

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Project W-173-D-15

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Performance 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-15
 Project Leader: Tom Parker
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 372,000 acres of land owned or managed by the Dept.	1630	34 weeks	34 weeks	56,633	56,633	

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 59,663
 License Funds 154,400
 Grand Total \$214,063

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 Habitat Management Program						
Supervise Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)	1720	100 inq. 3 weeks	82 inq. 2 weeks	7,000	6,000	There were 23 waterfowl projects completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, pheasant, gray partridge
Supervise six Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	6 WMAs 3 weeks	6 WMAs 2 weeks	12,000	9,000	Supervision provided to three FTEs. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, elk, WT deer
Supervise habitat maintenance program on WMAs	1630	6 WMAs 1 week	6 WMAs 1 week	2,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO
Supervise Forestry Specialist	1322	200 acres 3 weeks	119 acres 3 weeks	10,000	8,000	Six timber sale contracts awarded. Species benefitted: WT deer
Supervise Sportsmen's Access Maintenance program	1333	43 sites 3 weeks	43 sites 3 weeks	12,000	2,000	
Supervise Albeni Falls Project wildlife habitat mitigation program funded by Bonneville Power Administration	1112	200 acres 4 weeks	1,535 acres 3 weeks	9,000	9,000	Four management plans completed. 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	1111	50 acres 1 week	0	1,000	0	No acquisition proposals submitted.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
acquisition proposals						
Fee title, wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1112	150 acres 1 week	1,535 acres 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	1,535 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	132 acres 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	One license, three easements, one lease, two special use permits completed, and one sharecrop agreement renewed. Species benefitted: WT deer
Nonfee title, wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1122	100 acres 2 weeks	10 acres 1 week	3,000	1,000	Three special use permits were 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 2 weeks	29 meetings 2 weeks	3,000	2,000	Attended 29 meetings.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 1 week	5 projects 1 week	2,000	1,000	Reviewed five proposals. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Federal aid work plans prepared for FY2000. Annual reports prepared for FY99. Long-range WMA plans completed.
Maintain files, prepare reports, editing, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	9,700	9,700	FY 2001 budget request completed.
Employee performance evaluations	1630	6 FTEs 2 weeks	6 FTEs 1 week	3,000	3,000	Six evaluations given.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	1 week	4,377	3,450	Jobs completed.

Total PR Contract W/Overhead	\$86,077	\$56,250
Outside Funds	0	6,900
Grand Total	\$86,077	\$63,150

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 (BPA).

Due to a reduction-in-force, the Forestry Specialist's position was eliminated effective July 1, 1999.

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. Twenty-three waterfowl projects were completed.

3. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Long-range planning efforts for all WMAs were completed.

Required plans and reports were completed and forwarded to headquarters on 1999 goose nesting surveys, waterfowl banding summaries for 1998, duck productivity surveys for 1998, weed control plans for 1999, predator control plans for 1999, updated waterfowl band recovery report, ingested lead shot/steel shot summary from the 1998 waterfowl season opener, and documentation reports for 1998 Beneficial Use of Water Rights on the Coeur d'Alene River and McArthur Lake WMAs.

4. Forestry Program

Six timber sales were set up and awarded - Winchester Lake I and II in the Clearwater Region (R2) and Kootenai Refuge Salvage, Thompson Lake Salvage IV, St. Maries WMA R-O-W, and SW Shepherd Lake. Both sales at Winchester Lake were done to promote the growth of ponderosa pine and improve an access site.

The Kootenai Refuge sale salvaged several large ponderosa pines endangering an administrative site. Thompson Lake Salvage IV completed a six-year attempt to thin ponderosa pine stands to protect the remaining trees from insect attacks. The St. Maries WMA R-O-W sale was done by the Idaho Department of Lands to gain access to another state section. The SW Shepherd Sale thinned lodgepole pine stands and completed logging on this property.

Due to budget cutbacks, the Forestry Program was terminated at the end of FY99 and the position was eliminated by a reduction-in-force.

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, US Forest Service, 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.

The access area work plan was updated for FY99.

6. Acquisitions

Two land acquisitions were completed - the Ginter property on lower Pack River totaling 109.95 acres and the Hubbard property at Boundary Creek totaling 1,425.2 acres. The Ginter property and 63% of the Hubbard property were purchased with BPA funds as wildlife habitat mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir. The remaining 27% of the Hubbard property was purchased with Department land acquisition funds.

Six additional acquisitions to be purchased with BPA funds have signed options and are awaiting approval by the Fish and Game Commission and the Level I Environmental Surveys - Hunter, McMahan, Eich, Fletcher, Meland, and Baird and Cicero.

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

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 the BLM near Killarney Lake on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA, the Government Gulch Mining Company at Blackrock Slough on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA, and WWP Company for a power line near Bull Run Lake on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. Two additional right-of-way easements were worked on but not completed.

One lease was signed with the Rose Lake Water Association for use of a well at the Rose Lake Access Site.

Two license agreements were completed. The Government Gulch Mining Company was granted a temporary road right-of-way at Blackrock Slough on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA and a sharecrop agreement with Frank Frutchey was renewed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

The grazing trespass by four adjacent landowners at the Hauser Lake access was resolved by legal action and a fence.

Five special use permits were granted to use Department property for large group events or short-term special uses.

8. Albeni Falls Dam Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Program

In 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 and is funded 100% by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Management plans were prepared and approved for the following properties purchased with BPA funds - Henderson Ranch, Carter's Island, Denton Slough and Ginter property on lower Pack River.

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 Department. The Project Leader continued to represent the Department on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin work group charged with preparing a cleanup 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.

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-15
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 1 week	2,000	2,000	St. Maries WMA.
Maintain dikes	1211	6 dikes 2 weeks	6 dikes 2 weeks	1,500	1,300	Coeur d'Alene River WMA. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 1 week	2,000	1,800	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 1 week	1,000	500	Farragut WMA. Species benefitted: WT deer, Merriam's turkey
Control vegetation	1211	100 acres 1 week	50 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	Farragut/Pend Oreille WMAs. Species benefitted: CAGO, WT deer
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	856	293	Tasks completed.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$9,856	\$7,693
Outside Funds	0	700
Grand Total	\$9,856	\$8,393

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 0.5 week	125 plts 0.5 week	2,000	1,500	All nest platforms were inspected and serviced. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 platforms 0.5 week	5 plts 0.5 week	2,000	1,500	Five nest structures were added this year and 10 old structures were removed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Control crows and ravens when necessary	1460	0.5 week	0	500	0	No control efforts were implemented.
Management Program - Provide good-quality brood habitat						
Maintain grass/legume pastures	1211	25 acres	25 acres	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		2 weeks	2 weeks			benefitted: CAGO
Reseed grazing pastures	1322	10 acres 1 week	10 acres 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Reseeding in progress. Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	125 platfrms 0.5 week	125 plts 0.5 week	800	800	27 active Canada goose nests observed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Check for outbreaks of disease or poisoning	1211	0.5 week	0.5 week	300	300	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, AGWT, CITE, BWTE
Management Program - Trapping and transplanting						
Trap and band geese as necessary for statewide programs	1460	50 geese 1 week	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 1 week	2 pr cnt 3 brd cnts 1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Management Program - Improve nesting and brood-rearing habitat						
Provide quality nesting habitat adjacent to marsh	1211	50 acres 0.5 week	50 acres 0.5 week	1,000	800	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, CITE, HOME
Reseed dense nesting habitat	1322	35 acres 1 week	35 acres 3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Reseeding in progress. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	60 boxes 0.5 week	50 boxes 0.5 week	1,000	800	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME, COGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 boxes 0.5 week	0	500	0	No new boxes were added this year.
Manage water level	1211	600 acres 4 weeks	600 acrs 4 weeks	3,000	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, RNDU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, CAGO
Management Program - Trapping and Transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	200 ducks 3 weeks	323 ducks 4 weeks	3,500	3,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	1 site 0.5 week	1 site 0.5 week	500	500	Task completed.
Random field checks for species harvested	1430	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, GADW, RNDU
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide foraging sites for migrating shorebirds						
Conduct late summer drawdown	1211	80 acres 0.5 week	80 acres 0.5 week	600	600	Task completed. Species benefitted: yellowlegs, dowitchers, western sandpipers, killdeer
Management Program - Provide secure bald eagle nest site and maintain production						
Monitor bald eagle nest site	1460	4 visits 0.5 week	4 visits 0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. Two eaglets fledged. Species benefitted: Bald eagle
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for osprey and maintain production						
Monitor osprey nesting sites	1460	2 inspectns 0.5 week	2 inspec. 0.5 week	500	500	One nest site was found. Species benefitted: Osprey
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	30 acres 2 weeks	30 acres 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, RNDU
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	30 projects 3 weeks	27 projs 4 weeks	6,000	4,700	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, pileated woodpeckers, pine marten
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvements	1720	30 inquiries 4 weeks	13 inqs 4 weeks	12,300	9,000	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	Log-range WMA plan completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Provide information to the public						
Give presentations/tours on WMA management	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, industries, and governments	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed.

NARRATIVE

The McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area was acquired to provide additional breeding and nesting areas for waterfowl as a replacement for marshlands that were converted to farmland in the Kootenai 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 1999 nesting season, platforms were serviced and supplied with new nest material (hay bales).

Canada goose nests decreased from 33 in 1998 to 27 at McArthur Lake in 1999 (Table 1). This was an 18% decrease from last year and 51% lower than the previous 10-year average.

Fields were mowed 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. Ten acres of goose pasture were fallowed to control weeds in preparation for future reseeding.

No Canada geese were banded at McArthur Lake in 1999. 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

Fifty-two broods from 12 duck species were documented at McArthur Lake in 1999 (Table 2). The number of duck broods declined 16% from 1998. The area attracted more breeding pairs resulting in a decline in overall duck productivity from 0.44 broods per pair in 1998 to 0.31 broods per pair in 1999 (Table 3).

Forty-nine usable wood duck nest boxes were inspected for use in July at McArthur Lake. Boxes contained twelve wood duck, four common goldeneye, and two hooded merganser nests (Table 4). Seven wood duck (58%), three common goldeneye (75%), and two hooded merganser (100%) nests hatched. Nesting boxes at Shepherd, Dawson, and Chase Lakes were not inspected in time for this report.

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. Thirty-eight acres were plowed, disced, packed, and reseeded with grasses for upland nesting ducks.

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

Three hundred twenty-three ducks were trapped and banded on the WMA in August 1998 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 1998.

Since 1991, 5,525 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 539 banded birds (9.8%) have been taken by hunters in ten 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; 20% from California; 17% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, Virginia, North Dakota, Alaska, and Utah combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1998 has been low - 5.8%.

4. Nongame production and appreciation

One pair of bald eagles has nested on the WMA since 1988. The pair has successfully fledged eleven young since 1990 and was successful this year (Table 6).

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 1999.

5. Administration

The long-range management plan for the McArthur Lake WMA was completed.

A considerable amount of time was spent assisting other Department personnel with a 1,405-acre acquisition in Boundary County - the Boundary Creek WMA. The new acquisition was purchased with a combination of Fish and Game land acquisition funds and Bonneville Power Administration wildlife mitigation funds. Prior to the purchase, the USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), acquired a permanent easement from the previous owner under the provisions of the Wetland Reserve Program. A wetland restoration plan is currently being developed and funded by the NRCS and Ducks Unlimited.

Benefits:

1. One hundred fifty (150) Canada geese produced annually.
2. Three hundred (300) mallards, wood ducks, green-winged teal, widgeons, and other ducks 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, primarily from 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 brood and nest counts at McArthur Lake WMA from 1957 to 1999.

Years 1957-1982	# Broods or Nests	Years 1983-1999	# Nests
1957	1 brood	1983	66 nests
1961	11 broods	1984	74 nests
1962	13 broods	1985	68 nests
1963	several broods	1986	57 nests
1965	several broods	1987	55 nests
1966	estimated 25-30 nests	1988	79 nests
1972	21 nests	1989	92 nests
1973	28 nests	1990	86 nests
1974	32 nests	1991	89 nests
1975	44 nests	1992	56 nests
1976	60 nests	1993	52 nests
1977	70 nests	1994	53 nests
1978	77 nests	1995	24 nests
1979	94 nests	1996	39 nests
1980	102 nests	1997	23 nests
1981	115 nests	1998	33 nests
1982	117 nests	1999	27 nests

Table 2. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on McArthur Lake WMA in 1999.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	57	14	0.25	66
Gadwall	13	4	0.31	24
Am Widgeon	17	9	0.53	46
G.W. Teal	11	2	0.18	13
B.W. Teal and Cinnamon Teal	13	3	0.23	17
Wood Duck	16	8	0.50	50
Ring-Necked Duck	24	5	0.21	24
Common Goldeneye	4	2	0.50	3
Shoveler	4	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	2	2	1.00	12
Pintail	3	0	0.00	0
Redhead	3	1	0.33	4
Canvasback	0	1	---	4
Unknown	0	1	---	4
Total	167	52	0.31	267

Table 3. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on McArthur Lake WMA since 1995.

Species	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>					<u>Broods</u>					<u>Productivity (Broods/pair)</u>					<u>Ducklings Produced</u>				
	99	98	97	96	95	99	98	97	96	95	99	98	97	96	95	99	98	97	96	95
Mallard	57	46	33	39	56	14	23	15	7	13	0.25	0.50	0.45	0.18	0.23	66	106	105	35	85
Gadwall	13	7	10	7	8	4	2	0	2	1	0.31	0.29	0.00	0.29	0.13	24	15	0	16	11
Am Widgeon	17	17	19	20	27	9	3	8	4	3	0.53	0.18	0.42	0.20	0.11	46	19	43	34	19
GW Teal	11	8	4	9	5	2	1	0	0	0	0.18	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	13	4	0	0	0
BW and Cin Teal	13	23	9	14	21	3	1	5	1	2	0.23	0.04	0.56	0.07	0.10	17	5	38	2	14
Shoveler	4	5	2	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	16	8	6	12	12	8	10	19	16	10	0.50	1.25	3.17	1.33	0.83	50	46	131	84	64
RN Duck	24	20	8	11	7	5	14	8	4	0	0.21	0.70	1.00	0.36	0.00	24	100	50	27	0
Com Gold	4	2	1	5	2	2	4	2	6	1	0.50	2.00	2.00	1.20	0.50	3	22	17	16	6
Hood Merg	2	1	1	4	0	2	1	1	2	1	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	---	12	4	5	17	4
Pintail	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.00	0.33	1.00	0.00	0.00	0	7	5	0	0
Redhead	3	2	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0.33	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	4	15	16	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	---	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	---	0.00	---	0.00	---	4	0	1	0	5
Total	167	142	95	127	143	52	62	63	42	32	0.31	0.42	0.66	0.33	0.22	267	343	415	231	208

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at McArthur Lake WMA since 1990.

Year	Total Boxes	(% Used)	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% Nesting Success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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%)
1999	49	37%	12	4	2	7 (58%)	3 (75%)	2 (100%)

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

Year	Total Boxes	(% Used)	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
1992	47	51%	16	5	3	8 (50%)	2 (40%)	2 (67%)
1993	46	61%	10	18	0	7 (70%)	4 (22%)	0
1994	45	53%	10	12	2	8 (80%)	1 (8%)	1 (50%)
1995	45	62%	10	16	2	5 (50%)	2 (13%)	0
1996	41	73%	9	20	1	7 (78%)	6 (30%)	1 (100%)
1997	41	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1998	36	67%	8	16	0	5 (63%)	8 (50%)	0
1999	36	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Table 6. Status of bald eagle nest located on McArthur Lake WMA since 1988.

Year	Nest Occupied	Successful	Number of Young Fledged
1988	Yes	No	0
1989	Yes	No	0
1990	Yes	Yes	1
1991	Yes	Yes	2
1992	Yes	Yes	1
1993	Yes	Yes	1
1994	Yes	Yes	2
1995	Yes	No	0
1996	Yes	Yes	1
1997	Yes	No	0
1998	Yes	Yes	1
1999	Yes	Yes	2

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 1 week	180 plts 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	20 platforms 1 week	0	1,000	0	No new structures were added this year. 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 0.5 week	1 strctr 0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, COGO, REDH, COME
Management Program - Monitoring						
Spring nest search	1460	180 platfrms 0.5 week	180 plts 0.5 week	1,500	1,500	97 active Canada goose nests observed. Species benefitted: CAGO
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site	1211	4 sites	4 sites	500	500	Task completed.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
improvements		1 week	1 week			
Clark Fork Delta check station	1430	1 station 2 days	1 stn 2 days	1,000	500	66 hunters checked. Species benefitted: AMWI, AGWT, MALL
DUCK PRODUCTION AND FEEDING/RESTING FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL						
Management Programs - Monitoring						
Midwinter waterfowl inventory	1460	1 day	1 day	200	200	Task completed. Species benefitted: REDH, LESC, CAGO, COME, COGO, AMWI, MALL, tundra swan
Management Program - Improve nesting and brood rearing habitat						
Maintain dense nesting cover for upland nesting ducks	1211	100 acres 0.5 week	100 acrs 0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AMWI, CITE, GADW, BWTE, AGWT
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	100 boxes 1 week	100 boxes 1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Replace, relocate, and add new nest boxes	1211	20 boxes 1 week	10 boxes 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, COGO, HOME
Management Program - Trapping and Transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	0	0	0	0	No ducks were banded.
NONGAME PRODUCTION AND NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Provide secure nest sites for two pairs of bald eagles and maintain production						
Monitor bald eagle nests	1460	3 sites 0.5 week	2 sites 1 week	500	500	Both 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	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	20 acres 1 week	20 acrs 1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisition						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 0.5 week	200 acres 0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. 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 2 weeks	26 projs 3 weeks	3,500	3,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, MALL, WODU, pileated woodpecker, pine marten, bald eagle
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	20 inquiries 3 weeks	12 inqs 3 weeks	2,500	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	1 week	2,000	1,000	Long-range WMA plan was completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	1,806	1,766	Tasks completed.
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, moose, CAGO, WODU, MALL, CITE, AGWT, bald eagle

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$85,206	0
Outside Funds	0	\$72,966
Grand Total	\$85,206	\$72,966

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 1999 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 increased slightly from 91 in 1998 to 97 in 1999 (Table 1). Forty-one of 173 (24%) nesting structures were occupied by nesting geese in 1999. Nests on natural islands accounted for most of the other nests observed. Particularly important were the 40 ground nests on islands at the Priest River segment of the WMA. The islands near Priest River currently support more nests (50) 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 1998 duck hunting season (Table 2). The major species taken by hunters at the Clark Fork Delta over the past five years have been American widgeon, green-winged teal, mallards, and ring-necked ducks.

Since 1991, 5,525 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 539 banded birds (9.8%) have been taken by hunters in ten 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; 20% from California; 17% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, Virginia, North Dakota, Alaska, and Utah combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1998 has been low - 5.8%.

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

For the third year, two breeding pair counts and three brood counts were conducted to assess production at Morton Slough (Table 3). Eight broods from five duck species were documented for an overall productivity estimate of 0.23 broods per pair.

Ten (42%) of 24 nesting boxes in the Clark Fork Delta contained wood duck nests in 1999 (Table 4). Two nests hatched (20%). It is important to note that the Clark Fork Delta contains old-growth cottonwood and conifers with

abundant natural tree cavities. While no count of duck breeding pairs was conducted at Clark Fork, field observations indicated that breeding wood ducks and common mergansers were numerous.

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

4. Nongame Production/non consumptive use

Two pairs of bald eagles have nested on the WMA for over 10 years. One pair is on Fisherman Island in Oden Bay and one pair is in the Clark Fork Delta. Both nests successfully produced eaglets this year (Table 5). The WMA also provides important foraging habitat for other breeding bald eagles on Pend Oreille Lake. Four other nests are located within one-half mile of the Carey Creek, Morton Slough, Oden Bay, and Clark Fork Delta portions of the WMA.

Western grebe nests in Denton Slough were counted on two occasions. On July 16, one incubated nest, one nest under construction, and 87 grebes were counted. On July 2, 60 grebes were counted but no nests were observed.

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

5. Administration

The long-range management plan for the Pend Oreille WMA was completed.

Benefits:

1. 50 successful Canada goose nests annually.
2. Mallards, wood ducks, and Canada geese produced are harvested in 7 western states besides Idaho and three Canadian provinces.
3. Approximately 9,000 hunter use days provided for hunting mallards, widgeon, Canada geese, and other waterfowl.
4. Resting and feeding area for up to 60,000 redheads, lesser scaup, ring-necked ducks, mallards, and 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	1999
Pack River Delta	10	16	19	12	15	12	11	16	16	15	18
Clark Fork Delta	16	19	28	8	2	5	14	8	6	10	7
Morton Slough	12	16	8	4	3	5	3	2	3	5	1
Hoodoo Creek	11	11	9	7	7	8	3	2	5	3	1
Muskrat Lake	10	11	11	11	8	11	10	7	4	5	9
Lower Pend Oreille River	23	21	18	15	22	15	27	69	65	53	61
Total	82	94	93	57	57	56	68	104	99	91	97

Table 2. Opening weekend check station results on the Clark Fork Delta, Pend Oreille WMA, from 1967-1971 and 1994-1998.

Year	Number of hunters	Total ducks	Total hours	Ducks per hunter	Ducks per hour
1967	25	118	185	4.7	0.6
1968	45	84	157	1.9	0.5
1969	52	237	290	4.6	0.8
1970	41	202	290	4.9	0.7
1971	29	107	132	3.7	0.8
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
1998	66	177	247	2.7	0.7

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed at Morton Slough, Pend Oreille WMA, in 1999.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (broods/pair)	Ducklings produced
Mallard	13	3	0.23	12
Widgeon	12	1	0.08	3
Ring-necked Duck	5	0	0.00	0
Bufflehead	2	0	0.00	0
Ruddy Duck	1	0	0.00	0
Redhead	1	2	2.00	15
Scaup	1	1	1.00	7
Common Merganser	0	1	---	9
Total	35	8	0.23	46

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks in the Clark Fork Delta since 1990.

Year	Total Boxes	(% Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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
1999	24	42%	8	1	1	2(25%)	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
1999	Yes	2	Yes	2

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 pltfms 4 weeks	275 pltfms 4 weeks	8,000	5,000	Task completed. Replaced 35 platforms lost due to flooding in 1996 and 1997. Species benefitted: CAGO
Manage water levels for muskrats	1211	1 week	1 week	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	340 boxes 2 weeks	340 boxes 2 weeks	3,000	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Replace, relocate, and add new nest boxes	1211	25 boxes 1 week	25 boxes 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Maintain dikes and water level control structures	1211	12 strctrs 2 weeks	10 strctrs 2 weeks	3,000	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, muskrats
Management Program - Provide good quality brood-rearing habitat						
Maintain grass pasture	1211	150 acres 1 week	150 acres 1 week	1,500	1,000	Task completed. Administer one sharecrop agreement. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL
Management Program - Monitoring						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Spring nest search for Canada geese	1460	175 platfrms 1 week	282 plats 1 week	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO
Determine wood duck nesting success	1460	250 boxes 1 week	250 boxes 1 week	2,500	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WODU, HOME
Document level of upland nesting duck production	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE
Monitor waterfowl mortality outbreaks	1460	1 week	2 weeks	500	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, TUSW
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Accommodate, evaluate, and regulate waterfowl hunting						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 weeks	4 sites 2 weeks	4,000	2,000	Task completed.
Operate check stations	1430	3 stations 2 days	3 stations 2 days	500	800	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, AGWT
Field checks for compliance with WMA restrictions	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, AGWT
Collect waterfowl gizzards and livers for analysis	1440	150 samples 2 days	164 smpls 2 days	500	700	Task completed. 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 hunters required to check in	1430	1 site 1 week	1 site 1 week	1,000	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Elk, black bear, mountain lion
Management Program - Forage production						
Maintain cereal grain/clover pasture for big game and upland game	1211	40 acres 1 week	40 acres 1 week	800	1,300	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, Merriam turkeys, elk
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Provide secure bald eagle nest site						
Plan no development in nest	1460	2 nests	2 nests	500	500	Task completed. Species

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
vicinity and monitor production		1 week	1 week			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	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Osprey
Census osprey nest sites	1460	65 nests 1 day	81 nests 2 days	500	500	Task completed. Species benefitted: Osprey
Management Program - Accommodate nonconsumptive users						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 2 days	4 sites 2 days	1,000	1,000	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow, and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 2 weeks	75 acres 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed. 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	0	1,500	0	No proposals submitted.
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	25 projects 5 weeks	25 projs 5 weeks	8,000	7,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, black bear, CAGO, MALL
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 3 weeks	25 inqrs 3 weeks	5,000	5,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, MALL, WT deer, elk
Harvest wild rice for HIP program on private wetlands	1720	10 inquiries 1 week	10 inqries 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, AGWT, muskrats
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	2 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, WT deer, elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	1 week	2,500	2,500	Long-range management plan for WMA completed. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU
Maintain files, prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	4,000	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	5,000	3,000	Tasks completed.

