

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Rod Sando, Director

Project W-173-D-16

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Performance Report



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

November 2000

Boise, Idaho

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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-16
 Project Leader: Tom Parker
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities

1. ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS
2. ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		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	21 weeks	61,553	39,191	Project leader assigned temporarily to another nonfederal aid project for 6 months.

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 39,191
License Funds	731,200
Grand Total	\$770,391

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

PANHANDLE REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SUPERVISION						
Management Program - Provide supervision for the Panhandle Region Habitat Management Program						
Supervise Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)	1720	30 inq. 1 week	15 inq. 1 week	2,000	1,000	6 waterfowl projects completed. MALL, WODU, CAGO, pheasant, gray partridge
Supervise seven Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	1630	7 WMAs 4 weeks	7 WMAs 5 weeks	15,000	15,000	New WMA created at Boundary Creek in Boundary County. MALL, WODU, CAGO, ELK, WT deer
Supervise habitat maintenance program on WMAs	1630	7 WMAs 1 week	7 WMAs 1 week	2,000	1,000	MALL, WODU, CAGO
Supervise sportsmen's access maintenance program	1333	45 sites 2 weeks	45 sites 3 weeks	5,000	2,000	
Supervise Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation program funded by Bonneville Power Administration	1630	400 acres 6 weeks	478 acres 6 weeks	19,700	9,000	Two draft management plans completed. MALL, WODU, CAGO, muskrat, yellow warbler, bald eagle, WT deer
ACQUISITION/LAND TRANSACTIONS						
Management Program - Recommend land acquisitions and be responsible for transactions on Department property						
Fee title, nonwetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1111	50 acres 1 week	0	1,000	0	No acquisition proposals submitted.
Fee title, wetland: prepare and forward all acquisition proposals	1112	150 acres 1 week	478 acres 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	478 acres acquired. MALL, WODU, CAGO, muskrat, yellow warbler, WT deer, bald eagle
Nonfee title, nonwetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1121	200 acres 1 week	100 acres 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Three licenses, one easement, and one special use permit completed. WT deer

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Nonfee title, wetland: administer leases, cooperative agreements, easements, licenses	1122	100 acres 1 week	100 acres 1 week	3,000	1,000	One easement and one lease were completed. MALL, WODU, CAGO
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1630	25 meetings 2 weeks	20 meetings 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	Attended 20 meetings
Management Program – Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	10 projects 1 week	5 projects 1 week	2,000	1,000	Reviewed five proposals. MALL, CAGO, WODU, WT deer
Management Program – Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews, and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	3,500	Federal aid work plans prepared for FY2001. Annual reports prepared for FY2000.
Maintain files, prepare reports, editing, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	3 weeks	4 weeks	10,200	10,000	FY2002 budget request completed.
Employee performance evaluations	1630	5 FTEs 2 weeks	5 FTEs 2 weeks	2,500	3,500	Five evaluations given.
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	1 week	4,127	3,450	Jobs completed

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$79,527	\$83,163
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$79,527	\$83,163

NARRATIVE

Supervision and Administration

The Project Leader administered the Department's 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), the newly created Boundary Creek WMA in Boundary County, and 45 sportsmen's access sites.

The Project Leader supervised three Regional Habitat Biologists and all land and habitat development projects in the Panhandle Region; one Utility Craftsman responsible for development and maintenance of sportsmen's access sites; and one Wildlife Mitigation Specialist responsible for coordinating the wildlife habitat mitigation program for Albeni Falls Dam funded by the BPA.

Regional Habitat Biologist Bryan Helmich accepted a lateral transfer to the Cecil Andrus WMA in the Southwest Region in May 2000. David Leptich was chosen to fill Helmich's vacant position effective July 10, 2000.

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. Only six waterfowl projects were completed. The HIP program was inactive for FY2000 since the dedicated accounts for this program were reallocated to other priorities by Legislative action.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Required plans and reports were completed and forwarded to headquarters on 2000 goose nesting surveys, waterfowl banding summaries for 1999, duck productivity surveys for 1999, weed control plans for 2000, predator control plans for 2000, updated waterfowl band recovery report, ingested lead shot/steel shot summary from the 1999 waterfowl season opener, and documentation reports for 1999 Beneficial Use of Water Rights on the Coeur d'Alene River and McArthur Lake WMAs.

The newly created Boundary Creek WMA came on-line in FY2000, requiring a significant portion of the project leader's time. Four meetings of the Boundary Creek Interagency Technical Committee were attended to formulate and design a wetland restoration plan on the property that will be funded by the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other activities included establishing permanent photo points; reviewing a controlled burn plan to remove wheat stubble prior to reseedling with a permanent cover crop of grasses and forbs; preparing two drafts of a long-range management plan for the property; and meetings with Boundary County elected officials to discuss fee-in-lieu of tax payments, management options, and citizen's input to the draft management plan.

Sportsmen's Access Sites

Currently there are 45 sportsmen's access sites in the Panhandle Region. These properties are maintained with funds provided by separate DJ budgets. The Department has entered into cooperative agreements with Kootenai County, Bonner County, Benewah County, USFS, Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Lands, Montana Rail Link, 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 FY2000.

Acquisitions

Six land acquisitions were completed - the Meland property at Albeni Cove (39.0 acres), the Baird and Cicero property at Albeni Cove (31.0 acres), the McMahon property on lower Pack River (30.05 acres), the Hunter property on lower Pack River (216.0 acres), the Eich property at Cocolalla Lake (96.75 acres), and the Fletcher property at Westmond Lake (65.2 acres). These properties were purchased with BPA funds as wildlife habitat mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir.

Two potential acquisitions and three potential conservation easements to be funded by the Avista settlement agreement were active during the fiscal year. The Granite Creek property (60 acres) was purchased with Avista funds and will be deeded to the Department for management once the Level 1 environmental contaminant survey and property line survey are completed and the Fish and Game Commission approves the deed transfer.

Field or office reviews were conducted on seven additional parcels of property for possible acquisition. A BA-23 was prepared on the Albert Thorman property adjacent to the Boundary Creek WMA and approved by the Director's office. The Department participated in the preparation of a NAWCA grant application with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, and the Kootenai Tribe. If the grant is approved, the Department would have funding to purchase the Thorman property.

In November 1999 the former Panhandle Region Office building was finally sold at oral auction for the appraised value. The Rockford Marina on Coeur d'Alene Lake was purchased by the Chesrown Corporation and preliminary discussions began for a possible land exchange for 0.58 acres of Department property adjacent to the marina.

The Panhandle Region Land Ownership/Management summary was updated for 2000.

Leases, Cooperative Agreements, Easements, Licenses

An outfitting license was renewed for Sandy Podsaid for outfitting activities on the Snow Peak WMA in Shoshone County.

Two easements were completed. The Department granted a right-of-way easement to the Inland Empire Paper Company at the Freeman Lake access site. Crown Pacific granted a right-of-way easement to the NRCS for a water diversion and pipeline as part of the Wetlands Reserve easement on the Boundary Creek WMA. The Department of Fish and Game will be the NRCS's authorized agent to use the privileges granted by this easement.

One lease was signed with Mark and Sally Grant for cattle grazing on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA at Round Lake. The Frutchey lease (sharecrop agreement) on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA for harvesting red top grass seed was surrendered by the lessee prior to its expiration. The Van Stone lease (sharecrop agreement) on the Pend Oreille WMA at the Clark Fork River driftyard expired.

Two license agreements were completed. The Idaho Department of Lands temporary road use agreement on the St. Maries WMA was amended to extend the term of the agreement for two years. The Department renewed a license agreement with the Inland Empire Paper Company for public use of a parking lot near the Maiden Rock access on Spirit Lake. Four additional license agreements were worked on but not completed.

A Sikes Act agreement was completed with the U.S. Navy Acoustical Research Center at Bayview on Lake Pend Oreille.

One special use permit was granted to use the Garfield Bay access for a large group event.

Albeni Falls Dam Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Program

This program is responsible for coordinating wildlife habitat mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam and reservoir and is funded 100% by the BPA. The project leader supervises this program at the regional level. Budget requests were reviewed; quarterly meetings of the Albeni Falls Work Group were attended; HEP reports were reviewed; amendments to the Northwest Power Planning Council's wildlife program were reviewed; and preliminary work on sub-basin planning was initiated.

A wildlife technician was hired to begin management and monitoring work on BPA funded properties in Bonner County. Draft management plans were prepared for the Albeni Cove properties and the Boundary Creek WMA. A contract was prepared for weed spraying.

Cooperation With Other Agencies

The Project Leader represented the Department at regularly scheduled meetings of the Natural Resource Committee that deals primarily with public access and waterways improvements. Frequent contact and cooperation was continued with those agency personnel involved with providing public access - Bureau of Land Management, Kootenai County, and Bonner County Waterways Departments. The Project Leader continued to represent the Department on the Boundary Creek WRP Interagency Technical Committee charged with preparing, designing, and implementing a wetland restoration plan for the Boundary Creek WMA.

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.

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 four occasions.

Benefits:

1. Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) - Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties.
2. Seven Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) – Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, Farragut, Coeur d'Alene River, St. Maries and Snow Peak.
3. Habitat maintenance and development program on WMAs.
4. Sportsmen's access maintenance and development program (45 sites).
5. Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation program - funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Paul Hanna
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

PANHANDLE REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MAINTENANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain roads	1211	5 miles 1 week	5 miles 1 week	2,100	2,100	St. Maries WMA
Maintain dikes	1211	6 dikes 2 weeks	6 dikes 2 weeks	1,600	1,300	Coeur d'Alene River WMA MALL, CAGO
Maintain fences	1211	2 miles 1 week	2 miles 1 weeks	2,100	2,100	Farragut/St. Maries WMAs 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 WT deer, Merriam's turkey
Control vegetation	1211	100 acres 1 week	50 acres 1 week	2,100	2,100	Farragut/Pend Oreille WMAs CAGO, WT deer
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	600	600	Tasks completed
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	938	2,215	Re-roof Coeur d'Alene River WMA residence and garage

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$10,438	\$10,915
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$10,438	\$10,915

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MCARTHUR LAKE HABITAT DISTRICT

MCARTHUR LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. DEVELOP AND MANAGE WETLANDS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
3. ENHANCE AND MANAGE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES
4. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL
5. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER, MOOSE, BLACK BEAR, AND ELK

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
DEVELOP AND MANAGE WETLANDS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT						
Management Program – Provide secure nesting sites						
Stabilize water levels during nesting period	1211	5 inspections 1 week	5 inspections 1 week	1,000	1,000	CAGO
Maintain nest structures	1211	125 sites 0.5 week	125 sites 0.5 week	2,500	2,500	CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	10 sites 0.5 week	0	1,500	0	CAGO
Prohibit fishing from boats from March 15 to June 30	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT, wetland wildlife
Management Program – Provide good-quality brood habitat						
Maintain grass/legume pastures	1211	25 acres 2 weeks	25 acres 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	CAGO
Reseed grass/legume pastures	1322	10 acres 2 weeks	10 acres 2 weeks	2,500	2,500	CAGO
Control noxious weeds	1211	30 acres 2 weeks	30 acres 3 weeks	3,500	5,000	CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Document beneficial use of water rights	1211	12 times 2.5 weeks	12 times 2.5 weeks	1,300	1,300	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT, wetland wildlife
Management Program – Reduce predation on nests and goslings						
Control ravens and coyotes when warranted	1460	0.5 week	0	500	0	Predator control conducted by ADC. CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, AGWT, CITE, BWTE
Management Program – Monitoring						
Conduct spring nest census	1460	0.5 week	0.5 week	800	800	Observed 26 active Canada goose nests. CAGO
Management Program – Trapping and transplanting						
Trap and band geese as necessary for statewide programs	1460	0	0	0	0	CAGO
DUCK MANAGEMENT						
Management Program – Maintain or improve nesting and brood rearing habitat						
Stabilize water levels during nesting period	1211	10 inspections 2 weeks	10 inspections 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT, wetland wildlife
Provide and maintain good quality upland nesting habitat	1211	50 acres 0.5 week	50 acres 0.5 week	500	500	MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, AGWT, BWTE, NSHO, NOPI
Reseed dense nesting habitat	1322	35 acres 1 week	35 acres 1 week	2,000	2,000	MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, AGWT, BWTE, NSHO, NOPI
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	50 boxes 0.5 week	40 boxes 0.5 week	1,000	1,000	WODU, COGO, HOME, BUFF
Management Program – Monitoring						
Document level of duck production	1460	2 pr counts 3 brood cts 1 week	2 pr counts 3 brood cts 1 week	500	1,000	MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, AGWT, BWTE, WODU, COGO, HOME, NSHO, NOPI
Management Program – Trapping and transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1460	200 ducks 2 weeks	493 ducks 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	MALL, WODU
PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION						
Management Program – Accommodate and evaluate public use						
Maintain access site facilities	1211	1 site 0.5 week	1 site 0.5 week	500	500	
Randomly monitor hunters and anglers for success and compliance with regulations	1430	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ENHANCE AND MANAGE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES						
Management Program – Provide and monitor nest sites						
Maintain secure nesting conditions for bald eagles and ospreys	1460	2 sites 0.5 week	2 sites 0.5 week	500	500	Bald eagle, osprey
Monitor bald eagle nest	1460	1 nest 0.5 week	1 nest 0.5 week	500	500	Bald eagle
Management Program – Provide foraging sites for migrating shorebirds						
Conduct late summer partial drawdown	1211	80 acres 0.5 week	80 acres 0.5 week	300	300	Greater yellowlegs, dowitchers, western sandpipers, killdeer, common snipe
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL						
Management Program – Manage water level to support migrating waterfowl						
Maximize flooded area for spring migration	1211	5 inspections 1 week	5 inspections 1 week	500	500	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT, TUSW, wetland wildlife
Allow summer/fall partial drawdown to concentrate food items and provide loafing sites	1211	80 acres 2 weeks	80 acres 2 weeks	1,000	1,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, WODU, COGO, LESC, BUFF, RNDU, REDH, GADW, COME, AGWT, TUSW, wetland wildlife
Monitor for waterfowl disease outbreaks	1211	0.5 week	0.5 week	300	300	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, RNDU, AGWT, CITE, BWTE
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER, MOOSE, BLACK BEAR, AND ELK						
Management Program – Control motorized access						
Monitor gates and off-road motorized use	1211	10 visits 0.5 week	10 visits 0.5 week	500	500	WT deer, moose, black bear, elk
Management Program – Maintain or improve forest habitat						
Conduct timber harvest activities to maintain or improve wildlife habitat	1322	0	0	0	0	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program – Technical assistance						
Review project proposals for wildlife impacts	1710	30 projects 3 weeks	26 projects 3 weeks	8,000	10,000	WT deer, elk, moose, forest and wetland wildlife
Assist landowners with wildlife habitat improvements	1720	30 inquiries 4 weeks	5 inquiries 1 week	10,000	2,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, COGO
Management Program – Administrative duties						
Develop, review, and evaluate planning documents	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	7,000	WT deer, moose, elk, bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU, COGO, CITE, AMWI, wetland and forest wildlife
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	4,000	6,000	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,500	
Management Program – Provide information to the public						
Give presentations/tours on WMA/wildlife management	1630	1 week	1 week	500	500	CAGO, MALL, WODU, wetland and forest wildlife

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.

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 2000 nesting season, platforms were serviced and supplied with new nest material (hay bales).

Canada goose nests decreased from 27 in 1999 to 26 at McArthur Lake in 2000 (Table 1). This was a 4% decrease from last year and 46% 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 2000. Since 1973, 1,415 goslings have been banded. Of the total, 1,210 have been released onsite and 205 have been transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

Duck production

Forty-eight broods from 12 duck species were documented at McArthur Lake in 2000 (Table 2). The number of duck broods counted at McArthur Lake in 2000 declined slightly from 1999 (48 to 52), while overall productivity increased slightly from 0.31 broods per pair in 1999 to 0.38 broods per pair in 2000 (Table 3).

Forty-three usable wood duck nest boxes were inspected for use in July at McArthur Lake. Boxes contained eight wood duck, four common goldeneye, and four hooded merganser nests (Table 4). Seven wood duck (88%), three common goldeneye (75%), and two hooded merganser (50%) 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 of newly seeded nesting cover were spot-sprayed to control noxious weeds, primarily common tansy.

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

Four hundred ninety-three ducks were trapped and banded on the WMA in August 1999 prior to the hunting season as part of a statewide effort to determine distribution and harvest in the Pacific Flyway states.

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 1999.

Since 1991, 6,300 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 732 banded birds (11.6%) have been taken by hunters in eleven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 31% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of the returns came from Washington; 19% from California; 16% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 2% from Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Alaska, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1999, unadjusted for nonreporting bias, has been low – 6.5%.

Nongame production and appreciation

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

Administration

A considerable amount of time was spent assisting other Department personnel with development of a management plan for the newly-acquired 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 Resources Conservation Service, acquired a permanent easement from the previous owner under the provisions of the Wetlands Reserve Program. Other activities on the Boundary Creek WMA included weed control, gate placement, baseline wildlife surveys, and general property maintenance.

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 primarily in three Western states besides Idaho and two 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 730 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, and 5 black bear.

Table 1. Canada goose brood and nest counts at McArthur Lake WMA from 1957 to 2000.

Years 1957-1982	# Broods or Nests	Years 1983-2000	# 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
		2000	26 nests

Table 2. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on McArthur Lake WMA in 2000.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
Mallard	40	18	0.45	98
Gadwall	15	3	0.20	14
Am Widgeon	12	5	0.42	32
G.W. Teal	4	0	0.00	0
B.W. Teal and Cinnamon Teal	26	3	0.12	19
Wood Duck	13	13	1.00	82
Ring-Necked Duck	12	2	0.17	11
Common Goldeneye	1	1	1.00	5
Shoveler	2	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	2	1	0.50	5
Redhead	1	2	2.00	14
Total	128	48	0.38	280

Table 3. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on McArthur Lake WMA since 1996.

Species	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>					<u>Broods</u>					<u>Productivity (Broods/pair)</u>					<u>Ducklings Produced</u>				
	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96
Mallard	40	57	46	33	39	18	14	23	15	7	0.45	0.25	0.50	0.45	0.18	98	66	106	105	35
Gadwall	15	13	7	10	7	3	4	2	0	2	0.20	0.31	0.29	0.00	0.29	14	24	15	0	16
Am Widgeon	12	17	17	19	20	5	9	3	8	4	0.42	0.53	0.18	0.42	0.20	32	46	19	43	34
GW Teal	4	11	8	4	9	0	2	1	0	0	0.00	0.18	0.13	0.00	0.00	0	13	4	0	0
BW and Cinnamon Teal	26	13	23	9	14	3	3	1	5	1	0.12	0.23	0.04	0.56	0.07	19	17	5	38	2
Shoveler	2	4	5	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	13	16	8	6	12	13	8	10	19	16	1.00	0.50	1.25	3.17	1.33	82	50	46	131	84
RN Duck	12	24	20	8	11	2	5	14	8	4	0.17	0.21	0.70	1.00	0.36	11	24	100	50	27
Com Gold	1	4	2	1	5	1	2	4	2	6	1.00	0.50	2.00	2.00	1.20	5	3	22	17	16
Hood Merg	2	2	1	1	4	1	2	1	1	2	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	5	12	4	5	17
Pintail	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.33	1.00	0.00	0	0	7	5	0
Redhead	1	3	2	1	0	2	1	2	3	0	2.00	0.33	1.00	3.00	0.00	14	4	15	16	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00	---	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	4	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.00	---	0.00	---	0.00	0	4	0	1	0
Total	128	167	142	95	127	48	52	62	63	42	0.38	0.31	0.42	0.66	0.33	280	267	343	415	231

Table 4. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks at McArthur Lake WMA since 1991.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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%)
2000	40	43%	8	4	4	7(88%)	3(75%)	2(50%)

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	32	44%	7	7	1	6(86%)	3(43%)	0
2000	ND	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
2000	Yes	Yes	1

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Pat Cole
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MCARTHUR LAKE HABITAT DISTRICT

PEND OREILLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. MANAGE WETLAND HABITATS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
3. MANAGE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES
4. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING AND WINTERING WATERFOWL

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
MANAGE WETLAND HABITATS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT						
Management Program - Provide secure nesting sites						
Maintain nest structures	1211	180 platforms 1 week	50 platforms 0.25 week	3,000	500	CAGO
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	20 platforms 1 week	0	1,000	0	CAGO
Continue Adopt-A-Wetland program	1211	2 sites 1 week	2 sites 1 week	500	500	CAGO, WODU
Management Program - Maintain good quality brood habitat						
Continue Driftyard share-crop agreement to produce goose pasture	1211	25 acres	0	500	0	CAGO
Management Program – Monitoring						
Conduct a spring nest census at reference locations	1211	7 locations 0.5 week	7 locations 0.5 week	1,500	1,000	CAGO
Control noxious weeds	1211	20 acres 1 week	5 acres 0.5 week	2,000	2,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, GADW, CITE, BWTE, AGWT
DUCK MANAGEMENT						
Management Program - Maintain nesting and brood rearing habitat						
Maintain wood duck nest boxes	1211	50 boxes 1 week	0	1,000	0	WODU, COGO, HOME, BUFF

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain the water control structure in the outlet of Morton Slough	1211	1 structure 0.5 week	1 structure 0.25 week	500	500	CAGO, MALL, WODU, HOME, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, REDH, LESC, RNDU, COGO, BUFF, wetland wildlife
Management Program – Monitoring						
Document duck production at Morton Slough	1211	2 pair counts 3 brood cnts 1 week	0	1,000	0	MALL, WODU, COME, AMWI
Management Program - Trapping and transplanting						
Trap and band ducks as necessary for statewide programs	1211	0	0	0	0	MALL, WODU
PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION						
Management Program - Accommodate and evaluate public use						
Maintain access site improvements	1211	4 sites 1 week	4 sites 1 week	1,500	1,500	
Conduct Clark Fork Delta waterfowl check station	1430	2 days	2 days	500	200	CAGO, MALL, WODU, HOME, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, REDH, LESC, RNDU, COGO
MANAGE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES						
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor bald eagle nest sites	1460	3 sites 0.5 week	3 sites 0.5 week	500	500	Bald eagle
Monitor western grebe nesting colony	1460	3 visits 0.5 week	1 visit 1 day	500	100	Western grebe
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING AND WINTERING WATERFOWL						
Management program – Monitoring						
Conduct the midwinter waterfowl inventory	1460	1 flight 2 days	1 flight 2 days	200	200	CAGO, MALL, CANV, HOME, GADW, AMWI, REDH, LESC, RNDU, COGO, BUFF, TUSW
Management Program - Recommend additional land acquisitions						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	100 acres 1 week	160 acres 1 week	1,000	2,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, HOME, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, REDH, LESC, RNDU, COGO, BUFF, wetland wildlife
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review project proposals for wildlife impacts	1710	20 projects 2 weeks	26 projects 3 weeks	3,500	4,000	WT deer, moose, elk, forest and wetland wildlife

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist landowners with wildlife habitat improvements	1720	20 inquiries 2 weeks	0	4,800	0	CAGO, MALL, WODU, HOME, GADW, BWTE, AMWI, CITE, COGO, wetland and forest wildlife
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop, review, and evaluate planning documents	1610	6 weeks	2 weeks	8,000	2,000	WT deer, elk, moose, bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU, HOME, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, CITE, REDH, LESC, RNDU, COGO, BUFF, wetland and forest wildlife
Maintain files; prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	0.5 week	0.5 week	1,819	601	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$91,019	\$74,301
Outside Funds	0	0
Grand Total	\$91,019	\$74,301

NARRATIVE

The Pend Oreille Wildlife Management Area is made up of 13 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.

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 located at the Clark Fork River delta, Pack River delta, mouth of Priest River, and mouth of Hoodoo Creek.

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, as the sharecrop agreement expired. 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 97 in 1999 to 102 in 2000 (Table 1). Forty-two of 145 (24%) nesting structures were occupied by nesting geese in 2000. Nests on natural islands accounted for most of the other nests observed. Particularly important were the 47 ground nests on islands at the Priest River segment of the WMA. The islands near Priest River currently support more nests than any other site in the McArthur Lake Habitat District.

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 1999 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. The number of ducks harvested per hunter increased while the number of ducks taken per hour has remained stable over the past three years.

Since 1991, 6,300 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 732 banded birds (11.6%) have been taken by hunters in eleven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 31% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of the returns came from Washington; 19% from California; 16% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 2% from Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Alaska, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1999, unadjusted for nonreporting bias, has been low - 6.5%.

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

Four more survey areas were added as representative marshes on the Pend Oreille WMA this year – Henderson Ranch, Hunter Ranch, Westmond Lake, and Albeni Cove. These properties were all recently purchased with BPA wildlife mitigation funds. Monitoring and evaluation activities associated with BPA funding include conducting breeding pair/brood counts. Eighteen of 69 duck pairs produced broods (0.26 broods per pair) in 2000 (Table 3). The previous 3-year average has been 0.33 (Table 4).

Nesting boxes in the Clark Fork Delta were not inspected in time for this report (Table 5). 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.

Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

Two pairs of bald eagles have nested on the WMA for over 10 years – one pair on Fisherman Island in Oden Bay and one pair in the Clark Fork Delta. Both nests successfully produced eaglets this year (Table 6). The WMA also provides important foraging habitat for other breeding bald eagles on Pend Oreille Lake. Four other nests are located within one-half mile of the Carey Creek, Morton Slough, Oden Bay, and Clark Fork Delta portions of the WMA.

Western grebes were counted on Denton Slough on 7 occasions from May 24–July 26, 2000. The maximum number of grebes (75) was observed on July 17. The maximum number of nests (13) was observed on July 26.

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

Benefits:

1. 50 successful Canada goose nests annually.
2. Mallards, wood ducks, and Canada geese produced are harvested primarily in three western states besides Idaho and two 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. Provides habitat for approximately 300 white-tailed deer, 50 elk, 10 moose, and 10 black bear.
9. Provides 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	2000
Pack River Delta	10	16	19	12	15	12	11	16	16	15	18	23
Clark Fork Delta	16	19	28	8	2	5	14	8	6	10	7	2
Morton Slough	12	16	8	4	3	5	3	2	3	5	1	1
Hoodoo Creek	11	11	9	7	7	8	3	2	5	3	1	5
Muskrat Lake	10	11	11	11	8	11	10	7	4	5	9	11
Lower Pend Oreille River	23	21	18	15	22	15	27	69	65	53	61	60
Total	82	94	93	57	57	56	68	104	99	91	97	102

Table 2. Opening weekend check station results on the Clark Fork Delta, Pend Oreille WMA, from 1967-1971 and 1994-1999.

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
1999	72	234	316	3.3	0.7

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Pend Oreille WMA in 2000^a.

Species	Breeding Pairs	Broods	Productivity (broods/pair)	Ducklings produced
Mallard	29	9	0.31	26
Wood Duck	16	5	0.31	11
G.W. Teal	1	0	0.00	0
Cinnamon Teal	3	0	0.00	0
Widgeon	3	1	0.33	2
Ring-necked Duck	2	0	0.00	0
Bufflehead	1	0	0.00	0
Common Goldeneye	4	2	0.50	10
Shoveler	2	0	0.00	0
Scaup	3	0	0.00	0
Hooded Merganser	2	0	0.00	0
Common Merganser	3	0	0.00	0
Unidentified	0	1	---	1
Total	69	18	0.26	50

^aHenderson Ranch, Hunter Ranch, Westmond Lake, and Albeni Cove. Morton Slough was not surveyed this year.

Table 4. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on the Pend Oreille WMA since 1997^{a,b}.

Species	Breeding Pairs				Broods				Productivity (Broods/pair)				Ducklings Produced			
	00	99	98	97	00	99	98	97	00	99	98	97	00	99	98	97
Mallards	29	13	14	8	9	3	2	5	0.31	0.23	0.14	0.62	26	12	11	11
Wood Ducks	16	0	0	3	5	0	0	2	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.67	11	0	0	10
Teal (combined)	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	8	0	0	7
All other species combined	20	22	0	3	4	5	0	3	0.20	0.18	0.00	1.00	13	34	0	23
Totals	69	35	14	18	18	8	2	11	0.26	0.23	0.14	0.61	50	46	11	51

^a1997-1999: Morton Slough.

