,439	

Total PR Contract	0
Outside Funds	\$56,569
Grand Total	\$56,569

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Southwest Region Wildlife 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; assist habitat biologist	1630	39 weeks	39 weeks	53,177	52,104	Species benefitted:
Technical Guidance						
Public Project Review	1710	10 weeks	10 weeks	13,680	13,360	Species benefitted:
Private Landowner Assistance						
	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,128	4,008	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 7,775
Outside Funds	61,697
Grand Total	\$69,472

### 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 reviewed public project reports generated by the regional habitat biologist. 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 which produced a draft management plan for C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The leader collected and provided Artemesia cana cana seed to the lucky Peak Nursery for transplant production. This seed produced 45,000 plants which will be used for restoring and improving big game winter ranges on the Boise River WMA and Cecil D. Andrus WMA. Perennial rye, wheat, and sorghum were planted and will be monitored for its wildlife value.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	3 weeks	1,702	2,106	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, CAGO, NSHO
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,702	702	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE CAGO BLGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,702	1,404	Species benefitted: LSGO, BLGO
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,404	2,808	Species benefitted: WODU
Control vegetation	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	4,255	3,510	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, GADW, CITE, REDH, LESE
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1211	1 week	1 week	851	702	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	1 week	856	702	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$11,930

Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$11,930

### 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 performed 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-14  
 Project Leader: Clair Kofoed  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Fort Boise Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

FORT BOISE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PHEASANT AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Management						
Plant nesting cover and food plots	1322	11 weeks	11 weeks	12,177	11,385	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, pheasant, quail
Maintain nest structures	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	8,856	8,280	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU
Add 20 new nest structures	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted: WODU
Manage water levels for sago pond weed, emergents, and carp control	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, TSWN
Manage grazing for goose pasture	1211	3 week	3 weeks	3,321	3,106	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		60 acres	60 acres			
Develop food plot on Gold Island	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,175	Species benefitted: CAGO, R.N. Pheasant
Spray <u>Lepidium</u> to improve nesting habitat	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,642	6,210	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, R.N. Pheasant
Management Program - Reduce predators to allow 30% nest success						
Remove predator habitat	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,175	Species benefitted: R.N. Pheasant, MALL, CITE
Management Program - Production survey						
Duck nest success	1460	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,420	4,140	Turned over to Region Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
Brood counts	1460	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,525	5,175	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Hunter Management						
Maintain and enforce hunter access sites	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Maintain and erect directional signs	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Mow hunting lanes	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,175	Species benefitted:
Collect harvest data	1430	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Stock pheasants (state funds)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,214	2,070	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	5,535	5,175	Species benefitted: C. Quail, turkey
Erect and maintain nest sites	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted: Am. Avocet, screech owls
Record production data	1460	1 week	1 week	1,107	1,035	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	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Install interpretive signs	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Give tours	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
Conduct winter bird census	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,105	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review impacts of proposed habitat developments	1710	11 weeks	11 weeks	12,177	11,385	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners with habitat developments	1720	11 weeks	11 weeks	12,177	11,385	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	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,214	2,070	Species benefitted:
Preparation administrative documents (reports, budgets, memos, development proposals)	1211	11 weeks	11 weeks	1,243	11,385	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 73,489
Outside Funds	55,911
Grand Total	\$129,400

### NARRATIVE

Production of waterfowl was down significantly due to five inches of rain during the last three weeks of May. Pheasant numbers seemed average with many re-nesting after the rain. California quail numbers looked very good. The new moist-soil brood pond was flooded and used heavily by puddle ducks and shore birds. Carp control continued as an on-going part of WMA management, A new eleven horsepower pump made draining wetlands to remove fish much easier. Silt removal also remained an annual part of maintenance.

Fall hunting was busier than ever as the ever expanding population of Treasure Valley seeks recreation on public wildlife areas. Duck hunting averaged 2.4 birds each with 147 hunters checked on opening day. Pheasant hunters fared slightly better than last year as 85 hunters averaged .29 birds each.

During May a regional WMA working group was formed to help identify issues of public use on the management area. The group met for a tour and also planned a work day to make the area more user-friendly. Hopefully, this will help to formulate policy and solve user conflicts on the WMA.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Dick Orcutt  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	3,582	2,382	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, pheasant, valley quail
Maintain maximum water levels	1342	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,388	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant, Quail, CAGO, Mourning Dove
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	2 weeks	1 week	2,388	1,188	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, CADW

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Pheasant and Quail Hunting						
Protect and maintain hunting cover, mow lanes and maintain fences	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,582	Species benefitted: Deer, Pheasant, Quail, MALL, CAGO
Provide grain in three or four locations (55 acres)	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,582	Species benefitted: Deer, Pheasant, Quail
Develop farming contracts and management direction for new land acquisition	1610	2 weeks	1 week	2,388	1,188	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, Quail, Mournign dove
Evaluate lands adjoining WMA for acquisition (Owen's property)	1420	2 weeks	1 week	2,388	1,188	Species benefitted: MALL, Wood Duck, Deer, Pheasant, Quail, Rio Grnde turkey
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	1 weeks	1 week	1,194	1,194	Species benefitted: Sage Grouse, MALL, Pheasant
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Canada Geese						
Maintain brood pasture	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,388	Species benefitted: CAGO
Fence and administer limited livestock grazing	1334	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,388	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, CAGO
Maintain 158 nesting plat-forms; add 10 new platforms	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,388	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO
Monitor and report production	1460	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,582	2,382	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Mallards and teal						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide good-to-excellent residual nesting cover-2,000 acres	1440	10 weeks	8 weeks	11,940	9,540	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Bunte
Maintain 900-acre pond and marsh area	1342	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,476	4,476	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Develop additional islands and open water areas- 50 acres	1342	2 weeks	1 week	2,388	1,188	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1410	1 weeks	1 week	1,194	1,194	Species benefitted: MALL
Increase wood duck populations-10 new boxes	1440	1 weeks	1 week	1,194	1,194	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor, evaluate and report production	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	2,382	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Development						
Provide at least 100 acres good residual nesting cover	1440	6 weeks	6 weeks	7,164	7,164	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail
Provide grains in small scattered plots-100 acres	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,970	5,970	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Valley Quail
Collect data on production and report	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,388	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Quail, Cottontail Rabbit
Develop HIP projects	1720	10 weeks	10 weeks	11,940	11,940	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant, Valley Quail

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
<b>WILDLIFE APPRECIATION</b>						
Management Program - Public awareness						
Conduct tours, give talks, make slide presentations	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	2,382	Species benefitted: Idaho Power, relicensing management plan; Bass Club, and Hunter Education classes
Management Program - Provide for other wildlife						
Evaluate need for osprey, eagle, bluebird, etc., structures	1470	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	1,188	Species benefitted: Adopt-A-Wetland, Reservist coordination
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets, and other reports; negotiate agreements and land acquisitions	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	7,164	5,164	Species benefitted: Idaho Power relicensing management plan; land exchange with BLM-Sikes Act
Cooperation with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,131	Species benefitted: Noxious weed spraying with County weed supervisor
Maintenance and upkeep of equipment and buildings	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,390	2,390	Species benefitted: Repair electrical wiring to garage

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 21,607
Outside Funds	69,022
Grand Total	\$ 90,629

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 Company 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 area 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, chukars, cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, mule deer, and whitetailed deer.

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

Crops of corn, grain, 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 beaver, 2,300 muskrat, 200 skunks, 175 raccoons, 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, ospreys, owls, and various hawks.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Jerry Scholten  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	.4376	300	102	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
During hard winters, sign area requesting nonuse	1211	1 day	.25	300	75	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	10 day	5.5625	3,328	1,494	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	23.625	5,187	6,495	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Manage controlled archery hunt check station	1430	1 day	6.6875	300	1,555	Species benefitted:
Use trade agreements with livestock owners	1620	1 day	1.25	300	29	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Cooperate with agencies on fire prevention/suppression on WMA	1211	1 day	.8125	300	189	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	8.1875	300	1,904	Species benefitted:
Try to pick up IDL leases	1211	1 day		300		All wildlife
Management Programs - Manage winter range vegetation						
Use grazing or prescribed burns to maintain seral plant communities	1211	18,700 acres 4 days	9.5625	1,332	2,224	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Plant grasses, forbs, shrubs to improve winter range quality	1322(D)	30,000 Shrubs 7 days	14.4375	8,660	6,658	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and nongame
Collect data on range condition production and composition	1440	1 days	0	300	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Programs - Control undesirable vegetation						
Control noxious weeds cooperatively with county weed control personnel	1211	32,000 acres 2 days	2.9375	2,300	1,165	Species benefitted: Comply with state law
Continue to look for ways to control medusa-head & red 3 AUM	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted:
Management Programs - Develop water sources						
Maintain springs on WMA, collect data on flow	1211	58 springs 1 day	2.0625	1,500	480	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Develop springs or ponds	1321(D)	1 day	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: mule deer, elk and nongame
Management Programs - Improve and maintain fences						
Maintain or remove existing fences and gates, replace fences	1211	10 days	.25	5,000	2,153	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT						
Management Program - Make improvements to the watershed						
Rehab of burned areas	1322	Unknown				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	5 days	300	1,162	Species benefitted: improve water quality
Collect data on riparian areas	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: 114 birds, 33

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						mammals, 6 reptile, & 5 amphibian
UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Program - Improve management of upland game habitats						
Plant riparian areas	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse, & turkey
Management Program - Evaluate Annual Production						
Collect brood data	1460	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: game birds
Collect harvest data	1420	2 days	1.875	600	438	Species benefitted:
Collect data on species composition on WMA	1211	1 day	.125	300	29	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse & turkey
Management Program - Access Management						
Maintain roads	1211	11 days	3.5625	4,180	1,142	Benefits: Recreational users
Provide informational signs for access	1211	2 days	1.125	600	262	Benefits: Recreational users
Assist with raptor/passerine migration route	1211	1 day	1.75	300	407	Species benefitted: birds
Update species list on WMA	1211	1 day	1.0625	300	247	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptile, & 8 amphibians
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain/improve WMA buildings						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain buildings	1211	10 days	13.125	3,000	5,477	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Provide safe equipment to perform needed land management functions						
Maintain or repair equipment	1211	27 days	21.6875	9,500	6,244	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
Lease/rent equipment as needed	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Do administrative requests and required paperwork						
Project Administration	1211	28 days	21.3125	6,960	6,669	wildlife
Annual, monthly, and other reports required by cooperating agencies	1211	10 days	6.625	2,700	2,340	Species benefitted:
Assist other Departments, divisions, and agencies	1710	53 days	54.0625	16,500	13,145	Species benefitted: 250 birds, 85 mammals, 20 reptiles, 9 amphibians, and 40 fish
Other duties as assigned	1211	44 days	36 days	11,500	9,743	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 8,300
Outside Funds	63,791
Grand Total	\$72,091

NARRATIVE

The Boise River Habitat District is located from Boise along State Highway 55 to highway FM24 to Lowman, then along hunt Unit 39 boundary to the Smith Prairie area, then along the Blacks Creek/Prairie road to Boise and back to State Highway 55. Within the Habitat District is the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Boise River Habitat District and WMA are located within Ada, Boise, and Elmore Counties.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA:** The 32,680-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 1997-98, ground trend counts estimated 6400 mule deer and 400 elk wintered on the WMA. A Unit 39 aerial survey was conducted in March, in which 6401 mule deer or 42% of the deer seen in Unit 39, were observed on the WMA. From the sightability model an estimated population of 9480 mule deer were on the WMA. For Unit 39, 15,097 deer were observed with an estimated population of 21,300 ±1000. The following is a summary of the number of deer observed on the WMA compared to the total observed for Unit 39 using the sightability model technique.

PERCENT OF MULE DEER OBSERVED ON WMA FROM AERIAL SURVEY OF UNIT 39

Year	Deer Observed in Unit 39	Deer Observed on WMA	% on WMA
1998	15,097	7284	42
1995	11,578	5246	45
1993	13,008	5534	43
1991	13,594	4742	35

I have tried to estimate total observed deer from old aerial winter trend counts to compare with the sightability flights to estimate deer numbers in Unit 39. This is shown as follows:

FIXED ROUTE AERIAL TREND COUNT

Year	Count	Estimated total count(sightability)	Season
1969	5556	15,700	2900 quota either sex (ES) hunt
1971	5705	15,400	1500 quota ES hunt with 9 day buck hunt
1972	5162	13,500	1300 quota ES hunt with 9 day buck hunt
1974	4514	11,900	1000 quota ES hunt with 2 day buck hunt
1975	4816	12,800	1100 quota ES hunt
1979	4689	12,200	ES with last days buck hunt + con buck hunt
1984	6196	15,200	Antlered only (AO)

The 1997-98 winter was open, but utilization on bitterbrush was over 49%. This was similar with 1996-97 where a moderate winter produced a 64% bitterbrush utilization. Gill (1972) concluded that by mixing up to 25% bitterbrush with sagebrush improved the digestibility of both species as indicated

by increased VFA production. This may be why, that even in open winters, mule deer continue to select and utilize bitterbrush. I would guess that there are a lot of mixtures that improve the digestibility of individual plants.

With the WMA predominately a bitterbrush/sagebrush/grass range, there was a concern with something showing up in the bitterbrush this year and many plants dying. The WMA has sent samples to the Forest Service Shrub Lab in Provo, Utah, and they believe it could be a root disease. We hope to confirm this later this summer. Some areas show over 70% of the bitterbrush plants effected while others are less than 10%. It seems to be wide spread with reports of something happening to bitterbrush plants south in Owhyee County and north in Garden Valley. It seems to be less in some of the lower elevations. Some of the plants have already died while others are still fighting. Plants with the apparent problem are not producing very much annual growth so essential to the mule deer. NOTE: A letter dated August 18, 1998 from the Rocky Mountain Research Station indicated that the dying bitterbrush problem was rodent damage - girdling of below soil\duff upper roots that sometimes extends to basal stems. David Nelson felt that most of the damage occurred in the winter of 96-97, or earlier, also some extended into the winter of 1997-98. He stated that we could conclude that the rodent epidemic is on the decline to nearly over. The dying of plants or parts of plants will continue as plants adjust to reduced root systems. Unless damaged roots serve as entry points for root disease causing fungi, most plants will eventually recover to some extent.

Biological information was collected from road killed mule deer. Body condition of road killed mule deer were examined and indicated that most of the collected females were in good condition until February. There were 15% of the females collected in December that had dropped into fair condition, but then 100% collected in January and February were in good condition. This was better than the 1983-1998 average. Fawns also showed most were in good condition through January with an exception of 25% in December in fair shape. Fawn were also above the 1983-1998 average. Males were not tested. Information on condition is as follows:

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#### MULE DEER CONDITION

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Condition is based on percent of compression of femur marrow and the amount of visceral fat. The numbers represent the percent of animals found in each category. 0-10% compression with good visceral fat equals good condition or excellent condition. 1-10% compression with fair visceral fat or 11-20% compression equals fair condition. Poor condition is compression greater than 21%.