NARRATIVE

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

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

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

1. Waterfowl production

Thirty-five nesting platforms for Canada geese were constructed to replace similar pilings lost during flood events in 1996 and 1997. 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.

The Swan Lake channel outlet water control structure was again breached by high water levels. Its removal is being considered in order to reduce further bank erosion.

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 agreement for the Blue Lake Allotment Area continues to reduce livestock trespass in nesting areas.

All elevated goose nesting platforms were checked in May. Ninety-two Canada goose nests were found - 53 on the lower Coeur d'Alene River, and 39 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. One hundred sixty-seven nest boxes were checked from July 6 through July 21. Fifty boxes were used by wood ducks and an additional 10 boxes were used by other wildlife species. Forty-one wood duck nests hatched (82%); 5 were abandoned and 4 were destroyed. Table 2 contains a summary of wood duck nesting surveys since 1990.

Documenting the production of upland nesting ducks on the WMA is difficult. 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. 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 1999 breeding pair/brood survey and Table 4 compares data since 1995. In 1999, 103 breeding pairs produced 47 broods for a productivity rate of 0.46 broods per pair.

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 5). 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 6). Since then the incidence of lead has increased to former levels. On October 3 and 4, 1998, gizzards were collected from 164 ducks and later x-rayed by students at the University of Idaho. Ingested lead shot was found in 9.8% of the gizzards and ingested steel shot in 10.4%.

Since 1991, 5,525 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 539 banded birds (9.8%) have been taken by hunters in ten 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; 20% from California; 17% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 1% from Montana, Oklahoma, Virginia, North Dakota, Alaska, and Utah combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1998 has been low - 5.8%.

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 five years (Table 7).

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 in producing two young. The pair have been successful for the past three years (Table 8).

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-one active osprey nests were located in the spring of 1999 (Tables 9 and 10). 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 seven 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 1990.

Year	Round Lake	Heyburn Park	Swan and Thompson Lake	Rose, Porter and Killarney Lakes	Total Nests
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
1999	16	23	32	21	92

Table 2. Wood duck nesting surveys, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1990.

Year	Usable Boxes Checked	Boxes Used (%)	Hatched (%)	Abandoned (%)	Destroyed (%)	Still Active (%)
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
1999	144	50(35%)	41(82%)	5(10%)	4(8%)	0

ND - No Data

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 1999^a.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	57	24	0.42	119
Wood Duck	23	20	0.87	98
Green-winged Teal	4	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	6	0	0	0
Gadwall	1	0	0	0
Blue-winged Teal	2	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	1	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	1	0	0	0
Shoveler	5	0	0	0
Redhead	2	1	0.50	9
Pintail	0	1	--	3
Widgeon	0	1	--	3
Bufflehead	1	0	0	0
Total	103	47	0.46	232

^a 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 1995.

Species	Breeding Pairs						Broods					Productivity (Broods/pair)				Ducklings Produced				
	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Mallards	57	56	30	17	42	24	24	16	15	23	0.42	0.43	0.53	0.88	0.55	119	141	95	78	136
Wood Ducks	23	36	16	18	14	20	15	19	11	6	0.87	0.42	1.19	0.61	0.43	98	69	111	83	22
Teal (combined)	12	14	4	1	8	0	0	1	1	2	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.00	0.50	0	0	6	3	4
All other species combined	11	4	11	1	11	3	0	1	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	15	0	1	0	0
Totals	103	110	61	37	75	47	39	37	27	31	0.46	0.35	0.61	0.73	0.41	232	210	213	164	162

Table 5. Opening weekend check station results on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1989.

Year	Number Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Hours	Ducks per Hunter	Ducks per Hour	Wood Ducks
1989	96	215	274	2.2	1.0	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
1998	81	177	388	2.2	0.5	75

Table 6. Comparison of ingested lead and steel shot in hunter-harvested duck gizzards, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1989.

Year	Sample Size	Percentage With Ingested Lead	Percentage With Ingested Steel
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
1998	164	10	10

Table 7. 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
1999	Yes	Yes	2

Table 8. 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
1999	Yes	Yes	1

Table 9. Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River since 1990.

Area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Mouth Coeur d'Alene River	9	8	9	6	7	8	5	5	6	3
Thompson Lake	4	5	3	6	8	5	5	7	7	11
Blue/Swan Lakes	6	8	9	9	8	7	8	4	9	7
Cave/Medicine Lakes	2	2	5	6	2	6	7	4	5	5
Lane Marsh	3	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	0	0
Killarney/Hidden Lakes	11	11	11	13	12	16	12	13	13	8
Moffitt/Oehrling Sloughs	3	2	3	4	2	5	3	2	2	2
Blackrock Slough/Bull Run Lake	4	3	2	4	4	5	3	4	3	4
Porter/Rose Lakes	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1
Mission Slough	11	11	11	11	9	6	7	7	6	10
Totals	53	54	56	61	56	60	52	49	52	51

Table 10. Osprey nest surveys on the lower St. Joe River since 1989^a.

Area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Lower St. Joe River	21	25	33	30	31	29	29	27	33	30

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

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	2,800	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Random field checks for hunter compliance	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE Management Program - Increase browse production						
Plan small clearcuts to increase browse production	1322	25 acres 2 weeks	0 acres 1 week	4,000	1,500	Timber sale preplanning.
Rotate electric fence enclosures	1211	1 enclosure 1 week	1 week	1,500	2,000	Last enclosure was removed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Maintain boundary fences to control livestock trespass	1211	7.5 miles 1 week	7.5 miles 2 weeks	2,000	2,500	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear.
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE Management Program - Accommodate and regulate level of nonconsumptive users						
Random field checks for						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
compliance with camping regulations	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	800	Task completed.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Spray, mow and remove weeds	1211	50 acres 1 week	50 acres 1 week	3,000	3,000	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 3 weeks	10 projects 2 weeks	3,000	2,800	Task completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	10 inquiries 1 week	10 inquiries 1 week	2,500	2,500	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	2 weeks	1,500	1,800	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, CAGO, WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	1,500	Long range WMA plan completed. Species benefitted: WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Maintain files; prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Tasks completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	2,271	870	Tasks completed.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$99,071	\$73,170
Outside Funds	0	10,700
Grand Total	\$99,071	\$83,870

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 U.S. Forest Service. 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. Sixty-one hunters were randomly checked with twelve ruffed grouse, one white-tailed deer, and one elk.

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, eleven 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. The development of a forest management plan for the WMA was canceled due to the elimination of the Department's Forestry program as part of an effort to resolve budget shortfalls.

Exclusion of deer, elk, and livestock from clearcuts by fencing has proved successful in protecting preferred browse plants during early growth stages. The last remaining exclosure fence was removed.

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: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Maintain quality hunting experience						
Provide current big game hunting seasons and methods of take	1610	1 day	1 day	100	100	General deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion seasons and a controlled moose hunt were offered. Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Continue to allow licensed outfitting						
Maintain current level of licensed outfitters	1630	1 outfitter 0.5 week	1 outfitter 0.5 week	500	500	Wilderness Outfitters was 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	1,130 acres 2 weeks	0	2,000	Prescribed burn on WMA and adjacent USFS property completed. Species

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist in aerial surveys to census big game	1460	0.5 week	0	500	0	benefitted: Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose No aerial surveys conducted
STATEWIDE SOURCE OF MOUNTAIN GOATS FOR TRANSPLANTING						
Management Program - Provide mountain goats for transplanting						
Assist in trapping and transplanting goats	1460	0	0	0	0	No trapping conducted.
Assist in maintenance of trap site at Snow Peak lookout tower	1211	1 site	0	0	0	No maintenance required.
NONGAME PRODUCTION/NONCONSUMPTIVE USE						
Management Program - Accommodate and evaluate level of nonconsumptive users						
Trail maintenance/relocation	1211	2 miles 0.5 week	2 miles 0.5 week	1,500	1,500	WMA trails surveyed for maintenance needs.
Develop list of user facilities needed at trailheads	1630	7 sites 0.5 week	7 sites 0.5 week	500	500	Trailheads visited and assessed for development needs.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	3,000	Attended 36 meetings. 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 7 weeks	39 projects 7 weeks	9,000	9,500	Wildlife comments were prepared for 39 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 7 weeks	48 inquiries 7 weeks	12,200	12,700	Received 48 HIP requests; 5 agreements were initiated. Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, WODU, ringneck pheasant, gray partridge

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
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	4,000	4,500	Task completed.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,700	6,700	Level I enforcement status maintained, waterfowl banded, one seasonal employee supervised. Species benefitted: MALL, WODU

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 FY99, 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. A prescribed burn of 1,130 acres was completed on the WMA and intermingled USFS property funded by a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

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 1998 outfitting license was renewed for 1999.

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. In 1999 approximately 1,130 acres of winter range were burned in cooperation with the USFS and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

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 mountain

goats have been trapped and moved to other areas of Idaho and two western states. No mountain 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.

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: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	150 acres 3 weeks	150 acres 3 weeks	1,500	2,500	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.						
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.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Manage old-growth ponderosa pine stands on lakeshore parcels to ensure their perpetuation	1322	157 acres 3 weeks	0 acres 0.5 week	2,500	800	Development of a plan to remove encroaching Douglas fir/grand fir from ponderosa pine stands and allow fire to be used to prevent future establishment of firs was initiated. 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 1 week	2 acres 1 week	1,500	2,000	Maintained existing mast producing tree and shrub plantings, controlled noxious weeds, watered and fertilized. 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	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	The boat launch and parking facilities were maintained by IDPR.
Management Program - Accommodate requests from law enforcement agencies, the US military, and private shooting clubs for firearms training and competitive shooting events						
Shooting range facilities administered by IDPR through an interagency MOU	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Preparation of a range development plan was continued. Shooting events and facility maintenance are administered by IDPR.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Accommodate and regulate white-tailed deer archery hunting activity						
Random field checks for hunter compliance	1430	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Task completed. 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 0.5 week	6 miles 0.5 week	1,800	500	IDPR periodically maintained the trail system.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Implement management plan						
Recommend and coordinate habitat improvement projects	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	1,000	500	Regular contact with IDPR was maintained. Species benefitted: WT deer
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Coordinate maintenance needs, user surveys and planning efforts with IDPR	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,503	3,181	Completed long-range management plan for the WMA.

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$0	\$0
Outside Funds	\$50,803	\$54,481
Grand Total	\$50,803	\$54,481

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

In 1993, 1997, and 1998, approximately 350 acres of Farragut Wildlife Management Area were selectively logged to improve forest canopy snow intercept characteristics.

Lodgepole pine provides relatively poor snow intercept. Consequently, approximately 50% of the lodgepole pine trees on 250 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.

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 converted to 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 1995-1996, 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.

4. Administration

A long-range management plan for the WMA was completed in 1999. Due to budget cutbacks, the Department's Forestry Program was eliminated in June 1999.

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. Lakeshore 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-15
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Routine operation/maintenance of 43 access and fishing areas, 2 wildlife management areas, Department regional facilities, and 5 conservation easements	1211	6 weeks	9 weeks	11,016	16,524	Species benefitted: mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, chukar, valley quail, ruffed & blue grouse, turkeys, grey partridge, mourning doves, black bear, mountain lion
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Supervise and coordinate activities of 6 permanent and 5 temporary employees	1630	18 weeks	18 weeks	33,048	33,048	
Oversee the management of 2 WMAs, 13 WHAs, 5 conservation easements	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	5,508	7,344	127,565 Dept. acres managed; easement acres = 40
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	4 weeks	2 weeks	7,344	3,672	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 11 budgets	1 week	1,836	1,836	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1630	1 week	1 week	1,836	1,836	
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Cooperation, coordination with other land management agencies represented by the Department	1630	3 weeks 20-25 mtgs	5 weeks	5,508	9,180	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Oversee the review of environmental impacts on proposed projects	1710	4 weeks 50 projects	2 weeks	7,3447,084	3,672	
Oversee financial assistance to landowners on wildlife habitat development and wildlife management practices	1720	4 weeks 90-100 proj. 200 inquiries	2 weeks	7,3657,071	3,693	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$80,805
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$80,805

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Road maintenance	1211	2 weeks 58 miles	1 week	2,224	1,112	
Fence maintenance	1211	2 weeks 80 miles	4 weeks	2,224	4,448	Repairs to 8 miles of fence
Maintenance of tree/shrub plantings and food plots	1211	2 weeks 10 sites	1 week	2,224	1,112	
Noxious weed control	1211	1 week 1,000 acres	1 week	1,112	1,112	Sprayed for control of yellowstar thistle and spotted knapweed.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Administrative activities and coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,112	1,112	

Total PR Contract With Overhead: \$8,896
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$8,896

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Steve Nadeau
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Dworshak Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Management Priorities:

1. LAND ACQUISITIONS
2. INVESTIGATIONS
3. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
4. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
LAND ACQUISITION						
Nonfee Title, Wetland	1122	1 week-bio	0	1,232	0	0 acres, Latah County
INVESTIGATIONS						
Population evaluation	1460	10 weeks-bio 14 weeks-tech	12 wks-bio 14 wks-tech	34,051	36,051	Small mammal surveys, nongame bird surveys. Two projects: big game surveys. Two projects: elk, whitetail and mule deer, bear, lion, T&E.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Planned management - systems development	1610	8 weeks-bio	7 wks-bio	9,856	8,856	Planning protocol, developing projects for wildlife habitat.
Strategic plan development	1620	9 weeks-bio	9 wks-bio	8,624	8,624	Develop landscape forest plans.
Coordination and administration	1630	10 weeks-bio	10 wks-bio	12,308	12,308	Coordinate with IDL, USFS, Potlatch Corp., sportsmen groups, monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, student volunteers.
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	10 weeks-bio	9 wks-bio	12,320	11,320	30 timber sales EA's EIS, landscape projects.
Assistance to private landowners	1720	2 weeks-bio 4 weeks-tech	2 wks-bio, 2	9,856	6,261	10 HIP projects.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
			wks tech			

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$83,420
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$83,420

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Jim White
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	7 weeks-bio 10 wks tech	7 weeks-bio 17 wks-tech	11,361 5,000	13,067 8,500	350 acres
Provide assistance to private landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	1 weeks-bio	0	1,123	0	# of inquires = 0
INVESTIGATIONS						
Management Program - Monitor Resource Users, Habitat and Populations						
Population Evaluation - population levels, distribution, sex and age structure, recruitment rates	1460	12 weeks-bio 3 weeks tech	15 wks-bio	14,176 1,500	16,845	Species = wt deer, mule deer, elk
Utilization - enforce fish and game laws, check stations, hunter use	1430	4 weeks-bio 2 weeks tech	2 weeks-bio	5,492 1,000	2,746	Elk, moose, WT deer, mule deer
Habitat - habitat inventory, quality and monitoring	1440	2 weeks-bio 2 weeks tech	2 weeks-bio 1 week-tech	2,246 1,000	2,246 1,000	Species = elk, wt deer, neotropical birds, vegetation
DEVELOPMENT						
Management Program - species introductions, habitat improvement, facilities development						
Habitat Improvement Development - habitat alterations and restoration	1322	4 weeks-bio	5 weeks-bio	5,492	5,615	# of sites, acres
Introductions - establishment of species to previously unoccupied habitat	1311	1 week	0	1,123	0	# of animals, species
Introductions - restoration	1312	3 weeks-bio	3 weeks-bio	3,369	3,363	# of animals = 7,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
of species into previously occupied habitat		1 week-bio-aide		500		species = mtn. goat
User facilities - misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks-bio	1 week-bio	2,246	1,123	# of sites
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of Public Projects - environmental review of public projects	1710	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,246	2,246	# of projects = 8
Assistance to Private Landowners - assistance on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks	0	2,246	0	# of inquires = 0
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and Administration - management area plans, engineering, program administration, and administrative activities	1630	8	7 weeks-bio	9,661	8,538	
Strategic Plan Development	1620	0	4 weeks-bio	0	4,492	Red River WMA Management Plan

Total PR Contract	\$ 7,823
Outside Funds	61,958
Grand Total	\$69,781

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	40,000	40,024	Species benefitted:
Technical Guidance						
Public Project Review	1710	10 weeks	10 weeks	10,000	10,275	Species benefitted:
Private Landowner Assistance						
	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,000	3,352	Species benefitted:

Total DJ Contract with overhead \$13,416
 Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 0
 Outside Funds 39,971
 Grand Total \$53,387

NARRATIVE

The project leader administered and 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 biologists and one utility craftsman. He reviewed public project reports generated by the regional habitat biologist. He also indirectly supervised two (2) wildlife technicians and eleven (11) temporary employees.

The leader provided Artamesia cana cana to the shrub lab at Provo, Utah for a plant material expansion program. This project has major implications in providing long-term benefits for wildlife habitat restoration of western rangelands. Perennial rye, wheat, sorghum, and sunflower plantings are presently being evaluated for these wildlife values. Glossopctalon nevadense seed was provided to Lucky Peak Nursery and will be ready for transplanting in the Spring of 2000.

The leader has also been a participant on the Owyhee County Sage Grouse Local Working Group which is attempting to develop a Sage Grouse Management Plan for Owyhee County.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Dale Turnipseed
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	1,876	2,814	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO NSHO
Maintain dikes	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,876	938	Species benefitted: MALL CITE CAGO BLGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,876	1,876	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL LSGO BLGO
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	4 weeks	4 week	3,752	3,752	Species benefitted: WODU
Control vegetation	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	4,690	4,690	Species benefitted: CAGO MALL GADW CITE REDH LESE
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1211	1 week	1 week	938	938	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	1 week	1 weeks	938	938	Species benefitted

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$15,946
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$15,946

NARRATIVE

The Southwest Region maintains 66 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 area of the state.
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: License Funds
 Project Leader: Clair Kofoed
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	11,546	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, pheasant, quail
Maintain nest structures	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	8,856	8,397	Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU
Add 30 new nest structures	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted: WODU
Manage water levels for sago pond weed, emergents, and carp control	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, TSWN
Manage grazing for goose pasture	1211	3 week 60 acres	3 week 60 acres	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted: CAGO
Develop food plot-irrigation system on Gold Island	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,248	Species benefitted: CAGO, R.N. Pheasant
Spray Lepidium to improve nesting habitat	1322	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,642	6,298	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	5,248	Species benefitted: R.N. Pheasant, MALL, CITE
Management Program - Production survey						
Duck nest success	1460	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,420	4,200	Turned over to Region

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
Brood counts	1460	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,525	5,248	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Hunter Management						
Maintain and enforce hunter access sites	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Maintain and erect directional signs	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Mow hunting lanes	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,248	Species benefitted:
Collect harvest data	1430	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Stock pheasants (state funds)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,214	2,100	Species benefitted:
OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Food and cover for other wildlife species						
Planting cover and food plots	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,535	5,248	Species benefitted: C. Quail, turkey
Erect and maintain nest sites	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted: Am. Avocet, screech owls
Record production data	1460	1 week	1 week	1,105	1,050	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management - Provide wetland, parking, and information for nonconsumptive use						
Mow parking areas	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Install interpretive signs	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Give tours	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
Conduct winter bird census	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,321	3,150	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review impacts of proposed	1710	11 weeks	11 weeks	12,177	11,546	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
habitat developments						
Assist landowners with habitat developments	1720	11 weeks	11 weeks	12,177	11,546	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, Pheasant
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Routine operations (bills, phone calls, filing, time reporting, etc.)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	5,884	2,100	Species benefitted:
Preparation of administrative documents (reports, budgets, memos, development proposals)	1211	11 weeks	11 weeks	1,243	11,546	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$ 0
 Outside Funds 131,219
 Grand Total \$131,219

NARRATIVE

Waterfowl production was average due to good nesting and brooding conditions. Pheasant and turkey numbers have increased both on the WMA and surrounding properties. California quail numbers look very good. Nesting cover and food plots were planted, including 80 acres of corn and sorghum which was left standing until mid-February. Twenty acres of mixed grain and spring wheat were established for winter feed.

Over 100 wood duck boxes were maintained and 15 new boxes were installed. A new water control structure was installed on the Teal pond to improve draw down capability for waterfowl management. Winter carp control was continued with 5 ponds being drained this winter. Silt removal remains an annual part of maintenance.

Fall hunting remains busy as the expanded population of Treasure Valley seeks recreation on public wildlife areas. Duck hunters fared poorly during the opening week due to fair, warm weather and lack of birds. Quail and pheasant hunters did better with the good natural production and the annual game farm pheasant releases.

The WMA working group has identified an area to improve access, a fence removal project, and a handicap hunter access site. These projects will be accomplished in the completed 2000 project year. Two walk-through gates, four ditch crossings, and approximately one mile of fence have been removed to make the area more user friendly.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Dick Orcutt
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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		UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PUBLIC USE						
Management Program - Waterfowl Hunting/Fishing and Boating Access						
Maintain roads (22 miles), docks, ramps and parking areas	1211	1 week	1 week	1,282	1,282	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, Valley Quail
Maintain maximum water levels	1342	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,388	4,776	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant, Quail, CAGO, Mourning Dove
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant
Management Program - Pheasant and Quail Hunting						
Protect and maintain hunting cover, mow lanes and maintain fences	1322	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,582	4,864	Species benefitted: Pheasant, Quail
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	4 weeks	2,388	4,776	Species benefitted: Deer, Pheasant, Quail, Mourning Dove, MALL, CAGO
Evaluate lands adjoining WMA for acquisition (Owen's property)	1420	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGOP, Pheasant, Quail

ACTIVITY		UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	1 week	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	4 weeks	2,388	4,776	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, CAGO
Maintain 207 nesting platforms; add 10 new platforms	1460	1 week	2 weeks	2,400	2,400	Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO
Monitor and report production	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: MALL, Pheasant
Management Program - Mallards and teal						
Provide good-to-excellent residual nesting cover-2,000 acres	1440	10 weeks	10 wks	11,940	11,940	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	1,194	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, WODU
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1410	1 week		1,194	0	Species benefitted: Program terminated (lack of funds)
Increase wood duck populations-10 new boxes	1440	1 week	2 weeks	1,194	2,388	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor, evaluate, and report production	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	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

ACTIVITY		UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Collect data on production and report	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Develop HIP projects	1720	8 weeks	8 weeks	9,523	9,523	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, pheasant
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Public awareness						
Conduct tours, give talks, make slide presentations	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,582	Species benefitted: Hunter Education Classes, volunteer and reservist programs
Management Program - Provide for other wildlife						
Evaluate need for osprey, eagle, bluebird, etc., structures	1470	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	Species benefitted: Assist Boise State University with Sage Thrasher study
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets, and other reports; negotiate agreements and land acquisitions	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	7,164	7,164	Species benefitted: Idaho Pow4r re-licensing management plan; land exchange with BLM-Sikes Act
Cooperation with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,582	Species benefitted: County weed spraying; Boise State University Graduate Program
Maintenance and upkeep of equipment and buildings	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,390	2,390	Species benefitted: Comply with State Safety inspection standards

Total PR Contract with Overhead\$ 32,000
Outside Funds 70,527
Grand Total \$102,527

NARRATIVE

The C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located approximately 20 miles south of Mountain Home, Idaho via State Highway 78. The WMA encompasses 13,500 acres along the Snake and Bruneau Rivers. WMA lands were acquired as mitigation for wildlife habitat lost following construction of C.J. Strike Dam in the early 1900s. The WMA was established to provide public hunting and fishing access, with wildlife habitat development as another primary management goal for the area.