^b2000: Henderson Ranch, Hunter Ranch, Westmond Lake, and Albeni Cove.

Table 5. Use of nesting boxes by cavity-nesting ducks in the Clark Fork Delta since 1991.

Year	Total Boxes	(%) Used	Total Nests			Hatched Nests (% nesting success)		
			Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Wood Duck	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
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
2000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

ND = No Data

Table 6. 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 of 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
2000	Yes	1	Yes	1

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER HABITAT DISTRICT

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. DEVELOP AND MANAGE WETLANDS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY PUBLIC HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
3. PROVIDE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES AND FURBEARERS
4. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL
5. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME SPECIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
DEVELOP AND MANAGE WETLANDS FOR WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT						
Maintain goose nesting structures	1211	285 platforms 2 weeks	288 platforms 2 weeks	4,000	4,000	CAGO, Osprey
Replace, relocate, and add new nest structures	1211	1 week	2 weeks	2,500	2,500	CAGO, Osprey
Maintain grass pasture	1211	150 acres 1 week	150 acres 1 week	500	500	CAGO, MALL, WT deer
Maintain share-crop agreement	1211	1 week	0	800	0	CAGO, WT deer
Continue noxious weed control program	1211	50 acres 3 weeks	50 acres 3 weeks	4,000	4,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, muskrats
Transplant goslings from depredation flocks	1211	0	0	0	0	CAGO
Conduct an annual nest census	1460	285 platforms 1 week	288 platforms 1 week	1,000	800	CAGO
DUCK MANAGEMENT						
Provide and maintain habitat for upland nesting ducks	1720	1 week	1 week	1,000	500	MALL, AGWT
Protect riparian shrub stands used for nest sites	1211	0	0	0	0	MALL, AGWT
Maintain nesting boxes for cavity nesting ducks	1211	340 boxes 2 weeks	250 boxes 2 weeks	3,000	2,000	WODU, COGO, HOME
Replace, relocate, and add new nest boxes	1211	20 boxes 1 week	20 boxes 1 week	2,000	1,000	WODU, COGO, HOME

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Document level of upland nesting duck production	1460	2 pr counts 3 brood cnts 2 weeks	2 pr counts 3 brood cnts 2 weeks	2,500	2,000	MALL, WODU, AGWT
Monitor wood duck nesting success	1460	250 boxes 2 weeks	250 boxes 2 weeks	2,500	2,000	WODU
Band locally produced ducks	1211	0	0	0	0	
Harvest wild rice seed	1720	20 acres 1 week	20 acres 1 week	2,000	1,000	MALL WODU, CAGO, muskrats
PROVIDE WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION, PARTICULARLY PUBLIC HUNTING, FISHING AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION						
Maintain access site facilities	1211	4 sites 1 week	4 sites 1 week	3,000	2,000	
Operate waterfowl check stations	1430	3 stations 2 days	3 stations 2 days	1,000	500	MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE, CAGO
Randomly monitor sportsmen for compliance with WMA regulations	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,000	MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE, CAGO, muskrats, WT deer
Maintain access roads	1211	2.5 miles 1 week	2.5 miles 1 week	1,000	1,000	
PROVIDE WETLAND AND UPLAND HABITATS FOR A VARIETY OF NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES AND FURBEARERS						
Maintain dikes and water level control structures	1211	12 structures 1 week	12 structures 1 week	1,500	1,000	CAGO, MALL, CITE, AGWT, WODU, TUSW, muskrats
Maintain secure nest sites for bald eagles and ospreys	1460	65 nests 2 days	99 nests 2 days	700	500	Bald eagle, osprey
Monitor bald eagle nest success	1460	2 nests 3 days	2 nests 3 days	800	500	Bald eagle
Census osprey nests	1460	65 nests 2 days	97 nests 2 days	1,000	500	Osprey
Document beneficial use of water rights	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	1,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE, TUSW, muskrats
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL						
Monitor waterfowl disease outbreaks	1460	1 week	1 week	1,000	500	CAGO, TUSW
Sample waterfowl for incidence of lead shot and steel shot	1440	150 samples 2 days	151 samples 2 days	1,500	800	MALL, WODU, AGWT, CITE, AMWI
Maintain dikes and water control structures	1211	12 structures 1 week	12 structures 1 week	1,500	1,500	MALL, AGWT, AMWI, CAGO
Document beneficial use of water rights	1460	2 weeks	1 week	3,000	1,500	CAGO, MALL, AGWT, WODU, AMWI, TUSW, muskrats
Continue Thompson Lake waterfowl hunting closure	1430	1 week	1 week	500	500	CAGO MALL, AGWT, AMWI

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME SPECIES						
Maintain share-crop agreement	1211	40 acres 1 week	40 acres 1 week	800	800	WT deer, elk, turkey, ruffed grouse, black bear
Maintain boundary fences	1211	3 miles 1 week	3 miles 1 week	2,000	2,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, turkey, black bear
Continue noxious weed control program	1211	50 acres 1 week	50 acres 1 week	4,000	4,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, turkey, black bear
Seasonally limit motorized access	1211	1 week	1 week	500	500	WT deer, elk, TUSW, CAGO
Conduct timber harvest activities to maintain or improve wildlife habitat	1211	0	0	0	0	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
ADMINISTRATION						
Submit acquisition proposals for waterfowl habitat and access sites	1112	0	0	0	0	
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	25 projects 5 weeks	25 projects 5 weeks	5,000	5,000	WT deer, elk, black bear, CAGO, MALL
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 3 weeks	25 inquiries 2 weeks	3,000	3,000	CAGO, WODU, MALL, WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	2 weeks	3 weeks	3,000	3,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Develop planning documents, reviews and evaluations	1610	1 week	1 week	2,500	2,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, WT deer, elk
Maintain files; prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,000	5,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,000	4,000	

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 lower 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.

Waterfowl production

No new nesting platforms for Canada geese were constructed this year. 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 removed in order to reduce further bank erosion. This structure was again breached by high water in the spring of 1999 after having been repaired in late summer 1998.

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 250 wood duck nest boxes have been maintained on the lower Coeur d'Alene River portion of the WMA and adjoining private lands. Heyburn State Park personnel have installed and maintain 50 boxes on the lower St. Joe River.

Goose pastures were maintained through a sharecrop agreement by mowing a portion of the tall vegetation in August which allowed for fall and early spring growth of succulent vegetation. Some burning of dead vegetation was done to improve goose pastures. About 200 acres of goose pasture were available.

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

All elevated goose nesting platforms were checked in May. One hundred four Canada goose nests were found - 71 on the lower Coeur d'Alene River, and 33 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 250 nesting boxes are maintained on the WMA and use is primarily from wood ducks. Two hundred twenty nest boxes were checked from July 11 through July 25. One hundred thirteen boxes were used by wood ducks and an additional 11 boxes were used by other wildlife species. Ninety wood duck nests hatched (80%); 14 were abandoned; and 9 were destroyed. Table 2 contains a summary of wood duck nesting surveys since 1991.

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 2000 breeding pair/brood survey and Table 4 compares data since 1996. In 2000, 31 breeding pairs produced 20 broods for a productivity rate of 0.64 broods per pair.

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. On October 2 and 3, 1999, gizzards were collected from 151 ducks and later x-rayed by students at the University of Idaho. Ingested lead shot was found in 7.9% of the gizzards and ingested steel shot in 8.6%.

Since 1991, 6,300 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 732 banded birds (11.6%) have been taken by hunters in eleven states and two Canadian provinces. Only 31% of the returns came from Idaho, primarily the five northern counties. Thirty percent of the returns came from Washington; 19% from California; 16% from Oregon; 2% from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; and 2% from Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Alaska, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Virginia combined. The mean direct recovery rate from 1991 through 1999, unadjusted for nonreporting bias, has been low – 6.5%.

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.

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 six 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 producing two young. The pair has been successful for the past four 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. Ninety-seven active osprey nests were located in the spring of 2000 (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. Other visitors include sightseers, picnickers, campers, horseback riders, and water skiers. There are an estimated 23,700 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, American 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 16,000 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 1991.

Year	Round Lake	Heyburn Park	Swan and Thompson Lake	Rose, Porter and Killarney Lakes	Total Nests
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
2000	13	20	32	39	104

Table 2. Wood duck nesting surveys, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1991.

Year	Usable Boxes Checked	Boxes Used (%)	Hatched (%)	Abandoned (%)	Destroyed (%)	Still Active (%)
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%)	9(8%)	0
2000	220	113(51%)	90(80%)	14(12%)	9(8%)	0

ND = No Data

Table 3. Duck pairs, broods, productivity, and ducklings observed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 2000^a.

Species	Breeding		Productivity (Broods/Pair)	Ducklings Produced
	Pairs	Broods		
Mallard	18	11	0.61	41
Wood Duck	10	8	0.80	39
Green-winged Teal	0	1	---	8
Cinnamon Teal	2	0	0	0
Pintail	1	0	0	0
Total	31	20	0.64	88

^a Specific areas surveyed include West Thompson Lake Marsh, Moffitt Slough, and Blackrock Slough. Mission Slough was not surveyed this year.

Table 4. Comparison of duck productivity surveys on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1996.

Species	<u>Breeding Pairs</u>					<u>Broods</u>					<u>Productivity (Broods/pair)</u>					<u>Ducklings Produced</u>				
	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96	00	99	98	97	96
Mallards	18	57	56	30	17	11	24	24	16	15	0.61	0.42	0.43	0.53	0.88	41	119	141	95	78
Wood Ducks	10	23	36	16	18	8	20	15	19	11	0.80	0.87	0.42	1.19	0.61	39	98	69	111	83
Teal (combined)	22	12	14	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	---	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.00	8	0	0	6	3
All other species combined	1	11	4	11	1	0	3	0	1	0	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.09	0.00	0	15	0	1	0
Totals	31	103	110	61	37	20	47	39	37	27	0.64	0.46	0.35	0.61	0.73	88	232	210	213	164

Table 5. Opening weekend check station results on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA since 1990.

Year	Number Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Hours	Ducks per Hunter	Ducks per Hour	Wood Ducks
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
1999	96	190	247	2.0	0.8	105

Table 6. Comparison of ingested lead and steel shot in hunter-harvested duck gizzards, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, since 1990.

Year	Sample Size	Percentage With Ingested Lead	Percentage With Ingested Steel
1990	202	12.9%	14.4%
1991	198	8.6%	10.1%
1992	81	3.7%	11.1%
1993	189	9.0%	14.3%
1994	187	13.9%	9.1%
1995	189	13.2%	10.0%
1996	230	9.6%	7.4%
1997	208	13.0%	11.5%
1998	164	9.8%	10.4%
1999	151	7.9%	8.6%

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
2000	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
2000	Yes	Yes	2

Table 9. Osprey nest surveys on the lower Coeur d'Alene River since 1991.

Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Mouth Coeur d'Alene River	8	9	6	7	8	5	5	6	3	8
Thompson Lake	5	3	6	8	5	5	7	7	11	11
Blue/Swan lakes	8	9	9	8	7	8	4	9	7	8
Cave/Medicine lakes	2	5	6	2	6	7	4	5	5	6
Lane Marsh	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Killarney/Hidden lakes	11	11	13	12	16	12	13	13	8	18
Moffitt/Oehrling Sloughs	2	3	4	2	5	3	2	2	2	2
Blackrock Slough/Bull Run Lake	3	2	4	4	5	3	4	3	4	3
Porter/Rose lakes	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Mission Slough	11	11	11	9	6	7	7	6	10	8
Totals	54	56	61	56	60	52	49	52	51	65

Table 10. Osprey nest surveys on the lower St. Joe River since 1991^a.

Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Lower St. Joe River	25	33	30	31	29	29	27	33	30	32

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

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: John Nigh
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER HABITAT DISTRICT

ST. MARIES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PROVIDE PUBLIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME SPECIES
2. MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE WINTER RANGE FOR DEER AND ELK
3. MANAGE FOREST RESOURCES TO BENEFIT BOTH GAME AND NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES
4. PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES NOT IN CONFLICT WITH WILDLIFE GOALS AND PROGRAMS

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE PUBLIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR BIG GAME AND UPLAND GAME SPECIES						
Maintain designated roads and trails	1211	15 miles 0.5 week	15 miles 0.5 week	2,500	2,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Accommodate and regulate hunting activity	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE WINTER RANGE FOR DEER AND ELK						
Maintain boundary fences	1211	7.5 miles 1 week	7.5 miles 1 week	2,800	2,800	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Provide adequate thermal cover and forage areas for wintering deer and elk	1322	0	0	0	0	
Limit snowmobile access to designated roads	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	WT deer, elk
Participate in winter aerial surveys	1460	1 week	0	500	0	
Continue noxious weed control program.	1211	1 week	2 weeks	1,000	1,500	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Participate in local grazing cooperatives	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	800	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
MANAGE FOREST RESOURCES TO BENEFIT BOTH GAME AND NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES						
Inventory forest resources	1320	0	0	0	0	
Prepare a forest management plan	1322	0	0	0	0	
Use prescribed burning as a habitat management tool	1322	0	0	0	0	
PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES NOT IN CONFLICT WITH WILDLIFE GOALS AND PROGRAMS						
Accommodate and regulate fishing activity	1430	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain existing roads and trails	1211	15 miles 0.5 week	15 miles 0.5 week	1,500	1,500	
Limit camping to no more than 10 days in any 30-day period	1430	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	
Accommodate and regulate other outdoor recreation pursuits	1430	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	
ADMINISTRATION						
Provide technical assistance to other agencies and private landowners	1710	15 projects 2 weeks	15 projects 2 weeks	2,000	2,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear, MALL, WODU, CAGO
Attend meetings with other agencies, government and private industry	1710	1 week	1.5 weeks	1,500	2,000	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear, MALL, WODU, CAGO
Develop planning documents, reviews, and evaluations	1610	1 week	0.5 week	1,500	800	WT deer, elk, ruffed grouse, black bear
Maintain files; prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,200	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,855	1,831	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$88,755	\$74,631
Outside Funds	10,700	10,700
Grand Total	\$99,455	\$85,331

NARRATIVE

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

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

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. Forty-one hunters were randomly checked with eight 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.

Big game winter range

From 1967-1980, 11 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 proven successful in protecting preferred browse plants during early growth stages. The enclosure fences have all been 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 unit during the reporting period.

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 1,150 nonconsumptive user days were provided.

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 1,150 nonconsumptive user days.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SNOW PEAK HABITAT DISTRICT

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ROADLESS HUNTING OPPORTUNITY						
Management Program - Limit motorized vehicle access						
Maintain motorized vehicle restrictions on trails and obliterated roads	1211	2 miles 0.5 week	2 miles 0.5 week	1,000	500	Monitored motorized use on unrestricted trails. Coordinated management actions with the USFS. Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Maintain quality hunting experience						
Provide recommendations during the hunting regulation development process	1610	0.25 week	0.25 week	500	250	Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Management Program - Continue to allow licensed outfitting						
Maintain current level of licensed outfitters	1630	1 outfitter 0.25 week	1 outfitter 0.25 week	500	250	Wilderness Outfitters was maintained as a licensed outfitter. Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Maintain and enhance big game winter range						
Use prescribed fire to create, enhance, and perpetuate quality big game winter range conditions	1322	1,000 acres 1.5 weeks	0	4,000	0	Approximately 1,130 acres burned in 1999. Elk, mule deer, WT deer, black bear, moose
Assist in aerial surveys to census big game	1460	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Elk, mountain goats

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
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						
Evaluate trail development and maintenance needs	1211	2 miles 0.5 week	2 miles 0.5 week	1,000	800	Coordinated activities with the USFS
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend meetings with other agencies, government, and private industry	1710	20 meetings 2 weeks	40 meetings 3 weeks	4,000	4,000	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 3.75 weeks	35 projects 4 weeks	10,000	7,000	Wildlife comments were prepared for 35 proposed developments. Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear, CAGO, MALL, WODU
Assist landowners on wildlife habitat improvement practices	1720	25 inquiries 2 weeks	20 inquiries 2 weeks	10,000	2,000	CAGO, MALL, WODU, ring-neck pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, reviews, and evaluations	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	2,000	Annual work plans, annual reports, and noxious weed control plans were completed. Elk, WT deer, mule deer, moose, black bear
Maintain files; prepare reports, payroll, purchasing, budgets	1630	1 week	3 weeks	4,000	3,000	
Conduct regional sportsmen access management/ maintenance activities	1211	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	3,000	Supervised the access laborer. Addressed neighbor complaints. Contracted minor developments
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	3 weeks	18.75 weeks	4,561	24,511	Level I enforcement status maintained and 282 ducks banded. Project leader was assigned management responsibility for 940 ∇ acres in Bonner County. 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 FY2000 activities on the Snow Peak WMA were coordinated with the St. Joe River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Trails were monitored for maintenance and reconstruction needs. A prescribed burn of 1,130 acres was completed on the WMA and intermingled USFS property in FY1999 funded by a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Roadless hunting opportunity

The entire WMA is contained within 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 1999 outfitting license was renewed for 2000.

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.

Statewide source of mountain goats for transplanting

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

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.

Nongame production/nonconsumptive use

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

Administrative duties

The Project Leader was assigned management responsibility for 940+ acres of property in Bonner County purchased with Bonneville Power Administration wildlife mitigation funds. Equipment was purchased, work plans were outlined, an eight-month temporary wildlife technician was hired, and preparations began for writing management plans.

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: License Funds
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SNOW PEAK HABITAT DISTRICT

FARRAGUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PROTECT AND ENHANCE WINTER HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER
2. PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH LATE SUCCESSIONAL, LOW ELEVATION FORESTS
3. PROVIDE AND ENHANCE PUBLIC USE OF THE WMA AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHERE COMPATIBLE WITH WILDLIFE GOALS AND PROGRAMS
4. CONTINUE THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IDPR FOR CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPERTY ESTABLISHED BY THE EXISTING MOU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROTECT AND ENHANCE WINTER HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER						
Manage Douglas fir/grand fir forest stands for their snow intercepting, thermal cover, and escape cover characteristics	1322	0.5 week	1 week	500	1,000	Monitored vegetative response to timber sales conducted in FY97 and FY98. WT deer
Selectively thin lodgepole pine stands with poor snow intercept characteristics to improve the growth of Douglas fir/grand fir in the understory, thereby accelerating the conversion of the stands from lodgepole pine to Douglas fir/grand fir	1322	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Monitored changes within harvested stands of lodgepole pine to determine the effectiveness of past management actions. WT deer
PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH LATE SUCCESSIONAL, LOW ELEVATION FORESTS						
Manage Douglas fir/grand fir forest stands to provide multi-tiered canopies, vertical diversity of tree species, a high density of large diameter trees, and a large number of snags on a per-acre basis	1322	0	0	0	0	Allowed succession, competition, and natural pathogens to move mature stands of Douglas/grand fir towards old growth conditions. Pileated woodpeckers, brown creepers, Townsend's warblers
Use prescribed burning and logging as tools to protect and accelerate the development of stands of mature ponderosa pine and western larch adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille	1322	150 acres 1 week	0	2,000	0	No activity. Department's Forestry program eliminated due to budget cutbacks. Dark-eyed juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, Townsend's warblers and Swainson's thrushes

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Periodically monitor nongame forest birds during the breeding season to evaluate the influence of management activities	1460	0	0	0	0	No breeding bird surveys were conducted. Surveys will be reinstated when adequate funding is secured and/or when deemed necessary to evaluate a management action
Plant mast-producing tree species in forest openings to provide food sources for wild turkeys	1322	2 acres 0.25 week	2 acres 0.25 week	500	500	Maintained existing plantings. Evaluated the potential to establish new plantings in sites modified by timber harvest. Merriam's turkeys and ruffed grouse
Attempt to prevent newly introduced noxious weeds from becoming established	1322	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Inspected the WMA to identify noxious weed infestations. Treated problem sites with herbicide and monitored results. All native plant and animal species currently occupying the WMA benefit.
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE PUBLIC USE OF THE WMA AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHERE COMPATIBLE WITH WILDLIFE GOALS AND PROGRAMS						
Provide access to Lake Pend Oreille through an interagency MOU with the IDPR	1211	0.25 week	0.25 week	500	250	Coordinated management of facilities with the IDPR.
Provide public shooting range facilities through an interagency MOU with the IDPR	1211	2 weeks	1 week	4,000	1,500	Work on a long-range development plan continued.
Provide a system of trails for WMA visitors through an interagency MOU with IDPR	1211	0.25 week	0.25 week	500	500	Coordinated management/maintenance of trails with the IDPR.
Provide an archery-only deer season in November. All other wildlife will be managed for nonconsumptive use	1610	0.5 week	0.5 week	500	500	Continued to allow archery-only deer hunting within the WMA. Conducted random field checks to evaluate hunter compliance.
Maintain the WMA boundary fence	1211	0.25 week	0.5 week	500	500	Inspected the boundary fence periodically. Repaired damage as warranted.
Randomly monitor WMA visitors for compliance with use restrictions	1430	0.25 week	1 week	500	1,000	Maintained a visible presence on the WMA and contacted those visitors encountered.
CONTINUE THE PARTNERSHIP WITH IDPR FOR CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPERTY ESTABLISHED BY THE EXISTING MOU						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Meet annually with IDPR staff to coordinate habitat improvement projects, funding and maintenance needs, user surveys and planning efforts	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$ 0	\$ 0
License Funds	56,061	56,061
Grand Total	\$56,061	\$56,061

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.

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 > 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.

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 that were implemented will benefit nongame species requiring 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 left over 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.

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.

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 2,000 shooters annually.
5. Trail system estimated to receive 6,200 visitor days.
6. Lakeshore property estimated to receive in excess of 30,000 visitors annually at recreational facilities provided by the IDPR.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Road operation/maintenance of 43 access and fishing areas, 2 wildlife management areas, Department regional facilities, and 5 conservation easements	1211	6 weeks	8 weeks	12,000	16,000	Species benefitted: mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, chukar, valley quail, ruffed & blue grouse, turkeys, gray partridge, mourning doves, black bear, mtn. lion.
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Supervise and coordinate activities of 6 permanent and 5 temporary employees	1630	13 weeks	11 weeks	26,000	22,000	
Oversee the management of 2 WMAs, 13 WHAs, 5 conservation easements	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	6,000	6,000	
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	2 weeks 2 proposal acquisitions 2 easements	1 week	4,000	2,000	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	1 week 17 proposals	1 week	2,000	2,000	
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1630	1 week	1 week	2,000	2,000	
Cooperation, coordination with other land management agencies	1630	3 weeks 20-25 mtgs	4 weeks	6,000	8,000	
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Oversee the review of environmental impacts on proposed projects	1710	4 weeks 50 projects	4 weeks	8,000	8,000	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Oversee financial assistance to landowners on wildlife habitat development and wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks 90-100 projects 200 inquiries	2 weeks 88 projects	4,003	4,003	

Total PR Contract With Overhead:	\$70,003
License Funds	0
Grand Total	\$70,003

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Sam McNeill
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

CLEARWATER REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MAINTENANCE

Management Priorities:

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Road maintenance	1211	1 week 58 miles	1 week	1,827	1,827	Routine grading
Fence maintenance	1211	1 week 80 miles	None	1,827	\$0	No fence damage occurred
Maintenance of tree/shrub plantings and food plots	1211	1 week 10 sites	1 week	1,827	1,827	
Noxious weed control	1211	1 week 1,000 acres	2 weeks	1,827	3,654	Sprayed sites twice
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Administrative activities and coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,828	1,828	

Total PR Contract With Overhead:	\$9,136
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$9,136

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Steve Nadeau
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

DWORSHAK HABITAT DISTRICT

Management Priorities:

1. INVESTIGATIONS
2. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
3. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
INVESTIGATIONS						
Population evaluation	1460	10 wks-bio 20 wks-tech	10 wks-bio 20 wks-tech	35,283	35,283	Nongame bird surveys. Two projects: big game surveys. Three projects: elk, WT and mule deer, bear, lion, T&E
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Planned management - systems development	1610	8 wks-bio	8 wks-bio	9,856	9,856	Planning protocol, developing projects for wildlife habitat
Strategic plan development	1620	9 wks-bio 2 wks-tech	9 wks-bio 2 wks-tech	11,313	11,313	Develop landscape forest plans
Coordination and administration	1630	10 wks-bio	14 wks-bio	12,308	17,231	Coordinate with IDL, USFS, Potlatch Corp., sportsmen groups, monthly reports, PR reports, budgets, supervise tech
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	12 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	8 wks-bio 4 wks-tech	17,349	12,426	20 timber sales EAs EISs, 3 landscape projects

Total PR Contract with Overhead	\$86,109
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$86,109

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Jim White
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SALMON RIVER HABITAT DISTRICT

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Management Program - Management Areas						
Areas and facilities maintained, management areas and easements	1211	7 weeks-bio 12 weeks tech	8 weeks 12 weeks	11,487 6,000	14,954 7,000	350 acres
Provide assistance to private landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	1 week-bio	0	1,141	0	# of inquires: none
INVESTIGATIONS						
Management Program - Monitor Resource Users, Habitat and Populations						
Population Evaluation - population levels, distribution, sex and age structure, recruitment rates	1460	12 weeks-bio 1 week-tech	15 weeks 0	15,692 500	19,115	WT deer, mule deer, elk, moose, bear, mtn. lion
Utilization - enforce fish and game laws, check stations, hunter use	1430	4 weeks-bio	2 weeks	4,564	2,282	Elk, moose, WT deer, mule deer
Habitat - habitat inventory, quality and monitoring	1440	2 weeks-bio 2 weeks-tech	2 weeks 2 weeks	2,282 1,000	2,282 1,000	WT deer, mule deer, elk., waterfowl, neotropical birds
DEVELOPMENT						
Management Program - species introductions, habitat improvement, facilities development						
Habitat Improvement Development - habitat alterations and restoration	1322	4 weeks-bio	4 weeks	6,564	6,564	# of sites: 1 314 acres
Introductions - establishment of species to previously unoccupied habitat	1311	1 week	0	1,141	0	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Introductions - restoration of species into previously occupied habitat	1312	3 weeks-bio 1 week-tech	0	3,423 500	0	
User facilities - misc. facilities development	1334	2 weeks-bio 2 weeks-tech	2 weeks 2 weeks	2,681 1,000	2,681 1,000	# of sites: 3
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE						
Review of Public Projects - environmental review of public projects	1710	2 weeks	5 weeks	2,282	5,705	# of projects: 4
Assistance to Private Landowners - assistance on wildlife management practices	1720	2 weeks	0	2,282	0	# of inquires: none
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION						
Coordination and Administration - management area plans, engineering, program admin. and administrative activities	1630	8 weeks-bio	8 weeks	9,128	9,128	

Total PR Contract	7,899
Outside Funds	\$63,812
Grand Total	\$71,711

The leader provided *Atemesia Cana Cana* seed to the Rocky Mountain Research Station at Provo for the plant material expansion program. This seed was collected at the Jerome shrub garden and will be utilized to provide resprouting shrubs for restoring upland and big game habitats. Assessments were made on the viability of using perennial wheat, perennial rye, and Maximillian sunflower as wildlife food plots.

After three growing seasons, the wheat didn't persist well at all and was essentially gone from the test plot after the first year. The rye performed better in establishment and persisted for two years, but after three years it didn't appear strong enough to warrant continuing the trial. The ground planted to wheat and rye was plowed and sprayed for weeds and will be replanted with a lighter seed rate in hopes of better stand establishment. The farmer will also have to change his watering practices to stimulate tillering and hopefully increase overwinter survival. The area was plowed in the spring of 2000 and will be seeded in the 2001 spring.

Of the three plants tested, the sunflower has performed the best. Where watered effectively, the plants are 5 to 7 feet tall and producing 5 to 10 flowers per plant. The seed produced is small but sought out by pheasants and attracts many nongame birds. The original seeding was planted at too high a rate to be desirable. Since year one it has appeared that there were too many plants in the rows to maximize food value on the site. It seems that if plants were spaced about a foot apart in a single row, the best stands could be established. It is obvious that this plant requires a fair amount of water and should be planted in sites that can be watered at about the same rate as corn or sugar beets to maximize growth and flowering rates. After being rotobated and recorrugated this spring, the sunflower stand appears healthier than last year.