1997-98	Females				Fawns				Males		
	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss			
November	100	--	--	6	100	--	--	6	--	--	--
December	85	15	--	13	75	25	--	4	--	--	--
January	100	--	--	4	100	--	--	1	--	--	--
February	100	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
March	67	--	23	9	67	33	3		--	--	--

  

1983-98	Females	Fawns	Males
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	g f p ss	g f p ss	g f p ss
November	100 -- -- 13	100 -- -- 16	100 -- -- 2
December	79 21 -- 43	69 19 12 26	67 16 17 6
January	86 10 4 70	49 12 39 42	100 -- -- 7
February	75 13 12 24	20 25 55 20	66 -- 34 3
March	63 16 21 19	8 46 46 13	-- -- 100 2

---

The winter mortality transect were modified and may indicate a better picture of actual mortality. I now feel the old transect method was about 10 to 12 percent off. The table will reflect a 10% correction. The mortalities come from road kills, predators, and old age. Coyotes are still showing to be very effective predators on mule deer. Several cougar were also reported in the wintering area. The winter mortality table is as follows:

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#### WINTER MORTALITY OF MULE DEER ON BOISE RIVER WMA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent of Winter Population Lost</u>
1997-98	17%
1996-97	18%
1995-96	16%
1994-95	15%
1993-94	14%
1992-93	31%
1991-92	15%

---

Road kills continue to be high. The increasing amount of commuter and recreational traffic from and to Boise County has increased the potential for wildlife vehicle encounters. There is an increase in residential deer getting hit all year long. Development of traditional summering habitats along the Boise River are forcing the residential population of move from feed and cover more frequently. Still getting road killed deer picked up by unauthorized people in the fall and early winter. Road killed mule deer picked up by WMA personnel are as follows:

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#### MULE DEER ROAD KILLS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Numbers picked up by WMA personnel</u>
1997-98	102
1996-97	106
1995-96	65
1994-95	52
1993-94	38
1992-93	152
1991-92	68

---

Deer losses due to ice on the Lucky Peak Reservoir was the highest ever recorded. Twenty-five deer fell through the ice and drown December 8 or 9 trying to cross up river from the bridge and two died December 16 and 17 below the bridge. Eleven were pulled off the ice with only 4 surviving. Seven were shot on the ice. A total of 45 deer were lost on the ice by the bridge.

Mule deer herd composition data that was collected indicating a ratio of 19 bucks and 68 fawns per 100 does. This is the same buck ratio as last years which was the lowest recorded. The sample size was 1158 animals. Timing of the antler shed was about normal. Herd composition information is as follows:

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**MULE DEER HERD COMPOSITION DATA**

Year	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Sample Size
1997-98	19	100	68	1158
1996-97	19	100	61	2430
1995-96	26	100	49	2193
1994-95	21	100	66	1085
1993-94	24	100	57	1767
1992-93	30	100	77	2118
1991-92	27	100	70	2652

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Herd composition data has been collected on the WMA since 1966-67. The data is showing a steady downward trend in both numbers of males and fawns per 100 does. Males have dropped from a high in 1969-70 of 52 males to the current level of 19. Fawns have dropped from 94 in 1978-79 to 49 in 1995-96. The herd composition data from 1976-77 to the present also shows that the number of 4 point and larger bucks per 100 does has dropped from 18 to 3.

Conception date information for 1997-98 was collected from 22 female mule deer. Conception dates are based on crown-rump measurements. In some years a percentage of the females are breed after the first estrus cycle. Fawns born in later estrus cycles are less apt to survive the winter. Conception dates and percent in second or third estrus cycle are as follows:

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**CONCEPTION DATES OF FEMALE MULE DEER**

Year	Average	Percent Later Estrus	Sample Size	Range
1997-98	Nov 21	14%	22	Nov 2-Jan 6
1996-97	Nov 12	0%	19	Nov 1-24
1995-96	Nov 16	8%	12	Nov 7-Dec 6
1994-95	Nov 26	0%	2	Nov 23-29
1992-93	Nov 18	4%	24	Nov 3-Dec 28
1991-92	Nov 24	18%	11	Nov 8-Dec 22
1990-91	Nov 13	0%	5	Nov 12-14
1985-86	Nov 13	0%	10	Nov 6-24
1984-85	Nov 13	0%	8	Nov 6-23
1968-71	Nov 13	3%	27	Nov 5-Dec 23

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Production information that was gathered from road kills indicate that 1.45 for this year has decreased only slightly from last year. The productivity of the Unit 39 mule deer herd is as follows:

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**FETUSES PER FEMALE MULE DEER**

Year	Fetuses/Female	Sample Size	
1997-98	1.45	22	
1996-97	1.53	19	
1995-96	1.33	12	
1994-95	1.3	2	
1992-93	1.3	27	
1991-92	1.21	14	
1990-91	2.		5
1988	1.6	3	
1985-86	1.55	14	
1984-85	1.09	11	
1967-71	1.86	27	

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There were no wildfires on the WMA this year. A vehicle fire on Highway 21 was controlled by WMA and neighbors before it could spread to the WMA. A fire in the lower end of Highland Valley Road was controlled by the BLM before it reached the WMA.

The Forest Service Nursery grew 72,540 bitterbrush seedlings. A portion of the seedlings were planted on the island and the remainder on Chief Point. The volunteer program planted around 40,000 on the 1996 North Shore Fire and 5,000 were given to the BLM to plant on the 8th Street fire.

The livestock grazing system consisting of sheep and cattle was used to help maintain the vegetation in a seral community, stimulate leader growth on bitterbrush, and reduce fuel loads for wildfire. Pastures 3 and 4 were used in the 1997 grazing season. Some problems with cattle movement in HP3 occurred with the pasture receiving 50-70% utilization. Pasture 4 (HP4) was not used at all and LP4 was burned in 1996 and cannot be used until 1999 or 2000. The 1998 grazing season would begin in LP2, LP1, HP1 and HP2. Rotation would be on a date rather than utilization. Rotation schedule would be May 13-17 from LP2 to LP1, June 17-21 to HP2 and Jul 21-31 off the range. It was decided not to use Picket Pin(IP1) because of fence problems and to use LP1 and HP1 together. Dirk Marcum decided not to participate in the system this year. A lot of effort by Randy Harris and crew was made to get the fences into shape and move the cattle at the right time.

As of July 1, 1998 no broods were seen on the WMA for the 1998 season. There was a cold wet period about the same time as the broods may be coming off the nest and could have had a negative effect on the birds.

Most of the information concerning hunter use on the WMA was gathered by Idaho Department of Fish and Game Reservist. Upland game hunters on the WMA increased over last year but fewer birds were harvested. The Charcoal Creek segment was the best producer for chukars. Spring turkey hunting is

increasing yearly with success being fair. Rifle deer hunters remain about the same with harvest remaining about average. Lack of snow during the latter part of the season caused the deer not to move into WMA. This situation was obvious during the late controlled archery hunt.

The Boise State University “Fall Raptor Migration in Southwestern Idaho” was expanded to include trapping and banding of songbirds. The expansion of the project to include the songbird migration has prompted the project to be renamed to the “Idaho Bird Observatory”. The 5,836 raptors observed at Lucky Peak involved 18 identified species from 499 hours of observation. This was the highest number of birds observed since the project started in 1994. Of the 5836 raptors observed, 983 were banded involving 15 species. Three thousand two hundred twenty-two songbirds were banded from 45 species. The most common were ruby-crowned kinglets and Oregon juncos. A couple of interesting captures were the western palm warbler and the black-throated blue warbler.

The project leader also attended workshops on stream classification for proper function condition, riparian enhancement, worked on turkey problems in Robie Creek, attended winter feeding council meetings, resolved conflicts with hang-gliders and bird watchers, and worked on elk depredation/trapping projects. Assistance was given to the job shadow program, eagle surveys, aerial counts, and Eagle Scout projects.

The project leader is the only 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:

Ada County and City of Boise  
Foothill plan  
Hillside ordinances  
Quality of Life meeting  
ACHD Cullen proposal  
Foothill Transportation Plan  
CRM completion  
Noxious Weed meetings  
Hammer Flat/Sandy Point subdv  
Harris Ranch subdivision  
Pierce Gulch subdivision  
Shooting Range addition

Mountain Shadow subdivision  
Robie Springs subdivision  
Garden Valley Rock Pit  
Cross Timbers subdv expansion  
Comprehensive Plan  
Summit Ridge subdivision

Bureau of Land Management  
Trails and Ridges to Rivers  
Jew allotment  
Open Space in Boise foothills  
Mining on the WMA  
Springs  
Land trades  
8th Street Fire Rehab Project  
Boise Front Watershed Meeting  
Greenstripping evaluation

Boise County  
Broken Oar subdivision

Forest Service  
Macks-Pine Creek Vegetation  
Management Project  
Prescribed Fire

Enduro Race  
Nickelson Land exchange  
Helibase expansion  
Mrytle Creek timber sale  
Warm Springs Ridge vegetation  
management project

Idaho Department of Lands  
Packer John  
Murray Creek timber sale  
Rifle Range  
Prescribed burn Garden Valley  
Wet Gulch timber sale  
Wolf Creek timber sale

Boise State Univ. Raptor Project

Treasure Valley Land Trust Projects

Rush Skeletonweed Task Force

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Off Road problems

Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Spring Shores Expansion

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Tim Shelton  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	2 weeks	1,231	2,810	Species benefitted: CAGO
Signing - Public relations	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,405	Species benefitted:
Removal of vegetation on 40 acres for production and brooding areas	1440	1 week	0	1,231	0	Species benefitted: CAGO
Evaluating goose use	1460	1 week	2 days	1,231	562	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Improve waterfowl production and brood-rearing ponds						
Establish and enlarge pond sites on Birding Island segments	1342	3 days	3 days	1,738	843	Species benefitted: CAGO
Placement of 15 goose nesting platforms	1322	3 days	1 week 3 days	738	2,248	Species benefitted: CAGO, replacement from flooding
Removal of gravel for pond enlargement	1342	2 days	2 days	992	562	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, GADW, AGWT, CITE, WODU
Management Program - Increase use of existing goose pasture						
Replant pasture, as needed	1440	2 days	0	992	0	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Enforce regulation for spring closures						
Signing management area	1333	2 days 10 signs	2 days 10 signs	492	562	Species benefitted: CAGO
Advertising in local papers to reduce conflicts between public and nesting geese	1211	1 day 3 articles	1 day 4 article	246	281	Species benefitted: CAGO
Patrolling area to inform public of closures	1332	2 days 800 acres	2 days 800 acres	492	562	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Trapping and shooting of problem animals	1470	1 day	1 day	492	281	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
Evaluation of predator damage	1470	2 days	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Establish grass-legume plantings						
Establish undisturbed nesting cover	1322	2 days	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, GADW, WODU, RNDU, REDH
Maintain fencing projects to protect nesting cover from grazing	1211	1 mile 1 week	0	1,231	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GUDU, AGWT, CITE, WODU, LESC, RNDU, REDH
Control weeds to improve nesting habitat	1322	1 week	2 weeks	5,393	2,810	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 ann. 6 weeks	4 weeks 6 shrubs	7,386	5,620	Species benefitted: RNDU, WODU, MALL, GADU, AGWT, CITE, LESC, REDH
Evaluate cover to determine best area and cover type	1440	1 weeks	1 week	1,236	1,405	Species benefitted: REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, CITE, GADW, LESC
Build ponds with nesting islands and fenced nesting zones	1341	1 weeks	1 week	2,236	1,406	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	843	Species benefitted: WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Work with local Habitat Groups and scout troop to maintain wood duck boxes	1440	2 days	2 days	738	562	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor nest success	1460	1 week 175 boxes	1 week	1,236	1,405	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, WODU, GADW, LESC, RUDU, REDH
<b>PUBLIC HUNTING</b>						
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	2,810	Species benefitted: CITE, REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Evaluate hunter usage	1430	2 days	2 days	738	562	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Access management with hunters using key areas	1430	2 days	2 days	492	562	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	281	Species benefitted:
Signing all boundaries and closures	1211	1 day	1 day	246	281	Species benefitted:
Litter patrol and old fence removal	1211	2 days	2 days	492	281	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Enhance vegetation for upland game birds and hunters						
Maintain hunting cover	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,405	Species benefitted: MALL, GADU, AGNT, CITE, WODU, REDH,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						LESC, RNDU, RUDU
Keep fencing maintained to protect against grazing	1211	2 day	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted: CITE, MALL, GADU, WODU, AGWT, REDH, LESL, RNDU
Establish food plots for cover and winter food	1322	17 acres 1 week	25 acres 1 week	2,231	1,405	Species benefitted:
Habitat manipulation to remove rank stands	1322	50 acres 2 days	2 days	926	562	Species benefitted: CAGO
Enforce grazing agreements	1211	1 week	0	1,231	0	No grazing Species benefitted: CAGO
<b>PUBLIC FISHING</b>						
Management Program - Provide access sites that are assigned to projects						
Maintain and inspect all access signs	1211	2 days 30 signs	2 days 20 signs	492	562	Species benefitted:
<b>WILDLIFE APPRECIATION</b>						
Management Program - Conduct tours, increase public contacts and awareness						
Conduct tours with school-aged students	1510	2 days	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted:
Work with Eagle Scouts and Boy Scout groups on environmental items	1510	1 week 1 day	1 week 1 day	492	686	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, GADU, WODU
Management Program - Evaluation of nongame species on WMA						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct species list and abundance	1410	2 days	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted:
Habitat improvements for nongame species	1440	2 days	2 days	492	562	Species benefitted: REDH, LESC, MALL, GADU, WODU, CITE, AGWT, RUDU
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Working with private landowners on HIP developments	1720	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,155	7,025	Species benefitted: RUDU, MALL, AGWT, GADU, REDH, LESC, WODU, CITE
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	3 weeks 15 eval.	3 weeks CRP	3,693	4,215	Species benefitted: Working with NRCs on CRP
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1610	2 weeks 6 annually	2 weeks	2,520	2,810	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1610	2 weeks; admin.resp.	2 weeks	2,520	2,810	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training required for upgrade in position						
Improvement of technical skills		3 weeks 4 training schools	3 weeks 3 schools	3,693	4,215	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties (as assigned)		8 weeks 4 days	10 weeks 4 days	10,961	15,134	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$32,747
Outside Funds	40,319
Grand Total	\$73,066

NARRATIVE

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

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

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

Benefits:

**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 leads to 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. Other releases of 94 birds in 1994 and 64 birds in 1997, have contributed to the population. In the five hunting seasons approximately 25 to 35 toms have been taken by hunters.

**Furbearers:** Muskrats, beaver, mink, raccoon, fox, and coyote are on the WMA. Trapping interests 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, cooper's, sharp-shinned, harrier, kestrel, prairie and gyrfalcon.

### **Hunter Use and Harvest**

The area provides for an estimated 10,000 hunter user days annually and numbers are increasing every year. Higher numbers of waterfowl hunters use the area compared to upland game bird hunters. Mallard is the most common duck harvested and the bulk of the remainder are wood ducks, green-winged teal, and golden eyes.

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

### **Wildlife Production**

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

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

## **Water Level Control Management**

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

A new 9-acre pond was developed in the fall of 1996.

## **Noxious Weed Control**

A Temporary employee was hired to spray poison hemlock on the WMA. Over \$5,200 were expended in hemlock control. Biological control was utilized to control purple loosestrife and Canada thistle by placing 1,200 beetles and 500 eggs on plants.

## **Habitat Projects**

Two food plots were maintained on the WMA in 1998. These included a 5-acre corn field left from 1997 and 25 acres of a winter wheat/rye mix. These areas provide winter food and cover. Trees and shrubs were planted on the Birding Island segment adding 800 new plants. A 10-acre pond was built on the Birding Island South segment for waterfowl production and winter cover for pheasants.

The Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) developed over 30 private properties in Payette, Washington, and Adams Counties by establishing food plots, and planting 6,000 shrubs and trees and developing wetland ponds.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Mark Fleming  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	8 weeks 2 houses 4 trailers	10,040	9,920	Species benefitted:
Maintain barns, corrals, and general items	1334	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,510	3,720	Species benefitted:
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Improve deer and elk winter range						
Monitoring upland vegetation condition	1440	5 weeks 12,000 ac	4 weeks	5,020	4,960	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Controlling livestock and fence maintenance	1334	6 weeks 110 miles	5 weeks 110 mi	7,530	6,200	Species benefitted: Elk and mule deer
Big game census	1460	4 weeks	3 weeks	3,765	4,960	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & wild turkey
Management Program - Wetland rehabilitation						
Water developments, inspections	1321	3 weeks 50 sites	2 weeks 40 sites	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Riparian zone monitoring	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	1 week 2.5 miles	2,510	1,240	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Wildlife pond rehabilitation	1321	2 weeks 4 sites	0 weeks	2,510	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, & upland wildlife
Management Program - Hunter access						
Develop management plan for access	1610	1 week	2 week	1,255	2,480	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Protect gates protecting access	1334	6 weeks 18 gates	5 weeks 18 gates	7,530	6,200	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	1 week 330 pair	2,510	1,240	Species benefitted: Columbia sharp-tailed grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitoring riparian transects	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 weeks 10 sites	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted:
Maintaining water developments	1321	4 weeks 50 sites	3 weeks 40 sites	5,020	3,720	Species benefitted: Gray partridge, chukar
Monitoring upland habitat	1440	2 weeks 30 transects	2 weeks 30 sites	2,940	3,186	Species benefitted: Chukar, gray partridge
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 1,000 plants	2 week 1,000 plants	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted: wild turkey, forest grouse
Planting winter food plots	1322	2 weeks 50 acres	2 weeks 12 acres	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted: California quail, wild turkey
Weed control	1322	6 weeks 600 acres	8 weeks 400 acres	7,530	9,920	Species benefitted:
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Upland game bird nesting cover						
Upland habitat monitoring	1440	2 weeks 500 acres	2 weeks 1,000 ac	2,510	2,480	Species benefitted:
Improve nesting habitat/ Tree and shrub plantings	1322	4 weeks 2,000 acres	3 weeks 1,000 ac	5,020	3,720	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Riparian zone maintenance	1440	4 weeks 5 miles	3 weeks 4 miles	5,020	3,720	Species benefitted:
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide hunter access on WMA						
Checking hunters in and out of 18 locked gates - 3,000 user days	1331	16 weeks 18 locked gates	16 weeks 18 gates	20,080	19,840	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Road maintenance	1331	8 weeks 50 miles	6 weeks 30 miles	10,040	7,440	Species benefitted:
Enforcement of regulations and road closures-18 gates	1331	6 weeks	4 weeks	7,530	4,960	Species benefitted:
Interviewing hunters and public relations	1430	6 weeks 1,000 hunters	4 weeks 1,000 hunters	7,530	4,960	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE VIEWING						
Management Program - Nonconsumptive wildlife use						
Checking individuals in and out of locked gates - 200 user days	1331	4 weeks	3 weeks	5,020	3,720	Species benefitted:
Public tours- 30 user days	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,510	1,240	Species benefitted:
OUTDOOR RECREATION						
Management Program - Nonhunting use						
Checking hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, etc., into locked gates and onto WMA - 500 user days	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks 100 user days	3,765	2,480	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	4 weeks 8 reviews	3 weeks 6 review	5,020	3,720	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Review and evaluate planning documents relating to WMA	1630	6 weeks	4 weeks	7,530	4,960	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents, reports, budgets, purchasing requests, etc.	1610	10 weeks	7 weeks	12,550	8,680	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training requirements for upgrading position						
Improve technical skills	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,020	4,960	Species benefitted:
Improve managerial skills	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,020	4,960	Species benefitted:
Other regional duties as assigned	1610	16 weeks	16 weeks	20,080	17,360	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$179,535
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$179,535

Year-to-date with overhead	\$167,394
Encumbered with overhead	0
Available operating w/overhead	<u>12,141</u>
	\$179,535

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 6 residences, 1 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 110 miles of fence. There are 50 miles of gravel roads on the area. Maintenance of these facilities are implemented according to planned work projects and as new maintenance requirements are identified throughout the annual period.

During May 1998 the local area recorded >8 inches of rain, 5 inches of which fell during a 24-hour period, the total precipitation exceeded 100-year records for the month of May. The result was extensive flooding and damage to roads on the Andrus WMA, mud slides, and extensive damage to several trailers.

### 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, fifty to seventy percent of the area provides suitable winter range for big game. The following work projects have been completed:

Implementation of a rest-rotation grazing system, monitoring of livestock distribution, monitoring of range condition, maintenance of 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 were monitored to prevent adverse impacts to those communities; 205 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:

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 GPS equipment; monitored pre- and post-range 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 for 1,004 hunters who used the controlled access gate system on the area; maintained 30 miles of roads and 18 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: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Anthony Apa  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Magic Valley Region Wildlife 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 permanent personnel	22 weeks	22,872	20,966	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, and waterfowl
Supervise Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)*	1630	56 weeks	50 weeks	53,368	47,650	Species benefitted: see above
Review Lands Proposed for Purchase	1630	1 week	2 weeks	953	1,906	Species benefitted: see above
Review of Public Projects*	1710	12 weeks	12 weeks	11,436	11,436	Species benefitted: see above
Assistance to Private Landowners*	1720	11 weeks	11 weeks	10,483	10,483	Species benefitted: see above
Coordination and Administration	1630	0 weeks	11 weeks	0	10,483	Species benefitted: see above

\*52 weeks of these categories are reported in more detail in the Minidoka and Niagara Habitat District Reports.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$124,840
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$124,840

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Lee Williams  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	2 weeks	7 weeks	1,662	5,817	Species benefitted:
Maintain roads and trails	1211	4 weeks	0 weeks	3,324	0	Species benefitted:
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,662	1,662	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences, remove unneeded fences	1211	4 weeks	0	3,324	0	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks	6 weeks	1,662	4,986	Species benefitted:
Parking lot development	1332	1 weeks	0	831	0	Species benefitted:
Water level management	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,662	831	Species benefitted:
Maintain machinery and equipment	1211	0 weeks	4 weeks	0	3,324	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings*	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,493	2,493	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Maintain herbaceous seedings*	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,493	2,493	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Control vegetation*	1211	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,986	4,986	Species benefitted:
Rangeland rehabilitation*	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,493	2,493	Species benefitted: Big Game,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Upland Game
Farmland rehabilitation*	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,493	2,493	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Establish food plots*	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,986	4,986	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Assistance to private landowners	1720	1 weeks	0 weeks	831	0	Species benefitted: Upland Game
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	4 weeks	1 week	3,324	831	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned	1630	1 weeks	2 weeks	831	1,662	Species benefitted:

\*These weeks of work are reported in more detail in the Camas Prairie Centennial March, Minidoka, Niagara, and Hagerman Habitat Districts (temporary time).

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$47,410
Other Funds	0
Grand Total	\$47,410

Note: This budget is used for work on all Magic Valley habitat districts.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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

◆ Additional work performed and reported under Magic Valley Habitat Maintenance.

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 wood duck nest boxes		1 week 24 boxes	1 week	1,252	1,252	
Maintain 100 goose nesting platforms annually, install 30 new platforms	1211	3 weeks 100 platfrms	2 weeks	3,756	2,504	Species benefitted: CAGO Was assisted by two temporary employees.
Develop and maintain dense nesting cover	1322	1 week	2 weeks	1,252	2,504	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds. Prepared and planted 60 acres of dense

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						nesting cover.
Maintain water delivery system utilizing wells, piping and ditching	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Maintain dense nesting cover on dike	1322	1 weeks	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Develop, install, maintain, and evaluate nesting boxes and duck nesting structures	1211	1 week 12 structures	0 week	1,252	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds. Not completed until ice damage problem is solved.
Maintain water levels for brood rearing habitat	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,756	3,756	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 weeks	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Administer sharecroppers to perform farming activities consistent with waterfowl production goals	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds, Antelope
#Develop and maintain four acres goose pasture	1322	2 weeks	2 week	2,504	2,504	Species benefitted: CAGO
Monitor waterfowl production with brood counts	1460	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION						
Management Program						
Develop and manage wetlands for migrating and nesting shorebirds	1322			♦		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.
Encourage emergent vegetation on brood pond areas	1322	1 week	0 week	1,252	0	Same. Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds The brood ponds are aging and vegetation is developing adequately.
#Conduct tours, give talks and provide community with information	1630	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: All
Maintain species observation list	1630	1 week	0 weeks	1,252	0	Species benefitted: All. Species list maintained along with other duties.
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - to provide habitat to attract waterfowl during hunting season						
#Utilize brood ponds and water system to provide some fall water on dry years	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Utilize 2,000 acre feet	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
water right to provide year-round water levels						GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Monitor hunter use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	9 weeks	8,764	11,268	Species benefitted: All. The increase in time was for NRCS WHIP and CRP contracts.
Assistance to landowners	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,756	3,756	Species benefitted: All
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program						
Maintain Department lands and facilities	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,504	3,756	Species benefitted: All. Rebuilt 3/4 mile of WMA road.
Control noxious weeds on project areas	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,504	1,252	Species benefitted:
Maintain project buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted:
Maintain and repair equipment	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,504	2,504	Species benefitted:
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,504	1,252	Species benefitted: Fewer plans to be completed
Maintain files, prepare administrative reports	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,756	3,756	Species benefitted:
Technical assistance for other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,756	3,756	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	5 weeks	7 weeks	6,260	8,764	Species benefitted: An increase in time needed to assist other department personnel with their projects.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$64,126
Outside Funds	5,198
Grand Total	\$69,324

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, with additional purchases later by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. It now provides 3,100 acres of wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and a host of other wildlife. 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 stopover area. The WMA encompasses 365 acres of shallow lake and wetlands and 385 acres of sage, lava outcroppings, and cropland.

Benefits:

**Waterfowl:** Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh provides a spring stopover area for 2,000 to 10,000 migrating northern pintails and mallards. The numbers vary widely depending upon when the marsh becomes ice free. The marsh is primarily a production area. Of the 100 Canada goose platforms on the area, 71 were used in 1998 for a total of approximately 300 Canada geese. Eight ground nests were found and all were destroyed by predators. Ravens have been observed landing on temporarily vacated platforms, but the extent of their damage is unknown. Approximately 1,000 juvenile ducks were observed in 1998 with portions of the marsh uncounted. The marsh did not reflood in the fall of 1997 and there was very little water available for the fall migrants. The spring of 1998 started off fairly normal with the snow going off in mid-April, but then from early May through mid-June the marsh received 9 inches of rainfall. This unexpected water kept the marsh full throughout most of the summer with no groundwater pumping being necessary to maintain brood water. When the marsh retains water that long into the summer, doing brood counts becomes almost impossible. The broods are scattered all over the marsh and surrounding area. I think the estimate is probably on the conservative side.

Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area is utilized by 10,000 to 20,000 waterfowl each spring during the migration, depending on when the marsh thaws. The area is used by 400 to 500 tundra swans and 20 to 30 trumpeter swans. Twenty-eight of the 32 goose platforms were utilized in 1998, as well as numerous successful ground nesters, totaling approximately 150 to 200. Juvenile duck counts totaled approximately 300. Carey Lake is heavily used by fall migrants, along with an estimated 1,000 hunter days. Fishing use on Carey Lake is estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 visits annually.

With the help of two temporaries, 300 goose platforms on the WMAs and surrounding area were repaired and refilled. Four acres of goose pasture are kept irrigated and mowed throughout the summer on Centennial Marsh

**Upland Game:** Sage grouse numbers are down on Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh for 1998, approximately 25 were observed on the area in 1998. They receive light hunting pressure. Mourning doves nest on the area and Hungarian partridge have also been sighted on the Centennial Marsh.

**Big Game:** Pronghorn antelope and mule deer utilize Centennial Marsh throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The pronghorns receive the bulk of the big game hunting pressure. Elk and moose are occasionally sighted on the area. No big game winter on Centennial Marsh, whereas 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 are not limited to American avocets, black terns, willits, soras, American bitterns, and sandhill cranes, of which 10 nests were observed. White-faced Ibis increased noticeably on the marsh this year with approximately 60 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. Three school groups and numerous smaller groups were provided talks and tours of the marsh.

Carey Lake receives considerable bird watching use. No tours were given at Carey Lake in 1998.

**Technical Assistance 1997-98:**

- Camas, Blaine, and Elmore Counties NRCS; 24 CRP, 5 WHIP, and 2 EQIP contracts
  - Member of the Wood River RC&D beaver committee locating and evaluating sites suitable for beaver reintroduction.
  - Reviewed one grazing allotment EA, six timber sales, and two miscellaneous projects for the USFS.
  - Administered cooperative farming agreements and preformed maintenance on shelterbelts on BLM wildlife tracts.
  - Reviewed and provided comments on 7 subdivisions for Blaine and Camas County Planning and Zoning.
- Participate with the Anderson Ranch Interagency Mitigation team, contacting landowners concerning conservation easements or acquisition.
- Reviewed a parcel for Idaho Department of Lands up for disposal.
  - Participated with US Fish and Wildlife Service on five projects.
  - Reviewed two projects with Idaho Department of Transportation.

**Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) 1997-98:** One wildlife pond project was completed. Am currently working on 24 CRP renewals and new contracts all with wildlife seedings within the projects; 5 WHIP projects, including ponds and tree or shrub plantings; and 2 EQIP projects with ponds, fencing and wildlife plantings.

**Noxious Weed Control 1997-98:** The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. On Centennial Marsh approximately 50 scattered acres of Canada thistle were treated with herbicides. For the fifth year on Carey Lake WMA, the Canada thistle was treated with two different biological control agents.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Bill Gorgen  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Hagerman Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

HAGERMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

BILLINGSLEY CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. MAINTAIN WINTER WATERFOWL HABITAT
2. PROVIDE SANCTUARY TO HOLD WATERFOWL IN MAGIC VALLEY
3. ENHANCE WATERFOWL & UPLAND GAMEBIRD PRODUCTION
4. PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES
5. PROVIDE MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS

Management Priorities:

1. ENHANCE WATERFOWL & UPLAND GAMEBIRD PRODUCTION
2. MAINTAIN WATERFOWL & UPLAND GAMEBIRD HUNTING
3. MAINTAIN THE AREA FOR WINTERING WATERFOWL
4. MAINTAIN THE AREA FOR FISHING
5. PROVIDE WILDLIFE APPRECIATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
MAINTAIN WINTER WATERFOWL HABITAT						
Management Program - Maintain winter habitat						
Maintain winter habitat at current level (ponds and associated vegetation)	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 1 week	1,586	1,586	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	1,586	1,586	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Allow public viewing of waterfowl from selected sites	1211	1 obsrvtn blind	1 obsrvtn blind			Species benefitted: Blind received some vandalism this summer
PROVIDE A SANCTUARY TO HOLD WATERFOWL IN MAGIC VALLEY DURING THE HUNTING SEASON						
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, LESC, 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, 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, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
ENHANCE WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAMEBIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nest sites and brood raising habitat						
Irrigate alfalfa goose grazing and brood rearing habitat. Pursue share-crop agreement.	1322	34 acres 5 weeks	34 acres 5 weeks	7,930	7,930	Species benefitted: CAGO Share-crop agreement plan not approved by State Office
Manage WMA fields. Pursue sharecrop agreement	1322	30 acres 3 weeks	30 acres 3 weeks	4,758	4,758	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain irrigation system (pump, mainline, pipe, etc.)	1211	1 week	1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain uplands in an undisturbed condition except where Canada goose pasture is provided	1211	670 acres	670 acres			Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain fence	1211	5.5 miles 4.0 miles 1 week	9.5 miles 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain stable water levels	1211	77 acres 1 week	77 acres 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Measure and record water flows	1211	Monthly 2 weeks	Monthly 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain dikes	2.5	2.5 miles 1 week	2.5 miles 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain and clean water structures	1211	22 structrs 2 weeks	22 struct 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain Canada geese nesting structures	1211	20 structrs 1 week	20 struct 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	30 boxes	30 boxes	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		1 week	1 week			
Management Program - Provide brood rearing habitat						
Provide Canada goose pasture through cooperation with an adjacent landowner	1322	20 acres 2 weeks	20 acres 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO. Pasture is used by several hundred Canada geese.
Irrigate alfalfa nesting cover.	1322	35 acres 6 weeks	35 acres 7 weeks	9,516	11,102	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Manage WMA Fields	1211	30 acres 4 weeks	30 acres 4 weeks	6,344	6,344	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain uplands in an undisturbed condition except where Canada goose pasture is provided	1211					Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain shrub, tree, and riparian habitat	1211	760 acres 2 weeks	760 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Limit vehicle access	1211					Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor populations	1460	1 week	1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Monitor artificial nest utilization	1211	26 nests 30 boxes 1 week	0 week	1,586		Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO Unable to accomplish
PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES						
Management Program - Monitor and regulate fisheries program						
Stabilize impoundment water levels	1211					Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Prohibit boat motors	1630					Species benefitted:
Litter clean-up	1211					Species benefitted:
PROVIDE MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS (e.g., wildlife viewing, upland hunting, nongame habitat, trapping, photography)						
Management Program - Provide miscellaneous benefits						
Maintain species observation list	1630					Species benefitted: Not presently available
Provide wildlife viewing opportunities by maintaining access roads	1211	1.5 miles	1.5 miles			Species benefitted:
Maintain parking areas	1211					Species benefitted:
Maintain wildlife viewing blind	1211					Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects, including wildlife tracts	1710	7 weeks	7 weeks	11,102	11,102	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	5 weeks	5 weeks	7,930	7,930	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	12,688	12,688	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,758	4,758	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Management Program - WMA, facilities and equipment maintenance						
Maintain storage buildings, box car, residence and lawn	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain equipment: tractors, drills, trailers, etc.	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain regulatory signs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	6,344	6,344	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	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU

Total PR Contract With Overhead    \$ 36,868  
 Outside Funds                                76,335  
 Grand Total                                    \$113,203

\* Operating funds from this budget supplement the Habitat Maintenance budget. The Habitat Maintenance budget is used for operating funds for the Minidoka and Niagara Springs Habitat Districts and for payment of temporary employees.