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

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

C.J. Strike serves as a major wintering and production area for waterfowl. During winter months (November through February) the WMA holds 30,000 to 100,000 ducks and 8,000 to 15,000 Canada geese. Each year 800 duck broods and 350 Canada goose broods are produced on WMA lands. The installation of 20 goose nesting platforms has helped bolster Canada goose nesting success. Numerous wood duck nest boxes have also been erected in suitable habitat, providing secure nesting areas for wood ducks, fox squirrels, long-eared owls, and other wildlife.

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

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

Limited big game hunting for mule deer and white-tailed deer is available on WMA lands, while waterfowl and upland bird hunting is very popular. Duck and goose hunting is quite good throughout most of the fall season. Upland hunters can pursue a mixed bag of sage grouse, ring-necked pheasant, California quail, Hungarian partridge, chukar, mourning dove, and cottontail rabbit.

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

In addition to hunting and fishing on the WMA, trapping for furbearers is very popular. Trappers must register with the WMA manager. They annually harvest 250 beaver, 3,200 muskrat, 200 skunks, 150 racoons, and 50 mink and weasel, as well as 25 coyotes.

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

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Jerry Scholten
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	0	300	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
During hard winters, sign area requesting nonuse	1211	1 day	0	300	0	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Program - Continue cooperative development and management of critical big game winter range						
Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Boise Front tours, meetings, and rewrite parts of plan	1211	10 days	10 days	3,328	2,045	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Collect data, composition mortality, and production of big game	1460	18 days	18 days	5,187	4,470	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Manage controlled archery hunt check station	1430	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted:
Use trade agreements with livestock owners	1620	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Cooperate with agencies on fire prevention/suppression on WMA	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted:
Find improved forage species	1322	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Programs - Acquire critical winter range through fee title or lease						
Write up land description lease or purchase request	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted:
Try to pick up IDL leases	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: All wildlife
Management Programs - Manage winter range vegetation						
Use grazing or prescribed burns to maintain seral plant communities	1211	18,700 acres 4 days	4 days	1,332	1,677	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Plant grasses, forbs, and shrubs to improve winter range quality	1322(D)	30,000 Shrubs 6 days	6 days	8,660	3,473	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and nongame
Collect data on range condition, production, and composition	1440	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Control undesirable vegetation						
Control noxious weeds cooperatively with county weed control personnel	1211	32,000 acres 2 days	2 days	2,300	7,660	Species benefitted: Comply with state law
Continue to look for ways to control medusa-head	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted:
Management Programs - Develop water sources						
Maintain springs on WMA, collect data on flow	1211	58 springs 3 days	3 days	1,500	570	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Develop springs or ponds	1321(D)	1 day	1 day	1,000	193	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	10 days	5,000	2,553	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT						
Management Program - Make improvements to the watershed						
Rehabilitation of burned	1322	Unknown				Benefit:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
areas						
Collect data on ground litter, erosion, and bare ground	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: Less soil loss and better water quality
Patrol for off-road vehicle travel	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: Improve water quality
Collect data on riparian areas	1211	1 day	1 day	300	193	Species benefitted: 114 birds, 33 mammals, 6 reptiles, 5 amphibians
UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Program - Improve management of upland game habitats						
Plant riparian areas	1211	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse, and turkey
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Collect brood data	1460	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted: Game birds
Collect harvest data	1420	2 days	2 days	600	380	Species benefitted:
Collect data on species composition on WMA	1211	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted: Huns, chukar, quail, grouse, and turkey
Management Program - Access management						
Maintain roads	1211	10 days	10 days	4,180	1,930	Benefits: Recreational users
Provide informational signs for access	1211	1 day	1 day	600	190	Benefits: Recreational users
Assist with raptor/masserine migration route	1211	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted: Birds
Update species list on WMA	1211	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles and 8 amphibians
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain/improve WMA buildings						
Maintain buildings	1211	8 days	8 days	3,000	4,288	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide safe equipment to perform needed land management functions						
Maintain or repair equipment	1211	21 days	20 days	9,500	8,689	Species benefitted: 66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
Lease/rent equipment as needed	1211	1 day	1 day	300	190	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Do administrative requests and required paperwork						
Project administration	1211	21 days	21 days	6,960	5,323	Species benefitted: wildlife
Annual, monthly, and other reports required by cooperating agencies	1211	8 days	8 days	2,700	1,540	Species benefitted:
Assist other Departments, divisions, and agencies	1710	63 days	63 days	15,286	13,999	Species benefitted: 250 birds, 85 mammals, 20 reptiles, 9 amphibians, and 40 fish
Other duties as assigned	1211	53 days	53 days	10,500	12,958	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 7,069
Outside Funds	80,264
Grand Total	\$87,333

NARRATIVE

The Boise River Habitat District boundaries start from the city of Boise, then along Highway 55 to National Forest Highway 24 to Lowman, then along Unit 39 boundary to Smith Prairie, then along the Black's Creek/Prairie road back to Boise. Within the Habitat District is the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Boise River Habitat District and the WMA are located within Ada, Boise, and Elmore Counties.

Wildlife Management Area

The 33,540-acre WMA is located along Lucky Peak and Arrowrock Reservoirs within the Boise River drainage. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) owns 16,944 acres. The remaining lands are managed by the Department through leases and cooperative agreements, but are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Lands, Highland Livestock and Land Company, and Paul Hahn Ranch. The goals of the WMA are to (1) maintain and/or improve mule deer and elk wintering habitat, (2) provide habitat for upland game and maintain or improve the watershed, and (3) provide for wildlife-compatible recreation activities. The WMA encompasses a large portion of the critical mule deer winter range within Unit 39; therefore, management for mule deer habitat will have the highest priority.

In April 1999 the 166-acre Krueger property was added to the WMA as deeded property. The 300-acre Smith property was purchased by The Nature Conservancy and added to the WMA. The Smith property is part of a BLM land exchange and eventually should become BLM land.

During the winter of 1998-1999, ground trend counts estimated 7,100 mule deer and 400 elk wintered on the WMA. An incomplete Unit 39 mule deer aerial survey was conducted in April with 4,434 deer observed on the WMA. Past aerial surveys indicated between 35-45% of the deer observed were on the WMA. The Unit 39 mule deer winter range within the Boise River drainage consists of approximately 215,000 acres. The WMA makes up about 16% of the total mule deer winter range and averages about 41% of the deer observed. Percent of mule deer observed on the WMA from aerial surveys is as follows:

% OF DEER OBSERVED ON THE WMA FROM AERIAL SURVEYS OF UNIT 39			
Year	Deer observed in Unit 39	Deer Observed on WMA	Percent on WMA
1999			
1998	15,097	7,284	42
1995	11,578	5,246	45
1993	13,008	5,534	43
1991	13,594	4,742	35

The 1998-1999 winter was open on the lower elevation winter range, but higher elevations received record or near record amounts of snow. Utilization of bitterbrush was 69%, even with the substantial amount of green-up that had occurred. Similar observations on bitterbrush were made in open winters of 1997-1998 with over 49% utilization and 1996-1997 with 64%. Body condition information collected from road-killed mule deer indicated that most of the females were in good condition until April when 50% dropped to poor condition. We visually looked at 5 females in May and all showed fair to poor condition. This was the second year that we looked at condition of road kills after March. More effort needs to be made to obtain a condition data base for mule deer after the spring green-up begins and females in the third trimester of pregnancy. Fawns were near the 1983-1998 average through February and then dropped below in March. The small sample size of males indicated about average condition. Information on condition is as follows:

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 or excellent condition. 1-10% compression with fair visceral fat or 11-20% compression equals fair condition. Poor condition is compression greater than 21%.

MULE DEER CONDITION												
1998-99	females				fawns				males			
	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss
November	100	--	--	6	78	22	--	9	--	--	--	--
December	100	--	--	9	100	--	--	7	--	--	--	--
January	100	--	--	3	50	50	--	4	--	--	--	--
February	100	--	--	6	50	50	--	4	--	--	--	--
March	100	--	--	9	--	50	50	4	--	--	--	--
April	25	25	50	4	--	14	86	7	--	100	--	1

1983-99	females				fawns				males			
	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss
November	100	--	--	19	92	8	--	25	100	--	--	2
December	83	17	--	52	76	15	9	33	66	16	17	6
January	86	10	4	73	50	15	35	46	100	--	--	7
February	80	10	10	30	25	29	46	24	66	--	34	3
March	75	11	14	28	6	47	47	17	--	--	100	2
April	36	36	28	11	--	12	88	8	--	100	--	1

The winter mortality transacts indicated an 11.6% mortality. The mortalities came from road kills, predators, and winter kills. Fawns made up the majority of the mortalities. Coyotes are still showing to be very effective predators on mule deer. The winter mortality table is as follows:

<u>WINTER MORTALITY OF MULE DEER ON BOISE RIVER WMA</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent of Winter Population Lost</u>
1998-99	11.6
1997-98	17
1996-97	18
1995-96	16
1994-95	15
1993-94	14
1992-93	31

Road kills were the second highest recorded. The increasing amount of commuter and recreational traffic to and from Boise County has increased the potential for wildlife vehicle encounters. Because of the heavy snows in the higher elevations, deer remained on the WMA later, which made the April, May, and June counts the highest recorded. Development of traditional summering habitats along the Boise River is forcing the residential populations to move from feed and cover more frequently which is increasing the number of deer getting killed during the summer. Road-killed mule deer picked up by WMA personnel between September to August of the following year are as follows:

<u>MULE DEER ROAD KILLS</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Number picked up by WMA personnel</u>
1998-99 (June 1999)	144
1997-98	101
1996-97	111
1995-96	69
1994-95	56
1993-94	39
1992-93	156

Deer losses due to ice on the Lucky Peak Reservoir near the high bridge were less than last year. All losses were by falling through the ice and drowning. Fourteen were lost December 8 and 9 which was the same time as last year when 25 were lost. One additional deer was lost on December 13. The following is a list of years when WMA personnel responded to deer reservoir problems and the deer that were lost due to ice or mud in Lucky Peak Reservoir. () is number saved that were down on the ice or stuck in the mud.

<u>DEER LOST DUE TO ICE OR MUD ON LUCKY PEAK RESERVOIR</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Number lost through ice</u>	<u>Number Deer on ice</u>	<u>Number stuck in mud</u>
1998-99	15	0	0
1997-98	27	18 (4)	0
1995-96	0	18 (5)	0
1993-94	0	4	0
1983-84	0	15 (?)	0
1982-83	0	5 (4)	0
1977-78	0	0	6 (2)
1972-73	0	2 (2)	0
1971-72	0	7 (7)	0

Mule ground deer herd composition data that was collected had a ratio of 18 bucks and 66 fawns per 100 does. An aerial composition count was made in areas not covered by the ground count with 19 bucks and 57 fawns per 100 does. The average for the two is 18.6 bucks to 62 fawns. Herd composition information is as follows, all are ground counts except where noted:

<u>MULE DEER HERD COMPOSITION DATA</u>						
Year	Bucks	Does	Fawns			Sample Size
1998-99 (ground)	18	100	66		1939	
(aerial)	19		100			1695
(total)	18.6	100	100		62	3634
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

Herd composition data has been collected on the WMA since 1966-1967. The data is showing that the steady downward trend in fawns and bucks may have bottomed out. The buck and fawn ratio has remained about the same the last three years. The 4-point plus bucks came back up from last year's low. The number of mature bucks per 100 does still concerns me, especially if mature bucks (antler size) stimulate the does to come into heat. The following is the number of 4-point plus bucks per 100 does.

<u>NUMBER OF 4 POINT PLUS BUCKS PER 100 DOES</u>	
18	*
17	*
N 16	*
U 15	
M 14	
B 13	
E 12	* *
R 11	
10	*
9	
B 8	* * * *
U 7	* *
C 6	* * * *
K 5	* *
S 4	*
3	*
2	
	9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 7 7 7 7 7
	9 8 7 6 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 YEAR

Conception date information for 1998-1999 was collected from 38 female mule deer. Conception dates are based on crown-rump measurements. In some years a percent of the females are bred after the first estrus cycle. Fawns born in later estrus cycles are less apt to survive the winter. We are using 28 days per estrus and the period of estrus 24-36 hours. We feel there are at least 3 estrus cycles. Conception dates and percent in second or third estrus cycles are as follows:

<u>CONCEPTION DATES OF FEMALE MULE DEER</u>				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Date</u>	<u>Percent Later Estrus</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>SS</u>
1998-99	Nov 19	2.6%	Nov 5-Dec 10	38
1997-98	Nov 21	14.0%	Nov 2-Jan 6	22
1996-97	Nov 12	0%	Nov 1-24	19
1995-96	Nov 16	8.0%	Nov 7-Dec 6	12
1994-95	Nov 26	0%	Nov 23-29	2
1992-93	Nov 18	4.0%	Nov 3-Dec 28	24
1991-92	Nov 24	18.0%	Nov 8-Dec 22	11
1990-91	Nov 13	0%	Nov 12-14	5
1984-86	Nov 13	0%	Nov 6-24	18
1968-71	Nov 13	3.0%	Nov 5-Dec 23	27

Production information that was gathered from road kills indicate 1.66 fetuses per doe, which is up from last year. This was the first year since 1992-1993 that triples were found. Production of Unit 39 mule deer herd is as follows:

<u>FETUSES PER DOE</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Fetuses/Female</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	
1998-99	1.66	38	
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	2.0	5	
1988	1.6	3	
1984-86	1.36	24	
1967-71	1.86	27	

There has been several large-scale habitat altering events that have taken place in Unit 39's summer, winter, and transition range in the last 7 years. In 1992 the 257,600-acre Foothills and 12,733-acre Dunnigan Creek fires burned summer, transition and winter range. In 1994 the Star Gulch and Idaho City Complex fires burned more summer and transition range. In 1996 the 1,747-acre North Shore and 15,300-acre 8th Street fires burned winter range. The Foothills, Star Gulch, and Idaho City Complex fires should have caused a nutrient flush which should favor the females in the male/female fetus and

fawn ratios. Verme found higher females in the sex ratio from does that were on good diets at breeding. The data does indicate a slight shift to females in the fetus data, but not as strong in the fawn road kills information. Connolly states that "on the average, the sex ratio at birth is unbalanced in favor of males." If we look at the 14 years of road kill data between 1979-1993 and 14 years of check station data between 1972-1989, both show a 51 male to 49 female ratio. A 52/48 ratio is considered average at birth and most of the literature suggests that male fawns have a higher mortality rate than females. A disproportionate loss of male fawns immediately after birth may be because female fawns are higher in fat and energy until they reach about 55 lbs, at which time the fat and energy level even out. Sampling variations may have had a greater influence on the information than the nutritional content of the forage, but the information is as follows: We have tried to correlate the fetus ratios with the road kill ratios for comparison.

REPRODUCTION AND ROAD KILL RATIOS OF MALES AND FEMALES

FETUSES			ROAD KILLS				
Year	%M	%F	SS	Year	%M	%F	SS
1998-1999	54%	46%	69				
1993-1998	41%	59%	39	1994-1999	36%	64%	121
1990-1993	60%	40%	30	1991-1994	47%	53%	98
				1979-1991	51%	49%	112

There were several wildfires during the fiscal year. The 1100 acre Toll Road fire and 40 acre Section 27 fires occurred in 1998. In 1999 there has been 4 fires on or near the WMA. The 20 acre Promiscuous Flat and Section 16 fires were on the WMA. The Viewpoint and New Bridge fires were near the WMA. The Toll Road, Promiscuous Flat were man caused while the Section 27 and Section 16 were lightening caused.

The Forest Service Nursery grew 8,800 bitterbrush and 9,420 silver sage seedlings. Most were planted in March and April on the Toll Road fire with a few on the North Shore fire. Sagebrush seed was also planted on the Toll Road burn. As of June 28, 69% of the seedling planted on the south facing slopes were still alive and 91% on the west facing slopes. The south facing slopes at the time of planting were extremely dry while the west slopes contained more soil moisture.

The livestock grazing system consisting of sheep and cattle was used to help maintain the vegetation is a seral community, stimulate leader growth on bitterbrush, and reduce fuel load for wildfires. The 1998 grazing season would begin in LP2, LP1, HP1 and HP2. Rotation would be on a date rather than utilization. The only problem was in LP1 by the Squaw Creek gate where the stock over-utilized this area and we received several complaints. The cattle grazing system for 1999 would be 325 head for 3.5 months starting April 15. Use pastures would be IP1, HP2, LP3, and HP3. Again the rotation would be based on dates rather than utilization. Rotation would be IP1 (April 15-May 5), HP2 (May 5-June 1), LP3 (June), and HP3 (July). Because of a fencing problems in IP1, the cattle were turned into HP1 on May 8 until the IP1 fence could be fixed. Cows were moved into IP1 on May 15 and would remain until June 5. HP2 would be used until July 1 and LP3 in July. The rotation has been followed fairly close with only a few cows in the wrong pasture. The livestock operator has worked hard on the fences to get them back into shape.

As of July 1, 1999 only two broods of quail were seen. Both had brood size of 12. The 1999 season should be good as the winter survival of adults was excellent. Many broods of forest grouse have been seen this spring within the district and production should be excellent.

Most of the information concerning hunter use on the WMA was gathered by Idaho Department of Fish and Game Reservists. Upland game hunters increased in the Charcoal and Spring Shores segments but decreased on the Boise Front. The birds harvested on opening weekend averaged nearly one bird per hunter (.92). This is an increase over the past few years. Spring turkey hunting is increasing on the WMA with fair success. Rifle deer and elk hunters remain about the same, with a good harvest in the Charcoal Creek area. The late controlled archery hunt within Ada County did well. The deer showed up late in the season. There is a concern about the amount of nonhunting activities that are occurring on the WMA. Thirty-seven percent of the people contacted on opening weekends are nonhunters. This percentage increases after opening weekend. Safety is becoming an issue, especially on the Boise Front. There is also concern on the effects of recreation on the wintering big game and nesting birds. One man was killed while antler hunting on an ATV off the road when it rolled over on him. Recreational activities need to be addressed.

The Boise State "Idaho Bird Observatory" had a good year. Many young of the year birds were being trapped, indicating an above average nesting success. The raptor count of 8,212 was the highest recorded. This was from 496 hours of observation. A total of 837 raptors were banded on Lucky Peak. Twenty band encounters from raptors banded on the Boise Ridge during fall migration have been recorded. Six are from the Boise area, 4 from California, 3 from Nevada, 4 from Mexico, 1 out of Canada, 1 from Arizona, and 1 from Pendleton, Oregon. Fifty-eight owls were banded on Lucky Peak with the Northern Saw-whet the most common. Five thousand eight hundred twenty songbirds representing 56 species were mist-netted and banded at Lucky Peak. The Blackpoll Warbler was an addition to the rare species captured in 1997, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, and the Golden-crowned Sparrow. The songbird census project indicated that more individuals and species were detected in the mountain shrub community. Willow and coniferous forest were similar, with shrub steppe the least. Coniferous habitat appears to become important during periods of inclement weather.

The project leader attended workshops on sagebrush steppe and tours on rehabilitation projects, assisted with mule deer survival study, wildlife depredation problems, Boy Scout projects, the Nutritional Balance Analyzer, grazing symposium, and a workshop on low impact livestock handling.

The project leader is the only staff member assigned to the WMA and Habitat District.

Habitat District

Comments concerning wildlife were made for the various habitat-altering activities within the Habitat District. These include the following:

Ada County, Boise County, ACHD, and City of Boise
Boise County Comprehensive Plan
Mountain Shadow development
Harris Ranch development
Darkwood development
Transportation Plan
Current Creek Estates development
Kuna-Mora industrial development
Clustering and Development
Warm Spring signing

Bureau of Land Management
Jerusalem cattle allotment
Foothills road and trail closure
Eco race
Ridge to Rivers

U.S. Forest Service
Alder Creek vegetation management
Mineral Mountain prescribed fire
Arrowrock road renovation
Warm Spring Vegetation Management and EHE
Nursery and Heliport
Banner Ridge/Sawmill Gulch Expansion
Danskin Prescribed Fire

Corps of Engineers and Water Resources
Rattlesnake Creek unauthorized road

Idaho Department of Lands
Land exchange
Scriver Creek salvage sale
Wolf Creek timber sale
Howell Creek timber sale
Murry Creek timber sale
Smith Creek timber sale

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Land purchase and Warm Spring traffic

Cooperation between County, State, Federal, and Private
interests
Upper Payette Coordinated Weed Management Area
Open Space Cooperative Plan

Rush skeleton week task force

Texas A & M University on Nutritional Balance Analysis on
mule deer and elk

Bald Eagle Survey

University of New Brunswick on mule deer parasites

Mule Deer Foundation
Signing of Highway 21
Mule deer study

Media on ice kills in Lucky Peak Reservoir

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Tim Shelton
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Payette River Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

PAYETTE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

4. 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	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,693	3,693	Species benefitted: CAGO
Signing - Public relations	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1,231	Species benefitted:
Evaluating goose use	1440	1 week		1,231		Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Improve waterfowl production and brood-rearing ponds						
Establish and enlarge pond sites on Birding Island segments	1342	3 days	3 days	1,738	1,738	Species benefitted: CAGO
Placement of 15 goose nesting	1322	2 days	3 weeks	2,463	2,463	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
platforms			40 pltfms			
Removal of gravel for pond enlargement	1342	2 days	0	992	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, GADW, AGWT, CITE, WODU
Management Program - Enforce regulation for spring closures						
Signing management area	1333	2 days 10 signs	2 days 10 signs	492	492	Species benefitted: CAGO
Advertising in local papers to reduce conflicts between public and nesting geese	1211	1 day 3 articles	1 day 2 articles	246	246	Species benefitted: CAGO
Patrolling area to inform public of closures	1332	1 week 800 acres	1 week 800 acres	1,231	1,231	Species benefitted: CAGO
Management Program - Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Trapping and shooting of problem animals	1470	1 day	1 day	492	492	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
Evaluation of predator damage	1470	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, CAGO, MALL, CADU, WODU
WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Establish grass-legume plantings						
Establish undisturbed nesting cover	1322	4 days	4 days	984	984	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, GADW, WODU, RNDU, REDH
Maintain fencing projects to protect	1211	1 mile	1 mile	1,231	1,231	Species benefitted: MALL, GUDU,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
nesting cover from grazing		1 week	1 week			AGWT, CITE, WODU, LESC RNDU, REDH
Control weeds to improve nesting habitat	1322	1 week	2 weeks	4,197	4,500	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 annually 6 weeks	4 weeks	7,386	6,386	Species benefitted: RNDU, WODU, MALL, GADU, AGWT, CITE, LESC, REDH
Evaluate cover to determine best area and cover type	1440	1 week	1 week	1,236	1,231	Species benefitted: REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, CITE, GADW, LESC
Build ponds with nesting islands and fenced nesting zones	1341	1 week	1 week	2,236	2,236	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	3 days 175 boxes	3 days 175 boxes	738	1,000	Species benefitted: WODU
Work with local Habitat Groups and scout troop to maintain wood duck boxes	1440	2 days	2 days	738	738	Species benefitted: WODU
Monitor nest success	1460	1 week 175 boxes	1 week 175 boxes	1,236	1,231	Species benefitted: AGWT, CITE, MALL, WODU, GADW, LESC, RUDU, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Increase high quality hunting and maintain hunter visits at present rates						
Maintain pond water levels for quality hunting	1211	1 week	1 week	1236	1,231	Species benefitted: CITE, REDH, RUDU, MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Evaluate hunter usage	1430	2 days	2 days	738	738	Species benefitted: MALL, AGWT, WODU, GADU, LESC
Access management with hunters using key areas	1430	2 days	2 days	492	492	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	246	Species benefitted:
Signing all boundaries and closures	1211	1 day	1 day	246	246	Species benefitted:
Litter patrol and old fence removal	1211	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Enhance vegetation for upland game birds and hunters						
Maintain hunting cover	1211	1 week	1 week	1,231	1231	Species benefitted: MALL, GADU, AGNT, CITE, WODU, REDH, LESC, RNDU, RUDU
Keep fencing maintained to protect against grazing	1211	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted: CITE, MALL, GADU, WODU, AGWT, REDH, LESC, RNDU
Establish food plots for cover and winter food	1322	17 acres 1 week	23 acres 9 days	2,231	3,000	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Habitat manipulation to remove rank stands	1322	50 acres 2 days	2 days	926	926	Species benefitted: CAGO
PUBLIC FISHING						
Management Program - Provide access sites that are assigned to projects						
Maintain and inspect all access signs	1211	2 days 30 signs	2 days 30 signs	492	492	Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Conduct tours, increase public contacts and awareness						
Conduct tours with school-aged students	1510	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted:
Work with Eagle Scouts and Boy Scout groups on environmental items	1510	1 week	1 week	492	492	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Evaluation of nongame species on WMA						
Conduct species list and abundance	1410	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted:
Habitat improvements for nongame species	1440	2 days	2 days	492	492	Species benefitted: REDH, LESC, MALL, GADU, WODU, CITE, AGWT, RUDU
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Working with private landowners	1720	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,155	5,155	Species benefitted: RUDU, MALL,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
on HIP developments						AGWT, GADU, REDH, LESC, WODU, CITE
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	2 weeks 10 evals	3 weeks 5 evals	3,693	3,693	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1610	2 weeks 6 annually	2 weeks 6 annually	2,520	2,520	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1610	1 week	1 week	520	1,520	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training required for upgrade in position						
Improvement of technical skills		3 weeks 4 training schools	3 weeks	3,693	3,270	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)		8 weeks 4 days	8 weeks 3 days	10,961	10,632	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Outside Funds	69,959
Grand Total	\$69,959

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 and Gem Counties with the largest portion, the Birding segment, being ten miles east of the town of Payette.