It is recommend that future plantings in field situations be done with a sugar beet seeder or similar equipment that allows wide spacing of the relatively small seeds. It seems that periodic (2-3 year) mowing or rotobating improves plant vigor. It might be advisable to mow in early spring at 15-20 inch heights to stimulate summer growth and get suitable pheasant nesting cover as a side benefit.

Another use for this sunflower may be as a riparian enhancement in chukar and quail habitat. It would probably do well hand seeded into small scrapes along perennial stream courses. Given its obvious attractiveness to pheasant and nongame birds, it probably would be readily used by chukar, gray partridge, and quail.

Intermediate wheat grass crossed with annual wheat was planted in the spring of 1999 at C.J. Strike Wildlife Land Management Area and is producing a good stand with heavy seed heads. The water was withdrawn in August to stimulate tillering. The perennial character of this plant will be evaluated during the 2001 growing season. Seed is being held in reserve if needed for future plantings. The seed researcher will not continue this line due to the lack of interest in the agricultural industry. They did not like the taller plants. If this line proves to be perennial in nature, every effort should be taken to collect the seed for future expansion.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Clair Kofoed
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

FORT BOISE HABITAT DISTRICT

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PHEASANT AND WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Management						
Plant nesting cover and food plots, 60 acres	1322	11 weeks	11 weeks	14,718	12,756	MALL, CITE, pheasant, quail
Maintain 98 nest structures, and add 30 new structures	1211	11 weeks	11 weeks	14,718	12,756	CAGO, WODU
Manage water levels for sago pond weed, emergents, and carp control, 150 acres	1211	8 weeks	8 weeks	10,704	9,278	REDH, MALL, CANV, TSWN
Manage grazing for goose pasture, 60 acres	1211	3 weeks 60 acres	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	CAGO
Irrigation of food plot on Gold Island	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,690	5,798	CAGO, R.N. pheasant
Spray <u>Lepidium</u> to improve nesting habitat, 200 acres	1322	8 weeks	8 weeks	10,704	9,278	MALL, CITE, R.N. Pheasant
Management Program - Reduce Predators to Allow 30% Nest Success						
Remove predator habitat, 10 acres	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,690	5,798	R.N. Pheasant, MALL, CITE
Management Program - Production Survey						
Duck nest success and brood counts, 14-mile route	1460	9 weeks	9 weeks	12,042	10,437	MALL, CITE
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Hunter Management						
Maintain and enforce 22 hunter access sites	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Maintain and erect directional signs	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Mow hunting lanes	1211	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,690	5,798	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Collect harvest data	1430	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Stock pheasants (state funds)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,676	2,320	
OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Food and Cover for Other Wildlife Species						
Planting cover and food plots, 60 acres	1322	7 weeks	7 weeks	9,366	8,118	C. Quail, turkey
Erect and maintain nest sites, 40 boxes	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	Am. Avocet, screech owls
Record production data	1460	1 week	1 week	1,338	1,160	
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management - Provide Wetland, Parking, and Information for Nonconsumptive Use						
Mow parking areas	1332	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Install interpretive signs	1334	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Give tours	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
Conduct winter bird census	1460	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,014	3,479	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Review impacts of proposed habitat developments	1710	11 weeks	11 weeks	14,718	12,756	
Assist landowners with habitat developments	1720	11 weeks	11 weeks	14,718	12,756	MALL, CITE, Pheasant
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Routine operations (bills, phone calls, filing, time reporting, etc.)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,676	2,320	
Prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, memos, development proposals)	1211	11 weeks	11 weeks	14,718	12,756	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 86,324
Outside Funds	53,790
Grand Total	\$140,114

NARRATIVE

Duck hunters averaged 2.7 birds/hunter (N=152) opening day. Pheasant hunters averaged .8 birds/hunter (N=81). Duck broods averaged 4.8 ducklings, but number of broods was down to 130 from 188 due to wet weather in May. Sixty acres of food plots were planted to corn and sorghum, while another 40 acres of nesting cover was irrigated. Tours were given to 62 people in 5 groups. There were 15,000 Loosestrife eating beetles released and a new handicapped-access duck blind was constructed. Carp control was achieved on 150 acres of wetland ponds.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Dick Orcutt
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

C.J. STRIKE HABITAT DISTRICT

C.J. STRIKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PUBLIC USE						
Management Program - Waterfowl Hunting						
Maintain roads, ramps and parking areas (22 miles)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,382	2,348	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, Valley quail
Maintain maximum water levels (1,500 acres)	1342	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,522	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, quail, mourning dove
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,174	MALL, Pheasant, CAGO, CADW
Management Program - Pheasant and Quail Hunting						
Protect and maintain hunting cover, mow lanes and maintain fences (35 miles)	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,522	Deer, pheasant, quail, MALL, CAGO
Provide grain in three or four locations (55 acres)	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,522	Deer, pheasant, quail
Develop farming contracts and management direction for new land acquisition (700 acres)	1610	2 weeks	5 weeks	2,388	5,870	
Evaluate lands adjoining WMA for acquisition (Simplot property)	1420	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,174	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, quail, deer, mourning dove
Monitor and report on hunter use and harvest (5,100 visitor days)	1430	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,778	4,696	MALL, CAGO, Sage grouse, deer, pheasant
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Canada Geese						
Maintain brood pasture	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,388	2,348	CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Fence and administer limited livestock grazing (1,600 acres)	1334	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,776	3,522	MALL, CITE, CAGO
Maintain 217 nesting platforms; add 10 new platforms	1460	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,600	4,696	WODU, CAGO
Monitor and report production - 1 transect five times	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,174	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant
Management Program - Mallards and Teal						
Provide good-to-excellent residual nesting cover (2,000 acres)	1440	15 weeks	15 weeks	17,710	17,610	MALL, CITE, Bunte
Increase wood duck populations - 10 new boxes	1440	1 week	1 week	1,194	1,174	WODU
Monitor, evaluate, and report production	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,174	WODU, MALL, CADW
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Habitat Development						
Provide at least 400 acres good residual nesting cover	1440	6 weeks	7 weeks	7,164	8,218	Pheasant, Valley quail
Provide grains in small scattered plots – 100 acres	1322	5 weeks	7 weeks	5,970	8,218	Pheasant, Valley quail
Collect data on production and report	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,174	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, quail
Develop HIP projects	1720	8 weeks	8 weeks	9,523	7,044	MALL, CAGO, Pheasant, quail
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Public Awareness						
Conduct tours, give talks, make slide presentations	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,582	2,348	Sportsmen clubs, Hunter Education classes
Management Program - Provide for Other Wildlife						
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Prepare plans, budgets, and other reports; negotiate agreements and land acquisitions	1630	6 weeks	4 weeks	7,164	4,696	Idaho Power relicensing management plan
Cooperate with other agencies	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,582	3,522	Noxious weed spraying with County Weed Supervisor
Maintenance and upkeep of equipment and buildings	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,390	2,331	Repair shop/office roof

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$32,000
Outside Funds	\$71,616
Grand Total	\$103,616

NARRATIVE

The C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located approximately 20 miles south of Mountain Home, Idaho via State Highway 51. The WMA was acquired through mitigation from Idaho Power after construction of C.J. Strike Dam in the early 1950s. The area's purpose has been to provide public access for hunting and fishing in addition to developing excellent wildlife habitat. One full-time manager and an 8-month temporary currently develop and maintain the entire WMA. With rent license fee increases, additional manpower and equipment are being incorporated into the management plan to provide for more wildlife food/cover plots and spraying of noxious weeds.

This 13,500-acre WMA borders the 7,500-surface-acre area of C.J. Strike Reservoir, which extends 32 miles up the Snake River and 12 miles up the Bruneau River from C.J. Strike Dam. The area has a wide diversification of habitat types. The dominant classifications are lakes and reservoirs, low sagebrush, and irrigated agricultural lands.

Idaho Power Company (8,000 acres, 59%); Bureau of Land Management (4,750 acres, 35%); and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (750 acres, 6%) share in ownership of the WMA. The Department of Fish and Game manages and operates the entire wildlife management area.

Twelve public access sites, including Grasmere Reservoir, Cove Arm Lake, and Crane Falls Lake, are available and maintained for outdoor enthusiasts who may enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, bird watching, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, Boy Scout projects, dog training, and wildlife studies.

The WMA is a major production and wintering area for waterfowl. Annually, 350 Canada goose broods and 800 duck broods, mostly mallards, are produced on the WMA. Winter counts range from 30,000 to 100,000 ducks and 8,000 to 15,000 Canada geese. The largest numbers of waterfowl usually arrive in November and leave in February. Waterfowl hunting is very good throughout most of the season, with 15,000 hunters harvesting 40,000 ducks and 6,500 geese. Hunters also enjoy a mixed bag of sage grouse, pheasants, Valley quail, Hungarian partridge, chukars, cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, mule deer, and white-tailed deer.

The WMA annually produces 500 broods of pheasants and Valley quail. To supplement the hunting pressure on pheasants, 2,500 roosters are released on the area throughout the hunting season. Approximately 95% of these birds are harvested by hunters.

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

Rainbow trout, bluegill, black crappie, perch, bullheads, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass are the predominant species of game fish in the reservoir. Fishing is fair to good throughout the year, with 65,000 fishing days expended annually. Sturgeon are also caught just below the dam and in the reservoir on a catch-and-release basis only.

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

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

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Jerry Scholten
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

BOISE RIVER HABITAT DISTRICT

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTERING HABITAT						
Management Program - Protect Wintering Big Game from Undue Harassment						
Close roads to unauthorized travel December through April	1211	1 day	1.125 days	300	230	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 grazing	1211	10 days	2.19 days	3,000	450	Mule deer and elk
Collect data, composition, species, mortality, and production of wildlife	1211	21 days	31 days	5,500	7,182	Mule deer and elk
Collect harvest information and patrol area	1420	4 days	13.8 days	1,200	3,600	Mule deer and elk
Cooperate with agencies on fire prevention/suppression on WMA	1211	1 day	1.7 days	300	340	Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Acquire Critical Winter Range Through Fee Title or Lease						
Write up land description for lease or purchase	1620	3 days	.56 day	400	884	Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Manage Winter Range Vegetation						
Use grazing or prescribed burns to maintain seral plant communities; find improved forage species	1211	32,680 acres 5 days	1.5 days	1,500	310	Mule deer and elk
Plant grasses, forbs, and shrubs to improve wildlife habitat	1211	30,000 Shrubs 7 days	22.19 days	7,000	8,106	Mule deer, elk, and nongame
Management Programs - Control Undesirable Vegetation						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Control noxious and undesirable weeds cooperatively with county weed control personnel	1211	32,680 acres 3 days	4.7 days	3,000	4,146	Comply with state law
Management Programs - Develop Water Sources						
Maintain and develop water projects on WMA; collect data on flows	1321(D)	58 springs 4 days	0	2,500	0	Mule deer and elk
Management Programs - Improve and Maintain Fences						
Maintain, construct, or remove existing fences and gates	1211	10 days	6.4 days	4,500	1,225	Mule deer and elk
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT						
Management Program - Make Improvements to the Watershed						
Collect data on riparian zones, litter, erosion, bare ground, and range condition	1440	3 days	8.3 days	900	1,248	Less soil loss and better water quality
Management Program - Access Management						
Maintain roads	1211	10 days	12.9 days	4,000	5,335	Benefits: Recreational users
Provide informational signs	1211	2 days	2.6 days	900	1,619	Benefits: Recreational users
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain/Improve WMA Buildings						
Maintain buildings	1211	8 days	22 days	3,000	5,799	
Management Program - Provide Safe Equipment to Perform Needed Land Management Functions						
Maintain, lease, or repair equipment as needed	1211	22 days	25.5 days	9,500	6,917	66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
Management Program - Do Administrative Requests and Required Paperwork						
Project administration including annual, monthly, and other reports required by cooperating agencies	1211	29 days	29.6 days	9,660	10,718	66 mammals, 168 birds, 17 reptiles, 8 amphibians
Assist other departments, divisions, and agencies	1710	64 days	57.4 days	15,000	13,627	250 birds, 85 mammals, 20 reptiles, 9 amphibians, and 40 fish
Other duties as assigned	1211	53 days	29.6 days	9,661	8,478	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 7,329
Outside Funds	79,321
Grand Total	\$86,650

NARRATIVE

To provide winter forage for 9,000 mule deer and 500 head of elk. To maintain or improve the watershed, improve or maintain upland game habitat. Provide for at least 35,300 user hours for nonconsumptive use and 11,950 user hours of consumptive use.

The Habitat District boundary is from State Highway 55 in Boise, along the Interstate to the Black's Creek/Prairie road to Prairie, then along the hunting Unit 39 boundary to Lowman, down Forest Service Highway 24 to State Highway 55, and 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 in 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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Lands, Highland Livestock and Land Company, and Paul Hahn Ranch. The goals of the WMA are, (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 and, therefore, management for mule deer habitat will have the highest priority.

During the winter of 1999-2000, counts estimated 8500 mule deer and 400 elk wintered on the WMA. The last complete aerial survey of mule deer in Unit 39 was 1998. Past aerial surveys indicated between 35-45% of the mule deer observed were on the WMA. The Unit 39 mule deer winter range within the Boise River drainage consists of approximately 215,000 acres, with the WMA making up approximately 16%. This 16% of the area supports an average of 41% of the observed mule deer. The 1999-2000 aerial elk survey was up considerable over past counts. Seven thousand ninety-six elk were observed, with approximately 4,600 cows.

The 1999-2000 winter was open, but utilization of bitterbrush was heavy - over 50%. There were more animals on the WMA, which could account for the high utilization. The utilization is similar to the last three years of open winters of 69% in 1998-1999, 49% in 1997-1998, and 64% in 1996-1997.

Body condition information collected from road killed mule deer indicated that most of the females were at or above the 1983-2000 average until April, when they dropped below. The fawns started dropping below the long-term average in January and remained below for the remainder of the season. Information on condition is as follows:

MULE DEER CONDITION

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%.

1999-2000	females				fawns				males			
	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss
November	89	11	--	9	80	20	--	10	--	--	--	--
December	100	--	--	11	78	11	11	9	--	--	--	--
January	100	--	--	7	20	30	50	10	100	--	--	1
February	91	9	--	11	22	33	45	9	33	--	66	3
March	100	--	--	1	--	33	67	3	--	--	--	--
April	--	67	33	6	--	--	100	1	--	50	50	2

1983-2000	females				fawns				males			
	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss	g	f	p	ss
November	96	4	--	28	89	11	--	35	100	--	--	2
December	86	14	--	63	76	14	10	42	67	16	17	6
January	87	9	4	80	45	18	37	56	100	--	--	8
February	83	10	7	41	24	30	46	33	50	--	50	6
March	75	11	14	28	6	47	47	17	--	--	100	2
April	28	44	23	18	--	25	75	20	--	67	33	3

The estimated winter mortality is 12%. The mortalities came from road kills, predators, and winter kills. Fawns made up the majority of the mortalities. The winter mortality table is as follows:

WINTER MORTALITY OF MULE DEER ON BOISE RIVER WMA

Year	Percent of winter population lost
1999-2000	12
1998-1999	11.6
1997-1998	17
1996-1997	18
1995-1996	16

The WMA entered into a cooperative study with Utah State, Insurance Institute, Department of Transportation, Ada County Sheriff, Army Corps of Engineers, Boise County Sheriff, Mule Deer Foundation, and Ada County Highway District to determine the effectiveness of fold-down warning signs, flashing lights, and flags to increase motorist awareness of deer in the area. Problems with the flashing light and the lateness that the signs were put in limited the amount of data that was collected. In 2000-2001 the WMA is proposing to continue to collect data on the signing project, as well as test the streiter-lite reflectors on a mile section of highway.

Road kills were the second highest recorded. This is in spite of the cooperative effort to sign, light, and flag the highway in an attempt to reduce road kills by making the motorists more aware of deer in the area. Recreational and commuter traffic is still increasing to and from Boise County. Development of traditional summering habitats along the Boise River is forcing this residential population to move to and 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 1999 to July 1, 2000 is as follows:

MULE DEER ROAD KILLS

Year	Number picked up by WMA personnel
1999-2000	151
1998-1999	150
1997-1998	101
1996-1997	111
1995-1996	69

Deer losses due to ice on the Lucky Peak Reservoir near the high bridge were higher than last year. Fifteen deer were lost between December 11 and 21 by falling through the ice. December 14 had nine deer go through the ice. Last year and the year before the major losses occurred on December 8 and 9. One additional deer was lost on the ice and one was saved. No deer were stuck in the mud. The following is a list of years when WMA personnel responded to deer on the reservoir problems and the deer that were lost due to ice or mud in Lucky Peak Reservoir. () is the number saved that were down on the ice or stuck in the mud.

DEER LOST DUE TO ICE OR MUD ON LUCKY PEAK RESERVOIR

Year	# Lost Through Ice	# Deer On Ice	# Stuck In Mud
1999-2000	15	2(1)	0
1998-1999	15	0	0
1997-1998	27	18(4)	0
1995-1996	0	18(5)	0
1993-1994	0	4	0
1983-1984	0	15(?)	0
1982-1983	0	5(4)	0
1977-1978	0	0	6(2)
1972-1973	0	2(2)	0
1971-1972	0	7(7)	0

Mule deer herd composition data taken from ground surveys was collected with a ratio of 19 bucks and 66 fawns per 100 does. Aerial composition counts were made in areas not covered by the ground count with 15 bucks and 54 fawns per 100 does. The average for the two is 17.8 bucks and 61.7 fawns per 100 does. Herd composition information is as follows, all are ground counts except where noted:

MULE DEER HERD COMPOSITION

Year		Bucks	Does	Fawns	Sample Size
1999-2000	(ground)	19	100	66	1515
	(aerial)	15	100	54	781
	(total)	17.8	100	61.7	2296
1998-1999	(ground)	18	100	66	1939
	(aerial)	19	100	57	1695
	(total)	18.6	100	62	3634
1997-1998		19	100	68	1158
1996-1997		19	100	61	2430
1995-1996		26	100	49	2193

Herd composition data has been collected on the WMA since 1966-1967. The data is showing that the last four years the ratios of bucks and fawns are staying about the same. The 1999 season had a 900-permit antlerless hunt and a 1,000-permit youth hunt for Units 39, 22, 31, 32, and 32A. The antlerless hunts did not appear to change the ratio significantly.

The presence of 4-point plus bucks/100 does still concern me, even though it is slowly improving. Some of the literature indicates that large antlers stimulate estrus. The following is the number of 4-point plus bucks per 100 does based on season structure.

NUMBER OF 4 POINT PLUS BUCKS PER 100 DOES		
Year	Season	Number Of 4-Point Plus/100 Does
1999	AO + 900 antlerless CH + AO velvet CH	4.9
1994-1998	AO + AO velvet CH	4.6
1993	AO + 5 day ES	6.7
1992	AO + 5 day ES +antlerless fire hunt	7.4
1986-1991	AO + 5 day ES	6.8
1982-1985	AO	7.1
1979-1981	ES + AO last of season + late CH AO	10.0
1976-78	ES+AO last of season	15.6

AO = antlered only hunt
CH = controlled hunt
ES = either sex hunt

Conception date information for 1999-2000 was collected from 20 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 that there are at least 3 estrus cycles. Conception dates and percent in second or third estrus cycle are as follows:

CONCEPTION DATES OF FEMALE MULE DEER				
Year	Average Date	Percent Late Estrus	Range	SS
1999-2000	Nov 20.5	10.5%	Nov 5-Dec 5	19
1998-1999	Nov 19	2.6%	Nov 5-Dec 10	38
1997-1998	Nov 21	14%	Nov 2-Jan 6	22
1996-1997	Nov 12	0%	Nov 1-Nov 24	19
1995-1996	Nov 16	8%	Nov 7-Dec 6	12
1994-1995	Nov 26	0%	Nov 23-Nov 29	2
1992-1993	Nov 18	4%	Nov 3-Dec 28	24
1991-1992	Nov 24	18%	Nov 8-Dec 22	11
1990-1991	Nov 13	0%	Nov 12-Nov14	5
1984-1986	Nov 13	0%	Nov 6-Nov 24	18
1968-1971	Nov 13	3%	Nov 5-Dec 23	27

Production information was gathered from road kills with 1.3 fetuses per doe. This was down from the 1.66 from last year. There were no triplets found this year. Production of Unit 39 mule deer herd is as follows:

FETUSES PER DOE

Year	Fetuses/Female	Sample Size
1999-2000	1.3	19
1998-1999	1.66	38
1997-1998	1.45	22
1996-1997	1.53	19
1990-1996	1.34	60
1984-1988	1.39	27
1967-1971	1.86	27

The WMA has collected 26 samples to develop baseline data concerning chronic wasting disease in Unit 39 mule deer. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is one of a small group of diseases of humans and animals called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE). CWD is the only known TSE in free-ranging wildlife. Chronic wasting disease is a brain disease that looks a lot like bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Mad Cow disease), and has been reported in deer and elk in Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. It was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer at the Colorado Division of Wildlife research facilities in Fort Collins. It has also been found in captive game farm and free-ranging white-tailed deer, kudu, Arabian oryx, black-tailed deer, and elk. The disease is thought to be caused by a prion, a proteinaceous infectious material. Active research is ongoing to better understand the disease in wildlife and its relationship to other TSEs. It is not known whether CWD might be transmissible to cattle or humans.

The only way to determine whether animals are infected with CWD is to remove the brain from dead animals for laboratory testing. Deer and elk showing clinical signs of CWD, such as abnormal behavior, indifference to human activity, increased salivation, tremor, stumbling, difficulty in chewing or swallowing, increased drinking, and increased urination need a minimum of the posterior brainstem, tonsil, and spleen collected. For monitoring the southwest Idaho mule deer and elk populations, the collection of the obex portion of the brainstem for analysis will be sufficient. If clinical signs of CWD are observed or if positive results from the obex analysis indicate that CWD is present in the southwest Idaho population, then the spleen and tonsil would be collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

Research is being conducted in Wyoming and Colorado to better define the distribution, prevalence, host range, transmission, control, biology, and diagnosis of CWD. Larimer County, Colorado found that 5-6% of the free-ranging deer might be affected by CWD. Preliminary analyses indicated that the transmission of CWD from deer to cattle under free-roaming conditions is extraordinarily difficult or doesn't occur. Wyoming Fish and Game states that current evidence suggests the CWD is species-specific and is not transmitted from wildlife to livestock or humans. Research at USDA laboratory at Ames, Iowa, where cattle were intracerebrally injected with infectious material from deer with CWD showed no signs of illness after 20 months. The infectious agent is self-replicating, slow infectious pathogen, and a prion. Twenty months may not be long enough to determine if livestock are safe from affected wildlife. Affected wildlife surveyed in Colorado and Wyoming were usually older than 18 months and in most cases were 3 to 6 years old.

The WMA is proposing in 2000-2001 to collect mule deer and elk brains from Southwest Idaho (Units 33, 34, 35, 39) mule deer and elk populations and to continue establishing baseline data for the incidence of CWD in Idaho's big game populations. The WMA will collect the obex from hunter and road killed animals, then have these examined by the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. The WMA will monitor the deer and elk population for clinical signs of CWD and these animals collected and examined for evidence of CWD.

There have been several large-scale habitat-altering events that have taken place in Unit 39's summer, winter, and transition range since 1992. In 1992 the 257,000-acre Foothills and 12,733-acre Dunnigan Creek fires burned summer, transition, and winter range. The 1994 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. In 1998 the 1,100-acre Toll Road and 40-acre Section 27 fires burned winter range. In

1999 three small fires, Hobo, Lydle, and Flat, burned 350 acres of winter range. Verme found higher females in the sex ratio from does on good diets at breeding. If this is true, the Idaho City Complex, Star Gulch, and the Foothills should have created a nutritional flush which should have favored females in the fetus and fawn ratios. Connolly states that on the average, the ratio at birth is unbalanced in favor of males. The average sex ratio from the literature is considered 52 males per 48 females. The literature also 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 pounds, 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 gave tried to correlate the fetus ratios with the road kill ratios for comparison.

REPRODUCTION AND ROAD KILL RATIO OF MALES AND FEMALE FAWNS							
FETUSES			ROAD KILLS				
Year	%M	%F	SS	Year	%M	%F	SS
1999-2000	43%	57%	21	1999-2000	42%	58%	61
1998-1999	54%	46%	69	1994-1999	36%	64%	121
1993-1998	41%	59%	39	1991-1994	47%	53%	98
1990-1993	60%	40%	30	1979-1991	51%	49%	112

There were several wildfires on and adjacent to the WMA this fiscal year. Two man-caused fires of less than 1 acre were adjacent to the WMA. An osprey started a 5-acre fire near spring shores. The two larger man-caused fires occurred in Lydle Gulch with 200 acres burning and the 127-acre Hobo fire. Both were on the WMA and on winter range. A small, less-than-one-acre fire burned along Highway 21 near milepost 12.5 in June 2000. Since the 1992 fire, approximately 17,082 acres of the 33,540-acre WMA or 51% of the WMA has been burned. This includes 13,419 acres in 1992, 403 acres in 1994, 1,760 acres in 1996, 1,140 acres in 1998, and 360 acres in 1999. This is all critical winter range and the loss of the shrub component is being felt. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush are coming back, but we have lost about 90% of the bitterbrush.

The Forest Service Nursery grew approximately 20,000 bitterbrush and 10,000 four-wing saltbush to be planted on the WMA. Approximately 6,000 bitterbrush were planted on the Flat burn, 9,000 bitterbrush and 6,000 four-wing on the Hobo burn, 1,400 bitterbrush hand planted on the Spring Shores burn, 250 green bush hand-planted on the Toll Road burn, and 4,000 four-wing and 3,600 bitterbrush in the Charcoal Creek Segment. Two hundred fifty-six volunteers planted an additional 10,000 bitterbrush in the Toll burn and 6,000 bitterbrush on the Hobo fire. The four-wing was checked on the Hobo burn in June with 70% of the box count being counted. We estimate at least a 10% loss from planting multiples and dropped plants. A lot of competition from annual grasses and forbs was observed. Bitterbrush plants planted on the Toll Road Fire in 1999 were checked again and showed sever hedging from wintering big game, which may cause the demise of some plants.

The livestock grazing system consisting of sheep and cattle were used to help maintain the vegetation in a seral community, stimulate leader growth on bitterbrush, and reduce fuel loads for wildfires. The 1999 cattle grazing season would use IP1 (Picket Pin), HP2 (Tower), LP3 (Queens Mine), and HP3 (White Ranch) and consists 325 head for 3.5 months starting April 15. The rotation was based on dates rather than utilization with IP1 April 15-May 5, HP2 May 5-June 1, LP3 June, and HP3 July. Because of a fencing problem in IP1, the cattle were turned into HP1 on May 8 and then to IP1 on May 15 and would remain until June 5. HP2 would be used until July 1 and LP3 in July. HP3 would not be used. The rotation was followed fairly closely with only a few cows in the wrong pasture. The livestock operator has worked hard getting the fences back into shape. The 2000 season would be LP1 (Squaw Creek) April 15-May 5, LP2 (Maynard Gulch) May 5 to June 5, HP2 (Tower) June 5-July 5) and HP1 (Warm Springs0) July 5-July 31. As of July 1 the rotation cycle has been followed. Sheep continued as one band in the spring and one band in the fall.

As of July 1, 2000 two broods of quail were seen with 10 and 11 birds. The 1999 brood data were all quail with the average of 7.9 per brood.

Hunter use information was collected with one of the better years for upland game hunting. Opening day for 1999 had 1.6 birds per hunter compared to .9 in 1998. The number of deer and elk hunter numbers remained about the same, with lower-than-normal harvest because the animals did not move into the area during the general season. Archery hunters continued with about 30% success during the controlled hunt.

There is still a concern about the number of nonconsumptive, nonwildlife-dependent activities on the Boise Front Segment of the WMA. In 1998, 37% of the people contacted on opening day were nonhunters. In 1999, 54% of the people contacted on the opening days were nonhunters. This percentage increases after opening weekends. Safety is becoming an issue, especially on the Boise Front. There is also a concern on the effects of recreation on the wintering of big game and nesting birds.

In 1999 a man was killed on the management area while antler hunting off the road with an ATV. The ATV rolled over backwards and crushed his skull. In 2000, a 20-year-old man was killed at a Boise High School Senior skip while chasing cows on Seeley flat. He was thrown from the pickup and crushed. Both instances the people were off road, which is against regulations. Parties are a continuing problem on the Boise Front Segment.

