

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Cal Groen, Director

Project W-173-D-24

Annual Project Performance Report



WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

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September 2008
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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual Pitman Robertson (PR) and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	647,546	392,945
State: Match	215,849	130,981
Total Project	863,395	523,926

5. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Coordination and administration activities are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Thirty-eight (38) out of the 46 employees working within the Habitat Program were supported, in part, by PR funding during this grant period.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

One state habitat manager provided habitat program direction, coordinated work plan activities, administered budgets, facilitated recruiting efforts, and provided interagency coordination statewide. Six regional habitat managers coordinated and administered habitat program activities at the regional level and supervised 24 regional wildlife biologists and three utility craftsmen. Regional wildlife biologists administered all habitat program responsibilities within their designated Habitat District and supervised four wildlife technicians assigned to specific Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or a portion of a Habitat District. Utility craftsmen coordinated habitat maintenance activities region-wide. Biologists and utility craftsmen recruit, train, and supervise temporary employees hired to complete specific assignments (Table 1).

Table 1. FY08 Habitat Personnel.

Personnel	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Total	PR-funded
State Habitat Manager	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Regional Habitat Mgr	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	6	6
Staff Biologist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Reg. Wildlife Biologist	3	3	6	4	2	5	1	0	24	24
Farm Bill Coordinator (Biologist)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0
Conservation Planner	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wildlife Technician	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	4	4
Utility Craftsman	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	3
Main Craftsman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	5	9	9	6	4	10	1	2	46	38

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG or Department) Habitat Program Report

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region. All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Panhandle Region Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, Dingle Johnson (DJ) funds, and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Panhandle Region is divided into three habitat districts, each being assigned one regional wildlife habitat biologist. Each regional wildlife habitat biologist is provided a crew of seasonal employees and a series of budgets originating from multiple funding sources to implement the habitat program at the district level. One utility craftsman and associated crew is available to assist with the development, maintenance, and operation of Department facilities when not working on Fishing and Boating Access sites. One

Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager (RWHM) supervises the referenced employees and provides regional oversight of program direction, budgeting, and planning.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Coordination and administration were carried out as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Clearwater Region. All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Develop and maintain an effective work force to implement habitat program objectives. Work closely with the public, including private landowners, to maintain and improve habitat on both public and private lands.
 - Provide technical assistance to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program and Contribution Agreement.
 - Provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Share information with internal and external customers
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Implemented the Clearwater Region Wildlife Habitat Program objectives through regional program personnel, including four habitat biologists, one senior wildlife technician, one utility craftsman, one maintenance craftsman, one habitat manager, and several seasonal support personnel. Personnel were involved with habitat

- management activities on three WMAs comprised of 81,200 deeded acres and 40,000 acres under lease or cooperative management agreement, four Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) encompassing 437 acres, and custodial management of five conservation easements. Coordinated and managed budgets, including both state and federal.
- Provided TSP support to the NRCS.
 - Participated on the Tri-State and Salmon River Weed Management Committees.
 - Participated in training including Certified Public Manager training, Herbicide Safety and Training, ATV operation and safety, supervision, NRCS TSP, Defensive Driving, Idaho Chapter Wildlife Society Environmental Summit, and North Central Idaho Grazing Conference.
 - Coordinated furbearer management in the Clearwater Region.
 - Participated on the Department's Lands Committee to evaluate potential habitat acquisitions in Idaho.
 - Coordinated with Nez Perce County to develop new highway access approach to the 2,800-acre Redbird Creek property adjacent to the Craig Mountain WMA (CMWMA).
 - Completed final phases of 7,800-acre land trade between the Department and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) on CMWMA. Closing to take place in July 2008.
 - Completed acquisition of 0.5-acre parcel to develop approach and public parking at Redbird Segment of CMWMA.
 - Worked with adjacent landowners and members of the public on motorized and administrative access-related issues on CMWMA.
 - Coordinated with BPA and the Nez Perce Tribe on CMWMA management.
 - Wrote newspaper articles on wildlife-related issues.
 - Developed Youth Mentored Hunt Program and Guidelines, in coordination with regional personnel, Pheasants Forever, IDFG Headquarters, and members of the public. Conducted pheasant hunts and turkey hunts. First year of program included 20 youth, 20 mentors, and 12 landowners totaling several thousand acres. Applied for and received \$5,000 grant from the National Rifle Association for acquisition of program supplies.
 - Coordinated with other regional and headquarters personnel and individual outfitter and guides regarding permits outfitting on CMWMA.
 - Coordinated with IDL, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the public during suppression and restoration activities associated with the 51,000 -acre Chimney Complex fire on the CMWMA.
 - Provided presentations on habitat-related issues during sportsman's breakfasts or as requested by other groups.
 - Installed new signage for the public at the Redbird segment and at Kruze Meadows on CMWMA.
 - Completed first draft of a new Forestry Plan for CMWMA.
 - Conducted training on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enhancement and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program implementation techniques for 30 Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS staff from eight counties in north-central Idaho.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Southwest Region. All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objectives:**
 - Develop and maintain an effective and efficient work force to implement habitat program objectives.
 - Administer project resources.
 - Coordinate project activities and share information with internal and external customers.
 - Manage the disposal of dead wildlife and control of predators.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Additional license funds were budgeted for this project to provide for operations, maintenance, capital improvements, and a portion of personnel costs throughout the Southwest Region, including Fort Boise, Boise River, Cecil D. Andrus, C.J. Strike, and Payette River WMAs. PR project funds provided a portion of personnel funds for administration and implementation of project objectives. The Southwest Region habitat management program also includes the Nampa Habitat District, McCall Subregion, and various habitat areas which are funded entirely through other sources.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Southwest Region Wildlife Habitat Program objectives were met through regional program personnel. Six biologists, one wildlife technician, one utility craftsman, and a variable number of seasonal support personnel in six habitat districts were supervised by the RWHM. A total of 50.75 months of permanent personnel salaries and 15.03 months of temporary personnel salaries were supported with this project.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Personnel funds expended in the Southwest Region were less than the grant amount due to reclassification of one wildlife technician position to a separately funded project, and reduced availability of temporary employees.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Boise River WMA long-term management plan