Benefits Provided:

Waterfowl

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

Wintering duck populations on the Payette River have greatly fluctuated over the last 20 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 12 females and 4 males. Other releases of 94 birds in 1994, 64 birds in 1997, 27 birds in 1998, and 50 birds on the Emmett segment in 1999 have contributed to the population. In the five hunting seasons, approximately 45 toms have been taken by hunters,

Furbearers

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

Nongame Species

There are between 15 and 20 bald eagles that use the management area during the winter. Golden eagles use the area occasionally throughout the year. Other hawks and falcons using the area are rough-legged, ferruginous, red-tail, goshawk, coopers, sharp-shinned, harrier, kestrel, prairie and gyrfalcon.

Hunter Use and Harvest

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

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

Wildlife Production

Canadian goose production was very good on the Payette River Islands in 1999 because of good water conditions. A survey of two production ponds on the WMA indicated high nesting density. In 1999 two ponds totaling 20 acres had 72 goose nesting pairs with a 90% hatching success.

Upland game bird production was excellent in 1999. Large brood sizes and higher numbers of broods of California quail and pheasants were observed during late spring.

Noxious Weed Control

A temporary employee was hired to spray poison hemlock on the WMA. Over \$4,700 were expended in hemlock control.

Habitat Projects

Two food plots were replanted on the WMA in 1997. These plantings included a 5 acre perennial wheat crop and a 20 acre tall wheat/spring wheat mix. These areas provide winter food plots and hunting cover. Trees and shrubs were planted on the North and South sides of Birding Island's segments, adding 600 new plants. Removal of cattails and excavation of an existing pond added four acres of waterfowl production to the WMA.

The Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) developed over 22 private properties in Payette, Washington, and Adams Counties by establishing food plots, planting 10,000 shrubs and trees, and developing 3 wetland ponds.

Project Number:

State: Idaho
 License Funds
 Project Leader: Mark Fleming
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Brownlee Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ANDRUS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
MAINTAIN STRUCTURE AND FACILITIES						
Management Program - Maintain two houses and four trailers						
Maintain houses and trailers, and repair as needed	1211	4 weeks 2 houses 4 trailers	4 weeks 2 houses 4 trailers	5,592	5,592	Species benefitted:
Maintain barns, corrals, and general items	1334	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Improve deer and elk winter range						
Monitoring upland vegetation condition	1440	5 weeks 24,000 ac.	5 weeks 24,000 ac.	6,990	6,990	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Controlling livestock and fence maintenance	1334	6 weeks 110 miles	6 weeks 110 miles	8,388	8,388	Species benefitted: Elk
Big game census	1460	4 weeks	4 weeks	2,796	5,592	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk. Aerial flights.
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	3 weeks 5,000 shrubs	2,510	4,194	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and upland game
Management Program - Wetland rehabilitation						
Water developments, inspections	1321	2 weeks 50 sites	2 weeks 50 sites	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Riparian zone monitoring	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	2 wks, 5 mi/stream	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Wildlife pond rehabilitation	1321	2 weeks 4 sites	2 weeks 4 sites	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, and upland game
Management Program - Hunter access						
Develop management plan for access	1610	1 week	1 week	1,398	1,398	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk
Monitor and maintain gates protecting access	1334	5 weeks 18 gates	5 weeks 18 gates	6,990	6,990	Species benefitted: Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
UPLAND GAME BIRD WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Protect important upland game bird winter habitat						
Fencing/keeping cattle in appropriate pastures	1470	2 weeks 330 pairs	2 weeks 400 pairs	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Columbian sharptail
monitoring riparian zones	1440	1 weeks 5 mi/stream	1 weeks 5 mi/stream	1,398	1,398	Species benefitted:
Maintaining water developments	1321	3 weeks 50 sites	3 weeks 50 sites	4,194	4,194	Species benefitted: Grey partridge, chukar
Monitoring upland habitat	1440	3 weeks 40 veg. transects	3 weeks 40 transects	4,194	4,194	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey partridge
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 plants	1 week 2,000 plants	2,796	1,398	Species benefitted: Turkey, forest grouse
Planting winter feed plots	1322	2 weeks 10 acres	2 weeks 10 acres	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Turkey and forest grouse
Weed control	1322	8 weeks 600 acres	8 weeks 600 acres	11,184	11,184	Species benefitted: Chukar, gray partridge
UPLAND GAME BIRD PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Upland game bird nesting cover						
Upland habitat monitoring	1440	2 weeks 20 transects	2 weeks 20 transects	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Chukar, gray partridge
Tree and shrub planting	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted: Chukar, grey

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		2,000 plants	2,000 plants			partridge
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide hunter access on WMA						
Checking hunters in and out of 18 locked gates - 10,000 user days	1331	14 weeks	14 weeks	19,572	19,572	Species benefitted:
Road maintenance	1331	4 weeks 30 miles	4 weeks 30 miles	5,592	5,592	Species benefitted:
Enforcement of regulations and road closures-18 gates	1331	6 weeks 20 mi./road	6 weeks 20 mi./rd	8,388	8,388	Species benefitted:
Interviewing hunters and public relations	1430	4 weeks 1,000 hnters		5,592		Species benefitted:
WILDLIFE VIEWING						
Management Program - Nonconsumptive wildlife use						
Checking individuals in and out of locked gates - 300 user days	1331	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,592	5,592	Species benefitted:
Public tours-200 user days	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted:
OUTDOOR RECREATION						
Management Program - Nonhunting use						
Checking hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, etc., into locked gates and onto WMA - 200 user days	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,194	4,194	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	4 weeks 8 reviews	4 weeks 8 reviews	5,592	5,592	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Review and evaluate planning documents relating to WMA	1630	6 weeks	8 weeks	8,388	8,388	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents, reports, budgets, purchasing requests, etc.	1610	8 weeks	8 weeks	11,184	11,184	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Complete training requirements for upgrading position						
Improve technical skills	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,592	5,592	Species benefitted:
Administrative access program	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,796	2,796	Species benefitted:
Other regional duties as assigned	1610	14 weeks	14 weeks	19,572	19,572	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Outside Funds	188,714
Grand Total	\$188,714

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 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 less than 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, mudslides, and extensive damage to several trailers.

During FY 1999 the West Fork Brownlee Creek Road and the Dukes Creek road were repaired. A retaining wall was constructed below the foundation of the range-rider trailer and phone, power, and water lines were installed.

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 deferred-rotation grazing system, monitoring of livestock distribution, monitoring of range condition, maintenance of 110 miles of fence and 50 water improvements within 19 pastures; implementation of a vehicle access program; ground and aerial surveys of wintering big game animals on the area; planting 8,000 trees and shrubs, monitoring condition of rangeland plant communities, 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 turkey winter on the AWMA. The following projects have been completed: Food plots of wheat were planted and left unharvested for use by wintering upland birds. Livestock grazing in sagebrush, upland and riparian plant communities were 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 which resulted in 300 acres of treated area.

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 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 Units 22 and 31. The following projects have been completed: Provided vehicle access for 1,000 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. The AWMA provided 100 user days to individuals using controlled access gates on the 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-15
 Project Leader: Anthony Apa
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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	24 weeks	26,208	30,192	Species benefitted: Big game, upland game, and waterfowl
Supervise Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	56 weeks*	56 weeks	53,736	70,448	Species benefitted: see above
Review Lands Proposed for Purchase	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,184	2,516	Species benefitted: see above
Review of Public Projects	1710	11 weeks**	11 weeks	10,364	13,838	Species benefitted: see above
Assistance to Private Landowners	1720	11 weeks***	11 weeks	10,364	13,838	Species benefitted: see above

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$126,331
Outside Funds	4,600
Grand Total	\$130,931

*The total includes 18 weeks of time that is described in detail in the Minidoka Habitat District report and 18 weeks of time described in detail in the Niagara Habitat District report.

**The total includes 4 weeks of time described in the Minidoka Habitat District report and 4 weeks described in the Niagara Habitat District report.

***The total includes 4 weeks of time described in the Minidoka Habitat District report and 4 weeks of time described in the Niagara Habitat District report.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Lee Williams
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Magic Valley Region Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual*	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain buildings	1211	4(2) weeks	10(2) wks	3,124	6,352	Species benefitted:
Maintain roads and trails	1211	6(4) weeks	7(4) wks	4,686	2,382	Species benefitted:
Maintain dikes	1211	4(1) weeks	3(1) wks	3,124	1,588	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences, remove unneeded fences	1211	8(4) weeks	9(4) wks	6,248	3,970	Species benefitted: Big Game, Upland Game
Misc. facilities development	1334	4(3) weeks	8(3) wks	3,124	3,970	Species benefitted:
Parking lot development	1332	2(1) weeks	3(1) wks	1,562	1,588	Species benefitted:
Repair water control structures	1211	6(2) weeks	7(2) wks	4,686	3,970	Species benefitted: Upland birds, numerous waterfowl species
Sign repair and replacement	1211	2(1) weeks	3(1) wks	1,562	1,588	Species benefitted:
Boating and Fishing Access Development (See note)	1211	10(10) weeks	10(10) wks	7,810	0	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual*	
Water level management	1211	4 weeks	6 wks	3,124	4,764	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	6 weeks	3 weeks	4,686	2,382	Species benefitted: Big Game Upland Game
Maintain herbaceous seedings	1322	6(1) weeks	3(1) wks	4,686	1,588	Species benefitted: Big Game Upland Game
Control vegetation	1211	12(7) weeks	12(7) wks	9,372	3,970	Species benefitted:
Rangeland rehabilitation	1322	6(1) weeks	6(1) wks	4,686	3,970	Species benefitted: Big Game Upland Game
Farmland rehabilitation	1322	6 weeks	1 week	4,686	794	Species benefitted: Big Game Upland Game
Establish food plots	1322	6 weeks	2 weeks	4,686	1,588	Species benefitted: Big Game Upland Game, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	4(2) weeks	3(2) wks	3,124	794	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned	1630	4(3) weeks	4(3) wks	3,124	794	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	34,456
Other Funds (See note)	11,600
Grand Total	\$46,056

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

Note: 42 weeks of the total are dedicated to boating and fishing access management and are reported in more detail in the DJ and Boating Access reports and plans. Weeks dedicated toward these sites and not charged to PR Contract dollars and are in parentheses (e.g. 4(2) = 4 weeks total work load and 2 weeks of the workload were dedicated to boating and fishing access work, but the remaining balance was for PR dedicated work.

*Boating and Fishing Access dollars were calculated in the planning stages, although this seemed prudent at the time, those funding sources were removed in the progress report and not used in the calculation of actual dollars used. Only PR and state funding sources were used. The total funds reflect this change.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Centennial Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT

CAMAS PRAIRIE CENTENNIAL MARSH

CAREY LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

Management Priorities:

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

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

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	1211	1 week 24 boxes	0 week	1,252	0	
Maintain 100 goose nesting	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,756	2,504	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
platforms annually, install 30 new platforms		100 platforms	133 platforms			
Develop and maintain dense nesting cover	1322	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Maintain water delivery system utilizing wells, piping, and ditching	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	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 week	0 week	1,252	0	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
Maintain water levels for brood rearing habitat	1211	3 weeks	0 week	3,756	0	Species benefitted: accomplished under another category
#Restore riparian systems by encouraging beaver activity	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Administer sharecroppers to	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
perform farming activities consistent with waterfowl production goals						, AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds, Antelope
#Develop and maintain four acres of goose pasture	1322	2 weeks	1 week	2,504	1,252	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, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
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. Species benefitted:
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
#Conduct tours, give talks, and provide community with	1630	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted: All

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
information						
Maintain species observation list	1630	1 week	0 week	1,252	0	Species benefitted: All
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	0 week	1,252	0	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
*Utilize 2,000 acre feet water right to provide year-round water levels	1211	1 week	0 week	1,252	0	Species benefitted: MALL, 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	12 weeks	8,764	15,024	The increase in time was primarily with the NRCS and CRP contracts
Assistance to landowners	1720	3 weeks	5 weeks	3,756	6,260	The increase in time was primarily with the NRCS and WHIP contracts
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program						
Maintain Department lands and	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,504	1,252	Species benefitted: All

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
facilities						
Control noxious weeds on project areas	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,504	3,756	Species benefitted:
Maintain project buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,252	1,252	Species benefitted:
Maintain and repair equipment	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,504	1,252	Species benefitted:
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	2 weeks	12 weeks	2,504	15,024	Wrote new management plans for Carey Lake and Centennial Marsh WMAs.
Maintain files, prepare administrative reports	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,756	2,504	Species benefitted:
Technical assistance for other agencies	1630	3 weeks	0 week	3,756	0	Completed in another category
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,260	6,260	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$64,126
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$64,126

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 Provided

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, 82 were used, along with 22 ground nests located in 1998, for a total of approximately 470 Canada geese. The marsh did not reflood in the fall of 1998.

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. Forty-five of the 50 goose platforms were utilized in 1998, as well as numerous successful ground nesters, totaling approximately 200. Juvenile duck counts totaled approximately 300. Carey Lake is heavily used by fall migrants and along with an estimated 1,000 hunter days. Fishing use on Carey Lake is estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 visits annually.

One-third of the over 300 goose platforms on the WMAs and surrounding area are maintained each year. Four acres of goose pasture are kept irrigated and mowed throughout the summer on Centennial Marsh

Upland Game

Sage grouse had been increasing on Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh; approximately 100 were observed on the area in 1998. But very few have been seen in spring 1999. 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 throughout the year.

Nongame Species

Centennial Marsh is heavily used by shorebirds throughout the spring and summer. These include but are not limited to American avocets, Virginia rail, willits, soras, American bitterns, and sandhill cranes of which 12 nests were observed. Black-necked stilts are still very numerous on the marsh this year with approximately 300 observed. All of these shorebirds nest on the marsh. Thirty-one black terns were seen on Centennial Marsh in the spring of 1999, fourteen of these were juveniles.

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 wildflower watchers. They total approximately 2,000 visits a year. Two school groups and numerous smaller groups were provided talks and tours of the marsh.

Carey Lake receives considerable birdwatching use.

Technical Assistance

- Member of the Wood River RC&D beaver committee locating and evaluating sites suitable for beaver reintroduction.
- Reviewed and commented on eight timber sales and vegetation management projects with the US Forest Service.
- Reviewed and inspected 30 CRP contracts with NRCS and developed seed plans.
- Worked with NRCS on eight WHIP projects in Elmore, Camas, Blaine, and Lincoln Counties.
- Worked with USFWS on four of the WHIP projects.
- Reviewed and provided comments on 2 subdivisions for Blaine County Planning and Zoning.

Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

Completed two pond projects and one wetland restoration project. Cost shared on 6 CRP seedings.
Worked on 6 of the WHIP projects for HIP cost-share.

Noxious Weed Control

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

Administration

Five scoping meetings were held in Gooding, Burley, Fairfield, Hailey, and Twin Falls to solicit public input on the operation and management of the WMAs. The information was used in writing new long-range management plans for the WMAs.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Bill Gorgen
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Hagerman Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

HAGERMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

BILLINGSLEY CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

Management Priorities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	163 ac. 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	163 ac. 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: Acres of wetland habitat has been adjusted

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						to include the area of wetland plants, not just open water.
Maintain waterfowl hunting area 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
Allow public viewing of waterfowl from selected sites	1211	1 observation blind				Species benefitted:
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	163 ac.			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	163 ac.			Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain waterfowl hunting area outside the WMA boundary	1211					Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Prohibit vehicle access to wetland	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 grass-alfalfa for grazing, nesting, and brood rearing habitat	1322	47 acres 11 weeks	47 ac. 11 weeks	17,446	17,446	Species benefitted: CAGO
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	1211	670 acres	670 ac.			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	5.5miles 4.0 mile 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	163 ac. 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Measure and record water flows	1211	Monthly- BCWMA Weekly- HWMA 2 weeks	Monthly- BCWMA Weekly- HWMA 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain dikes	1211	2.5 miles 1 week	2.5 mile 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 structrs 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- HWMA 4 structrs- BCWMA 1 week	20 strcs 4 strcs 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: CAGO
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	30 boxes	20 boxes			Species benefitted: WODU Loss of 10 boxes
Management Program - Provide brood rearing habitat						
Provide Canada goose pasture through cooperation with an adjacent landowner	1322	26 Acres 2 weeks	26 ac. 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor populations	1460	1 week	0 week	1,586		Not accomplished due to lack of personnel and work on plans.
Monitor artificial nest utilization	1211	26 nests 30 boxes 1 week	26 nests 20 boxes 0 week	1,586		Species benefitted: WODU, CAGO. Not accomplished due to lack of personnel, and work on WMA plans.
Management Program - Improve winter habitat						
Irrigate trees and shrubs	1211	30 acres 2 weeks	30 ac. 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain residual alfalfa	1211	34 acres 1 week	34 ac. 1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Plant winter wheat	1322	20 acres 7 weeks	20 ac. 7 weeks	11,102	11,102	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
Maintain shrub, tree, and riparian habitat	1211	760 acres 2 weeks	760 ac. 2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail
PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES						
Management Program - Monitor and regulate fisheries program						
Stabilize impoundment water levels	1211					Species benefitted:
Prohibit boat motors	1630					Species benefitted:
Litter clean-up	1211	1 week	1 week	1,586	1,586	Species benefitted:
PROVIDE MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS (e.g., wildlife viewing, upland game hunting, nongame habitat, trapping, photography, etc.)						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Provide miscellaneous benefits						
Maintain species observation list	1630					Species benefitted:
Provide wildlife viewing opportunities by maintaining access roads	1211	1.5 miles 1 week	1.5 mile 1 week	1,586	1,586	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	4 weeks	2 weeks	6,344	3,172	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	10 weeks	3 weeks	15,860	4,758	Species benefitted: Pheasants, Quail, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations, meetings, coordination with other agencies, etc. Complete HWMA and BCWMA PLANS	1630	3 weeks	14 weeks	4,758	22,204	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	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	7,930	7,930	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
sheets, etc.)						REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,758	4,758	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Management Program - WMA, facilities and equipment maintenance						
Maintain shop, storage buildings, box car, residence, and lawn	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,172	3,172	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain equipment tractors, drills, grader, 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

Land acquisition for **Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (HWMA)** 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 16 ponds that are heavily used by waterfowl in the winter and fishermen during the summer months. The spring-fed water that flows through HWMA begins at 58°F, providing open water for approximately 50,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese during winter months. Mallards are most numerous with a variety of other ducks represented. Because of the sanctuary provided by HWMA, many waterfowl remain in the area and provide hunting in several counties as they fly to and from HWMA. This year's midwinter waterfowl survey found 35,614 ducks and 3,861 Canada geese on 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 1st opening on a portion of HWMA is extremely popular. 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.

Four trapping permits are available each year for muskrat and mink. Because of low fur prices, only 1 man trapped HWMA this year. He trapped 54 muskrats and no mink.

A cooperative agreement exists with an adjacent landowner. Through this agreement livestock grazing was allowed on 6 acres of HWMA. In exchange several hundred Canada geese were allowed to graze undisturbed on 20 acres of private irrigated pasture. Sixty-three acres were irrigated for waterfowl and upland bird nesting cover, food plots, and goose pasture.

Noteworthy Accomplishments This Year

Completion of the Hagerman and Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area Plans took considerable time (14 weeks) and was the major accomplishment of this past year. These plans are intended to guide management on the wildlife management areas for many years.

Twelve goose nesting boxes were converted from the old style grass-hay box to a solid box that can hold bark chips. Bark is the preferred material to use as it is readily available and is easy to put into the nesting box. The old style box wouldn't contain the bark chips.

The HWMA irrigation pump was replaced at a cost of \$1,200.00. It had been damaged last year by excessive sand. The irrigation water intake system was remodeled to reduce the sand flowing to the pump. Repair of the pump and the water intake system has increased the water pressure so up to 6 hand lines can now be operated at the same time. Two lengths of mainline were replaced.

The Twin Falls County Juvenile Probation-Community Service Restitution work crews (Adopt A Wetland group) continued their work on the HWMA residence. The inside of the residence has been cleaned and several rooms have been painted. The outside of the residence and garage have been scraped and will be painted this fall. This group helped with the replacement of the residence roof this past summer. This group has completed other projects including removing volunteer trees that were invading fields, cleaning granaries, mowing the residence lawn, etc.

The 21 acres of grass-alfalfa that was planted spring 1988 was irrigated and has done well. The fields were planted to provide nesting and escape cover, and to lower irrigation demands on our limited personnel.

The bridge across Big Bend Ditch was rebuilt using poured concrete to strengthen the existing structure. This bridge is important to provide easy access to the residence, which increases the security to this facility. The steel gate that provides access to the residence was anchored to provide easy opening and closing.

The railroad boxcar that has been used for seed storage was completely cleaned. We are now able to organize materials that are stored here.

An osprey nesting platform was placed on a power pole, located just north of the residence, by Idaho Power Company. A pair of osprey had started a nest on this pole and it was felt that there was danger of them being electrocuted. The pair moved about a ½ mile away and used another artificial nest structure that was placed there.

The grazing agreement with an adjacent landowner was renewed. This agreement allows cattle grazing on 6 acres of HWMA in exchange for hundreds of Canada geese being allowed to graze undisturbed on 20 acres of private irrigated pasture. This private pasture is very important to HWMA geese and their broods.