The WMA was able to utilize Steve Leonard's expertise in stream and riparian condition analysis. Steve was able to classify whether streams on the WMA were in functioning, not functioning, or functioning at risk condition. The data will be analyzed and eventually made into a GIS layer.

The Boise State "Idaho Bird Observatory" had a good year. The University of Idaho graduate study on owls had an incredible year with 902 owls banded. This was up from the 60 caught in 1998. The 1999 captures included 848 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 51 Flammulated, 2 Boreal Owls, and 1 Northern Pygmy-Owl. The 51 Flammulated Owls are an owl that has never been banded at any other owl migration station. The graduate study through University of South Dakota of songbird migration monitoring had several new species added to the list. They include Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Downey Woodpecker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, and Lark Sparrow. Breeding work is being done on various habitats within the Boise Foothills. The raptor numbers were down from the 1998 record-breaking season. In 1998, 8,212 hawks were counted while 1999 only had 5,849, which included 17 broad-wing hawks. This year was the second-best season for captures, with 1,166 raptors banded. An immature Red-shouldered Hawk was captured and banded at Boise Peak in 1999. This is one of only a few confirmed sightings of this species in Idaho and the first to ever be banded in the state.

Habitat District

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

Ada County, Boise County, ACHD, Boise City Parks and Recreation, and the City of Boise.

- Harris Ranch development
- Shooting Range in Ada County
- Section 32 development
- Marcum (Hammer Flat) proposed development
- Extension of the Highlands development by Bogus Basin road
- Extension of the Mesa (Boulder Heights) development
- Summit Ridge development
- Crosstimbers and Creekside development
- Porter Creek development
- Osprey development off Mores Creek
- Star Ranch recreational center and development

Open Space management plan

- Warm Springs and deer signing project with Utah State and others.

U.S. Forest Service

- Horse pasture problems by the nursery
- Enduro Race for motorcycles in the Boise Basin

Bureau of Land Management

- Grazing and grazing systems within the Cascade Resource area
- Mining on the WMA and BLM ground
- Impact area for old Fort Boise (UXO) – unexploded ordnance
- Land exchanges with IDL and the Onion Exchange

Bureau of Reclamation

- Arrowrock Dam reconstruction

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Safety meeting on Lucky Peak Reservoir

Idaho Department of Lands

- Land exchange with BLM and the Department
- North Fork timber sale in Prairie
- Garden Valley shooting range
- Lynx and timber management
- Warm Springs timber sale in Garden Valley
- Trail Creek timber sale in Boise Basin

Ridge to Rivers

- Trailheads in the Squaw Creek area

Idaho Department of Transportation

- Road kill study on Highway 21

Mule Deer Foundation

- Road kill study on Highway 21 and other projects to be considered for funding

Nature Conservancy

- Smith Property and fencing

Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Soil survey

Upper Payette Weed Management Area

- Weed control on the upper Payette

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Tim Shelton
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

PAYETTE RIVER HABITAT DISTRICT

PAYETTE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Maintain, relocate, and provide needed nesting structures, increase high quality hunting and nesting cover						
Maintain waterfowl nesting and hunting cover and goose nesting platforms. Inspect maintaining water levels on production ponds	1211	8 weeks 300 platforms 20 acres 11 ponds	14 weeks 250 platforms 30 acres 13 ponds	13,904	19,710	CAGO, MALL, GUDU, AGWT, CITE, WODU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Establish wildlife cover for nesting, hunting, and food plots	1211	12 weeks 25 new goose platforms plant 5,000 shrubs/trees 12 acres food plots 50 acres cover	10 weeks 50 new goose platforms plant 9,000 shrubs/trees 10 acres food plots 50 acres cover	19,356	18,450	CAGO, MALL, GUDU, AGWT, CITE, WODU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Evaluate waterfowl nesting success	1460	2 weeks 200 platforms 11 ponds 175 wood duck boxes	2 weeks 200 platforms 11 ponds 175 wood duck boxes	3,226	2,700	CAGO, AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Enlarge water ponds	1342	1 week 4 acres	1 week 4 acres	1,613	1,350	CAGO, AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU, LESC, RUDU, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Enforce regulations for spring closures						
Patrol wildlife areas to inform public of closures and maintain parking areas	1332	1 week 2500 acres 3 parking areas	1 week 2500 acres 3 parking areas	1,613	1,620	CAGO, AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Sign management area	1333	2 days 100 signs	2 days 100 signs	645	540	CAGO, AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Management Program - Reduce predation on nesting wildlife						
Trap and remove unwanted predators	1470	3 days 50 predators	3 days 50 predators	968	810	CAGO, AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU, LESC, RUDU, REDH
Management Program - Plant trees and shrubs for nesting cover and install and maintain wood duck boxes						
Evaluate sites and plant trees and shrubs; clean and install wood duck boxes	1440	2 weeks 10 acres 175 boxes	3 weeks 10 acres 175 boxes	3,226	4,050	AGWT, MALL, WODU, GADU
Management Program - Maintain hunter visits at present rates						
Evaluate hunter usage and access management	1430	4 days 300 hunter contacts	4 days 300 hunter contacts	1,290	1,050	CAGO, MALL, WODU
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Conduct tours, increase public contacts and information, evaluate nongame species on WMA						
Conduct tour with volunteers, scouts, and students	1510	1 week 2 days tours	3 days 1 tour	1,613	810	
Conduct species list and abundance of nongame species	1410	2 days	0	645	0	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance to local, state, federal, and private parties						
Work with private landowners on HIP developments	1720	5 weeks 30 contracts	6 weeks 15 contracts	8,065	8,100	RUDU, MALL, AGWT, GADU, REDH, LESC, WODU, CITE
Review environmental impacts on habitat issues with other agencies	1710	2 weeks 10 evaluations	2 weeks 8 evaluations	3,226	2,700	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1610	4 weeks 6 annually	4 weeks 10 annually	6,452	5,684	
Management Program - Training						
Improve technical skills		3 weeks 4 training schools	1 week 1 training school	4,839	2,700	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other duties as assigned		8 weeks 4 days	10 weeks 4 days	13,171	9,205	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$10,972
Outside Funds	\$60,144
Grand Total	\$71,116

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 that 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 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 twelve females and four 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 eight hunting seasons, approximately 45 toms have been taken by hunters.

Furbearers

Muskrat, 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, cooper's, 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. Mallard is the most common duck harvested and the bulk of the remainder are wood ducks, green-winged teal, and golden eyes.

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

Wildlife Production

Canadian goose production was very good on the Payette River Islands in 2000 because of good water conditions. A survey of two production ponds on the WMA indicated high nesting density. In 2000, two ponds totaling 20 acres had 72 goose nesting pairs with a 90% hatching success.

Upland game bird production was excellent in 2000. 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 \$7,400 were expended in hemlock control.

Habitat Projects

Trees and shrubs were planted on the North and South sides of Birding Island's segments, adding 250 new plants.

The Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) developed over 17 private properties in the Payette, Washington, and Adams Counties by establishing food plots, planting 9,000 shrubs and trees, and developing one wetland pond.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Bryan Helmich
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

BROWNLEE WILDLIFE HABITAT DISTRICT

CECIL D. ANDRUS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		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	3 weeks 2 houses 4 trailers	5,592	3,077	
Maintain barns, corrals, and general items	1334	2 weeks	2 weeks		1,025	
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Improve deer and elk winter range						
Monitor upland vegetation condition	1440	5 weeks 24,000 acres	4 weeks	6,990	4,103	Mule deer and elk
Control livestock and fence maintenance	1334	6 weeks 110 miles	4 weeks	8,388	4,866	Elk
Big game census	1460	4 weeks aerial flights: elk, deer	2 weeks	2,796	2,051	Mule deer and elk
Planting trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 shrubs	2 weeks 5,000 shrubs	2,510	2,051	Mule deer, elk, and upland game
Management Program - Wetland rehabilitation						
Water developments, inspections	1321	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,796	4,077	Mule deer and elk

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
		50 sites	90 sites			
Riparian zone monitoring	1440	2 weeks 5 mi/stream	1 week 3 mi/stream	2,796	1,025	Mule deer and elk
Wildlife pond rehabilitation	1321	2 weeks 4 sites	1 week 2 sites	2,796	1,025	Mule deer, elk, and upland game
Management Program - Hunter access						
Develop management plan for access	1610	1 week	1 week	1,398	1,025	Mule deer and elk
Monitor and maintain gates protecting access	1334	5 weeks 18 gates	4 weeks	6,990	5,103	Mule deer and elk
UPLAND GAME BIRD WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Protect important upland game bird winter habitat						
Fence/keep cattle in appropriate pastures	1470	2 weeks 330 pairs	3 weeks 330 pairs 170 yearlings	2,796	4,077	Columbia sharptail
Monitor riparian zones	1440	12 weeks 5 mi/stream	4 weeks	1,398	5,103	
Maintain water developments	1321	3 weeks 50 sites	3 weeks 50 sites	4,194	3,077	Grey partridge, chukar
Monitor upland habitat	1440	3 weeks 40 veg. transects	2 weeks	4,194	3,051	Chukar, grey partridge
Plant trees and shrubs	1322	2 weeks 3,000 plants	1 week 1,000 plants	2,796	1,025	Turkey, forest grouse
Plant winter feed plots	1322	2 weeks 10 acres	1 week 10 acres	2,796	1,035	Turkey, California quail
Weed control	1322	8 weeks 600 acres	7 weeks 400 acres	11,184	9,180	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	2,051	Chukar, gray partridge
Tree and shrub planting	1322	2 weeks 2,000 plants	2 weeks 1,000 plants	2,796	1,025	Chukar, gray partridge
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide hunter access on WMA						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Check hunters in and out of 18 locked gates - 10,000 user days	1331	14 weeks 18 locked gates	12 weeks 18 locked gates	19,572	14,313	
Road maintenance	1331	4 weeks 30 miles	3 weeks 20 miles	5,592	4,077	
Enforce regulations and road closures - 18 gates	1331	6 weeks 18 gates 20 miles/rd	4 weeks 18 gates 18 miles/rd	8,388	5,103	
Interview hunters, public relations	1430	4 weeks 1,000 hunters	3 weeks 1,000 hunters	5,592	4,077	
WILDLIFE VIEWING						
Management Program - Nonconsumptive wildlife use						
Check individuals in and out of locked gates - 100 user days	1331	4 weeks	2 weeks	5,592	3,051	
Public tours - 100 user days	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,796	1,025	
OUTDOOR RECREATION						
Management Program - Nonhunting use						
Check hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, etc., into locked gates and onto WMA – 200 user days	1630	3 weeks	1 week	4,194	1,025	
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	5,103	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Review and evaluate planning documents relating to WMA	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	8,388	7,155	
Maintain files; prepare administrative documents, reports, budgets, purchasing requests, etc.	1610	8 weeks	8 weeks	11,184	10,206	
Management Program – Training						
Improve technical skills	1630	4 weeks	2 weeks	5,592	3,051	
Administrative access program	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,796	3,056	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Other regional duties as assigned	1610	14 weeks	8 weeks	19,572	9,208	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	*\$100,970
Outside Funds	57,300
Grand Total	\$158,270

*The \$65,216 amount for the total PR contract was incorrect and was changed to the correct amount of \$100,970

NARRATIVE

Maintain Structures and Facilities

The Andrus Wildlife Management Area (AWMA) has more structures and facilities than any other wildlife management area in Idaho. There are 6 residences, 1 workshop with attached vehicle bays, and 18 other structures consisting of horse barns, corrals, sheds, and livestock loading chutes. The management area consists of 19 fenced pastures that include 110 miles of fence. There are 50 miles of gravel roads on the area. Maintenance of these facilities are implemented according to planned work projects and as new maintenance requirements are identified throughout the annual period.

During FY00 the FTE Wildlife Technician position was vacant for a period of 34 weeks due to a former employee in that position being promoted to a new position.

The Dukes Creek and Middle Fork roads were repaired from flood damage that occurred during 1998.

The new water troughs were installed on the area to facilitate livestock distribution and three other water troughs were repaired.

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 pasture fence, and 90 water improvements within 19 pastures; implementation of vehicle access program; ground and aerial surveys of wintering big game animals on the area; planted 6,000 trees and shrubs, monitored 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 turkeys winter on the AWMA. The following projects have been completed: Food plots of wheat were planted and left unharvested for use by wintering upland game birds. Livestock grazing in sagebrush, upland, and riparian plant communities was monitored to prevent adverse impacts to those communities; 250 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 313 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 work projects have been completed: monitored 30 vegetation transects in selected upland and riparian plant communities within the pasture rotation system; mapped and inventoried water improvement structures on the area using GPS equipment; monitored pre- and post-range condition within pasture rotation system; collected harvest data and upland bird wings from hunters using the area.

Public Hunting

The management area provides the public with a variety of hunting opportunities. The area encompasses parts of 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. Repaired culverts and built anti-erosion barriers where needed.

Wildlife Viewing

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

Provided 100 user days to individuals using controlled access gates on area while viewing wildlife.

Administration

Provided technical assistance on the impacts that logging, grazing, and mining activities would have on associated wildlife habitats. This assistance was provided to the following agencies or organizations: US 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-16
 Project Leader: Mark Fleming
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MAGIC VALLEY REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SUPERVISION						
Management Program – Provide supervision for the Magic Valley Region						
Supervise habitat program	1630	24 weeks 5 WMAs 5 perm. pers.	12 weeks	31,248	19,296	Big game, upland game, and waterfowl
Supervise wildlife management areas (WMAs)	1630	52 weeks*	24 weeks	67,704	38,592	see above
Review lands proposed for purchase	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,604	3,216	see above
Review of public projects	1710	9 weeks**	5 weeks	11,718	8,040	see above
Assistance to private landowners	1720	9 weeks***	5 weeks	11,718	8,040	see above

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$90,078
Outside Funds	4,600
Grand Total	\$94,678

*The total includes 18 weeks of time that is described in detail in the Minidoka Habitat District report and 10 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 2 weeks described in the Niagara Habitat District report.

***The total includes 4 weeks of time described in the Minidoka Habitat District report and 2 weeks of time described in the Niagara Habitat District report.

The Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager resigned halfway through the fiscal year and the Niagara Habitat District Biologist moved to another position during the last three months of the fiscal year. Neither position was filled during the fiscal year, which explains the differences in the planned and actual work activities for the fiscal year reported.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: TBA
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MAGIC VALLEY REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MAINTENANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain buildings	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,186	1,169	
Maintain roads and trails	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,279	2,338	
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week	1 week	1,093	1,169	
Maintain fences, remove unneeded fences	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,186	1,169	Big Game, Upland Game
Misc. facilities development	1334	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,372	3,507	
Parking lot development	1332	1 week	1 week	1,093	1,169	
Repair water control structures	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,279	2,338	Upland birds, numerous waterfowl species
Sign repair and replacement	1211	1 week	1 week	1,093	1,169	
Water level management	1211	1 week	1 week	1,093	1,169	
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development*2 weeks						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,186	2,338	Big Game, Upland Game
Maintain herbaceous seedings	1322	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,279	2,338	Big Game, Upland Game
Control vegetation	1211	11 weeks	9 weeks	12,023	10,521	
Rangeland rehabilitation	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,186	2,338	Big Game, Upland Game
Farmland rehabilitation	1322	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,279	3,507	Big Game, Upland Game
Establish food plots	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,186	2,338	Big Game, Upland Game, Waterfowl
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.	1630	2 weeks	1 week	2,186	1,169	
Other duties as assigned	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,186	2,338	

Total PR Contract With Overhead \$42,092
 Other Funds (See note) 0
 Grand Total \$42,092

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

The Utility Craftsman position was vacant for 5 months; hence, the planned work activities were reduced as reflected by the actual work performed.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

CENTENNIAL HABITAT DISTRICT

CAREY LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES
3. NONCONSUMPTIVE RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Objective: Enhance nesting cover						
Replant nesting cover on 20 acres.	1322	1 week	2 week	1,405	2,810	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds The time was spent designing and obtaining outside funds to upgrade irrigation system. To be used to plant 120 acres of DNC.
Objective: Maintain and enhance artificial nesting structures						
Maintain 50 Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	.5 week 50 platforms	.5 week	702	702	CAGO
Develop, install, maintain, and evaluate duck nesting structures	1211	1 week 6 structures	0 week	1,405	0	Not completed due to insufficient funds. MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Objective: Nonconsumptive recreational and educational opportunity						
Conduct tours as requested	1630	.5 week	.5 week	702	702	
Maintain species observation list						All
ADMINISTRATION						
Maintain Department lands and facilities	1211	.5 week	.5 week	702	702	All
Control noxious weeds on project areas	1211	1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	2,107	2,107	All

NARRATIVE

The Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area is located one mile east of the town of Carey in Blaine County, Idaho on U.S. Highway 93. This WMA, at an elevation of 4,763 feet, is on the northern border of the Snake River Plain in southern Idaho. Carey Lake was acquired by the Department of Fish and Game from the Carey Lake Reservoir Company in 1949. Adjoining property was acquired from several sources between 1951 and 1957.

Carey Lake WMA has moderately severe winters with temperatures as low as -35F and snow depths ranging from 10 to 24 inches. The lake usually freezes over by early November. Summers are moderately hot and dry with temperatures often reaching 95F. The growing season averages about 110 days. Annual precipitation varies from 9 to 13 inches, with less than half falling during the growing season.

A shallow lake and surrounding marsh dominate the WMA, the lake totaling 365 acres at high water. Hardstem bulrush and cattail are the major vegetation types of the marsh. There are 100 acres of irrigated and dry cropland on the west side of the lake, producing alfalfa, small grains, and pasture. There are also 285 acres of sage and lava outcropping on the south side. In 1977 and again in 1992 deep channels were dug on the north end of the lake to improve the fishery and create nesting habitat with the spoils that were dressed down and seeded to dense nesting cover.

The WMA is primarily a production and migration stopover area. The area annually produces approximately 300 ducks and 200 Canada Geese. During spring migration up to 5,000 ducks and 500 tundra swans stop to rest and feed on the WMA. There are less than 1,000 hunter visits a year due primarily to early freeze up. Fishing is the major public use of the WMA with an estimated 2,000 visits per year. Bluegill, large mouth bass, and bullheads are the predominant species of game fish in the reservoir.

Pheasants Forever and NRCS WHIP program each contributed ten thousand dollars to replace the hand and wheel line irrigation system at Carey Lake WMA with a used center pivot. This new irrigation system will make it possible for the manager to irrigate 90 acres of DNC under the pivot and 30 acres of shelter belt, food plots and DNC with the existing wheel line and solid set hand line. This will get us out of alfalfa sharecropping and producing irrigated dense nesting cover, 2,700 ft. of 8 row shelterbelt and 8 acres of food plots. The lake has held good water levels the past few years and the blue gill and large mouth bass fishing have been very good. The lake came through the winter with fairly low water levels and, despite adding water all spring, the lake continues to drop.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Terry Gregory
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

CENTENNIAL HABITAT DISTRICT

CAMAS PRAIRIE CENTENNIAL MARSH

Management Priorities:

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. PROVIDE QUALITY BIG GAME AND UPLAND HABITAT
3. WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES
4. PROVIDE NONCONSUMPTIVE RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Additional work performed and reported under Magic Valley Habitat Maintenance.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Objectives: Preserve and maintain existing wetland						
Maintain sedge and reed canary grass habitats in a diverse successional stage, using fire and/or herbicides	1322	1,800 acres 1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Exclude livestock to maximize nesting cover and minimize wetland damage	1322	5-½ miles of fence	0		0	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Restore riparian systems by encouraging beaver activity	1211	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Objective: Maintain existing and develop new brood rearing habitat						
Maintain 18 brood ponds with wells and water delivery system.	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,810	2,810	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Maintain dense nesting cover on 82 islands	1221	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Maintain 4 acres of Canada goose pasture	1211	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	CAGO
Objective: Develop additional waterfowl breeding habitat						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Construct waterfowl pair ponds	1341	2 weeks 4-6 ponds	0 week	2,810	0	Not completed due to water rights problems. MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Objective: Develop and maintain dense nesting cover						
Convert 426 acres of cropland to dense nesting cover	1322	4 weeks	6 weeks	5,620	8,430	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO, Shorebirds
Objective: Wildlife food plots						
Provide grain on 15-20 acres	1322	1 week	0 week	1,405	0	Not completed due to insufficient manpower. MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO
Plant moist soil waterfowl food plots	1322	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC, CAGO
Objective: Maintain and enhance artificial nesting structures						
Maintain wood duck nest box	1211	1 week 24 boxes	1 week	1,405	1,405	WODU
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	1 week 100 platforms	1 week	1,405	1,405	CAGO
Maintain Canada goose nesting platforms off the WMA; installed twenty new platforms	1211	1 week 100 platforms	2 weeks	1,405	2,810	CAGO
Experiment with duck nesting structures	1322	1 week	0 week	1,405	0	Not completed due to insufficient funds. MALL, AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, NSHO
Objective: Monitor waterfowl production						
Monitor duck production with brood counts	1460	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, CANV, LESC
Monitor Canada goose platform use	1460	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	CAGO
Objective: Control noxious weeds						
Identify and control noxious weeds with herbicides	1211	3 weeks 500 Acres	4 weeks	4,215	5,620	More time was required keeping the CRP ground clear of weeds.
PROVIDE QUALITY BIG GAME AND UPLAND HABITAT						
Objective: Develop uplands to provide diverse habitat base						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
The 426 acres of dense nesting cover will contain a diverse mix of grasses, forbs and shrubs	1322	Completed in another objective				MALL, GADW , AMWI, AGWT, BWTE, CITE, NSHO, NOPI, REDH, LESC, Shorebirds, Sage grouse, Antelope
WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY						
Objective: Provide hunting opportunity						
Maintain existing road and parking	1331	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	
Provide outhouse facility	1334	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,810	2,810	
Monitor hunter use and opinions	1430	.5 week	.5 week	702	702	
NONCONSUMPTIVE RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY						
Maintain existing road and parking area for birders	1331	Completed in another objective				
Provide outhouse facility	1334	Completed in another objective				
Provide educational tours when requested		1 week 150 school kids	1 week	1,405	1,405	
Provide brochures and bird lists; maintain species list of Centennial Marsh						
Monitor nonconsumptive use and opinions	1430	.5 week	.5week	702	702	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,620	5,620	All
Assistance to landowners	1720	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,215	4,215	All
ADMINISTRATION						
Maintain Department lands and facilities	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,810	2,810	All
Maintain project buildings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	
Maintain and repair equipment	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,810	2,810	
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,810	2,810	
Maintain files, prepare administrative reports	1630	1 week	1 week	1,405	1,405	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	4 weeks	4 weeks	5,620	5,620	

Total PR Contract w/Overhead	\$73,082
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$73,082

NARRATIVE

Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area is located 14 miles west of the town of Fairfield in south-central Idaho's Camas County, on U.S. Highway 20. Its 5,000 foot elevation lends it to experience common winter lows of -20 degrees Fahrenheit and summer highs of 90 degrees. Snowfall can be plentiful, with more than four feet on the ground in normal winters.

In 1987 Ducks Unlimited, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and The Nature Conservancy combined efforts to purchase 360 acres, with additional purchases soon to follow. Today, the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh WMA provides 3,100 acres for waterfowl, shorebirds and a host of other wildlife.

Camas Creek is filled bank to bank from April through June and is dry by mid-July. The area's flat topography allows water to spread evenly over two-thirds of the WMA, with water depths that average only 12 inches after initial spring flooding. In the spring the WMA erupts into a sea of blue Camas lily blooms.

When first acquired the upland areas within the WMA were nearly devoid of residual grass cover due to prior agricultural practices. The resulting lack of nesting cover hampered the nesting success of area waterfowl. To enhance waterfowl nesting efforts, approximately 500 acres of former cropland are being converted to permanent waterfowl nesting cover. Eighteen brood ponds of approximately 2.5 acres were constructed to provide mid- to late summer brood rearing water. The spoils from these ponds were dressed down and seeded to dense nesting cover. These ponds are maintained with three wells on the WMA.

One hundred Canada goose nesting platforms were installed with usage averaging 75%. Four acres of goose pasture are provided as a feeding site. Approximately 400 ducks and 300 geese are produced annually on the WMA. During spring and fall migration, thousands of ducks and geese use the area as a stopover. Two hundred sandhill cranes feed and nest on the area, along with a multitude of shorebirds and raptors. Mule deer, antelope, and occasionally elk and moose use the lush vegetation of Centennial Marsh. Springtime provides the best viewing opportunities for the wildlife watchers, while early freeze up diminishes hunting opportunities in the fall.

A lot time has been spent in the fall of 1999 and through the summer of 2000 preparing the 426 acres that is enrolled in the CRP program. Cultivation and herbicide application have been used to prepare the ground for seeding the fall of 2000. Due to noxious weeds, portions of the ground will not be seeded until fall of 2001. As a result of low spring runoff, the marsh dried up by mid June, two to three weeks earlier than normal. I've had to start pumping earlier, and have been losing ground all summer. Should be able to maintain a minimum of brood water into mid-August when the young birds are flying. This summer a permanent outhouse facility was installed at our visitor area, which will eliminate the \$100 a month port-a-potty rental.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Scott Gamo
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

HAGERMAN HABITAT DISTRICT

BILLINGSLEY CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. ENHANCE WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAMEBIRD HABITAT
2. MAINTAIN WINTER WATERFOWL HABITAT
3. ENHANCE WATERFOWL AND UPLAND BIRD HUNTING
4. PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES
5. PROVIDE WILDLIFE APPRECIATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST ¹		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ENHANCE WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAMEBIRD HABITAT						
Management Program - Increase waterfowl and upland gamebird production						
Implement seasonal access restrictions to reduce disturbance to nesting and brood rearing waterfowl	1610					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Place 4-6 new goose nesting boxes along Billingsley Creek	1322	4-6 boxes 2 days	6 boxes built 1 day	514	257	CAGO. Boxes built, but not placed due to personnel shortage
Prohibit public vehicle access within BCWMA	1211	2 gates 1 day	2 gates 1 day	257	257	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail
Maintain existing fences and build additional ½ mile fence to protect habitat on rim	1211	4 days	1 day	1,028	257	Fence built on the rim by contractor to protect habitat
Create open water areas by control of bulrush and cattails (long-term goal)	1211					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain 4-8 wood duck nesting boxes	1211	1 day	1 day	257	257	WODU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST ¹		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Control Canada thistle, purple loosestrife, and Russian knapweed	1211	3 days	3 days	771	771	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain Canada goose nesting boxes (8)	1211	1 day	0 day	257	0	CAGO Personnel not available.
Monitor use of artificial nesting structures as personnel are available	1211	1 day	0 day	257	0	CAGO, WODU Personnel not available.
MAINTAIN WINTER WATERFOWL HABITAT						
Management Program - Provide wintering waterfowl habitat						
Maintain winter habitat at current level	1211					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain 2 parking lots.	1211	2 lots 2 days	2 lots 1 day	514	257	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Prohibit public motorized vehicles within BCWMA	1211	2 gates				CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain fence	1211	2 miles 2 days	2 miles 0 days	514	0	Fence okay for this year.
Close fishing season 11-30	1211					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Measure and record water flows from 7 weirs	1211	7 weirs 2 days	7 weirs 5 days	514	1,285	7 weirs monitored monthly with some maintenance required.
Provide open water by controlling hardstem bulrush and cattails (long-term goal)	1322					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
ENHANCE WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAMEBIRD HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide waterfowl and upland gamebird hunting						
Provide foot access to both sides of Billingsley Creek	1331					
Maintain 2 parking lots	1211					
Construct 1-3 small ponds when funding is available (long-term goal)	1341					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST ¹		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide foot access to lower Billingsley Creek	1331	Construct 1 trail 3 days	Access development 5 days	771	1,285	Meetings, survey, planning development Accessing options of access
Create open water areas by control of bulrush and cattails (long-term goal)	1322					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain uplands in an undisturbed condition	1211	2 days	2 days	514	514	Pheasants, quail
PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES						
Provide fishing for brown and rainbow trout						
Provide foot access on both sides of Billingsley Creek	1331					Dingell-Johnson funds were used.
Allow fishing from 7-1 through 11-30 that does not interfere with waterfowl habitat (3-year goal)	1610					MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU; Dingell-Johnson funds were used.
Conduct litter pickup	1211	Remove 1 junk pile 2 days	1 day	514	257	Didn't remove junk pile due to lack of personnel.
Provide foot access on lower Billingsley Creek	1331					
PROVIDE WILDLIFE APPRECIATION OPPORTUNITIES (e.g., wildlife viewing, nongame habitat, trapping, photography)						
Management Program -						
Provide foot access on both sides of Billingsley Creek	1211					
Maintain species observation list	1460	1 day	0 day	257	0	Not accomplished.
Conduct litter cleanup	1211					
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	2 days	8 days	514	2,056	NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Management Program - WMA, facilities, and equipment maintenance						
Maintain regulatory signs	1211	1 day	1 day	257	257	NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail

¹ Billingsley expenditures are included as part of the Hagerman WMA budget.