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Magic Valley Region. All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, and Twin Falls counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Maintain contact and liaison with federal, state, and local government and private entities within Magic Valley Region regarding fish and wildlife habitat modifications plus population monitoring.
 - Work with intra-regional staff, reservists, etc., on WMA habitat projects, access sites, isolated tracts, or other public lands projects as needed.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Regional habitat staff held coordination meetings with the BLM and USFS regional staff to discuss issues and provide project updates. Regional staff attended County Commissioner meetings, NRCS/FSA meetings, and sportsmen organizational meetings and banquets to discuss fish and wildlife habitat modifications and population monitoring in the Magic Valley Region.

- Regional habitat staff worked with intra-regional staff, reservists, and volunteers on numerous projects in the Magic Valley Region. Population monitoring, habitat improvement, and public access projects comprised the majority of work performed.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southeast Region. All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham and Oneida counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

Establish and maintain an efficient workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Southeast Region Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

PR funding was used to cover permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating funds. All funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- One hundred forty potential habitat projects were reviewed. This included 24 completed projects geared toward upland game/waterfowl (Habitat Improvement Program [HIP]) and another 42 completed projects of forb and shrub plantings to benefit upland and big game (Mule Deer Initiative [MDI]) on private land (mostly CRP enrollments), Department lands, and other public lands.
- The habitat manager participated in Soda Hills BPA Wildlife Mitigation Area management including one meeting with BLM and Shoshone Bannock Tribes, and

another meeting with Caribou County officials to improve access facilities and limit impacts to wintering wildlife.

- Participated in one meeting between regions to review objectives and accomplishments regarding the MDI. The Department was also represented as part of the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group, and habitat personnel were actively involved with the Science and Technology subcommittee which focused on risk assessment and monitoring protocol. Two field tours and regular meetings were attended.
- Participated in development of the statewide Mule Deer Plan and specifically served on the habitat subcommittee.
- Regional personnel continued leading roles in the Curlew, Big Desert, and Eastern Idaho Uplands sage-grouse working groups.
- Represented the region on the Lands Committee, attending four meetings and two conference calls. Prepared three new acquisition proposals and two land disposals for presentation to the Lands Committee.
- Handled several technical assistance requests and delegated others to RHBs.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Mule Deer Plan – “winter feeding” and “agriculture and livestock” discussion.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region. All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Maintain contact and liaison with federal, state, and local government and private entities within Upper Snake Region regarding fish and wildlife habitat modifications plus population monitoring.
- Work with regional staff, reservists, volunteers etc., on WMA habitat projects, access sites, isolated tracts, or other public lands projects as needed.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Upper Snake Region Habitat Management Program is administered by one RWHM and includes all of Idaho Fish and Game's Upper Snake Region. The region is divided into five Habitat Districts. One Regional Habitat Biologist (RHB) is responsible for administering Department-managed properties within each Habitat District as well as other programs within the Habitat District. Three of five Habitat Districts have permanent wildlife technicians assigned to Department-managed properties to assist the RHBs.