An access was built through the fence to allow downstream irrigators access to the water structure on Brailsford Ditch. Before this access was constructed, the irrigators had to crawl through the fence to make adjustments to the water flow. HWMA receives all the Brailsford Ditch water that is excess to downstream water users.

Two 1.5-acre food plots of sorghum, wheat, and flax were planted, fertilized, and irrigated. A 9-acre field was planted to spring wheat.

Considerable effort was placed on controlling Canada thistle. Canada thistle is plentiful around the ponds and on wet areas. Poison hemlock, puncturevine, morning glory, sandburr, and other weeds are present. An aerial application of Garlon was done on Anderson pond #3 in an effort to control purple loosestrife.

The effort to reduce the number of swimmers using the Big Bend Ditch has been successful. While some swimming use continues, it is much reduced. A fire started by a group using this area burned 1-2 acres of grass and brush. Fortunately IDFG personnel were near the area and were able to call for help and contain the fire from spreading.

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 BCWMA lie in Hagerman Valley near the Snake River and 1.5 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' on the creek to 3,200' on the canyon rim. Several springs originate along the basaltic rim rock and feed a wetland before entering Billingsley Creek. In 1994 weirs were placed to measure the water from each spring. An annual report containing this data is sent to the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Because the creek is spring-fed by water that is approximately 58°F, it remains open all winter.

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

1. Billingsley Creek meanders through BCWMA with an average depth of 6' and a width of 25'. 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 brood rearing.
2. The wetland covers approximately 82 acres. Most of the wetland is covered with broadleaf cattail and hardstem bulrush. There are many other aquatic plants 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 California 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.

BCWMA 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 normally taken each year by the trappers. This year, because of low fur prices, only one man trapped, taking 154 muskrats and 2 mink.

Noxious weeds are controlled within BCWMA to limit spread to adjacent private land, and reduce displacement of desirable cover and/or forage vegetation. Control efforts have centered on Canada thistle and Russian knapweed; however, purple loosestrife is now present along Billingsley Creek. Purple loosestrife control had been done in previous years by spraying individual plants with Rodeo. In 1996 biological control was conducted with the placement of 500 eggs of root-boring weevils near the mouth of Florence Spring.

The 7 water measuring weirs were inspected in preparation to repairing them. Each weir needs work to provide accurate water measurements.

Contacts continued with neighbors on the west side of the management area. We have an access problem on the lower end of the management area. People floating Billingsley Creek can no longer exit the creek without crossing private property that is posted to "no trespassing." IDFG has a legal access to the creek, but several problems with this access must be addressed. Contacts were made with an adjacent landowner who appears to be trespass farming a portion of BCWMA.

IDFG personnel inspected the rim area of BCWMA and decided that the placement of large rocks would be the best means of protecting habitat and stopping illegal dumping that occurs in that area.

Work was started on producing a BCWMA Guide that will be available for public information.

BCWMA is a relatively small piece of property, but it 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 WMA:

1. Wintering area for approximately 50,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese.
2. Average Canada goose production is 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 Canada goose grazing pasture.
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 \$500,000.00.
7. Excellent waterfowl observation opportunity each fall and winter.
8. Four controlled muskrat/mink trapping permits available each year.

Billingsley Creek WMA:

1. Area traversed by a 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 available 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: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Niagara Springs Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

NIAGARA SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

* Work performed and reported under Magic Valley Region Habitat Maintenance

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
UPLAND GAME BIRD AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide high quality nesting habitat						
Irrigate grass/alfalfa habitat	1211	200 acres	184 ac. 1 week	*	*1,138	Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, GADW, Pheasant, California Quail. Sixteen acres of irrigated cover has been converted to wetlands with the North Side Canal Company to filter return flows to

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						the Snake River. Therefore, only 184 acres are now irrigated.
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	22 boxes	18 boxes 0.2 wk.	*	228	Species benefitted: CAGO. Two boxes were destroyed by high water and have not been replaced. Eleven of the 20 (55%) remaining boxes were used by CAGO
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	200 boxes 1 week	126 bx. 1 week	1,138	1,138	Species benefitted: WODU, Screech Owl, Am. Kestrel, Fox Squirrel, Northern Flicker. Seven boxes were replaced, 49 are missing, and 25 were not checked. Of the 126 boxes checked: 63% were not used, 15% were used by screech owls, 10% by WODU, 6% by Northern flicker, 5% by fox squirrels, and 1% by saw whet owls.
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain woody cover	1211	9 plantings	9 planting 0.5 wk.	*	*569	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	6.0 acs 1.5 wks	*	*1,707	Species benefitted: Pheasant, California Quail, Songbirds. Food plots were planted to dwarf corn

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						and proso white millet. The flood irrigation field (1.5 acres) was not planted due to an infestation of Canada thistle and quack grass. Also, the field needs to be replanted in order for the irrigation water to flow to the far end of the field. This was not accomplished in time to plant corn. The 0.5-acre food plot next to the west parking lot was not replanted. The parking lot was relocated in its place. The original parking lot was damaged beyond use due to falling rock from the canyon rim.
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads and trails for hunting						
Maintain water delivery systems to ponds	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 2.2 wks	*1,138	*2,514	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, CAGO. Seeded newly constructed dikes for filter pond to alfalfa and dryland grasses.
Maintain water levels in ponds	1211	4 ponds	7 ponds 1.1 wks	*	*1,252	Species benefitted: MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey, Shorebirds, CAGO. Three additional ponds were constructed during the past 2 years by the North Side Canal Company to filter return flows to the Snake River. Bulrush (~1000) plants were hand

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						planted in two ponds to provide habitat and filter water.
Maintain roads for access	1211	5 miles	5 miles	*	*	Species benefitted: Humans
WINTERING WATERFOWL						
Management Program - Develop and maintain habitat for wintering waterfowl						
Maintain water level in ponds	1211	4 ponds	4 ponds	*	*	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO
Maintain grazing fields for waterfowl	1211	21 acres	9.4 acs 1 week	*	*1,138	Species benefitted: CAGO, AMWI, MALL. Two fields (5.9 acres under wheel line #3 and 3.5 on the cottonwood field) are currently maintained for goose grazing. The other fields have been converted to nesting cover and ponds. The current pastures provide grazing for 180-200 geese during the fall prior to the hunting season and for 100 during the spring and summer.
FISHING ACCESS						
Management Program - Maintain ponds, ditches, roads, and trails for fishing access						
Maintain impoundment dikes, ditches, and roads	1211	4 ponds, 5 miles of roads and 2.5 miles of canals and dikes	4 ponds, 5 miles of roads, 2.5 miles of canals and dikes	*	0	Species benefitted: Rainbow trout, Humans

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Manage water levels to maintain fish populations	1211	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 miles)	3 ponds, 1 canal (2 mi)	*	*	DJ Funding. Species benefitted: Rainbow Trout
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide educational opportunities						
Provide information tours upon request and brochure of the WMA	1630	1 week	0.3 wks	1,138	341	Species benefitted: public. Gave guided tour to Gooding High School science class regarding wildlife habitat management.
Maintain access roads	1211	5 miles	5 miles	*	*	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	7 weeks	3.3 wks	7,966	3,755	Species benefitted: Upland Game, big game
Assistance to private landowners	1720	12 weeks	9.2 wks	13,656	10,470	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl. Also Jerome, Gooding, and Lincoln Counties.
ADMINISTRATION						
Administration and Coordination						
Administer WMA, coordination with other agencies	1630	7 weeks	5.9 wks	7,966	6,714	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Nongame
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	4 weeks	12.9 wks	4,552	14,680	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Nongame

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain files and prepare administrative reports	1630	1 week	1.7 wks	1,138	1,935	Species benefitted: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Nongame
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	18 weeks	10.2 wks	20,484	11,608	Species benefitted: Elk, Sage Grouse, Mule Deer

Total PR Funds	\$ 0*
Total PR Contract With Overhead	0*
Other Funds	30,817
Grand Total	\$30,817

*Funds previously reported in Magic Valley - Regional Habitat Management

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 (976 acres). The land was purchased by the IDFG in 1972. The area is characterized by 661 acres of shrub/steppe community, 175 acres of irrigated cover, 9 acres of irrigated goose pasture, 75 acres of riparian zone, 29 acres of seasonal artificial ponds, 19 acres of islands, and 8 acres of perennial artificial ponds. NSWMA has a split-level topography. The upper level is a flat rim of basalt lava flows with a shallow covering of sandy loam soil. The lower level, separated from the upper level by a 200-foot shear basalt cliff/talus slope, has a deep sandy loam soil.

There are 12 cfs of water rights to provide a variety of wildlife habitat including: shelterbelts, goose pastures, small grain food plots, nesting cover, wetlands, and a wild rainbow trout fishery.

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 (nongame) wildlife viewing for the public. A wild rainbow trout fishery exists in the canal and artificial pond system.

Spring 1998 Burglary

A security cage was constructed by the summer temporary employee and the doors of the workshop were reinforced by the utility craftsman to prevent further burglary of equipment and tools.

Miscellaneous Developments

A new headgate was installed at the spring box of the Niagara Springs irrigation water source. This will provide a needed control structure for the pipeline supplying water to irrigated habitat. Two new flow meters were also installed to more accurately measure water use.

New Wetland Development - J8 Drain

During the past 3 years, the North Side Canal Company (NSCC) has constructed a 29-acre complex of sediment ponds, canals, and wetlands to clean agricultural return flows to the Snake River via the J8 drain. A 5.4-acre filter pond with a depth less than 2 feet was constructed by the NSCC in 1999. This pond will filter suspended soil/nutrients with emergent vegetation. The dike around the pond was seeded to a mixture of dryland grasses and forbs including: "Lutana" cicer milkvetch, "Appar" Lewis flax, "Magnar" basin wildrye, "Delar" small burnet, "Critana" thickspike wheatgrass, "Secar" blue-bunch wheatgrass, "Sodar" streambank wheatgrass, "Alkar" tall wheatgrass, "Nezpar" Indian ricegrass, and "Spreader 2" alfalfa. A similar mix was planted in 1998 on the newly constructed sediment pond dikes but lacked the alfalfa but did have "Siberian P27" wheatgrass. Last year's planting responded extremely well to the winter's precipitation and a considerable amount of basin big sagebrush has pioneered the stand. The interior of the filter pond will be seeded with sedges and rushes during the summer of 1999.

The original parking lot damaged by the excessive flows through the drain system last year was repaired by NSCC. Unfortunately, the entrance was too steep during icy conditions and was abandoned. It was reseeded with the seed mix shown above. An alternate site was leveled by NSCC. An alternate access road to the new parking lot was staked out by the IDFG and constructed by NSCC. The grade on this new road is more gentle and was used by hunters during the latter part of the waterfowl hunting season in 1998-1999. The 0.5-acre food plot originally adjacent to the parking lot was abandoned. An alternative site was selected away from the disturbance of vehicles and will be planted in 2000.

Over 150 bulrush were transplanted as part of an Eagle Scout project from the ponds constructed in 1983 fed by the Thompson/Mays canal (Niagara Springs water) on the management area and replanted into the lower pond near its inlet from the upper pond. The NSCC cleaned 80 yards of bulrush bulbs from an irrigation pump pond during late winter of 1999 and piled them in the upper pond. Regional IDFG personnel and reservists planted the bulrush during the spring before the J8 drain was filled. We planted an estimated 800 bulbs with an estimated 95% resprouting success.

The NSCC also replaced the culvert water structure on the lower sediment pond with a cement structure. Cement structures were installed in the inlet and outlet of the new filter pond during 1999. An estimated \$67,500 has been spent by the NSCC prior to 1999 for the J8 drain wetland project.

Management Plan Approved

A management plan was developed, reviewed by the public, and approved by the IDFG for NSWMA. No alternatives were developed due to lack of controversy brought forward by the public during the scoping process. The NSWMA will be managed in the current direction with enhancements occurring as more funding is available.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Michael McDonald
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Minidoka Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT

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. PUBLIC ACCESS FOR NONMOTORIZED PUBLIC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT IMPROVEMENT						
Management Program - Improve bighorn sheep habitat						
Irrigate grass/alfalfa habitat	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,136	1,184	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Reseed degraded habitat	1322	2 weeks	4 weeks	1,136	2,368	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Layout range riparian transects and photo points	1440	2 weeks		1,136		Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Noxious weed surveys and control			1.5 weeks		888	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Remove unneeded corrals and buildings	1211	2 weeks	2.5 weeks	1,136	1,480	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences and remove unneeded ones	1211	2 weeks	1 week	1,136	592	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep and mule deer
Management Program - Maintain and improve habitat for upland game birds						
Irrigate and maintain 160 acres alfalfa	1322	2 weeks	2.5 weeks	1,136	1,480	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, mule deer, pheasants, chukars, grey partridge
Evaluate turkey habitat	1440	2 weeks	2.5 weeks	1,136	1,480	Species benefitted: Turkeys
HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain road closure for improved hunting and protection of bighorns						
Maintain road closure	1211	2 weeks	0.5 weeks	1,136	296	Species benefitted: Bighorn sheep, turkeys
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	16 weeks	2.5 weeks	9,088	1,480	Species benefitted:
Assistance to private landowners	1720	10 weeks	4.5 weeks	5,680	2,664	Species benefitted: Pheasants,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						quail, chukars, grey partridge
ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and administration	1630	10 weeks	11 weeks	5,680	6,512	Species benefitted:
Plan development	1620		5.5 weeks		3,256	Species benefitted:
Other duties as assigned			5.5 weeks		3,256	Species benefitted:
Miscellaneous administration	1630		6.5 weeks		3,848	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0*
Other Funds	\$32,844
Grand Total	\$32,844

*Dollar value previously reported in Magic Valley Region - Wildlife Habitat Management Supervision

NARRATIVE

The 814-acre Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA), purchased in 1993, is located approximately 22 miles southwest of Burley in south-central Idaho. BCWMA is situated at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The majority of BCWMA is characterized by the Big Cottonwood Creek floodplain, with the remaining portions occupying the toe to upper slopes of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The canyon areas are characterized by steep talus slopes, some in excess of 60%, broken by numerous bedrock outcroppings. Prominent cover types found on BCWMA include 407 acres of sagebrush/grass, 45 acres of riparian/wetland, and 360 acres of agriculture. Nearly 2.5 miles of Big Cottonwood Creek bisect the management area. The Department maintains an 8.8 cfs water right for irrigation of the agricultural land.

Benefits:

BCWMA is the top priority release site for wild turkeys in the Magic Valley Region and was a reintroduction site for California bighorn sheep. The management area provides year-round habitat for turkeys, ring-necked pheasants, grey partridge, chukar partridge, Californian quail, and mule deer and seasonal habitat for numerous neotropical migrants and several raptor species. Exotic annual grassland conversion to upland bird habitat is in progress. Big Cottonwood Creek supports a population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout which has benefitted from the removal of domestic livestock from the riparian habitat.

The management area provides hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. Big Cottonwood trail, which originates on BCWMA, offers nonmotorized access to thousands of acres of adjacent public land.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Southeast Region Wildlife Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

6. 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	20 weeks	21 weeks	23,900	25,095	Species benefitted:
Oversee the management of five wildlife management areas	1630	20 weeks	17 weeks	23,900	20,315	Species benefitted:
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	1 week	2 weeks	1,195	2,390	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Review/develop planning	1620	7 documents	12 docs.	2,390	4,780	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
documents		2 weeks	4 weeks			
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	7 proposals 1 week	1 week	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1460	2 weeks	1.5 wks	2,390	1,793	Species benefitted:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Assist with the investigation and review of proposed projects	1710	25 projects 1 week	1 week	1,195	1,195	Species benefitted:
Oversee assistance to landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	45 contacts 2 weeks	70 cont. 3 weeks	2,390	3,585	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperate With Other Agencies						
Coordinate with other land management agencies and represent the Department	1630	8 meetings 1 week	4 mtgs. .5 week	1,195	598	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 sites 2 weeks	1 week	2,390	1,195	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$62,163
Other	0
Grand Total	\$62,163

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Southeast 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	1 week	1 week	570	570	Species benefitted:
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week	1 week	570	570	Species benefitted:
Maintain fences	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	1,710	2,280	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	2 weeks	1 week	1,140	570	Species benefitted:
Control vegetation	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	2,850	2,850	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$6,837
 Outside Funds 0
 Grand Total \$6,837

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Dean Rose
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

West Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

STERLING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nesting cover						
Provide grass/legume nest cover on SWMA	1211	80-100 acres 1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treatment of nest cover through grazing	1211	300 acres 2 weeks	2 weeks	2,600	2,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Noxious weed control	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,500	6,500	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Manage water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Monitor Russian olive removal	1211	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Waterfowl and Pheasants
Monitor muskrat populations and manage trapping	1460	.5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Service mallard nest structures	1211	27 struct. 1 week	.5 week	1,300	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Service goose nest structures	1211	78 struct. .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide brood habitat						
Maintain escape cover and water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Provide goose pasture through controlled grazing	1211	2-5 acres .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct hunter survey	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,600	2,600	Species benefitted: Pheasants and waterfowl
Conduct brood survey and monitor use of all nest structures	1460	100 struct. .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide access						
Provide parking areas	1332	12 parking areas .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:
Upgrade one parking area	1332	.5 weeks	5 areas .5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:
Maintain Handicap blind	1334	.5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:
Maintain gates, stiles, and foot bridges	1211	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted:
Maintain signs/information boards	1211	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain hunting cover and provide food plots to attract game on SWMA	1322	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Enforce regulations and WMA management policies	30 (M)	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
PHEASANT PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Brood Stock						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets- storm cover on SWMA	1322	21 acres 2 weeks	2 weeks	2,600	2,600	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Provide high energy grains adjacent to storm cover on SWMA	1322	25 acres 1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide brood habitat - treat with grazing/burning	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,600	2,600	Species benefitted: Pheasants
Management Program - Provide Nesting Habitat						
Provide nesting cover by fencing on SWMA	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,600	2,600	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide irrigated grass/legume nesting cover through coop. farming on SWMA	1211	90 acres 1 week	.5 week	1,300	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct crow counts (assisted by research/game management)	1460	.5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Pheasants
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Production						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets on SWMA	1322	(See pheasant production)				Species benefitted:
Service kestrel and bluebird	1211	25 boxes	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
nest boxes		.5 weeks				Kestrels and bluebirds
Management Program - Provide viewing opportunity						
Provide brochure, species lists, signage, information boards and parking areas	1211	.5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	5 projects .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted:
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices through the Habitat Improvement Program.	1720	25 landowners 12 weeks	38 Coops 12 weeks 10 DNC 16 Tree 11 Food 1 Pond	15,600	15,600	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Coordinate with "Adopt-a-Wetland" group to maintain a portion of wetlands	1211	15 structures .5 weeks	.5 week	650	650	Species benefitted: Waterfowl
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluate	1630	5 documents 1 week	2 weeks	1,300	2,600	Species benefitted:
Provide tours and information on policies and goals, respond to concerns of neighboring landowners	1630	1 week	2 weeks	1,300	2,600	Species benefitted:
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,900	3,900	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,600	1,300	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	33	1 week	1 week	1,300	1,300	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	\$65,252
Grand Total	\$65,252

NARRATIVE

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

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

This project provided for the production of about 200 goslings, 1,000 ducklings, and 200 cock pheasants. This 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 impact wildlife habitat off the project area required 5 weeks of work.

A new Wildlife Technician was hired for SWMA in late March.

During FY 99, noxious weed control continued to be a major issue. Helicopter spraying was utilized to treat Canada thistle on approximately 400 acres on the WMA.

An intensive effort was made to treat any Russian olive stumps that sprouted in the American Game, Harder and Vanderford study areas. Additionally, Russian olive trees on the Thompson, Wells, and Plunkett segments were removed.

Two hunter surveys were conducted during the fall to determine hunter use of the WMA.

The random survey suggested that the WMA is used primarily by adult hunters that live within 40 miles. Most spend 1-5 days per year using the WMA although another large group uses SWMA 6-10 days per year. One hundred and seventy-seven hunters were surveyed.

The systematic survey (conducted every 5 years) suggested a couple of changes since 1992. Estimated number of hunters was 1,409 (1,408 in 1992). Estimated number of pheasants harvested was 645 (308 in 1992) while the percent of pen-reared birds in the harvest rose from 34 to 44% (Table 2).

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

Five parking areas and the access road to the Wells segment were improved this year: Thompson (2), American Game, Vanderford, and Johnson.

Nine additional bluebird boxes were erected by scouts on the Plunkett/Thompson and Plunkett/Railroad fences.

The Youth Pheasant hunt attracted 40 young hunters, again, for one day of training and hunting on the WMA.

Pheasant crow counts were run 3 times during the spring. The average number of calls/route was 9. Routes have not been run since 1989 when 51 calls/route were recorded. Despite the decline since 1989, it is felt that numbers are up over recent years.

Three duck pair counts were also run during the spring of 1999 (5-5-99, 5-14-99 and 6-2-99). The counts were run 3 times each on 3 different ponds: Wells, Orth, and Johnson. The most abundant species were (# of pairs): Lesser Scaup (27), Cinnamon Teal (21), Redheads (18), Gadwall (17), Northern Shoveler (15), Ruddy ducks (12), Mallards (10). Also present were: Pintails, Blue-winged teal, and Bufflehead. These data will be used in conjunction with waterfowl brood counts in lieu of nest searches.

Eighty-one muskrats were harvested this season (See Table 3). The second choice trapper got a late start due to the late cancellation by the originally selected permittee.

The predator reduction program continued on the WMA. Wildlife Services was, again, asked to assist with the removal effort along with the effort of the Wildlife Technician. The FY99 trapping season ended June 30 (See Table 4).

Goose platforms were inspected in FY99. Of the 70 usable platforms that were inspect, 57 showed signs of use (81%).

Table 1. Species List for Sterling WMA, 1999.

Birds

Ring-necked Pheasant	Dipper
Grey Partridge	Sage Thrasher
Sharp-tail Grouse	Robin Hermit Thrush
Mourning Dove	Ruby Crowned Kinglet
Yellow Warbler	Cedar Waxwing
Audubon's Warbler	Northern Shrike
McGillivary's Warbler	Loggerhead Shrike
Yellow-breasted Chat	Starling
House Sparrow	Warbling Vireo
Western Meadowlark	Marsh Wren
Brewer's Blackbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Brown Headed Cowbird	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Lazuli Bunting	Blackbird
Evening Growbeak	Blackbird
Cassin's Finch	Common Snipe
American Goldfinch	American Avocet
Green-tailed Towhee	Black-necked Stilt
Rufous-sided Towhee	Western Grebe
Savannah Sparrow	Double-crested Cormorant
Vesper Sparrow	Tundra Swan
Chipping Sparrow	American Coot
Brewer's Sparrow	American White Pelican
Song Sparrow	Herring gull
Oregon Junco	California Gull
Common Night Hawk	Franklin's Gull
Calliope Hummingbird	Forster's Tern
Red Shafted Flicker	Great Blue Heron
Hairy Woodpecker	Black-crowned Night Heron
Eastern Kingbird	Snowy Egret
Western Kingbird	White-faced Ibis
Western Wood Pewee	Killdeer
Horned Lark	Long-billed Curlew
Violet-green Swallow	Willet
Black-billed Magpie	Wilson's Phalarope
Common Raven	Snow Goose
Common Crow	Canada Goose
Black-capped Chickadee	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
 Northern 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
 Black-tailed 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.

1998 Sterling WMA
Systematic Hunter Survey Results

Sample Period	I	II	III	IV	TOTAL
	Opening Weekend	Oct. 19-Nov. 1	Nov. 2 -Nov. 15	Nov. 16 -29 (incl. 11/26)	Oct. 17- Nov.30
Est. # Hunters	154	686	260	309	1409
Est. # Hours	204	1180	470	831	2685
Est. # Pheasants	45 (all w.)	372 (279-pr)	99 (86-pr)	109 (98-pr)	625 (463- pr**)
Est. Birds/hunter	.29	.54	.38	.35	.44
Est. Hours/bird	4.9	3.2	4.7	7.2	4.3
Hours/trip	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.7	1.9

** Does not include 20 pen-reared birds harvested during Youth hunt.

W= Wild birds

PR= Pen-reared birds

Table 3. Muskrat trapping on Sterling WMA.