NARRATIVE

Background

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 the Hagerman Valley near the Snake River and 2 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 ft. on the creek, to 3,200 ft. on the canyon rim. Several springs originate along the basaltic rim rock and feed a lowland marsh before entering Billingsley Creek. In 1994 weirs were placed to measure the water from each spring. A yearly report is sent to the Idaho Department of Water Resources containing this data. Because the creek is spring fed by water that is approximately 58°F, it remains open all winter. The area is open to upland game, waterfowl, and deer hunting (shotgun only). Most waterfowl hunting occurs late in the season during cold weather. Ducks are attracted to slow flowing, but open Billingsley Creek.

Benefits for Wildlife

Waterfowl: Goose nesting boxes were constructed but were unable to be placed due to personnel shortages. Wood duck nesting boxes were maintained. Seven weirs were monitored and maintained.

The BCWMA Plan recommends that the fishing season be delayed until July 1st each year to provide waterfowl and upland gamebird habitat nesting and brood raising habitat.

Upland Game: Uplands were maintained in undisturbed condition for upland game species.

Public Access: Work continues on providing public access to lower BCWMA. Meetings have been held with 3 adjacent landowners in an attempt to develop a solution to this problem. A legal survey has been completed to exchange easements as part of this access development.

Weed Control

Noxious weed control efforts have centered on Canada thistle. However, a ¼-acre of Russian knapweed is located on BCWMA and near a neighbor's house. We are spraying this area each year resulting in a large reduction of the knapweed. Purple loosestrife is spreading along Billingsley Creek. Loosestrife control had been done in previous years by spraying individual plants with chemical. In 1996 biological control was conducted with the placement of 500 eggs of root-boring weevils near the mouth of Florence Spring. The Gooding County Weed Agent is aware of the noxious weed problems.

Benefits to Public:

1. Open to upland game, waterfowl, and deer hunting (shotgun only).
2. A popular duck hunting area.
3. Fishing opportunities for brown and rainbow trout.
4. Nonconsumptive activities include: canoeing, watchable wildlife observation, and hiking.
5. Two controlled muskrat/mink trapping permits issued each year.
6. Area traversed by a meandering 1.25 mile section of Billingsley Creek.

Two controlled muskrat and mink trapping permits are issued each year. Several hundred muskrats and a few mink are taken each year by trappers. Following are harvest records for the past 5 years.

Year	Muskrats	Mink
1996	200	1
1997	459	0
1998	584	3
1999	154	2
2000	299	2

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Scott Gamo
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

HAGERMAN HABITAT DISTRICT

HAGERMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PROVIDE SECURE WINTER HABITAT FOR APPROXIMATELY 50,000 WATERFOWL
2. MAINTAIN WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
3. MAINTAIN UPLAND GAME HABITAT
4. PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES
5. PROVIDE CONSUMPTIVE PUBLIC BENEFITS (E.G., UPLAND HUNTING, NONGAME HUNTING, TRAPPING)
6. PROVIDE NONCONSUMPTIVE PUBLIC BENEFITS (E.G., HIKING, SIGHTSEEING, PHOTOGRAPHY, WILDLIFE OBSERVATION)

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE SECURE WINTER HABITAT FOR APPROXIMATELY 50,000 WATERFOWL						
Management Program - Provide winter waterfowl habitat						
Maintain wetland habitat at current level; maintain ditches and water structures	1211	163 acres 1 week	163 acres 1 week	1,285	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Limit public vehicle traffic to main access roads	1211	163 acres 11 gates 1 week	163 acres 11 gates 1 week	1,285	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain legal waterfowl hunting boundary outside the HWMA boundary	1211					CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Provide wheat for waterfowl consumption	1211	9 acres 2 weeks	9 acres 3 weeks	2,570	3,855	CAGO, MALL, AMWI
MAINTAIN WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Maintain waterfowl production						
Maintain wetland habitat at current level to provide safe nesting	1211	163 acres 1 week	163 acres 1 week	1,285	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain irrigated grass/alfalfa nesting habitat	1211	30 acres 8 weeks	39 acres 8 weeks	10,280	10,280	We were unable to cut and remove the alfalfa from the 9-acre field, so it was irrigated for nesting cover.
Maintain sagebrush steppe habitat for nesting	1211	460 acres 1 week	460 acres 0 week	1,285	0	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, AGWT, pheasants, quail
Provide irrigated goose pasture through cooperative agreement with neighbor	1211	26 acres ½ week	26 acres 1.5 weeks	643	964.50	CAGO
Provide irrigated alfalfa to provide succulent vegetation for Canada geese	1211	9 acres 4 weeks	0 acres 0 weeks	5,140	0	We were unable to cut and remove the alfalfa to keep it short and succulent.
Limit public vehicle access to main roads	1211	11 gates	11 gates			CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail
Provide and maintain Canada goose nesting platforms	1211	20 structures ½ week	20 structures ½ week	643	643	CAGO Ten boxes were converted to solid wooden sides to hold the bark chips.
Provide and maintain wood duck nesting boxes	1211	10 nesting boxes ½ week	10 nesting boxes 0 week	643	0	WODU
Maintain fence	1211	5.5 miles ½ week	5.5 miles 0 week	643	0	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail
Management Program - Provide brood rearing habitat						
Provide irrigated Canada goose pasture through cooperation with an adjacent landowner	1322	26 acres	26 acres			CAGO
Management Program - Monitoring						
Monitor populations	1460	1 week	0 weeks	1,285	0	Not accomplished due to lack of personnel
Monitor artificial nest use	1211	20 nests 10 boxes	Not done		0	WODU, CAGO Not accomplished.
MAINTAIN UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Program -						
Irrigate trees and shrubs	1211	30 acres 2 weeks	30 acres 2 weeks	2,570	2,570	Pheasants, quail
Maintain residual alfalfa	1211	34 acres 1 week	34 acres 1 week	1,285	1,285	Pheasants, quail
Plant food crops of wheat, sorghum, and flax	1322	3 acres 2 weeks	3 acres 3 weeks	2,570	3,855	Pheasants, quail
Maintain sagebrush steppe habitat	1211	460 acres	460 acres			CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES						
Management Program - Monitor and regulate fisheries program (Dingell-Johnson)						
Stabilize impoundment water levels	1211					
Prohibit boat motors	1630					
Litter cleanup	1211					
PROVIDE CONSUMPTIVE PUBLIC BENEFITS (upland hunting, nongame hunting, trapping)						
Management Program -						
Provide upland bird hunting	1630					
Issue muskrat and mink trapping permits	1630	4 permits	4 permits			
Maintain parking areas	1211	6 areas 1 week	6 areas 0 week	1,285	0	
Maintain wildlife viewing blind	1211	1 blind ½ week	1 blind ½ week	643	643	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations, meetings, coordination with other agencies, etc.	1630	2 weeks	6 weeks	2,570	7,710	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	2 weeks	6 weeks	2,570	7,710	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Management Program - WMA, facilities and equipment maintenance						
Measure and record water flows	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,570	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain dikes	1211	2.5 miles 1 week	2.5 miles 1 week	1,285	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU
Maintain regulatory signs	1211	½ week	½ week	643	643	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail
Control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	2 weeks	5,149	2,570	Canada thistle, poison hemlock, morning glory, puncture vine, sandbur and other weeds are a problem

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Custodial functions (vegetation monitoring, vehicle closure compliance checks, misc. monitoring of the WMA, etc.)	1211	1 week	1 week	1,285	1,285	CAGO, MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI, NSHO, BUFF, AGWT, WODU, LESC, REDH, RNDU, RUDU, pheasants, quail

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$20,217
Outside Funds	97,597
Grand Total	\$117,814

NARRATIVE

Background

Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (HWMA) is located in Gooding County, two miles south of Hagerman, Idaho. US highway 30 splits a portion of the management area. Land acquisition for 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 is relatively warm, providing open water for approximately 40,000 ducks and 4,000 Canada geese during the winter months. Mallards are most numerous, with a variety of other ducks represented. Because of the sanctuary provided by HWMA, these waterfowl remain in the area and provide hunting in several counties as they fly to and from HWMA.

HWMA is located in close proximity to a number of Magic Valley communities. As a result the area receives hundreds of fishermen each season. The March 1st opening on a portion of HWMA is extremely popular with fishermen. To some extent, however, 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.

Benefits for Wildlife

Waterfowl: HWMA provides open water winter habitat for approximately 40,000 ducks and 4000 Canada geese. The majority of ducks are mallards but other species occur also, such as northern pintail, gadwall, American wigeon, northern shoveler, bufflehead, American green-winged teal, wood duck, lesser scaup, redhead, ring-necked duck, and ruddy duck. Wetland habitats were maintained for nesting and security on 163 acres. Thirty-nine acres of irrigated grass/alfalfa were maintained for nesting habitat. Nine acres of wheat were provided for consumption by waterfowl. One cooperative agreement exists with an adjacent landowner. Through this agreement livestock grazing is allowed on 6 acres of HWMA. In exchange several hundred Canada geese are allowed to graze undisturbed on 20 acres of irrigated private pasture. Twenty goose nesting platforms were maintained. A ton of free wheat seed was received from the USDA Aberdeen Plant Materials Center for use on HWMA. Half of this seed was planted for food crops for waterfowl.

The midwinter waterfowl survey of HWMA was completed during January.

Upland Game: Thirty acres of trees and shrubs were irrigated and thirty-four acres were maintained as residual alfalfa. Food plots consisting of wheat, sorghum, and flax were planted on three acres, providing food for these species.

Other Species: HWMA provides habitat for wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, and neo-tropical migrants. This area also provides habitat for a variety of mammalian species, such as mink, muskrat, raccoons, skunks, and others.

Weed Control

We responded to a neighbor's complaint of Russian thistle blowing from our fields and into her yard. Winds, like normal, have been very high this spring. We gathered up the thistles and burned them, reducing the problem for this year. Our adjacent field of nesting cover needs to be replanted to reduce the amount of weeds that grow there. For the second year, purple loosestrife was controlled on Anderson pond # 3 by spraying the plants by helicopter. Mullein that invaded a field was treated with herbicide. Sixty-three acres are irrigated and managed for waterfowl and upland game bird nesting cover, food plots, and goose pasture.

Facilities

The HWMA residence was remodeled and painted on the inside. The outside of the residence and garage have been prepared for painting and have already been primed. Many of the trees and bushes in the yard were trimmed. Twin Falls County Juvenile Probation-Community Service members helped with some of the preparation work. Finishing work was done by IDFG personnel.

Benefits to the Public:

1. Public viewing of wildlife.
2. 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.
3. Excellent waterfowl observation opportunity each fall and winter.
4. Area contributes to waterfowl and upland game production in the immediate area.
5. Four controlled muskrat/mink trapping permits issued each year.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Scott Gamo
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

NIAGARA SPRINGS HABITAT DISTRICT

NIAGARA SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. PROVIDE OPTIMAL QUALITY AND DIVERSE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE
2. PROVIDE OPTIMAL PUBLIC RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY WITHOUT ADVERSELY IMPACTING WILDLIFE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE OPTIMAL QUALITY AND DIVERSE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE						
Management Program - Maintain and enhance 184 acres of irrigated cover						
Replace entire steel irrigation delivery system by year 2004	1211	1000 feet 2 weeks		2,478		Pheasant, California Quail, MALL, CAGO, AMWI, watchable wildlife, rainbow trout, mule deer
Replant 7 corn food plots annually	1211	8.5 acres				Pheasant, California Quail
Rehabilitate 53 acres of degraded nesting cover by year 2004	1322	12 acres 1 week		1,239		Pheasant, California Quail, MALL, watchable wildlife
Replant winter wheat goose grazing pasture annually	1211	5.9 acres				CAGO, AMWI, MALL
Replant degraded portions of grass goose pasture (cottonwood field)	1211	3.5 acres				CAGO, AMWI, MALL
Annually maintain travel lanes to goose pasture from river edge	1211	Perimeter of 9.4 acres				CAGO, AMWI, MALL
Annually irrigate cover	1211	184 acres				CAGO, AMWI, MALL, pheasants, California quail, deer, watchable wildlife, cottontail rabbit
Replace vacant portions of shelterbelts and replace poor growing species with native species adapted to area by year 2004	1211	100 Rocky mountain juniper				Pheasants, California quail, cottontail rabbit, watchable wildlife
Develop 4 new irrigated shrub thickets by year 2004	1322					Pheasants, California quail, cottontail rabbit, watchable wildlife
Management Program - Control noxious and undesirable weeds						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct annual spring, summer, and fall spot spraying for noxious weeds	1211	976 acres 1 week		1,239		AMWI, MALL, CAGO, WODU, pheasants, California quail, deer, watchable wildlife
Plant food plots early (before June) to shade out late-growing sandbur and puncture vine	1211	8.5 acres				Pheasants, California quail, deer, watchable wildlife
Release biological control agents for purple loosestrife, Russian thistle, and Canada thistle by 2001	1311					AMWI, MALL, CAGO, WODU, pheasants, California quail, deer, watchable wildlife
Management Program - Maintain and enhance artificial nesting structures annually						
Maintain goose platforms, monitor use, and adjust locations for optimum use	1211	20 platforms ½ day		125		CAGO
Maintain wood duck boxes and monitor use	1211	40 boxes 2 days		500		WODU, screech owl, American kestrel, northern flicker, fox squirrel
Maintain American kestrel boxes and monitor use	1211	7 boxes ½ day		125		American kestrel
Install bat nursery box by 2001 and monitor use	1211					Watchable wildlife
Maintain mallard nesting cylinders and monitor use	1211	6 cylinders 1 day		250		MALL
Management Program - Maintain and enhance 37 acres of constructed ponds						
Maintain water delivery systems to ponds	1211	2 miles 2 weeks		2,478		MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, CAGO
Plant emergent vegetation in J-8 ponds	1322	4 ponds 1 week		1,239		MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey, Shorebirds, CAGO
Remove Russian olives from dikes of all ponds	1211	6 ponds 1 week		1,239		MALL, WODU, Rainbow Trout, Osprey, Shorebirds, CAGO
Management Program - Maintain and enhance 94 acres of riparian cover and Snake River islands						
Remove invading Russian olives	1211	¼ mile of shoreline				MALL, CAGO, pheasants, California quail, watchable wildlife
Create brush piles with removed Russian olive trees from dikes and riparian	1211	1 brush pile				Pheasants, California quail, cottontail rabbit
Management Program - Maintain and enhance 661 acres of shrub/steppe cover						
Accurately map acreage of cheatgrass dominated habitat	1440	661 acres 2 weeks		2,478		Pheasants, California quail, gray partridge, cottontail rabbit, watchable wildlife
Develop green strips to reduce threat of wildfires spreading through sagebrush by year 2010	1322					Pheasants, California quail, gray partridge, cottontail rabbit, watchable wildlife

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
PROVIDE OPTIMAL PUBLIC RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT ADVERSELY IMPACTING WILDLIFE						
Management Program - Provide optimal hunting opportunity						
Open west gate one week before waterfowl season starts and close one week after season closes	1630	1 day		250		
Monitor hunter use and opinions	1430	1 week		1,239		
Management Program - Provide optimal fishing opportunity						
Maintain year-round 2 fish/day fishing season	1630					Rainbow trout Fishing regulations enforced by Conservation Officers
Install fishing dock in house pond	1334	1 day		250		
Stock house pond annually	1211					Rainbow trout
Monitor trout population and recruitment	1211					Rainbow trout Work performed by Regional Fisheries personnel
Enhance spawning habitat if recruitment is not at desirable levels	1211	½ week		620		Rainbow trout
Management Program - Provide optimal trapping opportunity						
Limit trapping permit to one trapper	1630	¼ day		63		Mink, muskrat, beaver
Monitor permit trapper's harvest	1430	¼ day		63		Mink, muskrat, beaver
Provide permit trapper with key to west gate during trapping season	1630					
Management Program - Provide optimal motorized access and facilities						
Maintain roads and parking lots for safe use	1211	6 parking lots 5 miles road 1 week		1,239		
Maintain road closures to promote quality hunting experiences	1630	2 days 4 gates		500		
Install a culvert to eliminate erosion of entrance road	1211					Rainbow trout
Install outhouse vault toilet at west and entrance parking lots by year 2004	1322					
Management Program - Provide optimal nonconsumptive recreational and educational opportunity						
Maintain restrictions for dog field trials	1630	2 days		500		
Provide brochures of NSWMA at entrance bulletin board	1630	500 brochures		250		
Provide educational tours upon request	1630	2 days		496		

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Develop a bird checklist and provide at entrance bulletin board	1630	1 week		1,239		
Study impacts of dog field trials on nesting wildlife by year 2004	1460					
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	3 weeks		3,717		Upland game, big game, watchable wildlife
ADMINISTRATION						
Administer Niagara Springs WMA	1630	1 week		1,239		Upland game, big game, waterfowl, watchable wildlife
Maintain files and prepare administrative reports	1630	1 week		1,239		Upland Game, Waterfowl, watchable wildlife
Assist wildlife, fisheries, and enforcement bureaus as needed	1630	5 weeks		6,187		Big game, small game, game fish, watchable wildlife

Total PR Funds With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	32,881
Grand Total	\$32,881

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. It is characterized by 661 acres of shrub/steppe community, 170 acres of irrigated cover, 14 acres of irrigated goose pasture, 75 acres of riparian zone, 19 acres of Snake River Islands, and 29 acres of seasonal and 8 acres of perennial artificial ponds, for a total of 976 acres of public land. The land is owned by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and has 12 cfs of water rights for irrigation.

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, Nuttall's cottontail rabbit, and yellow-bellied marmots. Several raptor species nest in the cliffs and songbirds are common throughout the area. The area provides hunting and fishing opportunities and watchable wildlife viewing for the public. A wild rainbow trout fishery exists in the canal and artificial pond system.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Michael McDonald
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MINIDOKA HABITAT DISTRICT

BIG COTTONWOOD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities:

1. WILD TURKEY HABITAT
2. YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT HABITAT
3. RIPARIAN RECOVERY, HEALTH, AND FUNCTION
4. HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
5. UPLAND BIRD HABITAT
6. BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT
7. MULE DEER HABITAT
8. NONMOTORIZED PUBLIC ACCESS
9. NONGAME WATCHABLE WILDLIFE
10. MAINTAIN/PROTECT CULTURAL RESOURCES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual ¹	Planned	Actual ²	
WILD TURKEY AND UPLAND GAME HABITAT						
Management Objectives – Improve wild turkey and upland bird habitat						
Develop upland and riparian nesting habitat	1322	2 weeks	1.9 weeks	2,500	1,965	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, California quail, ruffed grouse
Provide permanent and annual fall/winter habitat	1322	2 weeks	7 weeks	2,500	7,238	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail
Irrigate and maintain 140 acres grass/alfalfa pasture	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,068	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail
Monitor wild turkey and upland bird populations and habitat	1440	1 week	2.8 weeks	1,250	2,895	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail
RIPARIAN RECOVERY AND YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT HABITAT						
Management Objectives – Facilitate riparian recovery and improve cutthroat trout habitat						
Plant native riparian vegetation	1322	1 week	0.7 weeks	1,250	724	Cutthroat trout, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ruffed grouse, passerines

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual ¹	Planned	Actual ²	
Monitor riparian recovery	1440	1 week	1.9 weeks	1,250	1,965	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail, ruffed grouse, passerines
Monitor cutthroat trout population parameters	1440	.5 week	0.2 weeks	625	207	Cutthroat trout
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT						
Management Objective – Restore/rehabilitate degraded habitats						
Restore/rehabilitate 80+ acres using established range restoration techniques	1322	2 weeks	2.6 weeks	2,500	2,688	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail, sage grouse, passerines
BIG GAME HABITAT						
Management Objectives – Improve bighorn sheep and mule deer habitat						
Irrigate and maintain 140 acres of grass/alfalfa pasture	1322	2 weeks	1.9 weeks	2,500	1,965	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, pheasants, chukars, gray partridge, quail
NONMOTORIZED PUBLIC ACCESS						
Management Objective – Maintain road closure for wildlife security and nonmotorized hunting opportunity						
Maintain road closure	1211	.5 week	0.8 weeks	625	827	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys, ruffed grouse passerines
WATCHABLE WILDLIFE						
Management Objectives- Improve nongame wildlife habitat						
Construct, erect, and maintain bluebird, kestrel, and bat boxes	1322	.5 week	0.2 weeks	625	207	Bluebirds, kestrel, bats
Conduct breeding bird surveys	1410	1.5 weeks	0.7 weeks	1,875	724	Avian species
Develop small mammal survey protocol	1410	1 week	0	1,250	0	Small mammals
Develop/conduct herpetological survey	1410	0	1.0 week	0	1,034	Reptiles and amphibians
MAINTAIN STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES						
Remove unneeded corrals and buildings	1211	.5 week	8.3 weeks	625	8,582	
Maintain fences and remove net-wire fence	1211	.5 week	1.5 weeks	625	1,551	Bighorn sheep, mule deer, turkeys
Maintain house, outbuildings, and sheds	1211	0	3.2 weeks	0	3,309	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Review of public projects	1710	16 weeks	8.7 weeks	20,000	8,996	
Assistance to private landowners	1720	8 weeks	1.3 weeks	10,000	1,344	Pheasants, gray partridge, quail, chukars
ADMINISTRATION³						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual ¹	Planned	Actual ²	
Coordination and administration	1630	10 weeks	19.2 weeks	12,500	19,853	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	33,228
Outside Funds ⁴	16,077
Grand Total	\$49,305

¹ Actual units of work include 21.7 weeks of temporary personnel time from the BCWMA Wildlife Mitigation Project

² Actual cost includes temporary personnel and operating dollars from the BCWMA Wildlife Mitigation Project

³ Administration includes 5 months as acting Regional Habitat Manager

⁴ Outside funds include \$10,475 of temporary personnel time and \$5,602 of operating from the BCWMA Wildlife Mitigation Project

NARRATIVE

Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) is located 22 miles southwest of Burley, Idaho. Acquired in 1993, BCWMA encompasses 814 acres and consists of approximately 45 acres of riparian habitat, 360 acres of irrigated and dryland agricultural land, and 407 acres of native rangeland. Nearly 2.5 miles of Big Cottonwood Creek bisects the management area. The Department maintains an 8.8 cfs water right for irrigation of the agricultural lands.

Benefits:

BCWMA was a reintroduction site for California bighorn sheep and is the top priority release site for the establishment of a wild turkey population in the Magic Valley Region. The management area provides year-round habitat for wild turkeys, ring-necked pheasants, gray partridge, chukar partridge, California quail, and mule deer and seasonal habitat for California bighorn sheep, sage grouse, and numerous neotropical migrant birds, reptiles, amphibians, and raptor species. Big Cottonwood Creek supports a healthy population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout that have benefited from the removal of domestic livestock from the riparian habitat.

Fifty acres of exotic annual grasslands have been planted to native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Restoration and rehabilitation of approximately 12 acres of exotic annual grasslands, 15 acres of grass/alfalfa pastures, and riparian habitat in a mile reach of Big Cottonwood Creek are in progress. On an annual basis approximately five acres of corn/millet food plots are planted and irrigated for upland birds. In addition 140 acres of grass/alfalfa pasture and 34 acres of dense nesting cover are irrigated annually for a variety of wildlife.

In FY 2000 the following wildlife work was conducted on BCWMA: 1) breeding bird surveys in riparian habitats along Big Cottonwood Creek, 2) raptor nest and ruffed grouse surveys, 3) reptile and amphibian surveys, and 4) wild turkey production and habitat use via radio telemetry. In addition riparian and upland habitat monitoring efforts are in progress.

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 public land adjacent to the management area.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
SUPERVISION						
Management Program - Oversee Regional Habitat-Related Activity						
Supervise two permanent employees	1630	20.5 weeks	20.5 weeks	25,625	20,910	
Oversee the management of five wildlife management areas	1630	20.25 weeks	16.25 weeks	25,313	16,575	Deer, elk, moose, waterfowl, upland game, furbearers, nongame
Coordinate acquisition proposals for additional access and habitat	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,500	3,060	
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Review/develop planning documents	1620	7 documents 2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,040	
Review/develop budget proposals	1630	7 proposals 1 week	2 weeks	1,250	2,040	
Assist other personnel with game management activities	1460	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,500	2,040	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Assist with the investigation and review of proposed projects	1710	25 projects 1 week	3 weeks	1,250	3,060	
Oversee assistance to landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	25 contacts .25 week	.25 week	313	255	Upland game, waterfowl
Management Program - Cooperate With Other Agencies						
Coordinate with other land management agencies and represent the Department	1630	8 meetings 1 week	1 week	1,250	1,020	
PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM						
Management Program - Administer Access						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Coordinate maintenance and development of regional access sites; monitor Yago Creek access road and other nonfisheries-related access sites	1332	20 sites		2,500		
	1333	2 weeks	2 weeks		2,040	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$64,838
Other	0
Grand Total	\$64,838

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Paul Wackenhut
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MAINTENANCE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance						
Maintain roads	1211	1 week	.5 week	700	285	
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week	.5 week	700	285	Waterfowl, furbearers
Maintain fences	1211	3 weeks	5 weeks	2100	2850	Upland game, waterfowl, and nongame
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1322	2 weeks	1 week	1,400	570	
Control vegetation	1322	5 weeks	5 weeks	3,500	2,850	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$8,423
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$8,423

NARRATIVE

Additional effort was expended maintaining or replacing fences on WMAs and FmHA Conservation Easements. A substantial amount of work was required to finalize and maintain Russian olive removal effort at Sterling WMA.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Jerry Deal
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION HABITAT MANAGEMENT

EAST HABITAT DISTRICT AND BLACKFOOT RIVER, GEORGETOWN, MONTPELIER, AND PORTNEUF 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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BIG GAME WINTER RANGE						
Management Program - Vegetation Rejuvenation						
Coordinate collection of bitterbrush and sagebrush seed	1322	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	Big game
Coordinate planting of 4,000 bitterbrush and sage brush seedlings on WMAs and other public lands	1322	1 week	2 weeks	1,540	3,400	Big game
Coordinate with Bureau of Land Management to perform controlled burn on Portneuf WMA	1710	.5 week	0	770	0	Big game, Sharp-tailed grouse No burns conducted.
Monitor vegetation transects on Montpelier, Georgetown, and Portneuf WMAs	1332	2.5 weeks	2 weeks	3,850	3,400	Big game
Control noxious weeds on all areas	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	6,160	6,800	
Management Program - Control Trespass Grazing						
Develop cooperative agreements with neighboring landowners at Blackfoot River and Georgetown Summit WMAs	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,080	3,400	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, cutthroat trout
Repair and maintain boundary fencing on WMAs and conservation easements	1211	25 miles 4 weeks	25 miles 4 weeks	6,160	6,800	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, cutthroat trout
Management Program - Provide Security						
Maintain winter road/trail closures with gates and signing	1211	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	Big Game
PUBLIC HUNTING						
Management Program - Provide Access						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain signs and information boards at all WMAs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	
Place/replace boundary markers and other information signs at Georgetown Summit, Montpelier, Portneuf, and Blackfoot River WMAs	1211	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	
Provide/maintain access roads/trails and parking areas	1211	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	
Control noxious weeds in cooperation with counties	1211	(See winter range)				
Monitor hunter and angler use, enforce regulations and WMA management policies	1211	1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	2,310	2,550	
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Nesting and Brooding Habitat						
Vegetation rejuvenation through burning, herbicides, and grazing	1322	(See winter range)				Upland game, waterfowl, and nongame
Provide nest sites with structures and by preserving snags	1322	1 week	1 week	1,540	1,700	Waterfowl and nongame
Management Program - Monitor Grouse Breeding Populations						
Conduct lek counts and drumming counts	1460	.5 week	.5 week	770	850	Sharp-tailed grouse and forest grouse
Management Program - Provide Public Access						
Provide and maintain access roads/trails and parking areas		(See public hunting)				
Develop area brochure for Blackfoot River WMA	1630	1.5 weeks	.5 week	2,310	850	Partially completed
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide Technical Assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	8 projects 3 weeks	13 projects 4 weeks	4,620	6,800	
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices and monitor ongoing projects	1720	10 landownrs 2 weeks	10 landowners 2 weeks	3,080	3,400	
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluation	1620	15 documents 6 weeks	5 documents 2 weeks	9,240	3,400	
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	9,240	10,200	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	8 weeks	13 weeks	12,320	22,100	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Cooperation With Other Agencies						
Coordinate and meet with citizen working groups associated with Portneuf and Blackfoot River WMAs	1630	2.5 weeks	.5 week	3,850	850	Portneuf WMA group only
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	1630	1 week	2 weeks	1,540	3,400	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	80,185
Grand Total	\$80,185

NARRATIVE

This project provides 8,000 acres of big game winter range and benefits approximately 500 wintering elk and 1,000 wintering mule deer. The 2,360-acre Blackfoot River WMA also provides waterfowl breeding habitat and improved cutthroat trout habitat on seven miles of the Blackfoot River. This project provided an estimated 3,000 person-days of hunting opportunity and 1,500 person-days of wildlife viewing and fishing opportunity in the past year.