NARRATIVE

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

HWMA includes sixteen ponds that are heavily used by waterfowl in the winter and fishermen during the summer months. The spring-fed water that flows through HWMA is relatively warm (58 degrees) providing open water for approximately 50,000 ducks and 3,000 - 4,000 Canada geese during the winter months. Mallards are most numerous with a variety of other ducks represented. Because of the sanctuary provided by HWMA, these waterfowl remain in the area and provide hunting in several counties as they fly to and from HWMA.

HWMA is located in close proximity to a number of Magic Valley communities. As a result, the area receives hundreds of fishermen each season. The March 1 opening on a portion of HWMA is extremely popular with fishermen eager to get outdoors after a long winter of inactivity. This early fishing opening does conflict with the goal to enhance waterfowl production. Hagerman State Fish Hatchery stocks an average of 51,000 trout annually on HWMA 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 6 acres of HWMA. In exchange, several hundred Canada geese are allowed to graze undisturbed on 20 acres of irrigated private pasture. The six acres of HWMA has been successfully converted to irrigated goose pasture with help from the cooperator. Canada geese now use the private and WMA pastures for grazing and brood rearing.

Sixty-three acres are irrigated for waterfowl and upland bird nesting cover, food plots, and goose pasture.

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. 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 the 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.

#### Benefits:

##### Hagerman Wildlife Management Area:

1. Wintering area for up approximately 50,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese.
2. Average Canada goose production approximately 200 goslings.
3. Average duck production is approximately 400 ducklings.
4. Sixteen ponds provide habitat for fish and wildlife.
5. A cooperative agreement with an adjacent landowner provides 20 acres of irrigated pasture on private property that is used daily by several hundred Canada geese.
6. An estimated minimum of 50,000 hours of fishing effort spent on the area annually results in an economic contribution to the community of over \$500,000.
7. Excellent waterfowl observation opportunity each fall and winter.
8. Four controlled muskrat/mink trapping permits issued each year.

##### Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area:

1. Area traversed by meandering 1.25 mile section of Billingsley Creek.
2. Open to upland game, waterfowl, and deer hunting (shotgun only).
3. Two controlled muskrat/mink trapping permits issued each year.
4. Fishing opportunities for brown and rainbow trout.
5. Provides excellent late season waterfowl hunting.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: David Musil  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Niagara Springs Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

NIAGARA SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

\* Work performed and reported under Magic Valley Region Wildlife 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 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	22 boxes *	20 boxes 0.25 wks	*	261	Species benefitted: CAGO Two boxes were destroyed by high water and beaver damage and were not replaced.
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	200 boxes 1 week	136 boxes 1 week	1,138	1,041	Species benefitted: WODU, Screech Owl, Am. Kestrel, Red Squirrel, Northern Flicker. Percent use of the 128 boxes available for nesting included: 16% by WODU (20% of these nests were successful), 9% Screech

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						owl, 6 % fox squirrel, 3% northern flicker, 2% American kestrel, and 35% unused. 46 boxes were down or missing due to the high flows of the Snake River. 8 new boxes were constructed and erected by an Eagle Scout
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain woody cover	1211	9 plantings	9 plnting	*	*	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat to sustain and increase huntable populations						
Maintain food plots	1211	8 acres	7.7 acres 4 weeks	*	* 3,904	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. One (1.7-acres flood field) of the original 6 (7.21 acres total) food plots was not planted in 1997 or 1998 due to an unsuccessful attempt at controlling quackgrass. An additional 1.6-acre field was planted in 1998. Half of this field was planted to an experimental perennial sorghum, the other half to millet/dwarf corn mix. Soybeans were planted among the corn on two plots in 1998. It germinated but may not have competed well with millet, corn, and annual weeds.
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads and trails for hunting						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain water delivery systems to ponds	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 3.25 weeks	* 1,138	* 3,644	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, CAGO. The canal was again plugged with tumbleweeds several times during spring 1998.
Maintain water levels in ponds	1211	4 ponds	4 ponds	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey, Shorebirds, CAGO
Maintain roads for access	1211	5 miles	5 miles 0.5 weeks	0	* 521	Species benefitted: public. A private horse trailer was driven over a pressurized riser during spring 1998, breaking it off and creating a gully 550 feet long through the entrance road. Fill was obtained for free from the adjacent private trout farm. A breather valve later failed and a portion of the same area was damaged again but was not repaired until after July 1, 1998.
WINTERING WATERFOWL						
Management Program - Develop and maintain habitat for wintering waterfowl						
Maintain water level in ponds	1211	3 ponds	3 ponds	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Maintain grazing fields for waterfowl	1211	21 acres	9.4 acres	*	*	Species benefitted: CAGO, AMWI, MALL. The 5.9-acre wheel line #3 winter wheat field averaged 72 CAGO (range 22-110) from July 22, 1997 through April 9, 1998. Only 12 were seen on the 3.5-acre cottonwood pasture

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						during this time. The 3.5-acre flood field was not kept mowed and was abandoned as a goose pasture and is now providing nesting cover, instead. The west pivot field (8.3) has been converted to another shallow pond by the North Side Canal Company as part of the new wetland construction project, (see narrative). Currently, 9.4-acres in 2 fields are managed for CAGO grazing (wheel line #3 is 5.9 acres and cottonwood field is 3.5 acres).
FISHING ACCESS						
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads, and trails for fishing access						
Maintain impoundment dikes, ditches, and roads	1211	3 ponds, 5 miles of roads and 2.5 miles of canals and dikes	3 ponds, 5 miles of roads and 2.5 miles of canals and dikes	*	*	Species benefitted: Rainbow trout, public
Manage water levels to maintain fish populations	1211	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 miles)	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 miles)	*	*	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	1,138	0	Species benefitted: None. No tours were requested.
Maintain access roads	1211	5 miles	5 miles	*	*	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	8 weeks	7,966	8,328	Species benefitted: Upland game, big game, waterfowl, watchable wildlife
Assistance to private landowners	1720	12 weeks	14 weeks	13,656	14,574	Species benefitted: Upland game, waterfowl.
ADMINISTRATION						
Administration and Coordination						
Administer WMA, coordination with other agencies	1630	7 weeks	5 weeks	7,966	5,205	Species benefitted: Upland game, waterfowl, watchable wildlife, big game.
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	4 weeks	2 weeks	4,552	2,082	Species benefitted: Upland game, waterfowl, watchable wildlife, big game
Maintain files and prepare administrative reports	1630	1 weeks	1 week	1,138	1,041	Species benefitted: Upland game, waterfowl, watchable wildlife, big game
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	18 weeks	13 weeks	20,484	13,533	Species benefitted: Elk, sage grouse, mule deer, waterfowl, watchable wildlife

Total PR Funds*	\$23,317
Total PR Contract With Overhead*	\$23,317
Other Funds	30,817
Grand Total	\$54,134

\*Project funds were from Habitat Management Supervision (W-173-D-14)

## NARRATIVE

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

### Benefits:

The NSWMA produces 10-30 Canada goose broods and a minimum of 30 duck broods annually. Approximately 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. A wild rainbow trout fishery exists in the canal and artificial pond system.

Several biological control agents have been released in the past to control puncture vine, Canada thistle, and Russian thistle. Defoliating beetles were ordered to control purple loosestrife but the vendor had an accident with his storage unit and could not fill the order this year.

### New Wetland Development - J8 Drain

The 5-acre sediment pond on the canyon rim was expanded by the North Side Canal Company (NSCC) to over 15 acres. This area was dominated by thick cheatgrass so no valuable dryland habitat was lost. This expansion was done to accommodate the fluctuations in the canal drain water. This expanded pond will act like a bladder, backing water up so a more constant low flow can be turned into the lower constructed wetland ponds. A large rainstorm brought an unexpected amount of water into the canal system during late spring 1998. A higher than normal flow was turned into the wetland system. The area channeling the water from the canyon rim spill could not handle the high flow and the lower section of the talus slope eroded into the lower sediment catchment basin, virtually filling it up. This erosion also damaged the parking area by filling it with the talus boulders that rolled down the slope. The NSCC put sediment from the pond onto the top of the boulders to reconstruct the parking area rather than move the rocks to the side. The access road to the parking lot was washed out where the culverts originally had delivered the water to the sediment basin. An alternate route to the parking area will be constructed by the NSCC. A trench was constructed by the NSCC from the lower sediment basin, eastward, to the flat area of the middle center pivot pad. This was the first step toward developing a filter strip to clean the water before it reaches the shallow ponds. Flooding the filter strip will hopefully occur during the 1999 irrigation season.

The lower dike of the wetland has become well established with native grasses/forbs planted in the spring of 1997. The upper dike was not seeded because the NSCC was not able to finish contouring the slope before the window to plant the area had passed. It will be seeding in 1999. Canada geese are using the bare dike for loafing. The dikes on the expanded sediment basin (10 acres) on the canyon rim were planted in the Spring of 1998 with the same mixture as the lower wetland dike. Excellent spring rains after the seeding germinated the planting and the area has become well established before going dormant in the summer of 1998.

### Burglary

All the buildings on the management area were burglarized during March 1998. Over \$1,500 of tools were stolen. The locked doors were kicked off the hinges to gain entrance. A Conservation Officer's patrol outboard motor was also stolen. No vandalism occurred, just theft. The doors of the buildings will be reinforced during the next fiscal year and a security cage made of expanded steel will be constructed to protect valuable tools in one of the sheds. Insurance only paid for a portion of the replacement of the chainsaw. All the other tools were replaced with FY99 state license funds.

#### Wildfire

On July 7, 1997, a control burn escaped and burned 10-15 acres of cheatgrass with <1% canopy cover of sagebrush. We were clearing the flood field food plot of quackgrass (sprayed earlier in the spring with Roundup) when the fire escaped to the east and went through the flood goose pasture field. The fire was almost contained several times but small gusts of wind kept it ahead of our attempts. Once it reached the cheatgrass field it was uncontrollable. Neighbors across the river called the Wendell Fire Dept. They were unable to contain it and the BLM helicopter crew from Jerome were dispatched. The blaze was easily contained by the helicopter. We were not charged for the fire fighting because of the State agreement with the BLM. The site did not resprout with cheatgrass during the fall green up and never germinated in the spring. Therefore, we assumed the fire had destroyed the seed source. We deep disked Indian ricegrass into the site, avoiding the western wheatgrass and sanddropseed patches that greened up after the fire. Even with adequate spring rains after planting, the ricegrass did not germinate but some cheatgrass did resprout. Hopefully, the ricegrass will break its hard seed coat after the winter of 1998-99 and will germinate to replace the cheatgrass. After the ricegrass is well established, we will replant sagebrush. Trees along the river's edge were only scorched and do not need to be replanted.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: Michael McDonald  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Minidoka Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

BIG COTTONWOOD 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. NONMOTORIZED PUBLIC ACCESS

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	2 weeks <sup>1</sup>	1,136	2,254	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Reseed degraded habitat	1322	1 week	3 weeks	1,136	3,381	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Layout range riparian transects and photo points	1440	2 weeks	0.5 weeks	2,272	559	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Remove unneeded corrals and buildings	1211	2 weeks	0.5 weeks	2,272	559	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain fences and remove unneeded ones	1211	2 weeks	1 week <sup>1</sup>	2,272	1,127	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain 160 acres alfalfa	1322	2 weeks	3.5 weeks <sup>1</sup>	2,272	3,945	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, pheasants, chukars
Noxious weed surveys and control			0.5 weeks <sup>1</sup>		559	Species benefitted:
Evaluate turkey habitat	1440	1 week	1.5 weeks	1,136	1,691	Species benefitted: Turkeys
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain road closure for improved hunting and protection of bighorn sheep						
Maintain road closure	1211	1 week	0.5 weeks	1,136	559	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, turkeys
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	19 weeks	7.0 weeks	21,584	7,889	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	10 weeks	5 weeks	11,360	5,635	Species benefitted: Pheasants, quail, chukars
ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and administration	1630	11 weeks	14.5 wks	12,496	16342	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned			6 weeks <sup>2</sup>		6,762	Species benefitted:
Miscellaneous administration	1630		6.5 weeks <sup>3</sup>		7,326	Species benefitted:

<sup>1</sup> Actual time worked in this category does not include time expended by temporary employee.

<sup>2</sup> Category includes time expended in transitional duties from previously held position.

<sup>3</sup> Category includes time for paid leave.

Total PR Contract With Overhead\* \$25,344  
Other Funds \$33,244

Grand Total

\$58,588

\*Project funds were from Habitat Management Supervision (W-173-D-14)

NARRATIVE

Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) is located in south-central Idaho along Big Cottonwood Creek thirty miles south/southeast of Burley. BCWMA was purchased in 1993 and encompasses 814 acres. The management area is bisected by 2.5 miles of Big Cottonwood Creek. The majority of Big Cottonwood Creek lies within a deep canyon characterized by numerous lava outcrops and benches. Major wildlife habitats on the management area include approximately 45 acres of scrub-shrub riparian along the creek, 407 acres of sagebrush-steppe on the canyon slopes, and 362 acres of irrigated and nonirrigated agricultural lands below the mouth of the canyon. One hundred and sixty acres of nonirrigated agricultural land is detached from the main portion of the management area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game maintains an 8.8 cfs water right for irrigation of agricultural lands on the management area.