Year	# of Muskrats
1985	56
1986	300
1987	255
1988	50
1999	81* 37 females 41 males

*Trapper started late.

Table 4. Predator Control Effort

Predator Trapping Effort on Sterling WMA, 1999 (1998)					
Dates	# of Trap Nights	Funds Spent	Predators Caught	Trap Nights/ Predator	\$\$/ Predator
5/1-6/1	341	Approx. \$150**	3 skunks 2 coyotes		
6/1-7/1	243	Approx. \$150**	3 skunks 1 cat 1 coyote		
Total	584 (390)	Approx. \$300** (\$1,600)	6 Skunks (4) 1 cat (1) 3 coyotes (0)	58 (78)	\$30** (\$320)

**Does not include Wildlife Services expenses. Those data were not available at time of report. Estimated WS expenses are \$1,000.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Jerry Deal
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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
3. OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Vegetation Rejuvenation						
Coordinate collection of bitterbrush and sagebrush seed	1322	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, upland game
Coordinate planting of 8,000 bitterbrush and sage brush seedlings on WMAs and other public lands	1322	1 week	1.5 wks	1,500	2,250	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, upland game
Coordinate with Bureau of Land Management to perform controlled burn on Portneuf WMA	1710	.5 week	.5 week	750	750	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, upland game
Monitor vegetation transects on Montpelier, Georgetown, and Portneuf WMAs	1332	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, upland birds
Control noxious weeds on all areas	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	6,000	7,500	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Control Trespass Grazing						
Supervise construction of boundary fence at Portneuf WMA Quinn Creek area	1211	2+ miles 1 week	0 weeks	1,500	0	Submitted plan
Repair and maintain boundary fencing on WMAs and conservation easements	1211	25 miles 3 weeks	25 miles 3 weeks	4,500	4,500	Species benefitted: Elk, waterfowl, cutthroat trout
Management Program - Provide Security						
Maintain winter road/trail closures with gates and signing	1211	.5 week	.5 week	750	750	Species benefitted: Mule deer, elk, moose
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide Access						
Maintain signs and information boards at all WMAs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	
Place/replace boundary markers and other information signs at Georgetown Summit, Montpelier, Portneuf, and Blackfoot River WMAs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	
Provide/maintain access roads/trails and parking areas	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	4,500	3,000	
Control noxious weeds in cooperation with counties	1211	(See winter range)				

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor hunter and angler use, enforce regulations and WMA management policies	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Conducted area user surveys with contacts in field
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	.5 week	750	750	Species benefitted: Bluebird, American kestrel, swallows, bats
Management Program - Monitor Grouse Breeding Populations						
Conduct lek counts and drumming counts	1460	.5 week	.5 week	750	750	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 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	Appended to WMA plans
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	8 projects 2 weeks	13 proj. 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 landownrs 7 weeks	36 land-owners 7 weeks	10,500	10,500	Species benefitted: Upland birds, waterfowl
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluation	1620	15 documents 6 weeks	15 docs 4 weeks	9,000	6,000	
Complete long-term management plans for WMAs	1630	3 weeks	6 weeks	4,500	9,000	
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	9,000	9,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	5 weeks	4 weeks	7,500	6,000	
Management Program - Cooperation With Other Agencies						
Coordinate and meet with citizen working groups associated with Portneuf and Blackfoot River WMAs	1630	1 week	1.5 wks	1,500	2,250	
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	1630	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	\$82,080
Grand Total	\$82,080

NARRATIVE

This project provided 8,000 acres of big game winter range and benefitted 500 wintering elk and 1,000 wintering mule deer. The 1,720-acre Blackfoot River WMA also contributes waterfowl breeding habitat and improved cutthroat trout habitat on several miles of the Blackfoot River. This project provides an estimated 3,000 person-days of hunting opportunity and 1,500 person-days of wildlife viewing and fishing opportunity.

A significant contribution to future management of this project was the completion of long-term management plans for each of the wildlife management areas (WMAs). The vision and goals for each area, based on public comment, were compiled within an accessible standardized format. Information relevant to the land and water resources, plant and animal species, habitat types, and area history of each WMA is also included in appendices to the plans.

Approximately 1,800 acres of big game winter range was purchased in the Soda Hills using mitigation funds. The area is under ownership of the USDI Bureau of Land Management and will be managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe under a Common Share program agreement. Sportsmen will also benefit by improved access.

Portneuf Wildlife Management Area

The Portneuf WMA is a 3,104-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 conducted in March 1999 on 30 acres of high-density sagebrush, with good results in reducing canopy cover in a mosaic pattern and good grass and forb response. Weed control dominated early summer activities, mostly by spot-spraying herbicides and hand removal of Dyer's woad, hoary cress, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, and Dalmation toadflax. Road access was improved by work on gravel surfaces, prisms, culverts, and water crossings at selected locations. Other activities have included fence maintenance, signage improvements, bitterbrush seed collection, and vegetation monitoring. Aerial big game surveys of subunits comprising the Portneuf WMA conducted in December 1998 counted 167 mule deer, 28 elk, and 9 moose. During spring 1999, 9 sharp-tailed grouse were observed on one lek.

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 1,840 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.

In August 1998 a 23-acre parcel was added to the Georgetown Summit WMA through an acquisition by the Monsanto Corporation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The addition provides more big game winter range and resolves a boundary fence problem.

Weed control efforts were continued using herbicides for spot-spraying Dyer's woad, black henbane, and thistle species. Fences were repaired and two new gates were constructed to prevent cattle trespass from neighboring private land. A land-use exchange farming agreement continued to provide food and cover plots for upland birds and resolve access issues for adjacent farmland. Aerial big game surveys during February 1999 sighted 34 mule deer, 17 elk, and 1 moose on Georgetown Summit WMA.

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 2,080 acres of winter range for big game, including 800 acres leased from the Idaho Department of Lands and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 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.

Weed control efforts on Montpelier WMA included release of insects for biological control of leafy spurge, and spot-spraying herbicides for control of Dyer's woad, thistle species, black henbane, and leafy spurge. Other activities entailed maintenance on the parking area, fences and signs, and vegetation monitoring. An aerial elk survey conducted in February 1999 sighted 158 elk in the subunit which includes Montpelier WMA.

Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area

The Blackfoot River WMA is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Soda Springs and includes 1,720 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, USDI Bureau of Land Management, 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.

FMC Corporation obtained permission to commence phosphate exploration on their Rassmussen Ridge mineral lease along the north boundary of Blackfoot River WMA under a joint Environmental Assessment issued by the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. The exploration will involve access road and drill pad construction, as well as drilling test holes. The project will be completed by November 2000.

Three species of insects were released to control thistle species in riparian areas, and herbicides were spot-sprayed to control yellow toadflax in upland areas. Approximately 7 miles of fence was maintained to reduce trespass grazing, and one-half mile of new fence was constructed.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Steve Schmidt
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Upper Snake Region Wildlife Habitat Management Supervision

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Supervise habitat program in Upper Snake Region for 5 habitat management districts, 6 wildlife management areas, and 52 access areas. Supervise 9 permanent personnel (3 as second-in-line supervisor). Third-line supervisor to 6-9 temporary employees.	1630	18 weeks	18 wks	30,438	29,715	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. Revisit and update 6 long-range WMA plans.	1620	8 weeks	8 weeks	13,528	13,207	Species benefitted: Same as above
Maintain files and records, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchase requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	9 weeks	9 weeks	15,219	14,857	Species benefitted: Same as above
Other duties (as assigned) Department representative for South Fork Fee Program interagency committee	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	6,764	6,603	Species benefitted: Same as above

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Regional Computer Coordinator						
GIS/GPS Data Coordinator						
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	7 weeks 75 projects	7 weeks	10,146	11,556	Species benefitted: Same as above
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	1 week 20 agreements	1 week	3,389	1,651	Species benefitted: Same as above

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$62,141
Outside Funds (License & DJ)	15,448
Grand Total	\$77,589

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 or Manager) for the wildlife habitat section in the Upper Snake Region. The regional office for the Regional Habitat Manager is located in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The regional wildlife habitat section has several principal responsibilities: 1) administer all the Department-owned wildlife management areas in the region; 2) administer all the 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) administer the Department's Adopt A Wetland Program; and 6) provide the region's analysis, review, and formal or informal responses to projects submitted to the Department's regional office by other state and federal agencies, or private entities. As such, the Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager oversees wildlife habitat management in the Upper Snake Region. This position typically supervises 9 full-time permanent employees and 7-9 seasonal employees. One wildlife technician position was cut from the Department and, therefore, the manager now supervises 8 permanent employees. This includes the supervision of five regional wildlife habitat biologists, one utility craftsman (access area coordinator), one senior land manager, and one wildlife technician. 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 Cartier Slough WMA. In addition, the region is involved in the administration of 51 fishing and boating access areas. Three new management areas have been added to the region. They are the Deer Parks, Kinghorn 1, and Kinghorn 2 Wildlife Mitigation Units. These projects were acquired using Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds. The WMUs are held in fee title by BLM but managed by agreement by this section of IDFG. The Upper Snake Habitat Section now manages over 81,000 acres of wildlife habitat as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), and Wildlife Mitigation Units (WMUs).

Management Plans

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

A significant amount of time was spent during this fiscal year on the implementation of the Department's Sage Grouse Management Plan and, specifically, the Upper Snake Local Working Group which will implement the plan.

The manager has also taken the lead position for the Department on developing the Resource Management Plan for the USBOR lands on the Tex Creek and Cartier Slough WMAs.

The RWHM is also the lead regional staff for the interagency South Fork Fee Program.

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. An 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 Wildlife Habitat Manager. The section's routine reports are prepared and/or approved by the Manager. 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 conducted by the RWHM. The RWHM also assists staff with various field projects as needed.

Other Duties

The Manager also functions as the region's computer coordinator and spends considerable time assisting other staff with computer or network problems. The coordinator's position has evolved to include that of regional GIS/GPS data coordinator as well. Many hours are 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. Routine Department meetings and training occur periodically.

Provide Project Review and Recommendations

The region's wildlife habitat section is responsible for providing the region's analysis, review, and formal or informal responses to projects submitted to the IDFG regional office by other state and federal agencies, or private entities. During this report period, the Manager with input from the habitat staff completed recommendations on approximately 75 projects submitted to the Idaho Falls regional office. These projects ranged from USDA Forest Service timber sales to BLM grazing allotment plans, to reviewing private developers' plans for new subdivisions.

Administer Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

The Manager supervises the efforts of the regional habitat section in the administration of the Department's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) in the Upper Snake Region. The annual goals and objectives of the region's HIP program are established by the Manager. Project types and prototype designs are developed by the Manager and implemented by the regional wildlife habitat biologists. The Manager approves all HIP cost-sharing agreements with private landowners in the region. The Manager maintains the regional HIP database and oversees the annual regional HIP budget. Due to budget cutbacks, the HIP program was severely curtailed during this fiscal year. Funding was reduced for new cooperative cost-share agreements.

Funding

The RWHM's salary is currently funded by 10 months of PR dollars and 2 months of DJ dollars. The operating budget for this fiscal year came from IDFG license dollars.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Jim Moore
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Upper Snake 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. Repair west slough dike/road system.	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,636	3,933	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. Repair west slough dike system at Mud Lake.	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,481	2,950	Species benefitted: Same as above
Maintain fences	1211	1 week	4 weeks	1,159	983	Species benefitted: Same as above
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,159	983	Species benefitted: Same as above

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Control vegetation	1211	1 week	1 week	1,159	983	Species benefitted: Same as above
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc. Develop/ update management plans.	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,318	1,976	Species benefitted: Same as above
Misc. construction or maintenance projects (as assigned)	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	5,799	4,917	Species benefitted: Same as above

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$16,716
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$16,716

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. Roadside mowing was done as required. Culverts were kept in working condition. Cattle guards were cleaned as needed.

Dike Maintenance

Repaired the West Slough dike road.

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

Vegetation Control

Assisted Mud Lake WMA personnel with weed spraying.

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.

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 Palisades Creek.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Don Kemner
 Assistant: Mark Sands
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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. UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING
4. BIG GAME WINTERING
5. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
6. NONGAME PRODUCTION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Water manipulation and vegetation control						
Develop a water manipulation schedule for marshes; monitor and control water levels	1440	10.4 weeks 10 sites 3 weeks	13.25 weeks	9,000 3,000	13,000	Species benefitted: CITE, CAGO, MALL, GADW See Narrative
Vegetation community monitoring/surveys	1322	3 weeks	0	3,000	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NOPI, REDH See Narrative

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Use fire, mechanical, or chemical methods to enhance vegetation structural diversity in marshes	1322	1 week 300 acres 1 week	1 week 300 ac.	3,000 1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, RUDU
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures/production surveys						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	1 week 61 platforms	0.5 wk 61 pltf	800	500	Species benefitted: CAGO
Pair/brood surveys at Chilly Slough	1460	4 weeks 1 project	0	4,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, REDH, CAGO
Conduct nest searches for overwater nesters	1460	2 weeks 1 project	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, RUDU, REDH, CANV
Management Program - Cover plantings						
Establish plots of nesting cover and irrigate	1322	4 weeks 20 acres	3 wks	6,000	4,500	Species benefitted: NSHO, NOPI, BWTE, MALL
Management Program - Enhance visitor access						
Maintain closures during nesting season	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, LESC, CANV, REDH
Control vehicle access to promote better quality hunting	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Management Program - Planting, mowing and irrigation						
Plant 20 acres of small grains, irrigate, and mow	1322	4 weeks 20 acres	2 wks	5,000	2,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, LSGO, Elk
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1211	1.5 weeks	2 wks	2,000	3,000	Species benefitted: CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Disease monitoring and control						
Monitor for botulism and avian cholera outbreaks	1410	1 week 1 project	1 week	3,000	2,500	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, AGWT, NSHO
Disease control and cleanup	1211	4 weeks 2 weeks	4.5 wks	5,000 2,000	6,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Survey for lead shot	1410	0	1 week	0	1,300	Species benefitted: Tundra Swans, Trumpeter Swans
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Monitor harvest						
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	2 weeks 4 stations 2 weeks	2 weeks 4 statn	2,000 2,000	2,500	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, NSHO, NOPI
NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Monitor use						
Nongame bird surveys at Chilly Slough	1460	2 weeks	0	2,000	0	Species benefitted: Mtn. bluebird, Sandhill crane, long-billed curlew
Bat survey at Chilly Slough	1460	0	0.5 wk	0	1,000	
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide tours and information programs						
Develop self-guided tour route and informational displays	1630	2 weeks	1.5 wks	5,000	2,500	Species benefitted: peregrine falcon, CAGO, MALL, NOPI

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide guided tours of the WMA and present programs on the WMA	1630	3 weeks	0.5 wks	2,800	700	Species benefitted: MALL, peregrine falcon, CANV, white-faced ibis
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation rehabilitation						
Plant 10 acres of corn or sorghum and irrigate	1322	3 weeks 5 acres	0	4,500	0	Species benefitted: CAGO, mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge. Performed by sharecropper.
Management Program - Population Monitoring						
Sage grouse lek survey	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Species benefitted: sage grouse
Upland bird surveys	1460	1 week		1,000	0	Species benefitted: Gray partridge, pheasants. Conducted by volunteers
Sandhill crane surveys	1460	0	1 week	0	1,000	
Release game farm pheasants	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Hunters
Management Program - Signing						
Repair, replace, and purchase directional, informational, and regulatory signs	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,800	1,800	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Elk, peregrine falcon
BIG GAME WINTERING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation manipulation						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Winter feeding/depredations	1480	1 week	0	1,000	0	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Control noxious weeds	1211	5 weeks 1,000 acres	4 wks 750 ac.	8,500	7,250	Species benefitted: MALL, GADW, CAGO, Elk
Maintain 12 miles of fence	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sage thrashed, Brewers sparrow
Maintain 17 miles of road	1211	2 weeks	0	3,500	0	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Repair and/or replace water control structures/rails	1211	1 week 2 structures	1 week	6,000	2,000	Species benefitted: REDH, GADW, MALL, CANV
Equipment maintenance	1211	3 weeks	6 wks	5,305	10,075	
Maintain 8 miles of dikes	1211	3 weeks	0	5,000	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE
Management Program - Technical Assistance						
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	3 weeks 3 weeks	3 weeks	4,600 3,000	4,500	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, LESC, CANV
Assist landowners	1720	1 week 30 inquiries 9 weeks	2 weeks 12 inqu	2,000 7,919	3,700	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, CAGO, MALL
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	8 weeks 40 proposals	4 weeks 21 prop	8,000	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks 6 plans 5 weeks	4 weeks	3,000 5,000	4,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CANV, REDH, NOPI
Maintain files, prepare monthly and annual reports, budgets	1630	5 weeks 4 reports 3 weeks	3 weeks	3,500 3,000	3,000	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Training	1630	3 weeks 3 weeks	1.65 wk	3,500 3,000	1,700	MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
*Other duties as assigned	1630	0	8 weeks	0	9,000	See note below

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$60,152
Other Funds (License Dollars)	84,919
Grand Total	\$145,071

*Other Duties: Sage grouse trapping, sage grouse local working group meetings, moose capture, elk trapping, fisheries survey, fish spawning, assistance to other WMAs, hunter education classes, duty officer, staff meetings.

NARRATIVE

Market Lake Wildlife Management Area was established in 1956 by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to provide habitat for waterfowl, a hunting area for the public, and public access to those wishing to view wildlife in a natural setting. The WMA presently encompasses 5,071 acres of land that provides a combination of wetlands, sagebrush-dominated uplands, and river bottom habitat for wildlife.

A portion of the management area is used to raise agricultural crops. Small grains and corn are left unharvested and are consumed by wintering wildlife and waterfowl migrating during spring. Hay is used to bait big game to prevent depredations on private property.

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

Personnel

The Senior Wildlife Technician position was vacant for 11 months of the fiscal year. The loss of the position has reduced the number of projects that can be performed on the WMA. Volunteers were solicited to assist with work on the WMA.

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.

Fourteen acres of small grain and corn were left unharvested for use by upland birds and staging waterfowl. Approximately 5,000 snow geese and 1,500 ducks fed in the grain fields for 1.5 weeks during spring migration.

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 were 185-acres of suitable residual seeded upland vegetation available for duck 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. Only one elk was seen on the WMA during the winter. Elk were not seen during fall or spring migration.

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:

Two bald eagles wintered on the WMA and 6 eagles were observed during spring migration. One peregrine falcon was seen on the WMA in April 1998. Falcons did not use the nesting tower on the WMA.

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.

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION

Water Manipulation and Vegetation Control

Water levels in the marshes were measured weekly. Levels are measured to: maintain consistent levels during the waterfowl nesting season, provide good duck hunting opportunity in the fall, and control excess water in the winter and spring.

A beaver dammed a drainage culvert in the Van Leuven slough in October 1998. The slough backed up and caused water levels to increase in the Main Marsh. A track-hoe was hired to remove the dam. Water was pumped into the desert for 3 weeks in November to create storage capacity in the marsh for winter flows.

On August 29, 1998, 16.6 acres of cattails in Marsh 3 were treated with Rodeo herbicide. The herbicide was applied by an airplane. The treatment has opened up a dense stand of cattails and has increased the feeding, nesting, and loafing habitat for ducks and wading birds.

Approximately 300 acres of cattails in East Springs Marsh, Marsh 3, and Marsh 4 were burned in March 1998.

Vegetation monitoring was not conducted in 1998-1999 due to a shortage of labor.

Construction of Nesting Structures/Production Surveys

All goose nesting platforms were serviced. Two Adopt-A-Wetland groups assisted with this project.

Canada goose pairs on the WMA were counted by aerial survey on May 22, 1999 (Table 1). The aerial survey was conducted late in May due to poor weather conditions in April. All geese had completed nesting when the survey was conducted. The 1998 survey should not be considered as a good representation of pairs using the WMA.

Table 1. Canada goose indicated breeding pairs counted on Market Lake WMA 1989-1999.

Indicated Pairs											% Change from	% Change from previous 10-year Average
1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1998 to 1999	(1989-1998)
88	75	115	80		91	136		92	53	26	-51%	-72%

Brood surveys at Chilly Slough were not conducted because Chilly Slough was transferred to the Mud Lake district.

Overwater nest searches were not conducted due to a shortage of labor.

Cover Plantings

All existing nesting cover was irrigated 1-2 times during July-September 1998. New nesting cover was not planted due to a shortage of labor.

Enhance Visitor Access

Signs to control public use of the WMA during nesting season, big game wintering seasons, and hunting seasons were posted and maintained. The WMA was patrolled 1-3 times per week for law enforcement purposes. Littering and vandalism greatly increased during this report period.

Planting, Mowing, and Irrigation

Six acres of small grains were irrigated during July and August 1998. The grain was left standing through the winter as a food plot for wildlife. Also, 14 acres of grain and corn planted and irrigated by a sharecropper was left standing for wildlife. Fewer acres of grain were planted due to a shortage of labor.

Dikes were mowed in June and July to create grazing areas for Canada geese. Fewer dikes were mowed due to a shortage of labor.

Disease Monitoring and Control

WMA personnel monitored and searched the marshes for sick or dead birds during July and August, 1998. A botulism outbreak occurred in marsh number 3. One hundred eighty dead ducks were picked up in Marsh 3 (Table 2). The water was drained out of Marsh 3 to stop the die-off. It took 2 weeks to drain the marsh. The die-off stopped once the marsh was dry. One hundred forty-five dead ducks were picked up before the marsh was drained. Only 35 dead ducks were found during the 2-week draw-down.

Table 2. Number of dead ducks picked up in Marsh 3.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of ducks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	96	180

Three trumpeter swans died at the WMA in early April 1999. Two carcasses of the three dead swans were shipped fresh to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Necropsy results indicate the swans died of lead poisoning.

No other sick or dead waterfowl were found in the marshes during searches through April 15, 1999. All swans had migrated from the WMA by April 7, except for the three swans found dead. The swans that died in 1999 were found in the east pool of East Springs Marsh. This is the same area where dead swans were found in 1998.

Thirty soil samples were collected in two areas of East Springs Marsh on October 27, 1998. The samples were 3-4 inches deep and 3 inches in diameter. Twenty of the 30 samples were collected from the southern portion of East Springs Marsh. Ten samples were collected from the juncus meadow and cattails east of the east pool. One sample, collected in a thick stand of cattails, had 2 lead pellets.

Ninety-six samples were collected from the east pool between April 16 and September 4, 1999. A sample was collected every 100 feet along a grid across the east pool. Samples were up to 10 inches deep and were 4 inches in diameter. Samples were under water depths of 2-30 inches.

Ten of the samples contained lead shot pellets. Pellets included number 4, 5, 6, and 7½ shot. All samples with shot were collected from the middle of the pool.

Samples were collected and processed by volunteers and WMA personnel.

WATERFOWL HUNTING

Monitor Harvest

Two check stations for waterfowl hunters were conducted on opening day (October 3) of duck season (Table 3). Stations were open between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Table 3. Number of waterfowl hunters and harvest reported at check stations^a on opening day of waterfowl season during 1989-1998.

Year	Number of Hunters	Hours Hunting	Ducks Harvested	Average Number of Ducks/Hunter	Average Hours/Duck
1989	85	276	46	0.54	6.00
1990	NO DATA				
1991	93	394	212	2.27	1.85
1992	88	397	194	2.40	1.80
1993 ^b	23	102	47	2.04	1.80
1994 ^b	33	154	83	2.50	1.86
1995	29	112	74	2.55	1.51
1996	19	78.5	55	2.89	1.43
1997	53	158	111	2.09	1.42
1998	55	218.5	179	3.25	1.22

^a Hunter check stations at East Springs parking lot and Sandy Marsh parking lot.