Over 4,000 seedlings of antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) were planted and five pounds of Hobbie Creek sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata vaseyana*) seed was sown to improve mule deer winter range. Sites were primarily chosen to rehabilitate habitat impacted by wildfire on historic mule deer winter ranges on public and private lands throughout the East Habitat District. Additional bitterbrush seed was collected to provide seedlings for future planting efforts.

Technical assistance was given to private landowners through the Habitat Improvement Program, but was reduced substantially due to lack of funding for materials and the limited pool of landowners interested in participation without available cost-sharing.

Livestock grazing was conducted for the first time since the establishment of the Blackfoot River WMA, utilizing southern portions of Department-owned lands and the section leased from Idaho Department of Lands. For a 3-week period, 400 steers were permitted to graze the WMA in exchange for access and stream habitat monitoring on upstream tributaries passing through private lands. Trespass grazing continues to occur from adjacent Forest Service grazing allotments and private lands. Proposed fencing improvements are intended to reduce the extent of trespass during the upcoming year. A cooperative agreement with an adjacent landowner was implemented on the Georgetown Summit WMA to provide land-use exchange for cattle grazing and grain food plots.

Spring breeding ground surveys (lek counts) were conducted on the Blackfoot River and Portneuf WMAs for sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and blue grouse. No sage grouse were observed. Sharp-tailed grouse were heard, but none were observed. Two ruffed grouse and four blue grouse were observed during breeding displays on the Portneuf WMA.

Weed control efforts continued on all areas, with a focus on containment of infestations. Target species from the state noxious weed list included Dyer's woad, hoary cress, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, black henbane, leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, and musk thistle. Participation in the interagency Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area has expanded the availability of biological control insects for thistle species and leafy spurge and supported seven releases during this reporting period.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: License Funds
 Project Leader: Dean Rose
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION HABITAT MANAGEMENT

WEST HABITAT DISTRICT AND STERLING WMA

Management Priorities:

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

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide nesting cover						
Provide grass/legume nest cover	1211	80-100 acres 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treatment of nest cover through grazing	1211	300 acres 2 weeks	2 weeks	2,540	2,540	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Noxious weed control	1211	5 weeks	5.5 weeks	6,350	6985	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Manage water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Treat Russian olive stumps and slash removal	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,810	3,810	Waterfowl
Monitor muskrat populations and manage trapping	1460	1 week	.5 week	635	635	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Service mallard nest structures	1211	27 structures 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl
Service goose nest structures	1211	78 structures 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl
Monitor and assist with Predator trapping	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,540	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Provide brood habitat						
Maintain escape cover and water levels	1211	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl
Provide goose pasture through controlled grazing	1211	2-5 acres 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl
Management Program - Monitoring						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Conduct Random User Survey	1460	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Pheasants and Waterfowl
Conduct brood survey and breeding pair counts; monitor use of all nest structures	1460	100 structures 3 weeks	2 weeks	3,810	2,540	Waterfowl
Management Program - Provide access						
Maintain parking areas	1332	12 parking areas 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	
Maintain barrier-free blind	1334	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	
Maintain gates, stiles, and foot bridges (6 new stiles)	1211	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	
Maintain signs/information boards	1211	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	
Maintain hunting cover and provide food plots to attract game	1322	2 weeks	1 week	2,540	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Enforce regulations and WMA management policies	30 (M)	2 weeks	1 week	2,540	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
PHEASANT PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide Brood Stock						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets - storm cover	1322	21 acres 3 weeks	3 weeks	3,810	3,810	Pheasants
Provide high energy grains adjacent to storm cover	1322	25 acres 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide brood habitat - treat with grazing/burning	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,540	2,540	Pheasants
Management Program - Provide Nesting Habitat						
Provide nesting cover by fencing	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,540	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Provide irrigated grass/legume nesting cover through cooperative farming	1211	90 acres 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Waterfowl and Pheasants
Management Program - Monitoring						
Conduct crow counts and brood surveys	1460	1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Pheasants
OTHER WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Production						
Provide shelterbelts/shrub thickets	1322	(See pheasant production)				
Service kestrel and bluebird nest boxes (10 additional)	1211	25 boxes 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	Kestrels and bluebirds
Management Program - Provide viewing opportunity						
Provide brochure, species lists, signage, information boards, and parking areas	1211	1 week	.5 week	635	635	

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed projects	1710	5 projects .5 week	6 projects 4.5 weeks	635	5,715	
Assist landowners on wildlife management practices	1720	10 landowners 2 weeks	1 week	2,540	1,270	
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Coordinate with "Adopt-a-Wetland" groups to maintain a portion of wetlands	1211	40 structures 1 week	0	635	0	Waterfowl
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluate	1630	5 documents 1 week	1 week	1,270	1,270	
Provide tours and information on policies and goals, respond to concerns of neighboring landowners	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,810	2,540	
Maintain files, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchasing requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,810	2,540	
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,540	2,540	
Management Program - Cooperation with other agencies						
Attend coordination meetings, tours, and meetings related to projects by land management agencies	33	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,810	3,810	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 0
Other Funds	60,730
Grand Total	\$60,730

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.

Technical review of projects that may impact wildlife habitat off the project area required 4.5 weeks of work. An additional 3 weeks of work was expended attending meetings with other agencies. This substantial increase was primarily due to a regional assignment to represent the Department as a member of the team developing the long-range plan for management of the Curlew National Grasslands (USFS).

During FY 00 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 on the WMA. All slash piles from the earlier tree removal were burned.

The random survey was repeated in FY 00 and, once again, suggested that the WMA is used primarily by adult hunters that live within 40 miles of SWMA. Most spend 1-5 days per year using the WMA, although another large group uses SWMA 6-10 days per year. Fifty-five hunters were surveyed. The reduced number of participants was due to the fact that a systematic survey was not conducted this year, so fewer hunters were contacted in the field.

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

Two new parking areas were installed; one each on the Johnson and Fingal segments.

The Youth Pheasant hunt was not held this year due to financial constraints.

Pheasant crow counts were run 2 times during the spring. The average number of calls/route was 7.5. This is slightly down from last year's 9 calls/route.

Two duck pair counts were also run during the spring of 2000. The counts were run on 3 different ponds: Wells, Orth, and Johnson. The most abundant species were (# of pairs): Mallards (17), Cinnamon Teal (15), Ruddy ducks (12), Northern Shoveler (10), Redheads (8), and Pintails (6). Also present were: Pintails, Blue-winged teal, Gadwalls and Scaup. These data will be used in conjunction with waterfowl brood counts in lieu of nest searches to determine an estimate of nest success.

Eighty-eight muskrats were harvested this season (See Table 2).

The predator reduction program continued on the WMA. Wildlife Services (WS) did not assist with the removal effort this year. Instead, WS loaned us 5 box traps to supplement the Department's traps so that the Wildlife Technician could conduct the removal. (See Table 3).

Table 1. Species List for Sterling WMA, 2000.

Birds

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

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

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

Mammals

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

Coyote
 Badger

Reptiles

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

Fish

Chubs

Amphibians

Northern Leopard Frog
 Chorus Frog

Table 2. Muskrat trapping success on Sterling WMA.

Year	# Males	# Females	Total #
1985	N/A	N/A	56
1986	N/A	N/A	300
1987	N/A	N/A	255
1988	N/A	N/A	50
1998	N/A	N/A	176
1999	41	37	81
2000	49	39	88

Table 3. Predator Control Effort on Sterling WMA, 2000 (1999).

Date	# Trap Nights	Funds Spent	Predators Caught	Trap Nights/ Predator	Dollars/ Predator
4/18-6/1	440	\$92.22	3 skunks 1 cat		
6/1- 6/22	222	\$46.11	2 skunks 1 badger		
Total	662 (390)	\$138.33 **(\$1,300)	5 skunks 1 cat 1 badger	95 (58)	\$19.76 (\$30)

**Estimated Wildlife Services' expenses were \$1,000.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Steve Schmidt
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

UPPER SNAKE WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Supervise habitat program in Upper Snake Region for 5 habitat management districts and 8 wildlife management areas; supervise 8 permanent personnel (2 as second-in-line supervisor); third-line supervisor to 6-9 temporary employees	1630	16 weeks	16 weeks	25,747	29,653	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Develop planning documents, review and evaluate	1620	7 weeks	7 weeks	11,264	12,973	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain files and records, prepare administrative documents (reports, budgets, purchase requests, time sheets, etc.)	1630	8 weeks	9 weeks	12,873	16,680	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Other duties (as assigned) Regional Computer Coordinator GIS/GPS Data Coordinator	1630	4 weeks	6 weeks	6,437	11,120	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Management Program - Provide technical assistance						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Review wildlife habitat impacts and provide recommendations on project proposals submitted by state and federal agencies and private entities	1710	6 weeks 100 projects	4 weeks 50 projects	9,655	7,413	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Review wildlife habitat improvement project designs and provide recommendations on Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) projects prepared by habitat biologists for private landowners. Administer HIP cooperative agreements and two regional HIP budgets. Coordinate HIP project implementation with staff and private landowners.	1720	2 weeks 40 agreements	1 week 10 agreements	3,219	1,853	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$71,754
Outside Funds	7,938
Grand Total	\$79,692

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 RWHM 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 RWHM 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 at the Market Lake WMA; however, a new technician position is to be added to the Deer Parks WMU in FY2000. This includes the supervision of five regional wildlife habitat biologists, one utility craftsman (access area coordinator), one senior land manager, and two wildlife technicians. The regional habitat section is divided into five habitat districts, each of which contain at least one major Department-owned wildlife management area. The major wildlife management areas in the Upper Snake region are the Tex Creek WMA, Sand Creek WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Market Lake WMA, Chilly Slough WMA, and the Cartier Slough WMA. In addition the region is involved in the administration of 58 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 RWHM oversees the section's development and implementation of a number of planning and administrative documents including WMA annual work plans, coordinated resource management plans (with other agencies), cooperative agreements, sharecrop 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. This group has been meeting monthly for 1.5 years. A final management plan is anticipated in 2000.

The manager has also taken the lead position for the Department on the developing 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 RWHM evaluates employee work performance and conducts annual performance evaluations. Six annual performance evaluations were prepared and given by the RWHM. Two 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 RWHM. The section's routine reports are prepared and/or approved by the RWHM. Sharecrop agreements and use trades are reviewed and approved by the RWHM. A sharecropping/grazing report is completed annually. Inventory records are maintained for the section. On-the-ground training of staff and team meetings are conducted by the RWHM. The RWHM also assists staff with various field projects, as needed.

Other Duties

The RWHM also functions as the region's computer coordinator and spends considerable time assisting other staff with computer or network problems. The coordinator'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 Department's regional office by other state and federal agencies, or private entities. During this report period the RWHM, with input from the habitat staff, completed recommendations on approximately 50 projects submitted to the Idaho Falls regional office. These projects ranged from USDA Forest Service timber sales to BLM grazing allotment plans, to reviewing private developers' plans for new subdivisions.

Administer Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)

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

and oversees the annual regional HIP budget. 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.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Jim Moore
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

UPPER SNAKE WILDLIFE HABITAT MAINTENANCE

Management Priorities:

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Facilities maintenance on five wildlife management areas						
Maintain roads: entrance road Cartier WMA; grade roads at Sand Creek, Cartier, Mud Lake	1211	4 weeks	2 weeks	4,966	2,482	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain dikes: Sand Creek Pond 3 & 4, Market Lake	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	3,725	2,482	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Maintain fences	1211	1 week	1 week	1,241	1,241	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Management Program - Habitat maintenance and development						
Maintain tree and shrub plantings	1211	1 week	1 week	1,241	1,241	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Control vegetation	1211	1 week	1 week	1,241	1,241	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
ADMINISTRATION						
Prepare reports, purchase requests, etc.; develop/update management plans.	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,482	3,723	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME
Misc. construction or maintenance projects (as assigned)	1211	5 weeks	8 weeks	6,207	9,928	Big game, upland game, waterfowl, nongame, and T&E species. CAGO, RUDU, BUFF, COGO, RNDU, LESC, GRSC, CANU, REDH, NOPI, NSHO, CITE, BWTE, AGWT, AMWI, GADW, MALL, COME

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$21,104
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$21,104

NARRATIVE

Road Maintenance

Roads were maintained on five WMAs within the Upper Snake Region. Public, as well as administrative, roads were kept in safe driving condition. Road-side mowing was done as required. Culverts were kept in working condition. Cattle guards were cleaned as needed.

Dike Maintenance

Dikes were repaired at Sand Creek, ponds 3 & 4, and Market Lake, Main Marsh channel.

Fence Maintenance

Assisted with fencing projects at Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs.

Tree and Shrub Maintenance

Routinely irrigated shelterbelt tree planting adjacent to Roberts Gravel Pond. Helped irrigate new shelterbelt at Market Lake WMA. Assisted with maintenance and delivery of tree planter.

Vegetation Control

Provided assistance with weed spraying and marsh burning at Market Lake WMA.

Reports and Meetings

Routinely filled out monthly equipment reports on all heavy equipment and trucks. Attended section meetings with regional WMA managers and staff. Attended annual Wildlife Bureau Meeting.

Miscellaneous Projects

Repaired WMA equipment for Mud Lake, Market Lake, Cartier, and Tex Creek WMAs. Assisted with goose platform refurbishing at Island Park Reservoir and Cartier WMA. Performed building maintenance at Market Lake and Sand Creek WMAs. Assisted with construction of wheelchair accessible bird watching trail and information kiosk at Market Lake WMA. Helped with construction of irrigation diversion headgate at Palisades Creek. Hauled equipment for Cartier, Mud Lake, and Market Lake WMAs.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Don Kemner
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MARKET LAKE HABITAT DISTRICT

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 AND EDUCATION
6. NONGAME PRODUCTION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		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 weeks 10 sites	9 weeks	9,000	13,165	CITE, CAGO, MALL, GADW \$6,574 (lic)
Use fire, mechanical, or chemical methods to enhance vegetation structural diversity in marshes	1322	1 week 600 acres	1 week	4,000	4,233	MALL, CANV, REDH, RUDU (Part State license funds)
Management Program - Construction of nesting structures/production surveys						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	Volunteers 61 platforms	0.18 week	800	177	CAGO
Conduct nest searches for overwater nesters	1460	2 weeks 1 project	1.65 weeks	3,000	1,637	MALL, RUDU, REDH, CANV
Management Program - Enhance visitor access						
Maintain closures during nesting season	1211	1 week	1 week	1,500	1,500	MALL, LESC, CANV, REDH
Control vehicle access to promote better quality hunting	1211	1 week	0.35 week	1,500	525	MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Management Program - Planting, mowing and irrigation						
Plant 20 acres of small grains, irrigate, and mow	1322	Sharecrop 20 acres	0	1,000	1,000	CAGO, MALL, LSGO, Elk
Mow dikes and goose pastures	1211	1.5 weeks	1.35 weeks	4,000	3,600	CAGO

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Disease monitoring and control						
Monitoring for botulism and avian cholera outbreaks	1410	1 week 1 project	1 week	3,000	562	MALL, GADW, AGWT, NSHO
Disease control and cleanup	1211	4 weeks	3 weeks	5,000	4,750	MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Monitor swans for illness	1410	2 weeks	0.5 week	3,000	500	Trumpeter swans
WATERFOWL HUNTING						
Management Program - Monitor harvest						
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week 4 stations	1 week	2,500	(lic) 2,350	CAGO, MALL, NSHO, NOPI
NONGAME PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Monitor use						
Sandhill crane surveys, monitor bird nest boxes	1460	Volunteers	0.33 week		366	House wren, sandhill crane, swallows
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Provide tours and information programs						
Provide guided tours of the WMA and present programs on the WMA	1630	3 weeks Volunteers	1 week		888	MALL, peregrine falcon, CANV, white-faced ibis
Develop trail and parking lot	1211	0	2 weeks	0	3,000	MALL, yellow warbler
UPLAND GAME PRODUCTION AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Planting and vegetation rehabilitation						
Plant 10 acres of corn or sorghum and irrigate	1322	Sharecrop 10 acres	1 week	1,000	1,051	CAGO, mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Population Monitoring						
Sage grouse lek survey	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,500	949	Sage grouse
Upland bird surveys	1460	Volunteers	0.05 week	1,000	59	Pheasants and gray partridge
Release game farm pheasants	1460	1 week (lic)	0.5 week	(lic) 1,000	(lic) 750	(State License Funds)
Management Program - Signing						
Repair, replace, and purchase directional, informational, and regulatory signs	1211	2 weeks	1 week	2,000	355	CAGO, MALL, Elk, peregrine falcon
BIG GAME WINTERING						
Management Program - No Plans						
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain Improvements						
Control noxious weeds	1211	5 weeks 1,000 acres	5 weeks	6,953	6,960	MALL, GADW, CAGO, Elk
Maintain 12 miles of fence	1211	2 weeks	1.5 weeks	3,000	3,000	Elk, mule deer, sage thrasher, Brewers sparrow
Maintain 17 miles of road	1211	1 week	1 week	4,000	1,500	MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Repair and/or replace water control structures/rails	1211	1 week 2 structures	0	6,000	0	REDH, GADW, MALL, CANV
Equipment maintenance	1211	1 week	5.2 weeks	7,000	15,000	\$7,500 (lic)
Maintain 8 miles of dikes	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	5,000	5,000	MALL, CANV, REDH, CITE
Management Program - Technical Assistance						
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	3 weeks	0.79 week	5,000	(lic) 1,500	MALL, NOPI, LESC, CANV
Assist landowners	1720	4 weeks 30 inquiries	1.44 weeks	6,000	(lic) 2,500	Elk, moose, CAGO, MALL
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	4.5 weeks (lic) 40 proposals	2.34 weeks 28 proposals	4,280	(lic) 3,500	(State license funds)
Management Program - Administrative Duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	5 weeks 6 plans	4.38 weeks 7 plans	7,000	5,050	MALL, CANV, REDH, NOPI
Maintain files, prepare monthly and annual reports, budgets	1630	5 weeks 4 reports	4.4 weeks	5,500	5,135	MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Training	1630	1 week (lic)	1.74 weeks	1,294 (lic)	(lic) 2,000	(State license funds) MALL, NOPI, CANV, REDH
Supervise 1 perm, 2 temps	1630	8 weeks	3 weeks	9,000	4,000	MALL, Bald Eagle, GADW, Moose
Regional assistance	1460	0	6.5 weeks	0	(lic) 7,500	Elk, moose, deer, MALL
Intradepartmental meetings	1630	0	1 week	0	(lic) 1,400	MALL, deer, elk
Miscellaneous assignments	1630	0	2 weeks	0	(lic) 5,000	Sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 75,253
License Funds	40,574
Grand Total	\$115,827

Notes: (lic) = State license funds.

5.8 weeks of time and \$5,365 is reported in the Deer Park report.

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, 2 miles north of Roberts, Idaho and 17 miles north of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Personnel

The Senior Wildlife Technician position was eliminated during the fiscal year. The loss of the position has reduced the number of projects that can be performed on the WMA. There was only 4.5 months of temporary employee time available for 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, redheaded 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 was 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. One hundred elk were seen on the WMA on February 14, 2000. The elk stayed on the WMA for two days.

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 Forester'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 4 eagles were observed during spring migration. One peregrine falcon was seen on the WMA in April 2000. 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.

On September 1, 1999, 5.7 acres of cattails in Marsh 1 and Marsh 4 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.

Six prescribed burns were attempted in Marsh 3. However, the burns were cancelled due to either the vegetation being too wet or weather conditions were not appropriate to conduct a burn.

Vegetation monitoring was not conducted in 1999-2000 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 April 7, 2000 (Table 1).

Table 1. Canada goose indicated breeding pairs counted on Market Lake WMA 1990-2000.

Indicated Pairs											% Change from 1999 to 2000	% Change from previous 10-yr Average (1991-2000)
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000		
75	115	80		91	136		92	53	26	95	+265%	+10%

Nest searches scheduled for June 2000 were cancelled when volunteer help was not found and a temporary employee resigned.

One trumpeter swan was seen on Marsh 2 on June 3. A pair of trumpeter swans were seen on Marsh 4 on June 15. It is not known if these swans attempted to nest on the WMA. The swans have not been sighted since June 15.

During May 2000, searches for duck nests were conducted in portions of Marsh 4, East Springs Marsh, the Triangle Marsh, and the dikes of the Main Marsh. Approximately 350 acres were searched, which is a small portion of the suitable nesting habitat on the WMA. Searches were conducted on foot in marshes and on the dikes. A portion of the juncus meadow in the Triangle Marsh was searched by using a modified method described by Higgins et al. (1969). A 5/16-inch chain about 100 feet long was drug between two 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles. Thirty-three nests (mallard=26, cinnamon teal=4, gadwall=1, canvasback=1, and shoveler=1) were used to calculate nest success (Table 2).

Table 2. Percent Mayfield nest success for duck nests on Market Lake WMA.

	1993	1994	1995	2000
% Mayfield Nest Success	20%	19%	21%	21%

Cover Plantings

Existing cover planting were not irrigated in 1999 due to a shortage of labor. 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 once per week for law enforcement purposes. The Sandy Marsh parking lot outhouse was vandalized and gates were destroyed. Littering and vandalism greatly increased during this report period.

Planting, Mowing, and Irrigation

Eight acres of grain and 10 acres of corn planted and irrigated by a sharecropper were left standing for wildlife. Crops were not planted in the North Agricultural fields 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 1999. A botulism outbreak occurred in marsh number 3. Two hundred eight ducks were picked up in Marsh 3 (Table 3). 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.

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

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of ducks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	96	180	208

One trumpeter swan died at the WMA in April 2000. The carcass was shipped fresh to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Necropsy results indicate the swan died of lead poisoning.

No other sick or dead waterfowl were found in the marshes during searches through April 15, 2000. All swans had migrated from the WMA by April 15. The swan that died in 2000 was found on the southwest dike of East Springs Marsh. Dead swans had not been found in this area prior to 2000.

Waterfowl Hunting

Monitor Harvest

Two check stations for waterfowl hunters were conducted on opening day (October 2) of duck season (Table 4). Stations were open between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Table 4. Number of waterfowl hunters and harvest reported at check stations^a on opening day of waterfowl season during 1989-1999.

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
1999	98	295	230	2.35	1.28

^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

Members of the local Audubon Club had not checked bluebird nest boxes (Table 5) at the time of this report.

Table 5. Number of bluebird nest boxes on Market Lake WMA used by nesting birds.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
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-two gulls were sitting on nests on May 31, 2000. All nests were destroyed by a predator before any eggs hatched.

Wildlife Appreciation

Provide Tours and Information Programs

The waterfowl hunting workshop was not held in 1999. The workshop is being held every other year (Table 6).

Table 6. Attendance at the Waterfowl Hunting Workshop.

	1995	1996	1998
Number in attendance	115	92	85

Eighty-five people were guided on bird watching tours of the WMA on International Migratory Bird Day on May 15 (Table 7). The activities were co-sponsored by Idaho Fish and Game, Snake River Audubon Club, Targhee National Forest, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Table 7. Attendance at International Migratory Bird Day on Market Lake WMA.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Attendance	350	250	300	83	53	85

During the spring waterfowl migration, approximately 6,000 people visited the WMA. Guided tours of the WMA for school children were conducted by Americorps volunteers, Audubon Club members, and Department personnel (Table 8). Topics discussed during the tours were: wetlands, wildlife management, and wildlife identification. The number of tours given in 2000 was reduced due to a shortage of labor.

Table 8. Number of people given guided tours of Market Lake WMA.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of people	300	600	1,000	1,300	1,010	704

The "Landscaping for Wildlife" backyard tour was held on July 22, 2000. Seven houses were on the tour this year. Total number of visits to the 7 houses are in Table 9.

Table 9. Number of visits to backyards on the Landscaping for Wildlife tour.

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of visits	150	300	no tour	300

Upland Game Production And Hunting

Planting and Vegetation Rehabilitation

Ten acres of corn and 14 acres of small grain were planted by a sharecropper. The crops were left standing through the 1999-2000 winter as wildlife forage. The crops were mowed down in late February 2000 and fed upon by migrating waterfowl.

Population Monitoring

Sage grouse leks on adjacent federal land were surveyed in the spring of 2000 (Table 10).

Table 10. Male sage grouse counted on the Market Lake WMA lek route 1990-2000.

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	10-Year Average
31	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	26	30	30	19	26

A pheasant crow count route along the East Springs Marsh/Headquarters roads (maps in files) was conducted by a volunteer on April 22, April 30, May 13, May 19, and May 29, 2000. The survey indicated a minimum of 12 roosters along the route.

The Main Marsh/Triangle Marsh pheasant crow count route was not conducted due to a shortage of labor.

A pheasant brood route was not conducted. However, 2 broods were seen on the WMA, both near the headquarters.

A sandhill crane survey was conducted on April 25 and May 24, 2000 (Table 11). Ten pairs of cranes were found on the WMA. A minimum of 1 colt fledged. However it is unknown how many colts may have fledged, since surveys were not conducted in June. Surveys were conducted by WMA personnel. Surveys were not conducted in June due to a shortage of labor.

Table 11. Indicated pairs of sandhill cranes on Market Lake WMA.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pairs	2	6	NC	5	10

Game farm-raised rooster pheasants were released on the WMA during October and November 1999 (Table 12). The pheasants are released for hunting purposes only.

Table 12. Number of game farm rooster pheasants released on Market Lake WMA for hunting purposes.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of roosters	200	342	335	260	285	473

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 one day was 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*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esala*), and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*). Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) was not found on the WMA in 1999.

The annual noxious weed control plan was written and implemented. Approximately 11 miles of roads and dikes were sprayed in June 2000 by a contract weed sprayer.

Boundary fences were checked and repaired. Americorps volunteers removed 1.5 miles of old interior fence on the WMA.

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

All buildings, houses, and equipment were maintained.

A handicap accessible outhouse was repainted after being vandalized.

A handicapped-accessible trail in the west shelterbelt was completed. The trail is being used by many visitors including persons with disabilities.

Technical Assistance

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

Technical assistance was given to 3 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=1), conservation easements (n=1), and wetland projects (n=1).

Thirty-five project proposals by Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service were reviewed for impacts on wildlife and hunting. Comments were provided on 12 of the proposals. Project proposals were: 2 prescribed burns, 1 road construction, 1 timber sale, 28 livestock grazing allotments, 2 fence constructions, and 1 land exchange.

Administrative Duties

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, staff meetings, and law enforcement.

Other Activities

Environmental Conditions

October 1999 was very warm and dry. The marshes usually freeze by November 10; however, the marshes did not freeze until November 20, 1999. The warm weather allowed an extra ten days of waterfowl hunting on the WMA.

April, May, and June 2000 were above average temperatures and far below average precipitation.

Water levels in the marshes during June dropped 5-6 inches. Water levels in mid-June were at levels usually not seen until mid-July.