Benefits/Accomplishments:

1. During the 1997 growing season, 407 bales (265 tons) of grass/alfalfa hay were harvested on BCWMA. The hay was harvested under a share-crop agreement with a neighboring landowner. Benefits received from the crop included planting 34 acres of upland bird nesting cover and a one acre corn food plot in the spring of 1998.
2. A volunteer group assisted with the removal of .25 miles of net-wire fence and construction .25 miles of new post and pole fence on BCWMA. Removal of the old fence and construction of the new fence enhances bighorn sheep and mule deer movement through the management area.
3. Ten wild Rio Grande turkeys were released on BCWMA to augment the current population. Four of five hens radio marked during the winter of 1996-97, died during the winter of 1997-98. The causes of mortality were unknown.
4. All irrigation ditches on the management area were reconditioned and 5 new irrigation checks were installed to permit more efficient use of water to irrigate grass/alfalfa pastures and food plots.
5. During the 1997 growing season, four acres of corn/millet in three locations were planted and irrigated as a winter food source for wild turkeys, grey partridge, ring-necked pheasants, and California quail.
6. Thirty crab apple and 10 Burr oak saplings were planted on the management area. These trees coupled with plantings of similar species in previous years should eventually provide an alternative food source for wintering wild turkeys.
7. Began rangeland restoration efforts on 50 acres of annual grassland. A seed mix of native grasses and forbs will be planted in late October 1998. Sage brush seed will be harvested locally and planted via broad-cast application in late November 1998.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Southeast Region Wildlife Habitat Management Supervision

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	27.75 weeks	12.5 weeks	33,578	16,238	One biologist position left vacant for 5 months.
Oversee the management of five wildlife management areas	1630	19 weeks	21 weeks	22,990	27,279	Additional time with direct involvement in the management of East District.
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	1 week	2 weeks	1,210	2,598	Additional time devoted to listing of candidate properties for USFS exchange.
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Review/develop planning documents	1620	7 documents 2 weeks	7 2 weeks	2,420	2,598	Species benefitted:
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	7 proposals .25 week	7 .25 week	300	325	Species benefitted:
Assist other personnel with	1460	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,420	3,897	Additional time contributed

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
game management activities						to mule deer research.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Assist with the investigation and review of proposed projects	1710	25 projects 1 week	25 3 weeks	1,210	3,897	Additional time spent in direct involvement due to environmental staff biologist position left vacant for 6 months.
Oversee assistance to landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	45 contacts 2 weeks	61 2.75 weeks	2,420	3,572	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperate With Other Agencies						
Coordinate with other land management agencies and represent the Department	1630	8 meetings 1 week	10 1.5 weeks	1,210	1,949	Species benefitted:
PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM						
Management Program - Administer Access						
Coordinate maintenance and development of regional access sites; monitor Yago Creek access road and other nonfisheries-related access sites.	1332 1333	20 access sites 8 weeks	20 4 weeks	9,680	5,196	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$67,565
Other	0
Grand Total	\$67,565

## NARRATIVE

Within the past fiscal year two position vacancies in the region had a direct bearing on time expended by the Regional Habitat Manager. In August 1997 one of the Regional Habitat Biologists resigned. The position was not refilled until January 1998. Therefore less time was dedicated to supervision and more time was committed to direct involvement in management of the East Habitat District. In December 1998 the Regional Environmental Staff Biologist transferred to a different region. This position was left vacant for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Regional Habitat Biologist and other regional staff were more directly involved in technical assistance throughout this period. A considerable block of time was also contributed to the extensive field work involved with a mule deer research project conducted in the region.



State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: Jerry Deal  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

East Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

GEORGETOWN, MONTPELIER, PORTNEUF, AND BLACKFOOT RIVER WMAS

Management Priorities:

1. BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
2. PUBLIC ACCESS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING

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	.5 week	720	545	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Upland birds
Monitor vegetation transects on Montpelier, Georgetown and Portneuf WMAs	1332	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,880	2,180	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Elk, Upland game
Control noxious weeds on all areas	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	5,760	5,450	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Elk, Upland game
Management Program - Control Trespass Grazing						
Supervise survey and construction of boundary fence at Georgetown WMA	1211	2+ miles 3.5 weeks	4 weeks	5,040	4,360	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Elk
Repair and maintain boundary fencing	1211	25 miles 3 weeks	25 miles 5 weeks	4,320	5,450	Species benefitted: Elk, waterfowl, cutthroat trout

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide Security						
Maintain winter road/trail closures with gates and signing	1211	.5 week	.5 week	720	545	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Elk, Moose
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide Access						
Maintain signs and information boards; place signs at Blackfoot R. WMA	1211	1 week	1 week	1,440	1,090	
Place/replace boundary markers and other information signs at WMAs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,440	1,090	
Provide/maintain access roads/trails and parking areas	1211	1 week	2 weeks	1,440	2,180	
Control noxious weeds in cooperation with counties	1211	(See winter range)				
Monitor hunter and angler use, enforce regulations and WMA management policies	1211	1.5 week	1.5 week	2,160	1,635	
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Nesting and Brooding Habitat						
Vegetation rejuvenation through burning, herbicides, and grazing	1322	(See winter range)				
Provide nest sites with structures and by preserving snags	1322	.5 week	.25	720	273	Species benefitted: Bluebirds, kestrels, bats
Management Program - Monitor Grouse Breeding Populations						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct lek counts and drumming counts	1460	.5 week	1 week	720	545	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse
Management Program - Provide Public Access						
Provide and maintain access roads/trails and parking areas		(See public hunting)				
Compile species lists for distribution	1630	1.5 weeks		2,160		Not accomplished due to position vacancy.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	8 projects 2 weeks	8 proj. 2 weeks	2,880	2,180	Species benefitted: Mule deer, Upland birds
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 6 weeks	35 lndnr 9.75 weeks	8,640	10,628	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluation	1620	15 documents 6 weeks	3 doc. 2 weeks	8,640	2,180	Species benefitted:
Complete long-term management plans for WMAs	1630	6 weeks		8,640		Planning process temporarily on hold.
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	8,640	6,540	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	7,200	5,450	Including assistance with mule deer and sage grouse research projects.
Management Program - Cooperation With Other Agencies						
Coordinate and meet with		3 weeks	1 week	4,320	1,090	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
citizen working groups associated with Portneuf and Blackfoot River WMAs						
Work with faculty and students at ISU on inventories at Blackfoot River WMA		1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	2,160	1,635	
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	1630	1 week	1 week	1,440	1,090	

Total PR Contract With Overhead     \$     0  
 Other Funds                                     79,081  
 Grand Total                                     \$79,081

Note: Of the total funds allocated, a total of \$56,000 was actually expended by this program. The Regional Habitat Biologist position included in this program was vacant for 5 months and the associated personnel costs were not expended here. Most duties normally assigned to that position were covered at some level by either the Regional Habitat Manager or the West District Habitat Biologist.

NARRATIVE

Noxious weed control was a significant focus of WMA activity by seasonal personnel during FY98, with control efforts directed at Dyer's woad, Canada thistle, hoary cress, leafy spurge, musk thistle, Russian knapweed and yellow toadflax.

**Portneuf Wildlife Management Area**

The Portneuf WMA is a 3104-acre tract of rangeland and abandoned dryland farm on the west slope of the Portneuf Range, bounded by USDA Caribou National Forest and USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties to the east, Old Highway 91 and the Portneuf River to the west, and private agricultural and rural development properties to the north and south. An additional 800 acres of BLM land is surrounded by or adjacent to the WMA. This WMA has been managed since 1970 with the following objectives: 1) winter range for deer, elk and moose; 2) public access for hunting; 3) upland bird production; and 4) wildlife appreciation and other wildlife production.

A prescribed burn was attempted in April 1998 on 20 acres of high-density sage brush, with limited results in reducing canopy cover. Other activities have included weed control, road and fence maintenance, signage improvements, and vegetation monitoring.

**Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area**

Georgetown Summit WMA is located in Bear Lake County approximately 12 miles southeast of Soda Springs, bounded by the USDA Caribou National Forest on the northeast, the Bear River on the southwest, and mixed Idaho Department of Lands and private agricultural property in between. The area is bisected by a gas pipeline, a high-voltage power transmission line, and U.S. Highway 30. The Department owns a 775-acre parcel and leases an 880-acre parcel from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. As a partner in the Georgetown Grazing Association, the Department also shares in the lease of 1840 acres from Idaho Department of Lands adjacent to the other parcels. The area is managed with the following objectives: 1) elk and mule deer winter range, primarily for elk; 2) public hunting for big game and upland game; and 3) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

Two miles of fence line was surveyed and constructed during FY98 to prevent cattle trespass from neighboring private land. A land-use exchange farming agreement was implemented to provide food and cover plots for upland birds and resolve access issues for adjacent farmland.

#### **Montpelier Wildlife Management Area**

The Montpelier WMA is located east of the town of Montpelier in Bear Lake County and is bisected by U.S. Highway 89 in Montpelier Canyon. This WMA comprises 2080 acres of winter range for big game, including 800 acres leased from the Idaho Department of Lands and BLM. Management objectives for the area are: 1) Mule deer and elk winter range; 2) public access and hunting of big game and upland game; 3) grouse production; and 4) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

In 1998 a transfer of ownership for 420 acres of Department property was made to Bear Lake County to relieve the Department of ownership of the Bear Lake County landfill.

#### **Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area**

The Blackfoot River WMA is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Soda Springs and includes 1720 acres in Department ownership and a 640-acre lease from the Idaho Department of Lands. It straddles the Blackfoot River from the confluence of Lanes and Diamond Creeks downstream to the upper end of The Narrows. It is surrounded by a mixture of USDA Forest Service, BLM, and private pasture land. Management objectives include: 1) restoration of riparian habitat in the upper Blackfoot River system; 2) public access for hunting and fishing; and 3) wildlife appreciation and production of other wildlife.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: Other Funds  
 Project Leader: Dean Rose  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

West Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

STERLING WMA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nesting cover						
Provide grass/legume nest cover	1211	2 weeks 80-100 acres	1 week 80-100	1,600	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treatment of nest cover through grazing	1211	2 week 300 acres	1 week 300 acrs	1,600	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Noxious weed control	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks 450 acrs	6,400	7,760	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Manage water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Monitor muskrat populations and manage trapping	1460	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	485	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Service mallard nest structures	1211	27 structres 1 week	15 struc 1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Service goose nest structures	1211	70 structres 1 week	45 struc 1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide brood habitat						
Maintain escape cover and water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Provide goose pasture through controlled grazing	1211	1 week 2-5 acres	1 week 5 acres	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct brood survey, breeding pair counts, nest searches, and monitor use of all nest structures (assisted by research/game management)	1460	100 structures 3 weeks	100 structs. 1.5 week	2,400	1,455	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide access						
Provide parking areas	1332	12 parking areas 1 week	12 park. areas 1 week	800	970	Species benefitted:
Upgrade one parking area	1332	2 weeks	Not Done	1,600	0	Species benefitted:
Maintain Handicap blind	1334	.5 week	.5 week	400	485	Species benefitted:
Maintain gates, stiles, and foot bridges	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,910	Species benefitted:
Maintain signs/information boards	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,910	Species benefitted:
Maintain hunting cover and provide food plots to attract game	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	2,910	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Enforce regulations and WMA management policies	30 (M)	2 week	2 weeks	1,600	1,940	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
PHEASANT PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Brood Stock						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets - storm cover	1322	21 acres 4 weeks	21 acres 2 weeks	3,200	1,940	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Provide high energy grains adjacent to storm cover	1322	25 acres 1 week	25 acres 1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide brood habitat - treat with grazing/burning	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,940	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Management Program - Provide Nesting Habitat						
Provide nesting cover by fencing	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,940	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide irrigated grass/legume nesting cover through coop. farming	1211	90 acres 1 week	90 acres 1 week	800	970	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct crow counts, nest searches and brood surveys (assisted by research/game management)	1460	2 weeks	.5 week	1,600	485	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Assist with duck nesting success and pheasant habitat use research	1460	3 weeks	Not done	2,400	0	Both projects have been temporarily suspended due to time constraints.
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 boxes .5 week	400	485	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds
Install additional nest boxes	1211	10 boxes .5 week	Not done	400	--	Species benefitted: Kestrels and bluebirds

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide viewing opportunity						
Provide brochure, species lists, signage, information boards and parking areas	1211	.5 weeks	.5 week	400	485	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	5 projects .5 week	.5 week	400	485	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 1 week	2 weeks	800	1,940	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Coordinate with "Adopt-a-Wetland" group to maintain a portion of wetlands	1211	15 structres .5 week	15 struc .5 week	400	485	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluate	1630	5 documents 1 week	1 week	800	970	Species benefitted:
Provide tours and information on policies and goals, respond to concerns of neighboring landowners	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	1,940	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	3,200	3,880	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	1 week	800	970	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	33	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,600	1,940	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	\$50,400
Grand Total	\$50,400

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, and song birds (wintering and resident), as well as some small mammals (including furbearers) and deer (see Table 1).

This project provided for the production of about 250 goslings, 1,000 ducklings, and 200 cock pheasants. The project provided 4,000 man days of hunting opportunity and 2,000 man days of wildlife viewing opportunity. The project provided 70 acres of high energy grain for winter food and 1,600 acres of dense winter storm cover.

Additional technical and financial assistance was given to private landowners through the Habitat Improvement Program (15 weeks). Technical review of projects that may have had an impact on wildlife habitat off the project area required 5 weeks of work.

A new 8-month Wildlife Technician was hired for SWMA in mid-May.

During FY98, noxious weed control continued to be a major issue. The temporary work crew spent 148 man hours treating weeds, mostly Canada thistle on the WMA. A helicopter service was contracted to spray approximately 250 acres of thistle.

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 effects of Russian olive trees and magpies on waterfowl production. In 1996, the above listed areas were cleared of all Russian olive trees.

Nest searches were not conducted this past year. The decision was made to continue current management practices without monitoring and allow vegetation a chance to recover from the impacts of past nest searches.

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

The third 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. The execution of the event was handled by the Department's Volunteer program.

One hundred seventy-six muskrats were harvested this season (See Table 2).

Pheasant brood routes were not conducted this past year. Routes will be run in FY99.

The predator reduction program continued in the study area to document impacts on waterfowl nesting success. Wildlife Services (formerly Animal Damage Control) is assisting by running kill sets in addition to the live traps being run by the WMA technician. The traps will be run until the middle of July. The FY97 predator trapping season ended by early May (See Table 3). Four skunks and one feral cat were caught.

Goose platforms were not inspected, by the time that this report was written, to determine use. A survey will be conducted later this summer. The 1997 data showed that of the 69 platforms located in usable condition, 56 (81%) were used.

During the last pheasant release of the season, an additional 15 hen pheasants were radio-collared and released. The hens were then located several times throughout the year to determine survival rates. Three of the birds were never located. As of early May, 7 hens had been found dead (5 killed by, or found by, predators) and 5 were still alive. Locations have not been made since May due to time and equipment restrictions.

Table 1. Species List for Sterling WMA, 1998.