^b Data in 1993 and 1994 is only for a check station at the Sandy Marsh parking lot.

NONGAME PRODUCTION

Monitor Use

Nongame bird surveys at Chilly Slough were conducted under a contract between an individual and the Bureau of Land Management.

Mist netting for bats at Chilly Slough was conducted on August 28-29, 1998. No bats were caught.

A survey for nesting corvids and raptors was conducted on May 19-20, 1999, by Americorps volunteers. All nests in trees within A) the southern portion of Triangle Marsh, B) north shelterbelts, C) Van Leuven homesite and west of the railroad tracks, and D) near headquarters were checked for signs of nesting activity.

Twenty active nests, 12, 2, 1, and 5, respectively, were found in areas A, B, C, and D. A total of 49 hatchlings were counted, and one nest had 3 eggs. Two active nests were not checked due to aggressive adult magpies.

Two great-horned owls fledged from a nest in the west shelterbelt of the North Ag fields. An active long-eared owl nest was found in the east shelterbelt of the North Ag fields. The young did not fledge.

Members of the local Audubon Club checked 22 bluebird nest boxes for nesting birds (Table 4). Eighteen boxes were used by tree swallows. Bluebirds do not nest on the WMA.

Table 4. Number of bluebird nest boxes on Market Lake WMA used by nesting birds.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of boxes	16 ^a	19 ^a	17 ^a	10 ^a	18 ^b

^a 20 nest boxes were available.

^b 22 nest boxes were available.

Ringed-billed gulls nested on an island in Marsh 1. Thirty young-of-the-year gulls were counted on the island on July 8, 1999. Most of the young were fledged.

Ten bat boxes, 17 bluebird nesting boxes, and 5 kestrel nest boxes were constructed and installed on the WMA by volunteers.

WILDLIFE APPRECIATION

Provide Tours and Information Programs

Eighty-five people attended a waterfowl hunting workshop held on the WMA on September 26, 1998 (Table 5). The workshop was sponsored by Idaho Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, and Eastern Idaho Retriever's Club. Seminars and demonstrations included: duck and goose calling, decoying, using retriever dogs, shotgun patterning and instructions, duck identification, and judging distances.

Table 5. Attendance at the Waterfowl Hunting Workshop.

	1995	1996	1998
Number in attendance	115	92	85

Fifty-three people were guided on bird watching tours of the WMA on International Migratory Bird Day on May 15 (Table 6). The activities were co-sponsored by Idaho Fish and Game, Snake River Audubon Club, Targhee National Forest, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Table 6. Attendance at International Migratory Bird Day on Market Lake WMA.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Attendance	350	250	300	83	53

During the spring waterfowl migration, approximately 6,000 people visited the WMA. Tours were conducted by Americorps volunteers for 1,010 school children visiting the WMA during May (Table 7). Topics discussed during the tours were: wetlands, wildlife management, and wildlife identification.

Table 7. Number of people given guided tours of Market Lake WMA.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of people	300	600	1,000	1,300	1,010

UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING

Planting and Vegetation Rehabilitation

Five acres of corn and 20 acres of small grain were planted by a sharecropper. The crops will be left standing through the 1999-2000 winter as wildlife forage. The crops will be mowed down in late February 2000 to be fed upon by migrating waterfowl.

Population Monitoring

Sage grouse leks on adjacent federal land were surveyed in the spring of 1998 (Table 8).

Table 8. Male sage grouse counted on the Market Lake WMA lek route 1990-1999.

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	10-Year Average
31	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	26	30	30	30

A pheasant crow count route along the Main Marsh and Triangle Marsh roads (maps in files) was conducted by a volunteer on April 18, April 24, May 1, and May 21, 1999. The survey indicated a minimum of 4 roosters along the route.

The East Springs - Headquarters pheasant crow count route was not conducted due to a lack of enough labor.

A pheasant brood route was not conducted. However, 2 broods were seen on the WMA, one each near the Van Leuven homesite and headquarters.

A sandhill crane survey was conducted on April 27, May 7, May 14, June 24, and September 16, 1999 (Table 9). Five pairs of cranes were found on the WMA. A minimum of 2 colts fledged. Surveys were conducted by volunteers and WMA personnel.

Table 9. Indicated pairs of sandhill cranes on Market Lake WMA.

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Pairs	2	6	NC	5

Game farm raised rooster pheasants were released on the WMA during October and November 1998 (Table 10). The pheasants are released for hunting purposes only.

Table 10. Number of game farm rooster pheasants released on Market Lake WMA for hunting purposes.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of roosters	200	342	335	260	285

Signs to control visitor access and maintain safe areas for nesting birds and wintering big game were repaired or replaced. Vandalism to signs increased during this report period.

BIG GAME WINTERING

Planting and Vegetation Manipulation

No time was spent on winter feeding or depredations. However, two days were spent on moving moose out of Idaho Falls. This time is reported under "other duties as assigned."

ADMINISTRATION

Maintain Improvements

Noxious weeds continue to be a problem on the WMA. Noxious weeds on the WMA include: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), Whitetop (*Cardaria pubescens*).

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. Approximately 750 acres were treated with herbicides by spot spraying or broadcast spraying. Approximately 9 miles of roads and dikes were mowed as a method of weed suppression. Three new noxious weeds were found on the WMA in July and August 1998. The weeds are spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esala*). The three infestations were one or a few plants. All were treated.

Boundary fences were checked and repaired. Americorps volunteers removed 6 miles of old interior fence on the WMA.

Roads were not maintained due to a shortage of labor and funds. However, waste pavement removed from Interstate 15 was used to pave 2.7 miles of road along the Main Marsh. The pavement was constructed by a private company at no cost to the WMA.

Handrails were constructed on two water control structures. The rails increase safe use of structures by WMA personnel.

All buildings, houses, and equipment were maintained. Repairs to the chimney of a WMA house was completed. The outside of a WMA house was painted.

A steel intake pipe was installed on the Cat pump. The pipe replaces a rubber intake hose which was difficult to install. The pipe improved pumping ability.

An 8-bay storage shed was constructed for use by fish access, depredations, and the WMA. Americorps volunteers and a prison crew constructed the shed.

A concrete containment vessel was constructed around the two 300-gallon overhead fuel tanks. The vessel is a safety measure against fuel spills and leaks.

An outhouse accessible to persons with disabilities with a wheelchair-sized sidewalk was constructed in the Sandy Marsh parking lot.

One mile of trail along the Sandy Marsh was constructed by Americorps volunteers. The trail was used by 1,000 school children on tours in May.

Construction of a trail accessible to persons with disabilities was started through the west shelterbelt in the North Ag fields. The trail will be completed in FY 2000.

Technical Assistance

Several meetings with BLM, Forest Service, private organizations, and citizens were attended.

Technical assistance was given to 12 landowners. Landowners were interested in developing habitat for wildlife on their property. Projects that landowners were interested in were: winter cover for upland birds (n=6), winter food plots for upland birds (n=1), and wetland projects (n=5).

Twenty-one project proposals by Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service were reviewed for impacts on wildlife and hunting. Comments were provided on all the proposals. Project proposals were: 1 hunting outfitter permit, 1 prescribed burn, 1 mine tailings cleanup, 1 pipeline installation, 12 livestock grazing allotments, 2 fence constructions, 1 fire rehab, and 1 BLM Resource Area EIS.

Administrative Duties

A final evaluation of the Senior Wildlife Technician was written. Annual reports and plans for the WMA were written. Safety training and law enforcement training classes were attended.

Several weeks were spent conducting "duties as assigned." These duties included: sage grouse trapping, sage grouse local working group meetings, moose capture, elk trapping, fisheries survey, fish spawning, assistance to other WMAs, hunter education classes, duty officer, and staff meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Environmental Conditions

October and November 1998 were warm and dry. The marshes usually freeze by November 10; however, the marshes did not freeze until December 5, 1998. The warm weather allowed an extra month of waterfowl hunting on the WMA.

April and May 1999 were below average temperatures. Waterfowl nesting appeared to be 10-14 days later than normal. The first goose brood was not seen until May 1; whereas, the first brood is usually seen around April 20.

June 1999 was hot and dry. The marshes lost 3-4 inches of water depth due to evaporation.

Sharecrop Agreement

A one-year sharecrop agreement was signed to farm 93 acres. Per the agreement, the Department will receive 33% of the hay and 33% 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. The sharecrop agreement is renewed for 2 more years.

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 an 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 assisted with several projects on the WMA (Table 11). Volunteer labor will be vital to accomplishing projects on the WMA during paid labor shortages in the future.

Two Adopt-A-Wetland groups donated 50 hours doing maintenance on goose nesting platforms.

The Snake River Audubon Society donated 41 hours planning International Migratory Bird Day and 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 6 hours showing birds of prey at International Migratory Bird Day.

A volunteer donated 12.5 hours of service conducting a pheasant crow count route on the WMA.

Three volunteers donated 60 hours collecting soil samples from East Springs Marsh. The samples were tested for lead shot.

A volunteer donated 9 hours collecting dead ducks during the botulism die-off.

Thirteen Americorps volunteers donated 2,691 hours of labor in April and May 1999. The volunteers did the following activities: painted a house; constructed a shed, an outhouse, and trails; removed 6 miles of old fence and constructed 1.25 miles of fence; conducted surveys for nesting corvids, raptors, and sandhill cranes; gave tours to 1,010 school children; collected and processed soil samples for lead shot; and constructed bird nesting boxes and a picnic table.

Table 11. Number of volunteer hours of labor donated to projects on Market Lake WMA.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of hours	50	550	160	167	2,843.5

PLANNED PROJECTS

Host International Migratory Bird Day in May 2000.

Host Waterfowl Workshop Day in September 2000.

Maintain roads, dikes, water control structures and fences.

Conduct prescribed burn of 80 acres of juncus meadows during spring 2000.

Conduct prescribed burns in Marsh 3, Marsh 4, Marsh 1, and East Springs Marsh during fall 1999 and spring 2000.

Finish handicap accessible trail.

Install informational signs and displays.

Work on winter water disposal project.

Conduct searches for waterfowl nests.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Tom Maeder
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1322	1 week 80 acres	1 week 80 acres	6,000	3,121	Russian knapweed will be controlled on the WMA. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Plant nesting cover	1322	1 week 40 acres	0	3,500	0	Nesting cover will be planted in east sloughs. Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
This activity was put on hold due to decreased funding.						MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Fence improvement This activity was put on hold due to decreased funding.	1211	1 week 1 mile	0	1,500	0	Fence will be replaced to protect waterfowl nesting habitat. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Road Closure	1211	1 week	0.2 week	1,000	398	West slough roads will be closed to minimize disturbance to breeding waterfowl. Species benefitted: MALL, REDH, LESC, CAGO
Management Program - Enhance overwater nesting cover and provide brood habitat						
Flood west slough This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1211	1 week	1 week	10,400	3,000	The Jernberg well will be operated to flood west slough. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Monitor hydrophyte development in west slough This activity was put on hold due to decreased funding.	1211	1 week	0	1,000	0	Water levels and plant growth in west slough will be monitored so the needs of breeding waterfowl are met. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Coordinate with Canal Company	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate wetland and lake water levels with Canal Company. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CAGO, CANV
Fence maintenance	1211	1 week	1 week	2,500	2,500	Maintain fences to protect wetlands. Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	3 weeks	1.7 wks 10 new goose pltfms	4,000	400	Repair nest structures, replace nest structures, and replace nesting material. Species benefitted: CAGO, WODU, mountain bluebird, American kestrel
Management Program - Control waterfowl diseases						
Monitor for and control disease outbreaks	1410	1 week	0.7 week	1,000	178	Regularly patrol WMA to monitor for waterfowl disease outbreaks. Species benefitted: MALL, LSGO, RUDU, CANV
WEED CONTROL						
Management program - Weed control						
Irrigate and harvest alfalfa	1322	5.5 weeks 273 acres	3.5 wks 337 acre	24,000	24,000	Assistance to sharecropper in farming north agricultural fields. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, CAGO
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate weed control activities with county weed supervisor, extension services, canal company, and High Country RC&D. Species benefitted: AMWI, CITE, NSHO, NOPI

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Evaluate control methods This activity was put on hold due to decreased funding.	1211	1 week	0	1,000	0	Monitor weed control methods. Species benefitted: GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management program - Road and water level improvements						
Improve roads and access areas	1211	3 weeks	7.9 wks	3,000	9,000	Maintain 2 access areas and 1 wildlife observation area with associated facilities and roads. Species benefitted: Double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, great egret
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinate with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and access with canal company. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, NOPI, CANV
Management program - Monitor harvest						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1430	0.5 week	0.5 wks	1,000	500	Monitor waterfowl harvest and WMA use through hunter checks. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Evaluate nongame production						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Enhance public information program						
Conduct tours	1211	1 week 10 tours	1 week	1,000	1,000	Conduct 10 WMA tours for scouts, schools, and other interested groups. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, REDH, white-faced ibis
Management Program - Service depredation complaints						
Service depredation complaints and repair zon guns	1720	1 week	0.5 wk	1,000	500	Assist landowners with wildlife depredation complaints. Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, moose, white-faced ibis
Monitor and evaluate depredation problems This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1720	0.5 week	0	1,000	0	Monitor waterfowl use on local landowner property. Species benefitted: CAGO, LSGO, MALL, NOPI
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Enhance upland game production						
Control knapweed infestation This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1322	1 week 25 acres	1 week 25 acres	2,500	1,000	Control Russian knapweed in east slough. Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Plant 5-20 acres of winter food plots This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1322	1 week 5-20 acres	0.5 wk 5 acres	2,100	758	Plant corn or millet food plots on north agricultural fields, west agricultural fields, and along south lake shore. Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Management Program - Upland game hunting						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest This activity was reduced due to decreased funding.	1430	0.5 week	0.5 wk	1,000	270	Monitor upland game harvest and WMA use through hunter checks. Species benefitted: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Check water levels and dikes This activity was put on hold due to decreased funding.	1211	0.5 week	0	1,000	0	Monitor water levels and repair and maintain dikes. Species benefitted: REDH, CANV, MALL, LESC
Maintain fence	1211	3 weeks 33 miles	0.3 wk 33 miles	4,000	348	Repair and maintain fences. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Maintain road	1211	1 week 18 miles	3.9 wks 18 miles	6,000	4,710	Repair and maintain roads. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain dikes NOT NEEDED	1211	1 week 5 miles	0	7,000	0	Repair and maintain dikes. Species benefitted: REDH, MALL, CANV, LESC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain buildings	1211	3 weeks	6.8 wks	9,000	8,976	Repair and maintain headquarters, shops, and access areas. Species benefitted: LSGO, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Maintain equipment	1211		1.8 wks		4,300	Repair and maintain trucks, tractors, ATV, and snowmobile.
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	6 weeks	2.1 wks	6,000	2,258	Perform duties of regional habitat biologist in the Mud Lake habitat district. Species benefitted: Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, sage grouse
Assist landowners with wildlife projects	1720	2.5 weeks	0.2 wk	3,500	719	Assist landowners with HIP projects and other wildlife habitat concerns. Species benefitted: Gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, MALL, CAGO
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1710	3 weeks 20 projects 30 meetings	4 weeks 9 proj 12 mtgs	4,000	6,500	Assist other agencies on wildlife/habitat projects and attend meetings on habitat issues. Species benefitted: Sage grouse, elk, sharp-tailed grouse, mountain goat
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks	4.6 wks	4,000	11,000	Work on WMA planning, progress, review, and evaluation reports. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
						CAGO, REDH
Maintain files, prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	13 weeks	4,500	12,083	General WMA operations. Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 weeks	15.9 wks	2,624	13,068	Species benefitted: MALL, NOPI, CAGO, sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$65,787
Outside Funds (License)	47,800
Grand Total	\$113,587

NARRATIVE

Mud Lake WMA

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

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

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

Wildlife

The WMA was acquired to provide additional breeding and nesting areas for waterfowl and produces over 3,000 waterfowl a year. The WMA is primarily managed for breeding and migrating waterfowl. Although Mud Lake has a high potential for producing waterfowl, flooding is a frequent problem. The lake is used for storing irrigation water, and most years the lake level rises after incubation has started. The Department has built many islands, but wave action, ice, and flooding have eroded many of them. Nesting platforms have been constructed above the high-water line, and have increased goose production on the WMA. Weed management will also be a high priority, as Russian knapweed has taken over some waterfowl nesting areas.

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

Pheasant populations declined drastically during the early 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 fish kill during the winter of 1992-1993. Because Mud Lake is so shallow, the possibility of another kill is high. The lake has been restocked with large-mouth bass, yellow perch, Lahontan cutthroat trout, brown trout, tiger muskie, bluegill, and channel catfish. It presently supports mainly a yellow perch and Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery, with Utah chubs and suckers still common species.

Public Use

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% of the harvest is game farm cocks planted on the farmland on the north side of the lake. Interior roads in the pheasant hunting area have been open to the public during the season.

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

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

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

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

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

1998-1999 Conditions

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 there was a strong re-nesting effort. Waterfowl that nested real early or real late did well.

Over 50 dead birds were picked up in West Sloughs in September. Species included eared-grebes, coots, white-faced ibis, and ducks – mostly mallards and green-winged teal. One black-bellied plover was also recovered. Botulism was the probable cause with very warm weather and no continuous supply of fresh water.

Waterfowl hunting on the WMA was good. Water levels dropped throughout the hunting season as the Mud Lake Water Users dropped the lake to do dike repairs.

More wild pheasants were seen in 1998 and 1999 than in 1992, especially hens. Several mild winters in a row are the likely cause of the increase. An increase in sightings of gray partridge was noted in 1999.

The Bybee springs flowed all winter and created open water on Camas Creek and a small portion of Mud Lake for most of the winter.

A wet spring has resulted in very good grass conditions, though the dry summer has resulted in little to modest regrowth after grazing.

Peregrine falcons did not nest in the nesting tower. This may be due to the presence of great-horned owls in the tower for a short period early in the nesting season.

In 1999 a late run-off from snow melt created flooding that resulted in the loss of many waterfowl nests. As of August it appears there was a strong renesting effort. Waterfowl that nested real early or real late did well.

There was a lot of run-off in 1999. Mud Lake Water Users were allowed to flood both West and East sloughs. The dike road along Sparks Canal was cut to increase flood flows into West Sloughs. The dike along the South Shore showed signs of failure in 3 places – the Mud Lake Water Users and Levee District fixed these areas.

There was an increase in the sightings of white-tailed deer and moose on the WMA. Many hunters commented on the moose and enjoyed seeing them.

1998-1999 Projects

Weed control activities continued on approximately 60 acres of the WMA. A test plot was established in East Sloughs with Cyanamid to test the effects of Plateau herbicide on knapweed.

The 1-year sharecrop 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.

Resurfaced portions of the Canal Road with the Mud Lake Water Users.

Constructed 3 new racks for irrigation pipes.

Installed 3 new informational displays and 7 new information boxes.

Installed 6 hunter survey boxes.

Sealed part of headquarter's basement floor and perforated the sump well to prevent flooding.

Installed new water heater in headquarters.

Installed new electric heaters in shop.

Added fire rings to the South Boat Ramp.

Continued sharecrop activities on the North Agricultural Fields.

Roads on Mackenzie Point, Cormorant Bay, Headquarters Bay, North Point, South Bay, Duck Trap Point, and Green Island were mowed for sportsman access.

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

Installed 10 new goose platforms along the North Shore.

Over one hundred goose structures were maintained.

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

1999-2000 Planned Projects

Plan to continue to develop an agreement with Mud lake Water Users to deliver IDFG to the far western portion of west sloughs.

Plan on installing a water control structures in West Sloughs to create more wetlands if an agreement with Mud Lake Water Users can be reached.

Will continue to control weeds.

Build irrigation pipe racks.

Remodel headquarter's 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 sharecrop activities.

Plan on expanding North Boat Ramp camping facilities.

Will try to disc open some bulrush choked wetland.

Will try to replace 2 miles of boundary fence.

Mud Lake Habitat District

Objective

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

1998-1999 Projects

A. U.S. Forest Service

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 includes sagebrush treatments, aspen treatments, and Douglas fir cutting. This plan includes the Minners Creek timber sale.

Provided IDFG comments for the Scott/Mahogany allotment livestock conversion. These allotments will be converted from sheep to cattle use and area grazed and AUMs will be reduced. This should improve habitat for local bighorn sheep.

Provided IDFG comments for the Cottonwood Creek bridge replacement. The bridge replacement should improve habitat along Cottonwood Creek.

Met with Dubois District personnel to discuss 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 expansion of the Ice-cream Opal Mine. The expansion was less than 20 acres and should not cause any significant impacts.

Met with Targhee Forest personnel for a coordination meeting on upcoming projects on the Targhee Forest.

B. Bureau of Land Management

Provided IDFG comments for the Cottonwood, Smelter Gulch, and Mammoth/Sawmill Allotments environmental assessments and grazing permit renewals. Improvements are planned on all allotments. This project is still pending.

Provided IDFG comments for the Crooked Creek Allotment environmental assessment and grazing permit renewal. This allotment covers all the Crooked Creek area and its management will affect the population of local sage grouse. Improvements are planned on this allotment to better distribute grazing – this may impact sage grouse nesting habitat. This project is still pending.

C. Upper Snake Local Sage Grouse Working Group

Involved with the Upper Snake Local Sage Grouse Working Group as outlined in the Idaho Sage Grouse Plan. Have attended 9 meetings. The group is in the early educational phase. Work with the group will be ongoing.

D. U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

Attended a meeting to discuss sage grouse and sagebrush modeling. The Station has a student modeling sage grouse populations. Factors influencing sage grouse populations and sagebrush habitats were discussed.

E. Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

Developed 1 wheat food plot on Mud Lake WMA.

Released ring-necked pheasants on Mud Lake WMA.

1999-2000 Planned Projects

Will continue to review and monitor sagebrush control projects.

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

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

Will look at, field check, and review USFS and BLM allotment assessments and environmental analyses.

Will coordinate waterfowl activities with Camas NWR.