Seasonal employees are assigned to work under the oversight of the wildlife technicians and RHBs on Department-managed properties. A utility craftsman assists all five Habitat Districts with construction and maintenance projects on Department-managed properties. Each of the five Habitat Districts has a mixture of funding sources including PR funds and state license funds. Four of five Habitat Districts receive federal or other mitigation funding as well. Activities are charged to appropriate funding sources. In 2007, a Farm Bill Coordinator position was added to the Habitat Section. This position coordinates with the NRCS, FSA, and Soil Conservation Districts to promote Farm Bill programs and accomplish projects.

- Regional habitat staff held coordination meetings with the BLM and USFS regional staff to discuss issues, coordinate activities and provide project updates. Regional habitat staff attended a coordination meeting with Wyoming Game and Fish, County Commissioner meetings, NRCS/FSA meetings, project open houses, and sportsmen organizational meetings and banquets to discuss fish and wildlife habitat modifications and population monitoring in the Upper Snake Region.
- Regional habitat staff worked with other regional staff, reservists, and volunteers on numerous projects in the Upper Snake Region. Population monitoring, habitat improvements, and public access projects comprised the majority of work performed.
- The RWHM participated at the state level to select habitat section members.
- The RWHM and RHBs provided orientation of new employees during an annual presentation.
- A habitat biologist and a senior wildlife technician resigned their positions this year and were replaced.
- The RWHM participated at the state level on the Lands Committee identifying and prioritizing properties for easement or acquisition.
- Training opportunities were provided for employees including attendance at professional society meetings. Some of the conferences and training included: Restoring the West Conference, In Service Training School (ISTS), and Ecological Site Descriptions Conference.
- Several habitat biologists are participating on statewide management planning efforts and one is serving as a board member of the Idaho Weed Council.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project I – Coordination and Administration

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Salmon Region. All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

Establish and maintain an efficient and effective workforce organized to fulfill annual project objectives of the Wildlife Habitat Management Program.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Salmon and Steelhead Program provides funding to maintain and create new anadromous fishing access sites. This Program funded much of the Fishing and Boating Access site maintenance in the region.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

The Salmon Region is comprised of one habitat district which is assigned one budget and employee from the Wildlife Habitat Program. The regional wildlife habitat biologist acts as the regional habitat manager and is supervised by the regional wildlife manager. There is one utility craftsman and one wildlife technician who assists with district level activities and is supervised by the RHB. Two volunteers were used on projects contributing 32 hours of their time.

- 8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.**

- NA -

- 9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.**

Annual PR report.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual PR and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	464,483	359,228
State: Match	154,827	119,742
Total Project	619,310	478,970

5. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on Department-owned or managed properties, totaling 370,000 acres, at current levels of use (Game Management Unit map attached).

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Operation and maintenance activities on lands managed by the Department are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Federal Assistance funds (including Idaho's funding match) accounted for a part of the combined expenditures associated with this larger undertaking, the Idaho Habitat Program.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Habitat personnel maintained approximately 291 miles of roads, 32 miles of trails, 484 miles of fences, 133 parking areas, 91 buildings, 27 restrooms, many signs, 120 water control structures, 52 miles of dikes, and equipment used for operation and maintenance (Table 2).

Table 2. FY08 Project II O&M Habitat Program Facilities.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Road miles	15	58	150	11	12	38	7	291
Trail miles			19	9		4		32
Maintained fence miles	2	80	202	18	30	148	8	488
Constructed fence miles			1		1	7		9
Parking areas	10	10	34	7	23	25	24	133
Buildings	7	20	34	8	3	14	5	91
Restrooms	6	1	2	5	5		8	27
Water structures	25		54	33	5		3	120
Dikes (miles)	12		13	1	4	22		52
Irrigation pipe (miles)			2	7	1			10
Canal (miles)			7	6		10		23
Center pivot				1				1
Acres administered	32,581	128,000	82,400	8,424	15,500	86,362		353,267
Weed control acres		100,000	2,979	6,212	2,000	4,000		115,191
WMAs	7	4	6	5	5	5		