**Birds**

Ring-necked Pheasant  
 Grey Partridge  
 Sharp-tail Grouse  
 Mourning Dove  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Audubon's Warbler  
 McGillivary's Warbler  
 Yellow-breasted Chat  
 House Sparrow  
 Western Meadowlark  
 Brewer's Blackbird  
 Brown Headed Cowbird  
 Lazuli Bunting  
 Evening Grouse  
 Cassin's Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 Green-tailed Towhee  
 Rufous-sided Towhee  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 Vesper Sparrow  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Brewer's Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow  
 Oregon Junco  
 Common Night Hawk  
 Calliope Hummingbird  
 Red Shafted Flicker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 Western Kingbird  
 Western Wood Pewee  
 Horned Lark  
 Violet-green Swallow  
 Black-billed Magpie

Common Raven  
 Common Crow  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 Dipper  
 Sage Thrasher  
 Robin Hermit Thrush  
 Ruby Crowned Kinglet  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Northern Shrike  
 Loggerhead Shrike  
 Starling  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Marsh Wren  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 Common Snipe  
 American Avocet  
 Blacknecked Stilt  
 Western Grebe  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Tundra Swan  
 American Coot  
 American White Pelican  
 Herring gull  
 California Gull  
 Franklin's Gull  
 Forster's Tern  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Black-crowned Night Heron  
 Snowy Egret  
 White-faced Ibis  
 Killdeer  
 Long-billed Curlew  
 Willet  
 Wilson's Phalarope  
 Snow Goose  
 Canada Goose Northern  
 Pintail  
 Wood Duck

American Widgeon  
 Mallard  
 Gadwall  
 Cinnamon Teal  
 Green-winged Teal  
 Blue-winged Teal  
 Northern Shoveler  
 Redhead  
 Canvasback  
 Lesser Scaup  
 Ruddy Duck  
 Ring-necked Duck  
 Bald Eagle  
 Golden Eagle  
 Northern Harrier  
 Gorthern Goshawk  
 American Kestrel  
 Roughed-legged Hawk  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Swainson's Hawk  
 Great Horned Owl  
 Short-eared Owl

**Mammals**

Mule Deer  
 White-tailed Deer  
 Antelope  
 Blacktailed Jackrabbit  
 Cottontail Rabbit  
 Mink  
 Muskrat  
 Pocket gopher  
 Vole  
 Deer mouse  
 Marmot  
 Porcupine  
 Red Fox  
 Striped Skunk  
 Raccoon  
 Coyote  
 Badger

**Reptiles**

Common Garter Snake  
 Great Basin Rattlesnake  
 Blue Racer  
 Gopher Snake  
 Rubber Boa  
 Western Fence Lizard  
 Sagebrush Lizard  
 Skink

**Fish**

Chubs

**Amphibians**

Northern Leopard Frog  
 Chorus Frog

Table 2. Muskrat trapping.  
on Sterling WMA

Year	No. of Muskrats
1985	56
1986	300
1987	255
1988	50
1998	176

Table 3. Predator Control Effort

Predator Trapping Effort on Sterling WMA, 1998 (1997).					
Week Of:	No. of Trap Nights	Funds spent	Predators Caught	Trap Nts/ Pred.	\$\$/ Pred.
(2/9-4/6)	(780)	(\$1519)	(14 skunks, 1 coon, 7 cats)		
4/13-7/13 (4/13-4/27)	390 (315)	\$1600 (\$703)	4 skunks, 1 cat (3 skunks 1 coon 1 cat)		
Total	390 (1095)	\$1600 (\$2222)	4 skunks 1 cat (17 skunks, 8 cats, 2 coons)	78 (40.6)	\$320 (\$82)

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Steve Schmidt  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Upper Snake Region Wildlife Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

UPPER SNAKE REGION

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 5 habitat management districts, 5 wildlife management areas, and 52 access areas. Supervise 9 permanent personnel (3 as second-in-line supervisor). Third-line supervisor to 69 temporary employees.	1630	18 weeks	17 weeks	27,516	25,987	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	4 weeks	12,229	6,115	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain files and records, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchase requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	9 weeks	12 weeks	13,758	18,344	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	6,115	6,115	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
Regional Computer Coordinator GIS/GPS Data Coordinator			4 weeks		6,115	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	6 weeks 100 proj.	4 weeks >50 proj.	9,172	6,115	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. Typical waterfowl species include CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Review wildlife habitat improvement project designs and provide recommendations on Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) projects prepared by habitat biologists for private landowners. Administer HIP cooperative agreements and two regional HIP budgets. Coordinate HIP project implementation with staff and private landowners.	1720	2 weeks 40 agreements	2 weeks	3,058	3,057	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 \$71,848

Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$71,848

## 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 Wildlife Habitat Manager (RWHM) 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 boating access areas in the region, 3) administer all the fishing access areas in the region, 4) administer the Department's Habitat Improvement Program for waterfowl and upland birds in the region, 5) 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 fishing and boating access areas.

### Management Documents

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager oversees the section's development and implementation of a number of planning documents including WMA annual work plans, coordinated resource management plans (with other agencies), cooperative agreements, land use trades, and five year and long term management plans.

### Administration

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager evaluates employee work performance and conducts annual performance evaluations. Six annual performance evaluations were prepared and given by the RWHM. Three other annual personnel evaluations were approved as second in line supervisor. A annual orientation and safety training day for the region's summer temporary employees is administered by the RWHM. 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 RWHM. Sharecrop agreements and use trades are reviewed and approved by the RWHM. A sharecropping/grazing report is completed annually. Inventory records are maintained for the section. On the ground training of staff and team meetings are facilitated by the RWHM. The RWHM assisted with a number of WMA projects and most notably the Big Game Hunting Workshop at the Tex Creek WMA held August 8, 1998.

### Other Duties

The RWHM also functions as the region's computer coordinator and spends considerable time assisting other staff with computer or network problems. The coordinator position has evolved to include that of regional GIS/GPS data coordinator as well.

Many hours have been spent maintaining and manipulating GIS data for the region. Other miscellaneous duties include collecting data at game check stations, creel surveys, and a monthly assignment as the front desk duty officer. 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 RWHM with input from the habitat staff completed recommendations on over 50 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 RWHM 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 RWHM. Project types and prototype designs are developed by the RWHM and implemented by the regional wildlife habitat biologists. The RWHM approves all HIP cost-sharing agreements with private landowners in the region. The RWHM maintains the regional HIP database and oversees the annual regional HIP budget.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Jim Moore  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Upper Snake Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Management Objectives:

1. Maintain and develop WMAs and access sites in the Upper Snake Region for the hunting and fishing public.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance on five wildlife management areas						
Maintain roads. Develop new entrance into M3 marsh of Market Lake WMA. Develop new culvert/bridge/ road on Mud Lake WMA. New foot bridge & nature trail at Sand Creek WMA.	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,636	4,636	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. Develop new culvert and entrance into M3 marsh of Market Lake WMA. Develop new culvert/bridge/ dikes on Mud Lake WMA.	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,796	5,796	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain fences	1211	1 week	1 week	1,159	1,159	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	1,159	1,159	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	1,159	1,159	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,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc. Develop/ update management plans.	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,318	2,318	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)  Rainey Creek diversion	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,481	3,481	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	\$19,708
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$19,708

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.

#### Dike Maintenance

A new entrance causeway was built at Market Lake into the M-3/M-4 dividing dike. An old wooden bridge was removed and a pair of new 6 foot diameter culverts were installed at Mud Lake WMA on the Independent Canal. The new culverts will allow heavy equipment to cross the canal for the first time in WMA history.

#### Fence Maintenance

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

#### Tree and Shrub Maintenance

Routinely irrigated shelter belt tree planting adjacent to Roberts Gravel Pond. Helped plant and irrigate replacement trees in the new shelter belt at Market Lake WMA.

#### Vegetation Control

Assisted Mud Lake WMA personnel with weed spraying. Repaired truck mounted weed sprayer for Market Lake WMA.

#### 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. Finalized flood related equipment, personnel, and expense reports for flood related compensation.

#### Miscellaneous Projects

Repaired WMA equipment for Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs. Assisted with goose platform refurbishing at Market Lake and Sand Creek WMAs. Assisted with hay hauling for winter feeding of big game throughout the region. Helped with construction of irrigation diversion head gate at Rainey Creek.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Don Kemner  
 Assistant: Mark Sands  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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 and maintenance on dikes	1342	1 week 3 sites	1 week 3 sites	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, NOPI
Haul dirt and gravel to eroded areas on dikes	1211	1 week 2 sites	3.7 weeks 3 sites	3,000	3,800	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Repair and/or replace water control	1211	1 week	1 week	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: REDH, GADW,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
structures/rails		1 structure	1 struc			MALL, CANV
Management Program - Water manipulation and vegetation control						
Develop a water manipulation schedule for marshes; monitor and control water levels	1440	12 weeks 10 sites	11.9 weeks 10 sites	13,600	13,600	Species benefitted: CITE, CAGO, MALL, GADW
Use fire, mechanical, or chemical methods to enhance vegetation structural diversity in marshes	1322	1 week 300 acres	1.6 weeks 300 acres	3,000	3,300	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, RUDU
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	1 week 61 platfrms	1.2 weeks 61 platform	1,000	1,200	Species benefitted: CAGO
Conduct nest searches for overwater nesters	1460	1 week 1 project	0 weeks	1,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, RUDU, REDH, CANV
Management Program - Cover plantings						
Establish plots of nesting cover and irrigate	1322	4 weeks 20 acres	1.2 weeks 5 acres	6,000	2,000	Species benefitted: NSHO, NOPI, BWTE, MALL
Vegetation surveys	1440	0	1.5 weeks	0	1,500	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, NOPI, AMWI
Management Program - Control human visitors						
Maintain closures during nesting season	1211	1 week	0.5 week	1,000	500	Species benefitted: MALL, LESC, CANV, REDH
Control vehicle access to promote better quality hunting	1211	1 week	0.8 weeks	1,500	1,200	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	1 week 1 site Jefferson County	1.3 weeks 1 site Jefferson County	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Management Program - Planting, mowing and water control						
Plant 20 acres of small grains, irrigate, and mow	1322	4 weeks 20 acres	2.8 weeks 8 acres	5,000	3,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, LSGO, Elk
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1211	1 week	0.6 weeks	1,500	900	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Disease monitoring and control						
Monitoring for botulism and avian cholera outbreaks	1410	3 weeks 1 project	2.25 weeks 1 project	4,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AGWT, NSHO
Disease control and cleanup	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Monitor harvest						
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	2 weeks 4 stations	4 weeks 8 stations	1,600	3,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NSHO, NOPI Some State License Funds
NONGAME PRODUCTION - NO PLANS						
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide tours and information programs						
Develop self-guided tour route	1630	2 weeks	0 weeks	2,500	0	Species benefitted: peregrine falcon, CAGO, MALL, NOPI
Provide guided tours of the WMA and present programs on the WMA	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	2,800	3,700	Species benefitted: MALL, peregrine falcon, CANV, white-faced ibis
Public user days	1630	0	2 weeks	0	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, GADW
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation rehabilitation						
Plant 10 acres of corn or sorghum and irrigate	1322	2 weeks 10 acres	0.5 week 2 acres	3,000	1,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Population Monitoring						
Sage grouse lek survey	1460	1 week	3.2 weeks	1,000	3,200	Species benefitted: sage grouse
Upland bird surveys	1460	1 week	0.4 week	1,000	400	Species benefitted: Pheasants and gray partridge
Release game farm pheasants	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	State License Funds
Sage grouse trapping	1460	0	1.5 weeks	0	1,900	State License Funds
Sandhill crane surveys	1460	0	1 week	0	1,500	State License Funds
Management Program - Signing						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Repair and replace directional, information, and regulatory signs	1211	1 week	2.3 weeks	1,100	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Elk, peregrine falcon
<b>BIG GAME WINTERING</b>						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation manipulation						
Winter feeding / depredations	1480	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Elk, mule deer
Elk and moose trapping	1460	0	0.5 week	0	600	State License Funds
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Management Program - Maintain Improvements						
Control noxious weeds	1211	6 weeks 1,000 acres	5.5 weeks 1,000 acre	8,500	7,700	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, CAGO, Elk
Maintain 12 miles of fence	1211	1 week	1.5 weeks	1,000	1,200	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sage thrasher, Brewers sparrow
Maintain 17 miles of road	1211	2 weeks	1.6 weeks	2,200	2,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Removal of 5 miles of old fence at Chilly Slough	1211	1 week	2.3 weeks	1,000	2,000	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, antelope, and sandhill cranes
Maintain 8 miles of dikes	1211	2 weeks	0 weeks	4,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE
Vehicle/equipment maintenance	1211	0	2.3 weeks	0	4,950	Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, NOPI, CAGO
Building/compound maintenance	1211	0	2.4 weeks	0	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						CANV, REDH
Sinkwell cleaning project	1211	0	3.3 weeks	0	5,113	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, REDH, NOPI
Management Program - Technical Assistance						
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2 weeks	8.5 weeks	3,800	7,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, LESC, CANV
Assist landowners	1720	1 week 5 inquiries	6.5 weeks 40 inqu	3,800	8,500	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, CAGO, MALL State License Funds
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	1 week 3 proposals	3 weeks 15 propls	3,000	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE State License Funds
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks 6 plans	7.2 weeks 8 plans	3,000	6,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, NOPI
Maintain files, prepare monthly and annual reports, budgets	1630	3 weeks 4 reports	8.1 weeks 28 reports	2,568	7,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Training	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,000	3,000	MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Regional office coordination	1630	0	1.2 weeks	0	1,300	State License Funds
Chilly Slough planning/ operation	1620	0	2.2 weeks	0	3,000	State License Funds
Vacation/sick leave	1630	0	6 weeks	0	6,000	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$93,856
License Funds	46,207
Grand Total	\$140,063

NARRATIVE

The 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:

**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 5 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 100 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:** 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. Cottontail and jack rabbits also reside on the WMA.

### Surveys

A sandhill crane survey was conducted on May 20, June 5, and June 18, 1998 at Chilly Slough. The survey indicated a minimum of 37 pairs with at least 10 colts.

Height-density stations to monitor nesting cover quality were surveyed 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.

Sage grouse leks on adjacent federal land were surveyed in the spring of 1998.

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

### Trapping and Transplanting Activities

Personnel assisted with trapping elk for a brucellosis study. Personnel assisted with trapping and moving problem moose. Personnel assisted with trapping sage grouse for a chick survival study.

### Disease Outbreaks

WMA personnel monitored and searched the marshes for sick or dead birds during July and August, 1997. A botulism outbreak occurred in marsh number 3. Approximately 102 ducks died during the outbreak.

Twelve trumpeter swans and one tundra swan died at the WMA in late March and early April, 1998. Three trumpeter swans were found dead and one alive on April 2, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. along a shoreline of East Springs Marsh. A fourth dead trumpeter swan was found approximately 100 yards from shore. The four dead swans were in early to mid stages of decomposition. The live swan was very listless. It could not swim or walk, and could barely move. The live swan died overnight after being collected on April 2.

East Springs Marsh was checked for other dead or sick waterfowl on April 3. No other sick or dead birds were found.

One carcass of the four dead swans and the carcass of the swan collected alive (but died overnight) were shipped frozen to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Necropsy results indicate the swans died of lead poisoning.

Five more dead trumpeter swans were found on April 13 in East Springs Marsh. One dead trumpeter swan was found in Marsh 4 on April 13. The carcasses has been scavenged by predators. There were little muscle tissue and internal organs remaining on the carcasses when found. The carcasses were buried in a pit.

One live tundra swan was found on April 13 in East Springs Marsh. The swan was taken to a local veterinarian on April 13. Two blood samples were taken. The swan died on April 14.

One carcass (frozen) from the four dead trumpeter swans found on April 2 and the fresh tundra swan carcass and the two vials of blood were sent to Dr. Dave Hunter at the Wildlife Health Laboratory in Caldwell, Idaho. Necropsy and culture results indicated the trumpeter swan died of avian cholera. Necropsy results indicated the tundra swan died of chronic lead poisoning with secondary aspergillosis.

No other sick or dead waterfowl were found in the marshes during searches through April 15, 1998. Most swans had migrated from the WMA by April 7. All swans had migrated from the WMA by April 17.

### Environmental Conditions

May and June 1998 were cool and had a combined 10 inches more rainfall than average. The rainfall maintained the marshes through June 1998.

The above average rainfall hampered crop and nesting cover planting. Less crops and cover were planted than was planned.