Will try to work on Mud Lake water right adjudication.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Dennis Aslett
 Assistant: Charles Anderson
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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
8. ADMINISTRATION

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	0.6 wk	4,800	691	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, moose
Assist wildlife management staff in census, winter movements, and	1460	1 week	0	1,200	0	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sage grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
marking						
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase, lease, easement, or use trade	1111	1 week	0.4 wk	1,200	460	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Management Program - Increase elk use of transition ranges						
Provide legumes and grains for elk feed	1322	1 week 60 acres	1 week	1,200	1,151	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	2.6 wks	2,400	2,993	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	0	1,200	0	Species benefitted: Deer, moose, elk, sage grouse
Assess possibilities for land acquisition, use trade, lease	1111	2 weeks	0.6 wk	2,400	691	Species benefitted: Deer, elk, moose, sage grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Vegetation and water management						
Identify lek areas on WMA and adjacent lands, report results	1450	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,800	3,453	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Maintain good residual cover adjacent to leks	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,151	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor use of water developments	1440	1 week	4 weeks	1,200	4,604	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	0.6 wk	2,400	691	Species benefitted: Sage and sharp-tailed grouse, moose, elk
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Conduct annual lek routes and lek searches	1460	2 weeks	2.2 wks	2,400	2,532	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	0.8 wk	1,200	921	Species benefitted: Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, doves, ruffed grouse
Incorporate sage and sharptail conservation strategies into WMA operations. Provide technical assistance to local working groups under those plans		2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,151	
PUBLIC HUNTING						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management program - Maintain current hunting level, improve quality						
Provide information and signing on area closures, monitor area closures	1630	2 weeks	5 weeks	2,400	5,755	Species benefitted: CAGO, elk, deer, moose
Work with five private landowners to maintain public access	1720	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,151	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sage grouse
Make recommendations for hunting seasons	1630	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,151	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, MALL, CAGO
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	0.6 wk	1,200	691	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide quality nesting cover and food crops						
Provide 50 acres of grain	1322	1 week 30 acres	2 weeks	1,200	2,302	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, BUFF, GRSC
Improve nesting cover on 20 acres in the pond area	1440	2 weeks 40 acres	0	2,400	0	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, AMWI, GADW
Continue signing and patrolling nesting areas to prevent disturbance	1630	2 weeks	1.6 wks	2,400	1,842	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Monitor waterfowl production and report findings	1460	2 weeks	1.4 wks	2,400	1,611	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production						
Conduct tours, give programs	1630	3 weeks	3.6 wks	3,600	4,144	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Evaluate nongame habitat needs, implement habitat developments	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,151	Species benefitted: Kestrels, sand hill crane, osprey, great blue heron
Construct and maintain a nature trail in the pond area and monitor use	1331	2 weeks	2.6 wks	1,200	2,993	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, deer, sandhill crane
Provide and protect nesting areas for trumpeter swans. Report production	1440	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,400	3,453	Species benefitted: Trumpeter swan, CAGO, MALL, AMWI
Management Program - Public Use Monitoring						
Public Use Survey	1211	6 weeks	3.2 wks	4,800	3,683	Elk, moose, Trumpeter swan, CAGO
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Map infestations and control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,800	4,604	Species benefitted: Elk, moose, mule deer
Monitor water levels and dikes	1211	2 weeks	2.4 wks	3,600	2,302	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, Swan, BUFF
Maintain fence	1211	5 weeks 55 miles	5.6 wks 55 miles	6,000	6,446	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Replace fence	1211	3 weeks	4.8 wks	3,600	5,525	Species benefitted: Elk, moose,

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		2 miles	1.5 mile			deer, grouse
Maintain dikes and water control structures	1211	2 weeks 2.5 miles	1.4 wks	2,400	1,611	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, swan, BUFF
Habitat monitoring - establish habitat map and permanent vegetation transects	1460	4 weeks	0	4,800	0	Elk, mule deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Complete sensitive plant survey	1460	2 weeks	0	2,400	0	Elk, moose, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Complete amphibian and reptile survey	1460	2 weeks	0	2,400	0	
Maintain buildings and structures	1211	4 weeks	4.6 wks	4,800	5,295	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review and comment on proposed habitat projects	1710	8 weeks 20 projects	7 weeks	9,600	8,057	Species benefitted: Great gray owl, elk, deer, moose
Assist five landowners on wildlife projects	1720	2 weeks	0.4 wk	2,400	4,604	Species benefitted: CAGO, MALL, pheasant, partridge
Cooperate with other agencies, attend coordination meetings	1710	4 weeks	8 weeks	4,800	9,208	Species benefitted: Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Attend training	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,800	4,604	Species benefitted:
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	5 weeks	6 weeks	6,000	6,906	Species benefitted:

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain records; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	13 weeks	7,200	14,963	Species benefitted:
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	9 weeks	899	6,687	Species benefitted:

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$90,977		
Overhead	20,470		
Outside Funds (License Funds)	19,800	Grand Total	\$131,247

NARRATIVE

Background

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

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

The WMA was originally purchased and managed to provide winter range for the Sand Creek elk herd. Although the primary focus today is still on elk winter range, the program has been expanded to include providing deer and moose winter range, habitat for sage and sharp-tailed grouse production and wintering, waterfowl production at the five Sand Creek Ponds, public hunting and fishing, and wildlife appreciation. Today the WMA and surrounding lands are home to 3,000-3,500 wintering elk, 1,500-2,000 wintering deer, and 250-600 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

Elk Wintering
Mule Deer and Moose Wintering
Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Production
Public Hunting
Waterfowl Production
Wildlife Appreciation and Other Wildlife Production
Public Fishing
Administration

Summary of Activities

I. ELK WINTERING

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

1. Four existing use trades were monitored. Use trades provided 1,800 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. No elk census was conducted this year.

B. Management Program: Acquire critical winter range.

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

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 big game forage on transition range at the Sand Creek Ponds. Much of the grain crop was planted utilizing volunteer assistance.

2. A range-monitoring program was not conducted.

3. Harriman elk migrated out of the park on November 10 and arrived on the upper WMA on November 11. Many stayed until the following Saturday, November 14, when considerable numbers of hunters arrived. Harvest was good over that weekend but area closure violations were

also numerous and citations were issued. Those elk then moved onto the desert. The Yellowstone elk came across later in the month and, due to mild conditions and low snow levels, stayed in the area between the Sand Creek Road and Red Road into December. On December 17, several hundred elk were noted just west of Five Monuments.

II. MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING

A. Management Program: Increase forage production.

1. No mule deer or moose census work was completed on the Sand Creek herds this year.
2. Potential opportunities for winter range acquisition were monitored, and one prior proposal was resubmitted for consideration. No new proposals were initiated.

III. SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION

A. Management Program: Vegetation and water management.

1. Much of the WMA and adjacent lands were checked for active sage and sharp-tailed grouse leks. Active leks were noted and GPS coordinates were recorded for each.
2. Several comment letters were written concerning habitat projects near leks. Information was provided to NRCS, BLM, IDL, and private landowners to protect lek sites on public and private lands. Most proposed projects involve prescribed burning or chemical control of sagebrush. One of the major sage grouse leks on the Red Road and a sharp-tailed grouse lek on the WMA were mowed to improve the areas as lek sites.
3. Water developments were monitored with the following results:

Guzzler monitoring began on June 15, 1998. Guzzlers were checked bi-weekly until December 17 when they were shut off and winterized for the year. Cooler temperatures and above average moisture dominated the summer months. Puddles of water were available for wildlife use throughout the desert through August which likely resulted in lower guzzler use in the early to midsummer period. Two guzzlers had unauthorized livestock use.

Guzzler 1 had considerable sage grouse use but was drained by cattle in October. Guzzler 2 had sage grouse and elk use but was also used by cattle in October. Guzzler 3 had sage grouse, deer, elk, and coyote use. Guzzler 4 had little use until October when sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, coyote, and deer use were noted. Guzzler 5 had dove, sage grouse, deer, and coyote use primarily beginning in September.

4. Winter big game census flights were not conducted and consequently winter grouse locations over large areas were not documented. However, grouse seen during other activities were noted and GPS locations taken.

B. Management Program: Evaluate annual production.

1. The Grassy sharp-tailed lek route had four active leks that were identified this year including one new lek which had the most birds in attendance. A total of 32 grouse was the highest number documented. The Sand Creek route had three active leks including the rifle range, CRP, and #94. The highest total number of birds counted was 37 which is similar to the past two years and above the 17-20 average of several years prior to that. The CRP lek had 17 birds, #94 had 12, and the rifle range had 8.

Sage grouse numbers on the Red Road lek route were up considerably this year from the past several years. 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 1998. In 1998, three leks were active but total numbers of birds attending was very low. The 1999 results indicate that six leks were active this year instead of three, and the total number of birds on the highest count was 168 which is triple the count of last year and over double from 1997.

Two leks were checked on the Sand Creek route. The lek in Blake's pasture was up from 2 males in 1997 and 7 last year to 8 this year. Miller's Corral was up from 38 males in 1997, 58 in 1998, to 88 this year.

In addition to lek routes, lek searches were conducted by Department personnel and volunteers. A total of nine new sharp-tailed grouse leks and two new sage grouse leks were documented and GPS coordinates taken.

2. The sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse seasons were split this year. The sage grouse season was also shortened to one week and the daily limit reduced to one bird per day. This is part of a long-term hunting mortality study. The Red Road check station was operated on opening weekend of the sage grouse season with the following results: a total of 180 hunters hunted 584 hours and harvested 71 sage grouse for a harvest rate of 8.23 hours per sage grouse and .39 birds per hunter.

IV. PUBLIC HUNTING

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

1. 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. The Egin-Hamer Area Closure took effect on January 1, 1998. It is a human entry closure from January 1 through April 30 and includes portions of the WMA. The closure was monitored and results were reported.

2. 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.

3. Appropriate hunting season recommendations were submitted to the regional population staff.

4. Check stations were operated only occasionally due to mild weather conditions and low hunter success during the big game seasons. Deer hunting in particular was very slow due to mild weather conditions, abundant vegetation and water, and no early migration movements.

V. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION

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

1. There are 75 acres of workable farmland remaining on Sand Creek WMA. Currently 28 acres are planted in grain crops that are left standing for wildlife use and the remaining 47 acres are in summer fallow. A Long-Range Farm plan was completed last year and is being implemented this year. The plan will allow for the soil to remain fertile by rotating crops and providing fallow years. It will also allow for a wide variety of wildlife benefits.

This year's farming plan had to be altered slightly due to high water flows during planting time. One field and part of another could not be planted because they were under water. An alternate field was planted to maintain the desired acreage.

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 20 broods and 104 goslings were documented. Eighteen of 30 goose nest structures were used and 14 were successful.

5. The Warm Slough wood duck house survey was completed. Nine of 10 houses were checked and 7 had wood duck nests. Four were successful, 3 failed, one was not used, and one was destroyed when the tree it was attached to fell over.

VI. 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 the Second 4H Wildlife Day in which 75 participants attended presentations at 9 wildlife stations manned by Department personnel, Animal Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and 4H leaders. 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, Henry's Fork Watershed Council members, volunteers, and landowners.

2. Two osprey platforms were maintained and 10 bluebird boxes were installed by a boy scout. A pair of osprey nested on the platform on Pond 4. Bluebird boxes were not serviced this year.

3. The first half of the nature trail was completed last year and has received considerable use. The second loop was nearly completed by the end of the fiscal year and will be completed by early fall. Trail marking and clearing was done by Department personnel and most of the signs were installed by a South Fremont High School class. The remainder will be completed as part of a community service project.

4. Nesting trumpeter swans were monitored almost daily and territories protected. Two of three territories on the WMA were active and human entry was prohibited until July 1. The swan pairs on Pond 2 and the Swan Pond started nesting between May 14 and May 17. Several swans were identified on Pond 4 but none nested. This is the second consecutive year that swans have not nested on Pond 4.

The pair on Pond 2 produced 5 cygnets on June 22. By July 5 the number of cygnets was down to 4. The adults appeared to be fairly sensitive to human activity. They immediately moved to Pond 3 for a week but may have found human activity too great there and moved back to the backwaters of Pond 2. It was also noted that on the goose structure survey on July 13, this pair was so distressed by the presence of people in a canoe that they scattered the four cygnets and flew from the pond. They remained away from the pond for at least an hour after the survey team left. This behavior was in spite of the fishing season opening on the pond on July 1 along with the use of floating devices.

The pair on the Swan Pond produced 3 cygnets on June 26 and by July 1, only one remained.

Detected nesting territory closure violations were minor this year.

B. Management Program: Regulate and monitor trapping.

1. Trapping activities were not monitored.

VII. PUBLIC FISHING

A. Management program: Monitor anglers.

1. Angler surveys were conducted on opening days with the following results:

Opening weekend--May 29 and 30:

Car count=77, number of visitors=246

Success rates: 46 anglers, 61.5 hours, 34 RB+30 BR=64 fish, 1.04 fish/hr.

Weather on opening weekend was extremely poor with heavy rain both days.

July 1 opening on Ponds 2 and 4 (these were closed for swan nesting):

Total: 84 anglers, 119.5 hours, 80 RB+14BR=94 fish, 0.79 fish /hr.

Many float tube and boat anglers were not checked. Their success rate was likely higher.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. Management program: Public use monitoring.

1. User surveys were conducted randomly from May through June. During that time the total number of visitors surveyed was 363. A final report containing a breakdown of groups, activities, and numbers will be compiled and submitted at the end of the summer season.

B. Management program: Maintain improvements.

1. Weed Control--Approximately 850 gallons of chemical mix was applied to noxious weeds on the WMA. A total of 40 acres were sprayed including 26 acres of Canada thistle, 12 acres of spotted or diffuse knapweed, 2 acres of leafy spurge, and a small 100 foot area of white top.

Spotted and diffuse knapweed seem to be spreading rapidly on the WMA. In 1997, 4 sites were known and treated. This year there are a total of 10 sites. Leafy spurge was first noted on the WMA in 1997. All eight sites were sprayed or pulled. In 1998, 5 of those sites had no trace of leafy spurge plants. However, 5 new sites were located and sprayed. In addition, 10,000 leafy spurge root boring flea beetles were released among 4 spurge

sites. This year 13 sites were checked for presence of leafy spurge. Five of the sites had no plants present. Six new sites were located and controlled with either herbicide or leafy spurge root boring flea beetles.

Canada thistle is plentiful around the pond area and farm fields. The dikes and fields were sprayed and chemical control seemed to be very effective. White top was documented for the first time last year in one small area. Attempts will be made to eradicate this weed from the WMA.

2. Water levels and dikes were monitored regularly.
3. All fences were maintained including 25 miles of let-down fence.
4. A total of 1.5 miles of old fence was removed and rebuilt utilizing the St. Anthony work camp crews.
5. All dikes and water control structures were maintained. No new structures were necessary.
6. Habitat monitoring was not completed.
7. A sensitive plant survey was not completed.
8. A reptile and amphibian survey was not completed.
9. All buildings and structures were maintained. Only minor repairs have been necessary.

C. Management program: Technical assistance.

1. Comments and technical assistance was provided for 17 proposed projects in the district including subdivisions, brush control projects, easements, conservation easements, greenway along the Henry's Fork, area closures, species conservation plans, grazing allotments, and the Sage Grouse Local Working Group.

2. Assistance was provided for one landowner on HIP prior to the program being discontinued. Technical assistance was provided to NRCS for several CRP projects.

3. Numerous coordination meetings were attended including weed control, brush control, work camp projects, area closures, range and project tours, allotment tours, assistance with other WMAs, section meetings, sage grouse local working group, use trade cooperators, Fremont Woolgrowers, Henry's Fork Watershed Council, and brucellosis and big game winter feeding.

4. Training included CPR, computer skills, flight safety, physical fitness, and proper functioning wetland delineation.

D. Management program: Administrative duties.

1. All necessary plans, budgets, evaluations, and special reports were prepared and submitted. The long-term WMA management plan was revised, finalized, and approved.

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, relocating moose, grouse research, and cave monitoring for bat use.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Terry Thomas
 Assistant: Paul Faulkner
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

Tex Creek Habitat District

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

TEX CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Activities Within District

1. Provide technical assistance to Palisades Ranger District, USDA Forest Service.
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	1710	6 weeks 20 projects	4 weeks 15 proj	6,250	4,125	Species benefitted: Sharp-tailed grouse, elk, mule deer, sage grouse, moose, mountain goats

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
wildlife.						
FISH AND GAME LANDS						
Management Program - Big Game Wintering						
Monitor utilization by big game during winter	1450	3 weeks 7,000 acres	3 weeks 7,000 ac	3,500	3,500	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose
Maintain/improve winter forage on F&G lands	1211/ 1440	10 weeks	10 weeks	5,800	5,800	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Implement coordinated resource management plan	1322	2 weeks	1 week	1,000	1,000	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	2,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Administer 1,000 acres of new easements	1121 1211	0.5 week	0	500	0	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor hunter harvest and public use on F&G lands	1430	1.5 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	3,300	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Population estimation	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse
Monitoring of rangeland condition	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - HIP						
Waterfowl habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 projects	2 weeks 2 proj	2,000	2,000	Species benefitted: MALL, CAGO, NOPI
Upland bird habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 projects	0.5 wk 1 proj	2,000	500	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
Hunter education		0	8 weeks	0	5,325	

Total PR Contract with Overhead	\$ 40,006
Outside Funds (USBOR)	255,495
IDFG License Funds	2,700
Grand Total	\$298,201

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).

Few projects were submitted for review this season. Technical assistance was offered on a subdivision, a conservation easement proposal, a project to renovate trails on a portion of the Palisades District, a forest products EA, and grazing allotment evaluations for the BLM. The Project Leader was also involved with the development and implementation of a regional brucellosis plan.

The Project Leader is 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 as Chairman.

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.

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 sightability helicopter counts were flown in Units 66 and 69. The actual count in Unit 69 (east and west units) and 66 was down somewhat from the previous flight. Sightability estimates also predicted a slight decline in numbers.

A major thrust of the WMA again this winter was the capture and marking of elk to determine summer range distribution. Fourteen elk were radio-collared and others marked with eartags and marking collars in 1998. This year an additional 20 female elk were radio-collared, 10 females marked with colored neck bands, and 15 additional elk (including spikes and male calves) were eartagged only. This operation required a significant investment in time and resources.

Forage management on the WMA included mowing one field. 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. The 120 acres fallowed last year were drilled this year. Most of the acreage is intended for high quality hay production, but about 25 acres were seeded to a mix more approximating native cover including several shrub species.

A grant from the Bureau of Reclamation was obtained to convert 500-600 more acres of smooth brome to different mixes beginning in spring 2000. The funding was matched on a 75%-25% basis by funds from the Department's habitat improvement account.

Winter wheat was sharecropped in alternating strips on 400 acres of state property. As this was the last year for the sharecropper, the unplanted strips were not fallowed as they should have been. As a result a noteworthy volunteer crop of wheat grew and has been left standing for the deer and elk. This field demonstrated a significant wild rye problem this year, which will most likely have to be dealt with through several successive years of spring grain.

A grain crop (barley and winter wheat) was harvested on the recently acquired property owned by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (about 240 acres) again with a sharecropper. This property is under sharecrop agreement through October 2000. At that time a decision will have to be made to determine if sharecropping will continue.

The Deer Creek property, a part of the Quarter Circle O acquisition as well, was sharecropped this year. As this property is in an every-other-year rotation, it will not be sharecropped again. Conversion of this property to permanent cover will commence in the spring of 2000. Terraces will be reworked and the property will be drilled to a variety of native and nonnative mixes and shrubs. Live shrubs will also be planted on the property to enhance the value for wildlife. A grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will be used in part to convert this property.

The coordinated resource management plan which trades grazing on IDFG lands for no grazing on former privately-held critical winter range (Quarter Circle O) 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.

Funding from the Bonneville Power Administration for operation and maintenance of the Quarter Circle O properties was finally secured. The amount is not great but should help with weed control, terrace repair, road work, fence removal, and boundary surveys.

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 1998 was reported to be very good. Of interest here was the fact that the Project Leader and his supervisor sampled birds near a planting of silver buffaloberry (*Sheperdia argentea*) and found the birds to be full of the berries from this shrub. As a result an additional area was prepared and 1,400 more silver buffaloberry seedlings were planted in the fall of 1998. More are on order for this year.

Geese were trapped on the Snake River and about 60 juveniles and adults were transplanted to Tex Creek WMA. Most of them immediately vacated the area upon release, but six stayed on well past flight stage on the middle Pipe Creek pond. Also, this spring, there were several geese that visited the ponds for a period of time. It is unknown if they are from last year's efforts or not. Once again, if there is a need to remove geese from the Snake River in the spring of 2000, the WMA will again attempt to transplant them. This time, however, they may be placed in holding pens for a night prior to release and extensive mown areas will be prepared.

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. While at first this did not seem to help, this year proved that the repairs were a success. The lowest pond filled to the top of the water control structure and stayed within several inches of the top most of the summer. As a result efforts were made to increase the shallow water area behind the island by scooping it out with a backhoe. This effort will continue when the pond draws down sufficiently to allow equipment to work there again.

A large and complex waterfowl project was completed in the Swan Valley area. This project involved over 20 acres and the involvement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Department. The landowner is very pleased with the project and reports seeing a lot of waterfowl use and waterfowl production.

Another waterfowl project was completed in the Willow Creek drainage. It consists of excluding livestock from approximately one mile of Mill Creek. This was a joint fish/waterfowl project. The landowner reports that it has been difficult to keep the livestock from pushing over the fences in some traditional high use areas. They are working to resolve this problem.

A new waterfowl project was initiated in the Ririe area. The landowner deepened two ponds and created a channel between them. This project increased the surface area of the water and added an island to the complex.

Efforts to cooperate on shelterbelts within the region were put on hold this year due to funding constraints. However, one agreement was signed prior to this and will be established in the spring of 2000.

South Fork of Snake River in Bonneville County

Adopt-A-Wetland Program.

Boonena, Inc., has renewed their agreement and has indicated they would like to begin a more serious effort in their area of responsibility. B & F Distributing has renewed as well. The Conservation Officer Association adoption is still in effect. Ducks Unlimited has decided to transfer their adoption to the new Deer Parks and the Bonneville County Sportsmen have declined to renew their adoption.

Public Relations

In August 1998 the WMA hosted a big game hunting workshop. This was the culmination of months of planning and coordination between various sportsmen groups and agencies. It was attended by about 100 members of the public and received complimentary reviews by the public and in the media.

Also, in August, a dedication for the new acquisition was held at the WMA. It was attended by about 50 people. A banquet later that night was well attended.

In July the entire Department invested a week contacting the public to find out how the Department can best serve them.

The Project Leader and the Assistant both accepted shifts at the Department booth at the Eastern Idaho State Fair, taught Hunter Education classes, and staffed management check stations.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-15
 Project Leader: Greg Painter
 Period: 7/1/98-6/30/99

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 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	1 week 20 projects		1,247		Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	2 weeks 10 projects		2,557		Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to private landowners for development of waterfowl habitat	1720	3 weeks 15 projects		3,822		Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week 2 projects		1,247		Species benefitted: MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Program - Improve upland bird habitat on private and public land						
Identify upland bird habitat	1440	1 week 20 projects		1,247		Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week 10 sites		1,247		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		1,247		Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Evaluate need for water developments	1410	1 week 5 devel.		1,247		Species benefitted: Chukar
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week		1,247		Species benefitted: Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
BACKCOUNTRY RANCHES						
Program - Maintain big game winter and spring forage						
Monitor big game forage use	1440	1 weeks 8 properties		1,247		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Monitor commercial use agreement	1630	1 week 2 properties		1,247		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist wildlife staff in census, winter movement, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week 3 projects	1 week	1,247	1,247	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Provide technical assistance for backcountry commercial grazing permits	1710	1 week		1,247		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		1,247		
Develop public use areas to limit conflicts with wildlife and various user groups	1332	1 week 3 sites		1,247		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	1,247	1,247	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Move and remove fences	1211	1 week		1,247		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Maintain irrigation system to provide for wildlife and administrative packstock	1211	2 weeks		2,557		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
BIG GAME HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Program - Evaluate ungulate use of winter and summer ranges in Salmon Region						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist other agencies in the monitoring of commercial grazing allotments on public lands to protect big game habitat	1440	4 weeks 20 allotmmts	2 weeks	4,832	2,557	Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	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	1 week		1,247		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		2,557		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase or easement	1630	1 week 5 proposals		1,247		Species benefitted: Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
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	.5 week 4 miles	.1 week	639	58	Species benefitted: Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant
Control public access into sensitive habitat areas by signing and barriers	1211	.5 week 6 sites		639		Species benefitted: Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Supervise routine maintenance and construction of access areas to maintain wildlife habitat and provide public access	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,557	2,557	Species benefitted: Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant, Whitetail Deer, Mink,
Program - Maintain improvements						
Supervise weed control and train personnel in proper methods of control	1610	2 weeks	1 week	2,557	1,247	
Supervise routine maintenance	1610	1 weeks	1 week	1,247	1,247	
Cooperate with other agencies for joint maintenance of access areas	1630	2 weeks		2,557		
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION						
Program - Maintain public contact						
Conduct tours and presentations to promote habitat preservation and development	1610	1 week		1,247		
Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	2 weeks 40 projects		2,557		
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2 weeks		2,557		
Program - Administrative duties						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1620	2 weeks 6 documents		2,557		
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks		6,073		
Other duties (as assigned)	1610	1 week		1,247		

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$11,407
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$11,407

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