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.

Volunteers

Volunteers assisted with several projects on the WMA (Table 13). Volunteer labor will be vital to accomplish projects on the WMA during paid labor shortages in the future.

Two Adopt-A-Wetland groups donated 15 hours doing maintenance on goose nesting platforms.

The Snake River Audubon Society donated 51 hours planning International Migratory Bird Day and giving bird watching tours on International Migratory Bird Day. One Adopt-A-Wetland group donated 6 hours constructing bird nesting boxes to be given away at the International Migratory Bird Day event.

A volunteer donated 10 hours of service conducting a pheasant crow count route on the WMA.

One volunteer donated 20 hours collecting soil samples from East Springs Marsh. The samples were tested for lead shot.

Thirteen Americorps volunteers donated 480 hours of labor in May 2000. The volunteers did the following activities: removed 1.5 miles of old fence and conducted surveys for nesting ducks.

Table 13. Number of volunteer hours of labor donated to projects on Market Lake WMA during the fiscal year.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of hours	50	550	160	167	2,843.5	600

Planned Projects For Fy 2001

Host International Migratory Bird Day.

Host Waterfowl Workshop Day.

Maintain roads, dikes, water control structures and fences.

Conduct prescribed burn of 80 acres of juncus meadows during spring 2001.

Conduct prescribed burns in Marsh 3, Marsh 1, and East Springs Marsh during fall 2000 and/or spring 2001.

Install informational signs and displays.

Work on winter water disposal project.

Conduct searches for waterfowl nests.

Implement predator control project to increase duck nesting success.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Don Kemner
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MARKET LAKE HABITAT DISTRICT

DEER PARKS WILDLIFE MITIGATION UNIT

Management Priorities

1. HABITAT DEVELOPMENT FOR MITIGATION SPECIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Develop planning documents	1630	0	4.8 weeks	0	5,134	CAGO, MALL, bald eagle
Maintenance of facilities	1211	0	1 week	0	5,501.25	MALL, CAGO, bald eagle

Bonneville Power Administration Contract	\$5,270.25
Total PR Contract With Overhead	0
License Funds	5,365.00
Grand Total	10,635.25

NARRATIVE

Administration

Several planning meetings for the Wildlife Mitigation Unit (WMU) were attended, including a meeting in Portland, Oregon. A travel map with regulations for the WMU were developed and posted at the WMU. The Palisades Mitigation planning group met and began developing a long-range management plan for the WMU.

Habitat Evaluation Procedure analyses were conducted on the WMU to determine habitat units for eight mitigation species. Habitat types were mapped and acres were calculated.

Facilities Development

Several meetings were held with the lessee and sharecropper for the WMU. Necessary repairs to irrigation equipment were completed. Irrigation equipment and needed repairs in the near future were categorized.

Boundary signs were posted around the WMU.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Tom Maeder
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

MUD LAKE HABITAT DISTRICT

MUD LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities

1. WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
2. NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT
3. UPLAND GAME MANAGEMENT
4. WILDLIFE /OUTDOOR RECREATION
5. WILDLIFE DEPREDATION MANAGEMENT
6. NONGAME MANAGEMENT
7. BIG GAME MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT						
Management Program – Maintain and improve upland nesting cover						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	1 week 80 acres	1 week	6,601	7,631	GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
Plant nesting cover	1322	1 week 40 acres	0	3,500	0	Not accomplished. MALL, NOPI, CITE, NSHO
Fence improvement	1211	1 week 1 mile	1 week	2,500	2,500	Fence will be replaced to protect waterfowl nesting habitat. MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Road closure	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	West slough roads closed to minimize disturbance to breeding waterfowl. MALL, REDH, LESC, CAGO
Management Program - Enhance overwater nesting cover for waterfowl						
Flood west slough	1211	1 week	1 week	10,400	10,400	The Jernberg well operated to flood west slough. MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor hydrophyte development in west slough	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Water levels and plant growth in west slough monitored so the needs of breeding waterfowl are met. REDH, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Coordinate with Canal Company	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinated wetland and lake water levels with Canal Company. REDH, MALL, CAGO, CANV
Fence maintenance	1211	1 week	1 week	3,500	1,500	Maintained fences to protect wetlands. MALL, NOPI, NSHO, CITE
Management Program - Provide nesting structures for ducks and geese						
Repair nesting platforms	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Repaired nest structures, replaced nest structures, and replaced nesting material. CAGO, WODU, mountain bluebird, American kestrel
Management Program - Control waterfowl diseases						
Monitor for and control disease outbreaks	1410	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Regularly patrolled WMA to monitor for waterfowl disease outbreaks. MALL, LSGO, RUDU, CANV
WEED MANAGEMENT						
Management program - Decrease and control noxious weed infestations						
Irrigate and harvest alfalfa	1322	5.5 weeks 273 acres	5.5 weeks	24,000	27,000	Assisted share-cropper in farming north agricultural fields. MALL, NOPI, GADW, CAGO
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinated weed control activities with county weed supervisor, extension services, canal company, and High Country RC&D. AMWI, CITE, NSHO, NOPI
Evaluate control methods	1211	1 week	0	1,000	0	Monitored weed control methods. GADW, MALL, NOPI, AMWI
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION/OUTDOOR RECREATION						
Management program - Maintain and improve roads and access areas						
Improve roads and access areas	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,000	3,000	Maintained 2 access areas and 1 wildlife observation area with associated facilities and roads. Double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, great egret

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Interagency coordination	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Coordinated with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and access with canal company. REDH, MALL, NOPI, CANV
Management program - Monitor harvest						
Monitor and evaluate use and harvest This activity will be reduced due to decreased funding	1430	.5 week	1.5 weeks	1,000	1,500	Monitored waterfowl harvest and WMA use through hunter checks. MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Management Program - Enhance available wildlife information to the public						
Conduct tours	1211	1 week 10 tours	1 week	1,000	1,000	Conducted 10 WMA tours for scouts, schools, and other interested groups. MALL, NOPI, REDH, white-faced ibis
Management Program - Wildlife depredation management						
Service depredation complaints and repair zone guns	1720	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	Assisted landowners with wildlife depredation complaints. MALL, CAGO, moose, white-faced ibis
Monitor and evaluate depredation problems This activity will be reduced due to decreased funding	1720	.5 week	.5 week	1,000	1,000	Monitored waterfowl use on local landowner property. CAGO, LSGO, MALL, NOPI
UPLAND GAME MANAGEMENT						
Management Program - Provide upland game habitat						
Control knapweed infestation	1322	1 week 25 acres	1 week	2,500	2,500	Sprayed Russian knapweed in east slough. Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
Plant 5-20 acres of winter food plots This activity will be reduced due to decreased funding	1322	1 week 5-20 acres	1 week 5 acres	2,100	2,100	Planted corn or millet food plots on north agricultural fields, west agricultural fields, and along south lake shore. Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, sage grouse, mourning dove
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - MDWMA facilities						
Check water levels and dikes This activity will be reduced due to decreased funding	1211	.5 week	.5 week	1,000	1,000	Monitored water levels and repaired and maintained dikes. REDH, CANV, MALL LESC
Maintain fence	1211	3 weeks 33 miles	1 week	4,000	1,000	Repaired and maintained fences. MALL, NOPI, GADW, AMWI
Maintain road	1211	1 week 18 miles	1 week	6,000	6,000	Repaired and maintained roads. MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain dikes	1211	1 week 5 miles	1 week	7,000	7,000	Repaired and maintained dikes. REDH, MALL, CANV, LESC

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain buildings	1211	3 weeks	6 weeks	9,000	15,000	Repaired and maintained headquarters, shops, and access areas. LSGO, MALL, NOPI, CAGO
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	6 weeks	6 weeks	6,000	6,000	Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, sage grouse
Assist landowners with wildlife projects	1720	2.5 weeks	2.5 weeks	3,500	3,500	Assisted landowners with HIP projects and other wildlife habitat concerns. Gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, MALL, CAGO
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1710	3 weeks 20 projects 30 meetings	3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Assisted other agencies on wildlife/habitat projects and attended meetings on habitat issues. Sage grouse, elk, sharp-tailed grouse, mountain goat
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	4,000	4,000	Worked on WMA planning, progress, review, and evaluation reports. MALL, NOPI, CAGO, REDH
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	6 weeks	4,500	4,500	General WMA operations. MALL, NOPI, AMWI, GADW
Other duties (as assigned)	1211	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,624	2,624	MALL, NOPI, CAGO, sage grouse

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$ 77,955
Outside Funds	47,800
Grand Total	\$125,755

NARRATIVE

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area

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

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

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

Wildlife

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

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

Pheasant populations declined drastically during the early 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.

1999-2000 Conditions

In 1999 water levels were fairly stable on MLWMA. Waterfowl production appeared good. No evidence of botulism was noticed in West Sloughs.

Waterfowl hunting on the WMA was good in 1999. Northern migrant waterfowl did not appear on MLWMA in large numbers until late November. Water levels dropped dramatically throughout the hunting season as the Mud Lake Water Users dropped the water level of Mud Lake to do dike repairs.

Sightings of wild pheasants remained constant and were above what were seen between 1993 and 1997. Several mild winters in a row are the likely cause of the higher pheasant numbers. Sightings of gray partridge remained very common and the large brood sizes tend to indicate that their production is good.

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

A dry spring has resulted in poor grass conditions. Very little regrowth was noted after spring grazing.

Peregrine falcons did not nest in the nesting tower in 2000. This may be due to the absence of falcons in 1999.

In 2000 very little run-off from snowmelt reached Mud Lake. Water conditions were relatively stable through the spring. An abundance of goose broods were seen in 2000 as a result of the stable water, though a similar increase in duck broods was not noticed.

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.

1999-2000 Projects

A new 3-year share-crop agreement was signed for the west agriculture fields. The IDFG's share will be in the form of hay and a food plot.

Painted Kastor tower and picnic tables with Americorps volunteers.

Conducted waterfowl nest searches with Americorps volunteers on North Point and in West Sloughs.

Installed 1 hunter survey box.

Replace 0.75 miles of boundary fence with Americorps volunteers.

Continued share-crop 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. With Americorps volunteers, built 26 new goose boxes and platforms. Over a hundred goose structures were maintained. Used several miles of temporary electric fencing to try to improve grazing on the WMA.

FY 2001 Planned Projects

Plan to continue to develop an agreement with Mud lake Water Users to deliver IDFG water to the western portion of West Sloughs.
Plan on installing a water control structure in the western portion of West Sloughs to create more wetlands if an agreement with Mud Lake Water Users can be reached.
Plan on installing a water control structure in the eastern portion of West Sloughs to create more wetlands.
Will continue to control weeds.
Build irrigation pipe racks. Rebuild racks that are in need of repair.
Remodel headquarter bathroom.
Will try to improve the Green Island road.
Will try to establish food plots for upland game on and off the WMA.
Will continue share-crop activities.
Plan on 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 effect wildlife and wildlife habitat in habitat district. To assist landowners in planning, funding, and installing habitat projects on private lands.

1999-2000 Projects

A. U.S. Forest Service

Provided IDFG comments for the Miners Creek/East Beaver Timber Sale and Prescribed Burn. The Targhee Forest is proposing a timber sale and prescribed burning for the East Beaver Creek and Camas Creek drainages. This project included sagebrush treatments, aspen treatments, and several types of timber harvest.

Provided IDFG comments for the West Camas Allotment Management Plan. The plan described how the allotment was to be grazed.

Provided IDFG comments for the Dubois District Range Improvement Projects. All of the proposed projects would improve the condition of the range through better distribution of cattle or by measures that protect the resource

Meet with Targhee Forest personnel to discuss the Forest's prescribed burns. The Targhee Forest has several prescribed burns proposed for 2001. An outline for prescribed burns over the next ten years was evaluated.

Meet 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 Hagenbarth and Fransen sagebrush projects. The prescribed burning of sagebrush is being proposed on both allotments. This project is still pending.

Provided IDFG comments on several allotment assessments and EAs. This is part of the BLM's new grazing permit renewal process.

Attended a workshop on assessing riparian condition. The workshop was very informative.

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. The group is currently in the early development stages of a sage grouse management plan. 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.

FY 2001 Planned Projects

Will continue to review and monitor sagebrush control projects.

Will look for grouse leks in the Mud Lake habitat 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: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Dennis Aslett
 Assistant: Charles Anderson
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SAND CREEK HABITAT DISTRICT

SAND CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Priorities

1. ELK WINTER HABITAT
2. MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTER HABITAT
3. SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE HABITAT
4. WATERFOWL HABITAT
5. HABITAT FOR NONGAME AND SPECIES WITH SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS
6. HUNTING, FISHING, NATURE VIEWING, AND OTHER WILDLIFE BASED RECREATION
7. WILDLIFE EDUCATION

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		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	2 weeks	4,800	2,000	Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, moose
Assist wildlife management staff in census, winter movements, and marking	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Elk, mule deer, moose, sage grouse
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase, lease, easement, or use trade	1111	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	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	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	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	1 week	4,800	1,000	Elk, deer, moose, grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Monitor hunting season and make recommendations to improve elk use of transition areas	1430	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,000	Elk, deer, moose, grouse
MULE DEER AND MOOSE WINTERING						
Management Program - Increase forage production						
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd composition counts	1460	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Assess possibilities for land acquisition, use trade, lease	1111	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,000	Deer, elk, moose, sage grouse
SAGE AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Vegetation and water management						
Identify lek areas on WMA and adjacent lands, report results	1450	4 weeks	2 weeks	4,800	2,000	Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Maintain good residual cover adjacent to leks	1440	1 week	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor use of water developments	1440	1 week	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	Deer, elk, moose, sage and sharp-tailed grouse
Identify winter areas and cooperate with other agencies to protect winter habitat	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,000	Sage and sharp-tailed grouse, moose, elk
Management Program - Evaluate annual production						
Conduct annual lek routes and lek searches	1460	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,400	4,000	Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse
Operate hunter check stations and conduct field checks to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	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	3 weeks	2,400	3,000	
PUBLIC HUNTING						
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	5,000	CAGO, elk, deer, moose
Work with five private landowners to maintain public access	1720	1 week	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	Elk, moose, deer, sage grouse
Make recommendations for hunting seasons	1630	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Elk, moose, deer, MALL, CAGO
Operate hunter check stations to assess production, harvest, and visitor use	1430	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Provide quality nesting cover and food crops						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Provide 50 acres of grain	1322	1 week 30 acres	1 week	1,200	1,000	MALL, CAGO, BUFF, GRSC
Improve nesting cover on 20 acres in the pond area	1440	2 weeks 40 acres	1 week	2,400	1,000	MALL, CAGO, AMWI, GADW
Continue signing and patrolling nesting areas to prevent disturbance	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Monitor waterfowl production and report findings	1460	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUF
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTION						
Management Program - Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production						
Conduct tours, give programs	1630	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,600	3,000	CAGO, MALL, AMWI, BUFF
Evaluate nongame habitat needs, implement habitat developments	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,000	Kestrels, sandhill crane, osprey, great blue heron
Construct and maintain a nature trail in the pond area and monitor use	1331	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,200	2,000	Elk, moose, deer, sandhill crane
Provide and protect nesting areas for trumpeter swans. Report production	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,400	2,000	Trumpeter swan, CAGO, MALL, AMWI
Management Program - Public Use Monitoring						
Public Use Survey	1211	6 weeks	3 weeks	4,800	3,000	Elk, moose, Trumpeter swan, CAGO
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain improvements						
Map infestations and control noxious weeds	1211	4 weeks	5 weeks	4,800	5,000	Elk, moose, mule deer
Monitor water levels and dikes	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	3,600	2,000	CAGO, MALL, Swan, BUFF
Maintain fence	1211	5 weeks 55 miles	3 weeks	6,000	3,000	Elk, deer, moose, grouse
Replace fence	1211	3 weeks 2 miles	3 weeks	3,600	3,000	Elk, moose, deer, grouse
Maintain dikes and water control structures	1211	2 weeks 2.5 miles	2 weeks	2,400	2,000	CAGO, MALL, swan, BUFF
Habitat monitoring - establish habitat map and permanent vegetation transects	1460	4 weeks	1 week	4,800	1,000	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	3 weeks	2,400	3,000	
Maintain buildings and structures	1211	4 weeks	4 weeks	4,800	4,000	
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review and comment on proposed habitat projects	1710	8 weeks 20 projects	10 weeks	9,600	10,000	Great gray owl, elk, deer, moose

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Assist five landowners on wildlife projects	1720	2 weeks	1 week	2,400	1,000	CAGO, MALL, pheasant, partridge
Cooperate with other agencies, attend coordination meetings	1710	4 weeks	5 weeks	4,800	5,000	Elk, deer, moose, sage grouse
Attend training	1630	4 weeks	3 weeks	4,800	3,000	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review, and evaluations	1610	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,000	5,000	
Maintain records; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	6 weeks	10 weeks	7,200	11,000	
Other duties (as assigned)	1630	2 weeks	5 weeks	899	3,844	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$118,434
Outside Funds	19,800
Grand Total	\$138,234

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 3,000-4,000 wintering elk, 2,000-2,500 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

1. Elk Wintering
2. Mule Deer and Moose Wintering

3. Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Production
4. Public Hunting
5. Waterfowl Production
6. Wildlife Appreciation and Other Wildlife Production
7. Public Fishing

Summary of Activities

Elk Wintering

Cooperative development and management of elk winter range

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, and private landowners.

The Sand Creek elk census was conducted on February 2, 3, 4, 5 and March 3, 2000 with the following results:

Sightability Estimates

Total: 4,134

Cows: 2,404

Calves: 743

Bulls: 967

Bulls:100 cows:calves--40:100:32

Acquire critical winter range

Potential opportunities for winter range acquisition were monitored. No opportunities were identified and no new proposals were submitted.

Increase elk use of transition ranges

One hundred acres of alfalfa and grass, 37 acres of wheat and barley, and 24 acres of volunteer grain were provided for big game forage on transition range at the Sand Creek Ponds.

A range monitoring program was not completed.

Due to mild fall conditions with little snow and abundant forage, elk migrations were delayed. Elk from both Yellowstone National Park and Harriman State Park began migrating about November 22. Migrations from these areas typically occur in early to mid-November. Elk arriving on the upper WMA utilized most of the grain planted and left standing for them in the pond area before moving onto the desert in early December.

Mule Deer And Moose Wintering

Increase forage production

Mule deer were counted on January 16 and 17, 2000. Since antler drop was occurring, antlerless adults were listed as unclassified. The results are as follows:

Sightability Estimate:
Total: 2,866
Fawns: 902
Bucks: 448
Unclassified Adults: 1,516

Moose were censused in conjunction to the Sand Creek elk and deer census with the following results:

In conjunction with deer survey:
Total: 465
Cows: 192
Calves: 102
Bulls: 119

In conjunction with the elk survey:
Total: 473
Cows: 112
Calves: 87
Bulls: 40

Bulls:100 cows:calves--62:100:53

Potential opportunities for winter range acquisition were monitored. No new proposals were initiated.

Sage And Sharp-Tailed Grouse Production

Vegetation and water management

Much of the WMA and adjacent lands were checked for active sage and sharp-tailed grouse leks by project personnel and the local chapter of the Audubon Society. Many leks that were not on lek routes and had not been surveyed recently were checked for activity. A total of 13 known sharp-tailed grouse leks and one known sage grouse lek were visited to determine activity. In addition, searches were conducted for new leks in the area. A total of 5 new sharp-tailed grouse leks (in CRP lands near Drummond) and 1 sage grouse lek (Five Monuments) were located and mapped. All lek locations were entered on GIS.

Several comment letters were written concerning habitat projects in grouse habitat. Information was provided to NRCS, BLM, IDL, and private landowners to protect grouse habitat on public and private lands. Most proposed projects involved prescribed burning or chemical control of sagebrush. An area around one of the major sage grouse leks on the Red Road was mowed last year in an attempt to provide a better lek site and move the birds off the Red Road. Since the Red Road in this area was paved two years ago, lek

disturbance and mortality has increased on this lek due to increased traffic and higher speeds. The birds did move off the road to a considerable degree and were using the newly-mowed area.

Vegetation management included measuring vegetation around several sharp-tailed grouse leks in the Sand Creek area to determine the suitability for nesting cover as outlined in the Idaho Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Conservation Plan, 1998. Measuring will continue through the summer and results will be available in the fall.

Water developments were monitored with the following results:

Guzzler monitoring for 1999 began on June 25. Guzzlers were checked bi-weekly until December 13 when they were shut off and winterized for the year. Cooler temperatures and below average moisture dominated the summer months with little rainfall from mid-June until December. When the guzzlers were turned off, there were twelve inches of snow on the ground.

Domestic livestock proved to be detrimental to wildlife use of the guzzlers. Cattle and sheep drank one of the guzzlers dry and heavily used two others. A decrease in wildlife use was documented during and after livestock use. All of the guzzlers had sage grouse and deer, and several had light elk use.

Locations of wintering grouse were noted during big game flights and locations entered into the GIS data base. Grouse seen during other activities were also noted and GIS locations taken.

Evaluate annual production

The Grassy sharp-tailed lek route had three active leks that were identified this year. A total of 28 grouse was the highest number documented and compares to 32 in 1999. The Sand Creek route had two active leks including CRP and #94. The highest total number of birds counted was 43, which is higher than last year's 37 and above the 17-20 average that was recorded in the mid-1990s. The CRP lek had a high count of 29 birds and #94 had 14. The Rifle Range lek which had 7 birds last year was not active.

Although sage grouse counted on the Red Road lek route remained up this year, numbers continue to be low overall. In 1993 there were only two active leks on this route, which was 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. In 1999 six leks were active and the total number of birds on the highest count was 168; in 2000 four leks were active with a high count of 154.

Two leks were monitored on the Sand Creek route. The lek in Blake's pasture was up from 2 males in 1997, 7 in 1998, 8 in 1999, to 11 this year. Miller's Corral was up from 38 males in 1997, 58 in 1998, 88 in 1999, to 94 this year.

Project personnel have participated on the Habitat Improvement Committee for the Sage Grouse Local Working Group. This group is a cooperative effort involving agencies, livestock producers, sportspersons, public officials, and anyone else that has an interest in sage grouse to produce a local sage grouse management plan. Recommendations will be incorporated into WMA management activities.

Public Hunting

Maintain current hunting levels, improve quality

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.

An archery season was implemented in Unit 60 last year for the first time. Most of the WMA is in this unit. Current vehicle restrictions, particularly on adjacent national forest lands, do not take effect until after the archery season is over. Monitoring during the hunting seasons in 1999 suggests that off-road vehicle traffic has increased substantially. This situation has resulted in concerns about premature elk movements, habitat destruction, a decline in hunt quality, and erosion.

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 most of the WMA. The closure was monitored and results were reported. Compliance overall was good and big game remained scattered on the winter range as desired.

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. Trespass violations on adjacent private lands are increasing.

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

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.

Waterfowl Production

Provide quality nesting cover and food crops

There are 75 acres of workable farmland remaining on Sand Creek WMA. Currently 37 acres are planted in grain crops that will be left standing for wildlife use and 24 acres of volunteer grain will also be left for wildlife use. The remaining acres are in summer fallow.

This year's farming operation included planting the field west of Pond 4 with grain. This field is normally under water in the spring from excess runoff. However, with reduced flows this year, the field was dry enough to be planted. Rather than fallow the fields that were planted last year, volunteer wheat was allowed to grow and weeds were controlled by chemical application. Approximately 10 acres of permanent cover were interseeded on the Robertson Segment to improve the area for wildlife. Trespass livestock may have significantly affected that reseeding, however.

No hay was cut this year, which left 80 acres of alfalfa and grass fields for nesting cover.

Nesting areas were signed and patrolled regularly to minimize disturbance. Violations were detected and appropriate action taken.

Goose broods were surveyed on all of the Sand Creek Ponds once in June 2000. A total of 12 broods and 76 goslings were documented, which is down from 20 brood and 104 goslings last year. Due to poor snow conditions, the goose nesting platforms were not serviced using snowmachines as is normally done and could account for some of the lower brood numbers.

The August 1999 goose nest structure use included 18 of 30 structures being used and 14 were successful.

The Warm Slough wood duck survey produced 7 of 10 boxes being used. Four were successful and 20 ducklings were produced.

Wildlife Appreciation And Other Wildlife Production

Maintain public contact; monitor nongame species; increase trumpeter swan production

Tours were given to scout groups, 4H clubs, YMCA groups, sportsmen, and individuals. Of particular significance was the Third Annual 4H Wildlife Day in which 75 participants attended presentations at 9 wildlife stations manned by Department personnel, US Forest Service, and 4H leaders. They also walked the new nature trail, constructed a scrapbook, took an examination, gave an oral presentation, and toured either a sharp-tailed or a sage grouse lek site in the early morning to view strutting grouse. Unfortunately, snow and poor weather conditions in the early morning contributed to lack of grouse lekking activity. Grouse lek tours and presentations on grouse biology were also given to Idaho Department of Lands and NRCS personnel, 4H leaders, Henry's Fork Watershed Council members, volunteers, school classes, YMCA day camp, and landowners.

Two osprey platforms were maintained but the osprey pair nested in an old snag in Pond 1. Neither platform was used. Bluebird boxes were not serviced this year.

The second loop of the nature trail was completed this year. Both loops received considerable use.

Four trumpeter swan cygnets fledged in 1999, all from Pond 2. In the spring of 2000, nesting trumpeter swans were monitored almost daily and territories protected. Nesting activity was noted on all three territories this year in May, but the pairs on Pond 4 and the Swan Pond failed to complete nesting. This is the third consecutive year that nesting has not been completed on Pond 4. Pond 2 produced three cygnets on June 13, but one disappeared soon after. At completion of this report, two cygnets remain.

Detected nesting territory closure violations were minor this year.

Regulate and monitor trapping

Trapping activities were not monitored.

Public Fishing

Monitor Anglers

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

Opening weekend--May 27, 28, 29:

During the Memorial Day holiday weekend, 160 visitors were counted and 77 anglers were surveyed. The anglers fished for 146 hours and caught 104 fish for a catch rate of .71 fish per hour. Sixty-one fish were rainbow and the remainder were brook trout. Weather during the opening weekend was nice, but visitors were down by nearly half from past years. This may be due to an early spring which resulted in more areas being accessible for fishing and better water conditions throughout the region.

Free Fishing Day--June 12:

Twenty-four anglers were checked. They fished for 67 hours and harvested 25 rainbows for a catch rate of .53 fish per hour.

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

July 1 was on a Saturday this year. A total of 218 visitors were counted and 107 anglers were surveyed. This represents more total visitors and more anglers checked than on Memorial Day weekend and is also an increase from last year. The anglers fished for 232.5 hours and caught 138 fish for a catch rate of .59 fish per hour. Last year's catch rate was .79 fish per hour. One hundred fourteen fish were rainbow and the remainder were brook trout.

Float tubers and boat anglers were included in the survey this year.

Administration

Public Use Monitoring

User surveys were conducted randomly from May through September by WMA employees during normal work days. Information gathered included the number in the group, as well as activities the group was participating in on the WMA. Comments were also solicited.

A total of 65 user groups was contacted and user surveys were filled out for each group. A total of 1,137 visitors/users was included. Nearly all comments were positive and several changes were made to WMA operations due to public comment, including additional dike mowing, road repair, and improved signing.

Maintain improvements

Weed Control--Approximately 850 gallons of chemical mix was applied to noxious weeds on the WMA. A total of 40 acres was 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 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.

Water levels and dikes were monitored regularly.

All fences were maintained, including 25 miles of let-down fence.

A total of 1.5 miles of old fence was removed and rebuilt utilizing the St. Anthony work camp crews.

All dikes and water control structures were maintained. No new structures were necessary.

Habitat monitoring was initiated in sharp-tailed grouse nesting areas.

A sensitive plant survey was not completed.

A reptile and amphibian survey has been initiated but results are only preliminary at this point.

All buildings and structures were maintained. A new waterline was installed at the second headquarters from the spring line near the well into the house. The old line was rusted through in places and leaking badly.

Technical assistance

Comments and technical assistance were provided for 20 proposed projects in the district including subdivisions, brush control projects, vegetation manipulation, easements, conservation easements, greenway along the Henry's Fork, area closures, species conservation plans, grazing allotments, and the Sage Grouse Local Working Group.