### Information and Education Activities

Eighty-three people were guided on bird watching tours of the WMA on International Migratory Bird Day (May 16). The activities were co-sponsored by Idaho Fish and Game, Snake River Audubon Club, Targhee National Forest, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the spring waterfowl migration, approximately 6,000 people visited the WMA. Tours were conducted for 1,300 school children visiting the WMA during May. 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 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

A causeway was constructed across a deep canal to increase public access to Marsh 3. The causeway provided better waterfowl hunting access in this marsh.

### Grants

A \$5,000 grant was received from the CHC Foundation of Idaho Falls. The grant is for the Market Lake WMA Public Education Project. The project includes: construction of informational kiosk and signs, public trails, and a picnic area. The grant will be matched by equipment use and labor supplied by volunteers and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

### Volunteers

Volunteers donated 167 hours working on WMA projects. An individual doing community service donated 110 work hours on the WMA. The individual did custodial work around the WMA headquarters, including trash cleanup, weed control, painting buildings, and maintenance on irrigation ditches.

Two Adopt-A-Wetland groups donated 20 hours doing maintenance on goose nesting platforms. The Snake River Audubon Society donated 15 hours giving bird watching tours on International Migratory Bird Day. The Audubon Society donated 10 hours servicing and surveying the bluebird nesting boxes on the WMA.

The Idaho Falconry Association donated 12 hours showing birds of prey at International Migratory Bird Day.

#### Other Activities

Four sinkwells were cleaned out and drilled deeper (depth 120 feet) in December, 1997. The sinkwells are used to dispose of excess water, usually occurring during the winter and spring.

Approximately 500 acres of the Triangle Marsh was burned in November, 1997. A clean, hot fire removed 100% of the vegetation. The burned area was heavily used by migrating waterfowl in spring 1998.

Prescribed fires planned for spring 1998 were canceled due to windy conditions.

#### Assist Landowners

Thirty-five of the forty inquiries reported in the table are covered by State License Funds.

#### 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 99

Construct fuel spill containment area. Construction is scheduled for September 1998.

Paint outside surface of residence house.

Host International Migratory Bird Day in May 1999.

Host Waterfowl Workshop Day in September 1998.

Host Youth Pheasant Hunt in October 1998.

Maintain roads, dikes, water control structures and fences.

Conduct prescribed burn of 80 acres of juncus meadows during fall 1998 or spring 1999.

Construct trails, picnic area, and install informational signs and kiosk.

Upgrade emergency pumping station used during times of flooding.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Tom Maeder  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	1 week 80 acres	1 week 80 acres	6,000	7,000	Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Plant nesting cover	1322	1 week 40 acres	0	3,500	0	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO. Project was not completed due to reduced seasonal time and funding.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Fence improvement	1211	1 week 1 mile	1 week 1 mile	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Road Closure	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, REDH, LESC, CAGO
Management Program - enhance overwater nesting cover and provide brood habitat						
Flood west slough	1211	1 week	1 week	10,400	8,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE. Reduced amount of time Jernberg well was run.
Monitor hydrophyte development in west slough	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Coordinate with canal company	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CAGO, CANV
Fence maintenance	1211	1 week	1 week	2,500	3,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	3 weeks	1 week	4,000	4,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, mountain bluebird, American kestrel. Project was reduced due to limited seasonal time and funding.
Management Program - Control waterfowl diseases						
Monitor for and control disease outbreaks	1410	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, LSGO, RUDU, CANV
WEED CONTROL						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management program - Weed control						
Irrigate and harvest alfalfa	1322	5.5 weeks 273 acres	3 weeks	22,000	24,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, CAGO. Reduced time involved with sharecrop activities.
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: AMWI, CITE, NSHO, NOPI
Integrate biological control	1322	15 acres	0	6,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE. Project was eliminated due to reduced funding.
Evaluate control methods	1211	1 week	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI. Project was not completed due to reduced funding.
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management program - road and water level improvements						
Improve roads and access areas	1211	1 week	1 week	3,000	3,000	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	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	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
<b>WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND NONGAME PRODUCTION</b>						
Management Program - Evaluate nongame production						
Monitor and maintain nesting boxes and platforms	1211	1 week	0.5 weeks	1,500	1,000	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	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, REDH, white-faced ibis
Management Program - Service depredation complaints						
Service depredation complaints and repair zon guns	1720	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, moose, white-faced ibis
Monitor and evaluate depredation problems	1720	1 week	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, NOPI. Project was not completed due to reduced seasonal time and funding.
<b>UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING</b>						
Management Program - Enhance upland game production						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	1 week 25 acres	1 week 25 acres	2,500	2,500	Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Plant 5-20 acres of winter food plots	1322	1 week 5-20 acres	1 week 5 acres	2,100	2,100	Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						grouse, mourning dove. Project was reduced due to limited seasonal time and funding.
Management Program - Upland game hunting						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	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	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: REDH, CANV, MALL LESC
Maintain fence	1211	3 weeks 33 miles	3 weeks 33 miles	4,000	4,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Maintain road	1211	1 week 18 miles	1 week 18 miles	6,000	8,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week 5 miles	0	7,000	0	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, LESC. No Maintenance was required.
Maintain buildings	1211	5 weeks	9.5 weeks	9,000	11,500	Species benefitted: LSGO, MALL, NOPI, CAGO. Increased maintenance was required.
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of	1710	6 weeks	5 weeks	6,000	6,000	Species benefitted: Mountain goat,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
proposed developments						bighorn sheep, elk, sage grouse
Assist landowners with wildlife projects	1720	2.5 weeks	2 weeks	3,500	3,500	Species benefitted: Gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, MALL, CAGO
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1710	3 weeks 20 projects 30 meetings	4 weeks 13 proj 10 mtgs	4,000	4,500	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, elk, sharp-tailed grouse, mountain goat
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	5,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain files, prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,500	5,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,107	3,508	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$121,108
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$121,108

NARRATIVE

**Mud Lake WMA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Public Use

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

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

The number of pheasant hunters has declined during the past 5 years. Over 95 percent of the harvest is game farm cocks planted on the farm land on the north side of the lake. 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.

### 1997-1998 Conditions

Waterfowl production was good in 1997. Mud Lake froze late in November, but thawed back and had open water until mid December. The Biby springs flowed most of the winter and created open water on Camas Creek and a small portion of Mud Lake for most of the winter. Waterfowl hunting on the WMA was good. Flights of northern waterfowl arrived late or by-passed Mud Lake altogether, and created slower hunting than normal. The absence of the northern waterfowl can be attributed to a very mild fall.

In 1998, a very late run-off from snow melt created flooding that resulted in the loss of many waterfowl nests. As of August, it appears that there was a strong re-nesting effort. Waterfowl that nested real early or real late did well.

More pheasants were seen in 1998 than in 1992, especially hens. Several mild winters in a row are the likely cause of the increase.

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.

#### 1997-1998 Projects

Weed control activities continued on approximately 160 acres of the WMA. The application of Curtail herbicide and a surfactant at or just before bud of Russian knapweed resulted in great control in 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.

The 1-year share-crop agreement for the west agriculture fields was extended for another year. The IDFG's share will be in the form of hay and a food plot.

A new rack for irrigation pipes was constructed.

Headquarters was painted.

Installed two new informational displays.

Sealed part of headquarters basement floor and perforated the sump well to prevent flooding.

Installed the rest of the new windows at headquarters.

Painted interior of secondary headquarters.

Installed new water-heater and water-softener in secondary headquarters.

Installed new electric heaters in shop.

Painted and repaired picnic tables.

Painted Kastor tower outhouse.

Added fire rings to the North boat ramp.

Continued share-crop activities on the north agricultural fields.

Repairs were made to the north agricultural fields mainline.

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 mowed for sportsman access.

Over a hundred goose structures were maintained.

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

Two new cattle gates were installed on Mud Lake WMA.

#### 1998-1999 Planned Projects

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

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

Will continue to control weeds.

Build irrigation pipe racks.

Remodel headquarter bathroom.

Will try to improve the Green Island road.

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

Will continue share-crop activities.

Plan on adding fire rings to the South boat ramp.

Will try to disc open some bulrush choked wetland.

Will try to improve exits on HIP predator fence.

Will try to replace 2 miles of boundary fence.

## **Mud Lake Habitat District**

### Objective

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

### 1997-1998 Projects

#### A. U.S. Forest Service

Provided IDFG comments for the Beaver Creek vegetation plan. The Targhee Forest is developing a comprehensive vegetation management plan for the Beaver Creek drainage. This plan include sagebrush treatments, aspen treatments, Douglas fir cutting, grazing adjustments, and spring improvements.

Provided IDFG comments for the East Beaver Creek aspen project. The Targhee Forest is developing a vegetation management plan for the East Beaver Creek drainage. This plan include sagebrush treatments, aspen treatments, and Douglas fir cutting. This plan includes the Minners Creek timber sale.

Provided IDFG comments for the Webber Creek trail improvement. Though the trail is in rough shape and erosion is occurring, improving it will increase motorized use in a recommended wilderness area and be detrimental to the local mountain goat population.

Provided IDFG comments for Dubois District outfitter allocations. The Dubois District wants to allocate more permits for recreational outfitting. It was unclear as to what type of outfitting would occur. This project is still pending.

Provided IDFG comments for the relocation of the Aldous Lake trailhead. The relocation will reduce erosion and improve stream water quality.

Provided IDFG comments for a firewood/post harvest. This project was small and has minimal impacts.

Provided IDFG comments for two timber stand improvement projects. Both projects were small and have minimal impacts.

Provided 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.

Attended a field tour on the effects of spike herbicide on sagebrush.

## B. Bureau of Land Management

Provided IDFG comments for the Hump Ditch Allotment sagebrush control project. The BLM and NRCS wants to burn a section of the allotment. The surrounding area has already had several recent control projects in the near vicinity and cumulative impacts were not considered. It was agreed to try to burn in a more mosaic pattern with small patch sizes. Weather conditions prevented all but a little burning. 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. Helped install some of the antelope passage modifications. This project will require further monitoring.

Provided IDFG comments on the construction of the Bald Mountain Pasture fence. 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.

Attended a presentation on the effects of spike herbicide on sagebrush.

Attended a sagebrush/sage grouse management meeting.

C. Natural Resource Conservation Service

Work on the IDFG's Kaufman access area enrollment 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.

D. Idaho Department of Lands

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.

Renewed the IDL grazing lease on Mud Lake WMA. A 259.3 acre parcel of Mud Lake WMA is IDL land leased by Mud Lake WMA. It is now a special use lease. A management plan has been drafted for this parcel.

Attended a sagebrush/sage grouse management meeting.

E. High Country RC&D

Attended a inter-agency weed control meeting for the Centennial Mountain area of Idaho and Montana.

F. Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

Signed a HIP contract for 2 sorghum food plots near Mud Lake WMA.

Working on 2 possible development shelter projects. Projects are still pending.

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

Developed 1 sorghum food plots on Mud Lake WMA.

1998-1999 Planned Projects

Will continue to review and monitor sagebrush control projects.

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

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

Will look at, field check, and review USFS vegetation plans.

Will coordinate waterfowl activities with Camas NWR.

Will try to work on Mud Lake water right adjudication.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-173-D-14  
 Project Leader: Dennis Aslett  
 Assistant: Anna Owsiak  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

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	4 weeks	1 week	4,800	1,100	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, moose
Assist wildlife management staff in census, winter movements, and marking	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	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	3 weeks	1 week	3,600	1,100	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 60 acres	1 week 20 acres	3,600	1,100	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	4,800	0	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Monitor hunting season and make recommendations to improve elk use of transition areas	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,200	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose
MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING						
Management Program - Increase forage production						
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd composition counts	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Deer, moose, elk, sage grouse
Assess possibilities for land acquisition, use trade, lease	1111	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: Deer, elk, moose, sage grouse
SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Vegetation and water management						
Identify lek areas on WMA and adjacent lands, report results	1450	4 weeks	1 week	4,800	1,100	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Maintain good residual cover adjacent to leks	1440	1 week	0	1,200	0	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor use of water developments	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	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	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: Sage and sharp-tailed grouse, moose, elk
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Conduct annual lek routes	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Operate hunter check stations and conduct field checks to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, doves, ruffed grouse
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management program - Maintain current hunting level, improve quality						
Maintain hunter access roads	1211	2 weeks	0	2,400	0	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Provide information and signing on	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: CAGO, elk,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
area closures, monitor area closures						deer, moose
Work with five private landowners to maintain public access	1720	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sage grouse
Make recommendations for hunting seasons	1630	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, MALL, CAGO
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
<b>WATERFOWL PRODUCTION</b>						
Management Program - Provide quality nesting cover and food crops						
Provide grain for food	1322	2 weeks 30 acres	2 weeks 30 acres	2,400	2,200	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, BUFF, GRSC
Improve nesting cover	1440	2 weeks 20 acres	0	2,400	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, AMWI, GADW
Continue signing and patrolling nesting areas to prevent disturbance	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Monitor waterfowl production and report findings	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
<b>WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION</b>						
Management Program - Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production						
Conduct tours, give programs	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,600	4,400	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Evaluate nongame habitat needs, implement habitat developments	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,100	Species benefitted: Kestrels, sand hill crane, osprey, great blue heron
Construct and maintain a nature trail in the pond area and monitor use	1331	5 weeks	4 weeks	6,000	4,400	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sand hill crane
Provide and protect nesting areas for trumpeter swans	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,200	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	0	1,200	0	Species benefitted: Beaver, muskrat, mink, fox
Maintain furbearer habitat in pond areas	1440	1 week	0	1,200	0	Species benefitted: Mink, muskrat, beaver, fox
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Map infestations and control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,800	4,400	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer
Monitor water levels and dikes	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,600	2,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Swan, BUFF
Maintain fence	1211	5 weeks 55 miles	5 weeks 55 miles	6,000	5,500	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Replace fence	1211	3 weeks 2 miles	1 week .5 mile	3,600	1,100	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain dikes and water control structures	1211	2 weeks 2.5 miles	2 weeks 2.5 mile	2,400	2,200	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, swan, BUFF
Maintain buildings and structures	1211	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,800	3,300	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review and comment on proposed habitat projects	1710	10 weeks 20 projects	5 weeks 15 proj	12,000	5,500	Species benefitted: Great gray owl, elk, deer, moose
Assist five landowners on wildlife projects	1720	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,100	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, pheasant, partridge
Cooperate with other agencies, attend coordination meetings	1710	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,800	4,400	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Attend training	1630	4 weeks	1 week	4,800	1,100	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	5 weeks	8 weeks	6,000	8,800	Species benefitted:
Maintain records; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	10 weeks	7,200	11,000	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,394	2,711	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$90,711
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$90,711

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 tow 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; 1000 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 600 wintering moose.

The Sand Creek Habitat District is staffed by a permanent Habitat Biologist, a permanent Wildlife Technician, and 3 months Biological Aide time.

## 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. Administration

## Summary of Activities

### 1. ELK WINTERING

- A. Management Program: Cooperative development and management of elk winter range.

1. Four existing use trades were monitored. Use trades provided 1800 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.
2. Assistance was provided for the elk census conducted from January 27 through the 29th. The results are as follows:

Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Calves	Ratio
3,674	882	2,093	699	42:100:33

B. Management Program: Acquire critical winter range.

1. 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. Management Program: Increase elk use of transition ranges.