Assistance was provided for one landowner on HIP prior to the program being discontinued. Technical assistance was provided to Natural Resources Conservation Service for several Conservation Reserve Program projects.

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.

Training included CPR, computer skills, physical fitness, noxious weed seminar, supervisor's training, and properly functioning wetland delineation.

Administrative duties

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

All necessary records were maintained and assigned reports submitted.

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: Other Funds
 Project Leader: Kim Ragotzkie
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

CARTIER HABITAT DISTRICT

CARTIER SLOUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
GEM STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA
BPA WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROPERTIES (K1 & K2)

Management Priorities for Cartier Slough WMA

1. WATERFOWL HABITAT, PRODUCTION, AND HUNTING
2. WILDLIFE DIVERSITY
3. WILDLIFE APPRECIATION
4. BIG GAME HABITAT AND HUNTING
5. UPLAND GAME HABITAT AND HUNTING

Management Priorities for Gem State WHA

1. PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT
2. MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A DIVERSE NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY
3. PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS WHICH DOES NOT LEAD TO HABITAT DEGRADATION OR IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE

Management Priorities for K1 & K2 Wildlife Mitigation Properties

1. PROTECT AND ENHANCE WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT
2. CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS
3. MONITOR VEGETATION AND TARGET SPECIES HABITAT
4. RESTORE NATIVE SHRUB AND TREE SPECIES

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WATERFOWL HABITAT, PRODUCTION, AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain nesting structures						
Maintain goose nesting platforms and cut back surrounding vegetation (All Areas)	1211	3 weeks 120 nest platforms	3 weeks 75 nest platforms	1,500	1,900	CAGO 118 nest platforms maintained.

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain wood duck nest boxes (Cartier, Gem)	1211	1 week 40 nest boxes	1 week 39 nest boxes	800	600	WODU 39 nest boxes available
Management Program - Provide waterfowl hunting opportunity						
Maintain trails, fence stiles, and footbridges for hunter access (Cartier, Gem, K2)	1211	2 weeks 4 new stiles	2 weeks 1 trail	1,500	1,100	Trail at Cartier
Management Program - Assist landowners with waterfowl habitat improvements						
Landowner assistance for pond developments or nesting cover projects (HIP)	1720	3 weeks 5 projects	4 weeks 10 projects	2,500	2,900	MALL, BWTE, NOPI, CAGO, WODU, sandhill crane
Management Program - Water level manipulation						
Clean and maintain culverts connecting slough channels (Cartier, Gem, K2)	1211	3 weeks	2 weeks	2,000	1,500	MALL, CAGO, trumpeter swan, nongame wildlife
Maintain, clean debris, and adjust water level at water control structure (Cartier)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,600	MALL, WODU, RUDU, LESC, wading birds, moose
Inventory and minor improvement to old sloughs and channels (K1, K2)	1342	2 weeks	0.4 week	2,500	500	MALL, nongame, bald eagle
PROTECT AND ENHANCE WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT						
Management Program - Vegetation management						
Maintain boundary fences to protect from trespass livestock grazing (All Areas)	1211	10 weeks	10 weeks	6,000	6,500	Maintained 10 miles of fence to protect wetland and riparian habitat integrity.
Protect areas of cottonwood and willow regeneration from chemical and physical damage (K1, K2)	1440	1 week	1 week	1,200	1,300	Nongame, bald eagle, WODU, moose, white-tailed deer
Plant willows or other shrubs in areas where natural regeneration is not evident (K1, K2)	1322	2 weeks 2 acres	0	2,000	0	Not accomplished.
Reseed unnatural disturbed sites with grass-forb mix (All Areas)	1322	1 week 2 acres	1 week 2 acres	1,000	1,300	Seeded areas disturbed by heavy equipment use.
Management Program - Control human activities						
Maintain closures to motorized use (All Areas)	1211	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,600	All wildlife
Improve nonmotorized entry areas and visitor information boards (All Areas)	1334	2 weeks 5 sites	1 week 3 sites	2,000	1,600	
MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE DIVERSE WILDLIFE AND NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES						
Management Program - Maintain wildlife diversity						
Protect key nesting, brood rearing, and wintering areas from inappropriate human activities (All Areas)	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	MALL, CAGO, WODU, bald eagle, osprey, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, elk
Gather baseline information on amphibian and reptile species presence and distribution (Gem, K1, K2)	1460	1 week	0.2 weeks	1,000	100	Amphibians and reptiles

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Management Program - Maintain vegetative diversity						
Research and implement seeding or planting projects to reestablish native species (K1)	1322	1 week 45 acres	1 week 35 acres	8,000	2,500	Established permanent cover on 35-acre field. Reduced risk of noxious weed infestation.
Explore potential of using livestock grazing to control noxious weeds and manage vegetation (All Areas)	1440	1 week	2 weeks	700	2,000	Developed livestock grazing plan for each site where grazing could be a useful and appropriate tool.
Survey for rare plants (Gem, K1, K2)	1460	1 week	0.2 week	700	200	
Management Program - Control noxious weeds						
Continue releases of biological control insects and monitor effects of previous releases (All Areas)	1211	3 weeks	4 weeks	2,500	3,200	Includes involvement in interagency biological weed control committee. All.
Chemical control of noxious weeds (Cartier, Gem, K1, K2)	1211	6 weeks 1,480 acres	8 weeks 1,500 acres	6,000	7,000	Includes purchase of herbicides and spraying equipment.
Search all side channels and sloughs for purple loosestrife, remove all plants found (All Areas)	1440	3 weeks	3 weeks	2,000	2,000	Purple loosestrife is at a critical early stage of infestation on the lower Henrys Fork River.
Mechanical control of noxious weeds (Cartier, Gem, K1, K2)	1211	1 week	2 weeks	500	1,200	Hand pulling and clipping used mainly on small new infestations.
WILDLIFE APPRECIATION						
Management Program - Maintain and improve opportunities at IDFG-managed properties						
Prepare/update informational brochures and news articles (All Areas)	1630	2 weeks	0.2 week	1,500	100	All
Maintain informational signs (All Areas)	1211	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,100	All
Management Program - Educational activities						
Presentations to school or other youth groups, hunter education	1630	1 week	1 week	1,000	1,000	All
BIG GAME HABITAT AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain and improve big game habitat						
Survey and coordinate on protection of big game winter ranges	1440	3 weeks	3 weeks	3,000	3,200	Elk, mule deer, moose
Assist other agencies and private landowners to improve habitat	1710	3 weeks	5 weeks	3,000	4,200	Elk, mule and white-tailed deer, moose
Remove old fence wire (Cartier)	1211	1 week	1 week	500	500	White-tailed deer, mule deer
Management Program - Population monitoring						
Hunter check stations and assist big game population surveys	1460	1 week	1 week	700	700	Elk, deer, moose, pronghorn antelope

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
UPLAND GAME HABITAT AND HUNTING						
Management Program - Maintain and improve upland game habitat						
Landowner assistance to improve upland bird habitat (HIP)	1720	6 weeks 30 projects	5 weeks 17 projects	5,000	4,000	Pheasant, gray partridge, sharp-tailed grouse, nongame
Maintain HIP database and equipment	1720	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,500	1,500	All upland game and waterfowl
Improve diversion structure for Cartier irrigation ditch	1211	1 week	0	2,500	0	Pheasant, gray partridge
Management Program - Population monitoring						
Sharp-tailed grouse lek searches and surveys	1460	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	1,100	Sharp-tailed grouse
MONITOR VEGETATION AND TARGET SPECIES HABITAT						
Management Program - Monitor wetland and riparian habitat condition						
Develop a vegetation monitoring plan (All Areas)	1440	2 weeks	1 week	1,500	1,000	Monitoring plans will meet requirements of the various funding agencies (BOR, BPA, City of IF).
Prepare a cover type map for Cartier, Gem, K1, K2, Rainer, Fox Creek, Teton Creek, and Warm Slough	1440	3 weeks 8 maps	0	2,281	0	Use aerial photos and field reconnaissance to map vegetative cover types and key water features.
Establish permanent vegetation monitoring photo points (All Areas)	1440	2 weeks	1 week	1,600	1,000	To monitor gross changes in vegetation and wetland or riparian habitat features.
ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Interagency coordination						
Review and prepare comments on proposed public lands projects	1710	3 weeks	2 weeks	2,300	1,600	All
Management Program - General administration						
Monthly and annual reports, prepare and monitor budgets	1630	2 weeks	4 weeks	1,500	2,800	Program management activities
Other duties as assigned	1630	3 weeks	10 weeks	2,500	7,001	Duty officer, assist other IDFG projects, staff meetings

State License Funds	\$56,425
City of Idaho Falls Funds	6,976
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Funds	4,000
Bonneville Power Administration Funds	5,000
Grand Total	\$72,401

NARRATIVE

Background

The Cartier Habitat District covers portions of Bonneville, Jefferson, and Fremont Counties, and all of Madison and Teton Counties. The district biologist is responsible for managing 2,100 acres of primarily wetland and riparian habitat in eight separate parcels.

The District includes four properties acquired through various habitat mitigation programs: Cartier Slough WMA, Gem State WHA, K1 Parcel of Deer Parks WMU, and K2 Parcel of Deer Parks WMU. There are also four access areas with significant habitat acreages: Rainer Access Area, Fox Creek Access Area, Teton Creek Access Area, and Warm Slough Access Area.

In addition to direct landowner assistance, the Cartier District biologist also maintains the Region 6 HIP database, the HIP equipment, and inspects HIP woody cover projects for up to ten years after project implementation. There is also a considerable workload related to technical assistance and coordination with other agencies and entities in the District. Primary activities include coordination with agency staff regarding proposed projects on BLM and USFS lands, Idaho Department of Lands, and Idaho State Parks. When requested by county planning and zoning staff, the biologist provides information and formal comment letters on proposed private land developments (mainly Fremont and Teton Counties). The biologist works closely with the nonprofit Teton Regional Land Trust to review potential conservation easement properties and is on the stewardship committee of the Land Trust.

Other projects which have involved significant time commitments are the habitat protection and improvement aspects of the Wildlife Brucellosis Project, and participating in and serving as secretary for the Upper Snake River Coordinated Weed Management Area.

IDFG-Managed Lands – Major Activities

Cartier Slough WMA:

Several years of high water had left large driftwood logjams at all culverts and bridges. Most of these were cleared out in the past year. It also became apparent the main dike at Cartier had suffered significant damage during the high water of 1999, already weakened by the 1997 flooding. We began exploring options of repairing this dike. The main water control structure continues to function well.

Noxious weed control continues to be a high priority at the WMA. Chemical, biological, and mechanical control are being used. We learned that our effort to use biological control in the main floodplain area of Cartier has limited chance of success due to extended high water periods killing the insect larva. Serious planning efforts were started to implement goat grazing as a method to control the major leafy spurge infestation at Cartier. Locating and pulling or spraying another noxious weed, purple loosestrife, is also a high priority. We found small clumps of this plant throughout the WMA in 1999, indicating the extent of this weed's infestation is rapidly increasing.

Nesting structures were maintained for Canada goose, wood duck, and bluebird. Osprey nested successfully again on the south platform. The bald eagle nest just south of the WMA was active in 2000. Other wildlife of note which seem to be doing well at Cartier include moose, white-tailed deer, trumpeter swans in late winter, muskrat, pheasant, painted turtles, numerous species of waterfowl, and many songbirds in the cottonwood and willow habitats.

The public entry area at the south end of Beaver Dick County Park was completed and a short trail improved. Major public uses of the area include walking, observing wildlife, use as an outdoor classroom by local schools and Ricks College, hunting (waterfowl, archery deer and moose, and rabbit), trapping, and fishing.

Adopt-A-Wetland group: Jefferson County Pheasants Forever.

Gem State WHA:

Routine maintenance, primarily noxious weed control and fence maintenance, were the main activities at Gem State. Likely as a result of the 1997 flood, there are some small patches of natural cottonwood regeneration at Gem State. Protection of these sites is a high priority; thus, the trespass grazing which occurred in spring 2000 was particularly problematic. The slough areas at Gem State, particularly the slough on the Green addition, are providing good waterfowl brood rearing habitat.

K1 Parcel / Deer Parks WMU:

Natural regeneration of willows and cottonwoods is doing very well on the west one-half of this property. BLM completed construction of the new bridge across the Butte-Market Lake Canal, and construction of a small parking area. The disturbed areas were reseeded with a grass-forb mix. Of the 45 acres which had been used as cropland, ten acres have a high water table and are returning to sedges, rushes, and willows. We decided to not do any additional revegetation in that field. The remaining 35 acres have been disked and are being prepared for reseeding to permanent cover. Noxious weed control, chemical and biological, were the major activities at this property.

K2 Parcel / Deer Parks WMU:

This area is showing good signs of recovery from its previous severely overgrazed condition. We are monitoring the water levels in the sloughs to determine what could be done to improve their value for wildlife habitat. Noxious weed control, chemical and biological, and fence maintenance were the main activities. Osprey successfully nested again on the old power pole on the property. The sloughs on this property are being well used as waterfowl brood-rearing habitat. Moose, white-tailed deer, and pheasant are also present on the property.

Management at the four Access Areas is done in close coordination with the Region's Access Area Manager, Jim Moore.

Rainer Access Area:

Some long-overdue fence maintenance was completed, especially on the portion east of the river. Survival of bitterbrush seedlings was evaluated in June 2000. The seedlings, planted in April 1999, appear to have a 50% or less survival rate. The sagebrush seeded in December 1998 is now becoming evident and is doing fairly well so far. Biological controls were released in several of the musk thistle patches at the north end of the property. A winter snowmobile closure was implemented again from January 1-March 31 to protect a herd of 100-150 wintering elk. Sharp-tailed grouse have been observed on the property on several occasions since spring 2000. There is also a moderate amount of waterfowl nesting which occurs at Rainer.

Adopt-A-Wetland group: AEC Sportsmens Club.

Fox Creek Access Area:

Major fence maintenance and reconstruction was completed at Fox Creek in 1999. This has hopefully ended a long-standing trespass grazing problem. Several large new homes are being built adjacent to the IDFG property, resulting in some conflicts between sportsmen and new rural homeowners. We have made an effort to get our boundaries more clearly posted, and put up informational signs at both entry areas. Goose platforms were all maintained and used. Biological control agents were released in several large patches of Canada thistle. This is a very high-use area during summer and fall for fishing and waterfowl hunting.

Teton Creek Access Area:

After many years of about half of this area being fenced off and used by a neighbor's horses, we have had the boundary surveyed properly. About 1/3 mile of Teton River frontage has not been clearly identified as IDFG land, but will be once the new fence is built on our property line. This should also lead to the recovery of about 10 acres of emergent wetland which has suffered from many years of horse grazing.

Adopt-A-Wetland group: Bustle Creek Canoes.

Warm Slough Access Area:

Trespass grazing and noxious weeds continue to dampen the habitat potential of this property. Portions of the fence on the east side of the Henrys Fork are badly in need of maintenance. Leafy spurge is also showing up in several patches. Biological controls were started. Goose platforms and wood duck boxes were maintained.

Adopt-A-Wetland group: Boy Scouts.

Nesting Structures

There are currently 118 goose nesting platforms being maintained in the Cartier Habitat District. They are located at Cartier WMA (33), Gem State WHA (2), Warm Slough (4), K2 (4), Fox Creek (3), Island Park Reservoir (63), and BLM lands along the lower Henrys Fork River (9). Average use/success is 75-80%.

There are 39 wood duck boxes being maintained. They are located at Cartier WMA (25), Gem State WHA (7), and Warm Slough (7). Average use is about 50%, nesting success about 30%. There are also about ten bluebird boxes on the various properties, they are usually all used by bluebirds or swallows.

Other Activities

- Assisted Teton Regional Land Trust staff with natural resource evaluations and/or stewardship plans for nine conservation easement properties, all in Teton County.
- Completed the annual inspection of the Winterfeld Conservation Easement.
- Coordinated with numerous landowners in Teton and Madison Counties to protect big game winter ranges from disturbance. Worked closely with NRCS staff and four landowners to plan habitat improvement projects in CRP lands in key big game winter ranges.
- Worked closely with staff from Targhee NF, BLM, and Wyoming Game and Fish to plan the Teton Front Vegetation Management project. This will provide tremendous benefits to big game wintering along the Teton Front in the vicinity of the Idaho-Wyoming line. This included numerous walk-through surveys of proposed treatment areas, and in 2000 we began setting up the pretreatment monitoring plots.
- Coordinated with staff from BLM, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, BPA, and IDFG to develop the Deer Parks (including K1 and K2) budgets and management plans. Also working on a 100-acre fee-title acquisition on the lower Henrys Fork as part of the BPA-funded mitigation program.
- Sharp-tailed grouse lek counts were completed for the Pine Creek Bench leks. Also spent a few mornings searching for new leks in northern Teton County.
- Assisted with elk herd composition counts in Units 58, 59A, 59, and 60A.
- Habitat Improvement Program: Twelve corn plots were inspected in fall 1999. Provided technical assistance on six wetland and seven upland habitat projects. Additionally three large wetland projects were completed in fall 1999 with HIP cost-share funds, two in Teton County and one in Madison County. In May we provided some materials and labor for a shrub planting project in CRP land in Teton County, and cost-shared (with brucellosis funds) on a new CRP seeding adjacent to Rainer Access Area. Lastly we provided several days of assistance to the Henrys Fork Foundation and Harriman State Park on the Sheridan Creek riparian restoration project.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Terry Thomas
 Assistant: Paul Faulkner
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

TEX CREEK HABITAT DISTRICT

TEX CREEK HABITAT DISTRICT

Management Priorities:

1. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT, USDA F.S.
2. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITH IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
3. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITH U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
4. ADMINISTER IDFG'S HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ON PRIVATE AND PUBLICLY OWNED LAND
5. MANAGE 10,000 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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
TEX CREEK HABITAT DISTRICT INCLUDING ONE FOREST SERVICE DISTRICT, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS LAND, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND, AND SOUTH FORK RIVER PLANNING COMMITTEE						
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review project proposals and provide recommendations on projects submitted by state, federal, and other entities. Monitor existing projects and their impacts on wildlife.	1710	5 weeks 10 projects	5 weeks 20 projects	6,437	6,437	Sharp-tailed grouse, elk, mule deer, sage grouse, moose, mountain goats
FISH AND GAME LANDS						
Management Program - Big Game Wintering						
Monitor utilization by big game during winter	1450	3 weeks 10,000 acres	2 weeks	3,605	2,404	Elk, mule deer, moose
Maintain/improve winter forage on F&G lands	1211/ 1440	8 weeks	8 weeks	5,974	6,248	Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Implement coordinated resource management plan	1322	2 weeks	2 weeks	1,030	1,030	Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Acquisition of 2,100 acres - planning developments and administering contracts	1111 1322 1630	5 weeks	8 weeks	4,120	6,592	Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Administer 1,000 acres of new easements	1121 1211	.5 week	0	515	0	Elk, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse
Monitor hunter harvest and public use on F&G lands	1430	1.5 weeks	1 week	2,575	2,575	Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse
Population estimation	1460	2 weeks	4 weeks	2,060	4,120	Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse
Monitoring of rangeland condition	1440	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,060	2,060	Elk, mule deer, moose, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM						
Management Program - HIP						
Waterfowl habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 projects	0.5 week 2 projects	2,060	515	MALL, CAGO, NOPI
Upland bird habitat projects	1322	2 weeks 2-5 projects	1 week 5 projects	2,060	1,030	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	0.5 week	1,030	515	CAGO, WODU

Total PR Contract with overhead	\$ 40,866
Outside funds	312,994
License Funds	2,700
Grand Total	\$356,860

NARRATIVE

Management Program, Technical Assistance

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

The Project Leader was responsible for reviewing and submitting comments on projects proposed by the US Forest Service (USFS), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), private landowners, and the US Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In all, 20 projects were reviewed. Field reconnaissance was significant and included horseback rides into elk and deer winter range along the South Fork of the Snake River, snowmobiling into potential sage grouse winter ranges and to look at a proposed timber sale, evaluating timber sales and controlled burn projects, ATC rides to evaluate proposed trail and road improvements, assisting with marsh restoration, and floating a river to evaluate habitat. Projects included grazing management, timber management, trail reconstruction, river rehabilitation, sagebrush control, grasshopper control, subdivision proposals, and big game winter range protection.

The Project Leader was involved in the South Fork Mitigation Group. This group is 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 Project Leader was able to obtain \$20,000 in funding to restore Fish and Game-owned property. The Assistant is currently Chairman of the South Fork Biological Weed Control Group.

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 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. Snowfall was fairly light this past winter and warm temperatures throughout the winter kept snow from accumulating on many slopes and the forage base was readily available.

The reduced snowpack has made for a dry spring and summer. Ponds that normally retained water until the end of August were completely dry by May 1. Fields are drying out quickly and with summer lightning season approaching, wildfires are a very real concern. There has already been one wildfire (human caused) that has destroyed over 1,000 acres from Blacktail to Meadow Creek along Ririe Reservoir.

Elk sightability helicopter counts were flown in Units 66 and 69. Moose were counted incidentally to these counts. Numbers were up slightly from previous flights. Elk were found to be in large groups scattered around the WMA. Of note is the fact that over 300 elk were counted in the Fall Creek Basin, attesting to the mildness of the winter. Also of note, the Project Leader noted six lions in one day from the helicopter. This included two adult females and four kittens. These lions were found in the Fall Creek Basin and at the top of Phosphate Canyon in Fall Creek.

The elk study was terminated after a flight on January 12, 2000. Preliminary analysis indicates that the study conducted in 1978-1980 is still valid. A final report is in preparation.

Forage management on the WMA included planting 120 acres to alfalfa. This ground was plowed up last year to remove smooth brome. Most of these fields are producing well. Six hundred more acres of smooth brome fields were plowed up in order to kill the smooth brome and prepare the acreage for a better wildlife mix. Next spring these acres will be reseeded.

Considerable time was spent this year in the planning and execution of the plan to restore over 300 acres to permanent cover including areas of native cover. This project is well under way and will continue for several more field seasons.

The sharecropper that has been working on the grain sharecrop on Ritter Bench declined to renew his agreement and the Project Leader was unsuccessful, even after numerous attempts and personal phone contacts, to find anyone interested in sharecropping this area. Most of the farmers feel the area is too remote to make a profit even when wheat prices are good. Therefore much time and effort has been expended in fallowing this ground, preparing a plan for its conversion to permanent cover, and searching for funding for the project.

The Coordinated Resource Management Plan, which trades grazing on IDFG lands for no grazing on privately held critical winter range, was implemented again this year. Spring grazing on the WMA has reduced the need for mechanical treatments and fall grazing on Bulls Fork substituted for mechanical treatment, reduced residual buildup, and hastened spring greenup. The desired net effect was to reduce elk use on neighboring winter wheat fields. Fall of 2000 will be the end of the program, as the agreement expires.

Sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse surveys were conducted again this year. Numbers appear to be consistent with previous years, although not all leks were located.

Considerable time has been spent controlling noxious weeds on the WMA and some surrounding properties. Weeds controlled include Canada and musk thistle, houndstongue, black Hensbane, jointed goatgrass, cheatgrass, whitetop, and burdock. Some of this has been accomplished through cooperation with the Bonneville County Weed Superintendent, but much of it has been hand spraying and clipping.

Habitat Improvement Program

A waterfowl project in the Willow Creek drainage was monitored. It consists of excluding livestock from approximately one mile of Mill Creek. For the most part the project is working, with only one small area where livestock are routinely breaching the fence.

One new shelterbelt was completed in the Ririe area for upland birds. This program is changing and the Project Leader will begin looking for much larger projects.

The Project Leader has responded to four requests for technical assistance.

South Fork of Snake River in Bonneville County

The Adopt-A-Wetland program has lost two adopting groups in the past several years. One group declined to renew and the other adopted another section. Signs were installed indicating that these adoptions are available, but so far no groups have shown an interest. The Idaho Falls Chapter of the Idaho Conservation Officers Association has renewed their agreement and has indicated they would like to begin a more serious effort in their area of responsibility. B&F Distributing has also renewed their adoption.

State: Idaho
 Project Number: W-173-D-16
 Project Leader: Greg Painter
 Period: 7/1/99-6/30/00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

SALMON REGION WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISION

Management Priorities:

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 AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN SALMON REGION						
Management Program - Improve waterfowl habitat on public and private land						
Identify waterfowl habitat	1440	1 week 20 projects		1,247		MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week 10 projects		1,247		MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Provide technical assistance to private landowners for development of waterfowl habitat	1720	1 week 15 projects		1,247		MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	1 week 2 projects	1 week 2 projects	1,247	1,247	MALL, CITE, WODU, BAGO, CANV, CAGO
Management Program - Improve upland bird habitat on private and public land						
Identify upland bird habitat	1440	1 week 20 projects		1,247		Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	1 week 10 sites	1 week 10 sites	1,247	1,247	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		Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar
Evaluate need for water developments	1410	1 week 5 devel.		1,247		Chukar
Assist wildlife management staff in census, marking, and trapping	1460	2 weeks		2,557		Turkey, Sage Grouse, Pheasant, Grey Partridge, Forest Grouse, Chukar

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
BACKCOUNTRY RANCHES						
Management Program - Maintain big game winter and spring forage						
Monitor big game forage use	1440	2 weeks 8 properties		2,557		Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Monitor commercial use agreement	1630	1 week 2 properties	0.6 week	1,247	818	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Assist wildlife staff in census, winter movement, marking, and trapping	1460	2 weeks 3 projects	2 weeks 3 projects	2,557	2,557	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Provide technical assistance for backcountry commercial grazing permits	1710	1 week		1,247		Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat
Management Program - Recreational public use						
Work with other agencies, and private and commercial users to identify needs and coordinate changes in ranch use	1620	1 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	
Develop public use areas to limit conflicts with wildlife and various user groups	1332	1 week 3 sites	1 week 2 sites	1,247	1,247	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Forest Grouse
Management Program - Administrative sites for management activities						
Building repairs such as new roof and removal of unwanted buildings	1211	1 week	2 weeks	1,247	2,557	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Move and remove fences	1211	1 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
Maintain irrigation system to provide for wildlife and IDFG packstock	1211	1 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
BIG GAME HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Management Program - Evaluate ungulate use of winter and summer ranges in Salmon Region						
Assist other agencies in the monitoring of commercial grazing allotments on public lands to protect big game habitat	1440	3 weeks 20 allotments	2 weeks 9 allotments	3,822	2,557	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Provide technical assistance to other agencies	1710	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,557	3822	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		Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Assist wildlife management staff with census and herd comp counts	1430	3 weeks	4 weeks	3,822	4988	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mt. Goat, Moose, Antelope, Sage Grouse
Management Program - Acquire critical winter range						
Assess possibilities for acquisition of key winter ranges through purchase or easement	1630	1 week 5 proposals	1 week 4 proposals	1,247	1,247	Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep
SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS AND ACCESS AREAS IN SALMON REGION						
Management Program - Maintain maximum wildlife use on Department-controlled properties						

ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CODE	UNITS OF WORK		COST		COMMENTS AND/OR SPECIES BENEFITTED
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Maintain fences to control trespass livestock	1211	.5 week 4 miles	.5 week 1 miles	639	639	Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant
Control public access into sensitive habitat areas by signing and barriers	1211	.3 week 6 sites	.3 week 3 sites	336	336	Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant
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	Mule Deer, MALL, CAGO, COME, Pheasant, White-tailed Deer, Mink,
Management 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 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	
Cooperate with other agencies for joint maintenance of access areas	1630	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,557	2,557	
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION						
Management Program - Maintain public contact						
Conduct tours and presentations to promote habitat preservation and development	1610	1 week	1 week	1,247	1,247	
Management Program - Technical assistance						
Review environmental impacts of proposed developments	1710	2 weeks 40 projects	4 weeks 65 projects	2,557	4,988	
Cooperate with other agencies, attend meetings, etc.	1630	2 weeks	3 weeks	2,557	3,822	
Management Program - Administrative duties						
Develop planning documents, review and evaluations	1620	1 week 6 documents	1 week 4 documents	1,247	1,247	
Maintain files; prepare reports, budgets, time sheets, etc.	1630	5 weeks	5 weeks	6,073	6,073	
Other duties (as assigned)	1610	2 weeks	2 weeks	2,557	2,557	

Total PR Contract With Overhead	\$57,283
Outside Funds	0
Grand Total	\$57,283

Submitted by:

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