1. One hundred acres of alfalfa and grass and 30 acres of barley were provided for bug game forage on transition range at the Sand Creek Ponds.
2. A range monitoring program was not conducted.
3. The early spike hunt was more successful than last year with 4.5% success compared to 2.2% last year through opening weekend check stations. The antlerless hunts appeared to be reasonably successful in most of the upper units, however, the migrations were about one month later than has been documented in the past. The Harriman elk did not migrate out of the park until about November 26 and they staged for some time near the Sand Creek Ranch as they have done historically. The Yellowstone elk finally crossed into the Sand creek area on December 12 and 13 and moved on to the desert. Due to the late migrations elk did not arrive on the desert until after the hunts had closed there. Consequently, harvest was practically nonexistent.

2. MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING

A. Management Program: Increase forage production.

1. Assistance was provided on January 8 and 9 for the mule deer winter census. The results included a total of 2,790 deer with a ratio of 43 bucks and 89 fawns per 100 does. Winter conditions were mild and deer were scattered. Another 200-250 deer were seen north and west of the Junipers on the elk flights that were not counted in the original deer counts.

Moose were censused in conjunction with the elk flights and results were as follows:

Total	Large Bulls	Small Bulls	Uncl. Bulls	Cows	Calves	Uncl. Moose
584	28	44	9	117	95	291

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

### 3. SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION

#### A. Management Program: Vegetation and water management.

1. Several sharp-tailed grouse leks which are not on the lek route were checked for activity. One that was identified from last year was active, two had birds in the area but no lek located and two had no birds recorded.

2. Several comment letters were written concerning habitat projects near leks. Information was provided to NRCS to protect lek sites on private lands in CRP.

3. Water developments were monitored with the following results:

Guzzlers were used by song birds and sage grouse in the fall of 1997. During the spring of 1998, ample rainfall resulted in no discernable wildlife use through June.

4. All winter sightings of grouse were recorded using GPS units particularly during big game census flights.

#### B. Management Program: Evaluate annual production.

1. The Grassy sharp-tailed grouse lek route produced no confirmed leks this year for the fifth year in a row. The Sand Creek route had two of four leks active. No birds were documented at the Rifle Range lek which had scattered birds last year. A total of 39 birds were counted on two leks which is up considerably from the 17-20 average in recent years and the 33 counted last year. The CRP lek had 21 birds and #94 had 18.

Sage grouse numbers on the Red Road lek route continue to decline and lek counts on the route this year were the lowest on record to date. Since 1993, there have been only two active leks on this route which is down approximately 90% from 19 in the 1950s. Total numbers of male birds counted have also declined from an average of 350 in the 1960s to an average of approximately 70 throughout the 1990s to date. The 1998 results indicate that three leks were active this year instead of two, but the total number of males counted on all three was only 52. This represents a 30% decline from last year's count of 74 and a 26% decline from the 1990s average of 70.

Two leks were checked on the Sand Creek route. The lek in Blake's pasture was up from 2 males last year to 7 this year. Miller's Corral was up from 38 males last year to 58 this year and another observer claimed to have seen over 100 birds on one occasion. Miller's Corral lek was within the Egin-Hamer Area closure which was initiated this year and was only checked on one occasion. The closure is in effect until April 30.

#### 4. PUBLIC HUNTING

A. Management Program: Maintain current hunting levels, improve quality.

1. Due to reduced funding and manpower, access roads were not maintained.

2. Vehicular traffic is restricted to designated routes on much of the WMA and the adjacent Targhee National Forest to protect habitat, provide security for wildlife, and promote quality hunting. Informational signs were put up and maintained throughout the season. Road and area closures were monitored and violations recorded. Beginning on January 1, 1998, the Egin-Hamer Area Closure took effect. It is a human entry closure from Jan. 1 through April 30 and includes portions of the WMA. The closure was monitored and results were reported.

3. Project personnel worked with all neighboring landowners to maintain hunter access. Signs were either provided or put up on adjacent private lands to inform hunters of private property.

4. Check stations were operated only occasionally due to mild weather conditions and low hunter success during the big game seasons.

#### 5. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION

A. Management Program: Provide quality nesting cover and food crops.

1. Thirty acres of grains were planted and left standing for waterfowl use.
2. No hay was cut this year which left 80 acres of alfalfa and grass fields for nesting cover.
3. Nesting areas were signed and patrolled regularly to minimize disturbance. Numerous violations were noted.
4. Goose broods were surveyed on all of the Sand Creek Ponds twice in June. A total of 19 broods and 10 goslings were documented. Thirteen of 30 goose nest structures were used successfully.

## 6. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION

### A. Management Program: Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production.

1. Tours were given to scout groups, 4H clubs, YMCA groups, sportsmen, and individuals. Of particular significance was a 4H Wildlife Day in which 75 participants attended presentations at 7 wildlife stations manned by Fish and Game personnel. They also walked the new nature trail, constructed a scrapbook, took an examination, gave an oral presentation, and toured sharp-tailed grouse lek sites in the early morning to view strutting grouse. Grouse lek tours were also given to Idaho Dept. of Lands and NRCS personnel, 4H leaders, and landowners.
2. Two osprey platforms were maintained and 10 blue birds boxes were installed by a boy scout. A pair of osprey nested on the platform on Pond 4. However, the nest was deserted after a major hail storm occurred on June 28.
3. The first half of the nature trail was completed and has received considerable use. The second half is being completed. All of the signs have been made and a high school group is willing to do most of the work of clearing trail and putting in -the signs.
4. Nesting trumpeter swans were monitored almost daily and territories protected. Two of three territories on the WMA were active. The swans on Pond 2 and the Swan Pond started nesting between May 24 and May 27. Up to 14 swans were identified on Pond 4 but no nesting occurred. The Swan Pond pair produced 3 cygnets. Two disappeared during the week of July 20th and the third approximately one week later. The swans on Pond 2 produced 3 cygnets on June 23 and moved to Pond 4. They have used Ponds 3 and 4 extensively. All three have survived.

### B. Management Program: Regulate and monitor trapping.

1. Trapping activities were not monitored.

## 7. ADMINISTRATION

A. Management program: Maintain improvements.

1. All weed infestations were mapped using a GPS unit. All infestations were treated including spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, musk thistle, and Canadian thistle. Biological control was also used on spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. Thirty acres of grain were treated and 60 acres were summer fallowed.
2. Water levels and dikes were monitored regularly.
3. All fences were maintained.
4. One half mile of fence was replaced in Upper Blue Creek.
5. All buildings and structures were maintained. The generator at the secondary HQ has become inoperable and has not been replaced.

B. Management program: Technical assistance.

1. Comments and technical assistance was provided for 15 proposed projects in the district including subdivisions, brush control projects, easements, conservation easements, green way along the Henry's Fork, area closures, species conservation plans, grazing allotments, and a snowmachine race.
2. Assistance was provided for five landowners on HIP or CRP projects.
3. Numerous coordination meetings were attended including weed control, brush control, work camp projects, area closures, range and project tours, and physical fitness.
4. Training included canopy coverage measurements, weed identification, and CPR.

C. Management program: Administrative duties.

1. All necessary plans , budgets, evaluations, and special reports were prepared and submitted.
2. All necessary records were maintained and assigned reports submitted.

3. Other duties were accomplished as assigned including assistance with wildlife depredations, enforcement, career day at local schools, hunter safety, monitoring the Sand Creek WMA fisheries, relocating moose, grouse research, cave monitoring for bat use, and the Idaho State Envirothon competition.

NOTE: The totals on the last page reflect the total money actually spent according to my budget printout and the number of personnel weeks available.

Original budget = \$130,499

Amount after cuts = \$107,584

Amount spent = \$90,711 which is a result mainly of a \$12,968 salary savings for the seven months the Tech position was vacant.

I would normally have 111 weeks of total time available, but due to the Tech vacancy and two weeks not used in temp money, the total was only 80 weeks of personnel time available.

State: Idaho  
 Project Number: W-174-D-14  
 Project Leader: Terry Thomas  
 Assistant: Paul Faulkner  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Tex Creek Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

Management Activities Within District

1. Provide technical assistance to Palisades Ranger District, USDA F.S.
2. Provide technical assistance and coordinate management activities with Idaho Department of Lands.
3. Provide technical assistance and coordinate management activities with U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
4. Administer IDFG's Habitat Improvement Program on private and publicly owned land.
5. Manage 7,000 acres of IDFG land on the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area.
6. Provide technical assistance and coordinate multi group and agency activities on the South Fork of the Snake River.

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 wildlife.	1710	10 weeks 20 projects	10 weeks 25 proj.	10,250	10,150	Species benefitted: Sharp-tailed grouse, elk, mule deer, sage grouse, moose, mountain goats
FISH AND GAME LANDS						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Big Game Wintering						
Monitor utilization by big game during winter; elk trapping	1450	2 weeks 7,000 acres	4 weeks	3,500	4,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose
Maintain/improve winter forage on F&G lands	1211/ 1440	7 weeks	7 weeks	5,800	7,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Implement coordinated resource management plan	1322	1 week	1.5 weeks	1,000	1,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Acquisition of 2,100 acres - planning developments and administering contracts	1111 1322 1630	6 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Administer 1,000 acres of new easements	1121 1211	1 week	0	1,000	0	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	2,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Population estimation	1460	2 weeks	1.5 weeks	2,000	1,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitoring of rangeland condition	1440	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM						
Management Program - HIP						
Waterfowl habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 proj	1 week 2 proj	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, NOPI

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Upland bird habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 proj	3 weeks 3 proj	2,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Gray partridge, pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse
SOUTH FORK OF SNAKE RIVER IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY						
Management Program - Goose and wood duck management						
Adopt-A-Wetland program on the South Fork River	1322	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU

Total PR Contract with Overhead	\$ 36,652
Outside funds	221,948
License Funds	3,000
Grand Total	\$261,948

## 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), US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and the US Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In all, 25 projects were reviewed. Field reconnaissance was significant and included horse packing into mountain goat country, and boating the South Fork of the Snake River. Projects included timber sales, trail improvement projects, burns for range enhancement and brush control, land exchanges, CRP plantings, subdivisions and grazing recommendations for sage grouse.

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 30,000 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 2,135 acres of critical deer and elk winter range. This sale was completed in June 1998 and will boost the Department owned portion of the WMA to about 8,600 acres or nearly 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 not flown in units 66 and 69. They should be on the schedule for the winter of 1998/99.

A major thrust of the WMA this winter was the capture and marking of elk to determine summer range distribution. Fourteen elk were radio-collared and others marked with ear tags and marking collars. This operation required a significant investment in time and resources.

Forage management on the WMA included haying and mowing selected fields. Mowing occurred in July to lessen the impact on nesting birds. We have also begun converting some of the fields from a cover of smooth brome. This requires plowing and fallowing the ground for at least one summer, possibly more. This year, 120 acres were treated.

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. A grain crop was planted on the newly acquired property owned by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation again with a sharecropper. This property and the Deer Creek property will be sharecropped until the year 2000 as per agreement at the time of sale.

The coordinated resource management plan which trades grazing on IDFG lands for no grazing on former privately held critical winter range was implemented again this year. The private ground was part of the property acquired, but a stipulation of the sale was to permit livestock use under the current system for three additional years (through the year 2000). Spring grazing on the WMA reduced the need for mechanical treatments and rested the former private ground, thus reserving the available forage for elk and deer on the most critical range. 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. Lek numbers did not appear to be much different from last year. One new lek was discovered by the Assistant.

Sharp-tailed grouse hunting in the fall of 1997 was not as good as it was in 1996.

Geese were trapped on the Snake River and about 60 juveniles and adults were transplanted to Tex Creek WMA. However, as soon as the geese reached flight stage, they disappeared, so the efficiency of the effort is in question. Next spring, we will wait until the young geese are a little older and not transplant any adults with them.

#### Habitat Improvement Program

Two of the three ponds constructed on Pipe Creek in 1996 were repaired in 1997 with the addition of a pond liner built into the inside of the dam from the control structure to the spillway on both dams in an effort to control leakage. This repair did not seem to work on the lowest pond. It filled nearly to capacity then quickly leaked out several feet of depth. Due to an improperly placed board on the second pond, insufficient water was trapped to really test the pond. However, a very wet spring and summer has kept more water than normal in all three ponds. The upper pond was nearly dry by mid August last year but is more than half full this year.

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 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 project is nearly complete. This is a joint fish/waterfowl project.

Three shelterbelts have been completed, one on Antelope Flat, one in Swan Valley and one at the base of Iona Hill. Several landowners have dropped from the program for financial reasons but other large projects, including a two mile long shelterbelt along Antelope Creek are in the works.

#### 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. Most of the goose nesting boxes were lost, but some did survive. The Project Leader and his supervisor surveyed the river in the spring of 1998 and located areas suitable for new platforms. This has been cleared with the BLM and USFS.

Boonena, Inc., 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-14  
 Project Leader: Robin Holmquist  
 Period: 7/1/97-6/30/98

Salmon Region Wildlife 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						
Program - Improve waterfowl habitat on public and private land						
Identify waterfowl habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 projects	641	641	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week 10 projects	1 week 10 projects	1,282	1,282	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to	1720	1.5 week	1.5 week	1,923	1,923	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	1,282	1,282	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Program - Improve upland bird habitat on private and public land						
Identify upland bird habitat	1440	.5 week 20 projects	.5 week 20 projects	641	641	Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	.5 week 10 sites	.5 week 10 sites	641	641	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 30 sites	1,282	1,282	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.	641	641	Species benefitted: Chukar
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week	1 week	1,282	1,282	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	
Program - Maintain big game winter and spring forage						
Monitor big game forage use	1440	1.5 weeks 8 properties	1.5 weeks 8 properties	1,923	1,923	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Monitor commercial use agreement	1630	1 week 2 properties	1 week 2 properties	1,282	1,282	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	1,923	1,923	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Provide technical assistance for backcountry commercial grazing permits	1710	.5 week	.5 week	641	641	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
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	1,282	1,282	
Develop public use areas to limit conflicts with wildlife and various user groups	1332	.5 week 3 sites	.5 week 3 sites	641	641	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Forest Grouse
Program - Administrative sites for management activities						
Building repairs such as new roof and removal of unwanted buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,282	1,282	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	.5 week	641	641	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Maintain irrigation system provide for wildlife and administrative packstock	1211	.5 week	.5 week	641	641	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
<b>BIG GAME AND FURBEARER HABITAT MANAGEMENT</b>						
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 allotmnts	5 weeks 20 allotmnts	6,410	6,410	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,564	2,564	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	641	641	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	2,564	2,564	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Program - Acquire critical winter range						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase or easement	1630	1 week 5 proposals	1 week 5 proposals	1,282	1,282	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Program - Monitor furbearer habitat						
Evaluate methods for determining furbearer habitat in Salmon Region and use of that habitat.	1440	2 weeks 1 project	2 weeks 1 project	2,564	2,564	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	641	641	
SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS AND ACCESS AREAS IN SALMON REGION						
Program - Maintain maximum wildlife use on Department controlled properties						
Maintain fences to control trespass livestock	1211	1 week 4 miles	1 week 4 miles	1,282	1,282	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	1,282	1,282	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	5,128	5,128	Species benefitted: Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant, Whitetail Deer, Mink
Program - Maintain improvements						
Supervise weed control and train	1610	1 week	1 week	1,282	1,282	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
personnel in proper methods of control						
Supervise routine maintenance	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,564	2,564	
Cooperate with other agencies for joint maintenance of access areas	1630	1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	1,923	1,923	
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION						
Program - Maintain public contact						
Conduct tours and presentations to promote habitat preservation and development	1610	.5 week	.5 week	641	641	
Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	2 weeks 40 projects	2 weeks 40 projects	2,564	2,564	
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2.5 weeks	2.5 weeks	3,200	3,200	
Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1620	2 weeks 6 documents	2 weeks 6 documents	2,564	2,564	
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,400	6,400	
Other duties (as assigned)	1610	1 week	1 week	1,282	1,282	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$66,649
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$66,649

Submitted by:

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