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Idaho Power Company now manages project lands they own within the C.J. Strike WMA, which reduces the total area of the Department-managed lands within the WMA to 10,664 acres. This results in no significant change in objectives or approach.
- Due to scheduling by the fencing contractor and the onset of harsh weather, the Portneuf WMA fencing project was not completed until spring 2008. An additional fencing project, partially funded by a Department of Environmental Quality grant, was initiated on the Blackfoot River WMA at the end of the fiscal year. Additional signing was placed on Sterling WMA particularly to accommodate an additional 500 acres turned over by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).
- The Pahsimeroi River Access Area (PRAA) outhouse (CXT) was delayed to FY09 due to easement issues.
- The Watt’s Bridge land transfer from the Idaho Transportation Department to IDFG was delayed to 2009.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 IDFG Habitat Program Report

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region. All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on seven WMAs and 23 smaller parcels totaling 32,581 acres.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- A total of 15 miles of roads, two miles of fence, 10 parking areas, seven buildings, six restrooms, 50 signs, 25 water control structures, and 12 dikes were maintained.
- A water control structure on the Rapid Lightning segment of the Pend Oreille WMA was replaced, restoring approximately three acres of wetlands.
- Nine wildlife/wetland interpretive signs were installed on the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation-managed bike path which passes through the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

- The McArthur Lake WMA entrance sign was replaced.
- A machine shed was removed from the Boundary Creek WMA.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Operation and maintenance activities were carried out as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region. All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

Provide quality habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation on over 128,000 acres of WMAs, WHAs, and conservation easements in the Clearwater Region. Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and other necessary infrastructure.

<u>Area Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
WMAs	
Red River	314
Craig Mountain	126,900 ¹
Joseph Plains	1,300
South Fork Clearwater	330
WHAs	
Aspendale	13
Fir Island	38
Paradise	19

¹ Includes 81,400 deeded acres, 40,000 acres cooperatively managed with BLM and IDL, and 5,500 acres cooperatively managed with the Nez Perce Tribe.

EASEMENTS

Anderson (White Bird Creek)	21
Henderson (Lawyer's Creek)	29
Koehler (Tolo Lake)	16

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Majority of funding for operation and maintenance comes from other sources of funding, including IDFG license dollars and BPA-funded trust funds. Outside grants and partnerships were responsible for funding over 75% of noxious weed management program.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Maintained 58 miles of road.
- Maintained 80 miles of fence and boundary markers.
- Maintained 100,000 tree, shrub, and grass plantings along 1.5 miles of stream.
- Managed noxious weeds on over 100,000 acres.
- Procured \$50,000 in grant monies from Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Worked in partnership with Tri State Weed Committee to treat 2,000 acres of noxious weeds on CMWMA. Mapped 55,000 acres which are being treated under an “early detection, rapid response” management focus.
- Maintained facilities at Red River and Billy Creek, Wapshilla Creek, and Benton Meadows on CMWMA.
- Maintained 11 miles of roads specifically for mobility-impaired sportsmen on CMWMA.
- Implemented new managed motorized route on Redbird segment of CMWMA. The route is open seasonally from 1 December to 1 April and again from 15 June to 31 July. A daily maximum of six ATVs are allowed from Sunday through Tuesday during the weeks that the route is open.
- Completed perpetual easement with Washington landowner to ensure continued efficient access to Billy Creek Ranch for habitat enhancement and administrative activities.
- Coordinated with Engineering Bureau to develop specifications and the bid process to build or replace two separate storage sheds on CMWMA with fire insurance funds.
- Coordinated with members of the public to rebuild two recreational cabins on CMWMA which were destroyed by the Chimney Complex or previous fires.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southwest Region. All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and other infrastructure on the following regional WMAs, WHAs, and conservation easements, totaling 92,418 acres, to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation:

<u>Area Name</u>		<u>Acres</u>
	WMAs	
Payette River		895
Montour		1110
Fort Boise		1,603
C.J. Strike		10,670
Boise River		24,548
Cecil D. Andrus		23,928
	WHAs	
Mann Creek		325
Roswell Marsh		676
Ted Trueblood		292
	EASEMENTS	
Rocking M		16,520

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Maintained 150 miles of roads and trails with associated gates, culverts, bridges, and signs.
- Maintained 202 miles of fences and boundary markers.
- Maintained 36 buildings, restrooms, and other structures.
- Maintained 34 gravel parking areas and associated signs.
- Maintained 54 water control structures.
- Maintained 13 miles of dikes.
- Treated 2,979 acres of weeds on lands owned or managed by the Department.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Idaho Power Company now manages project lands they own within the C.J. Strike WMA, which reduces the total area of the Department-managed lands within the WMA to 10,670 acres. This results in no significant change in objectives or approach.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Magic Valley Region. All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, and Gooding counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**

Operate and maintain facilities, buildings, fences, gates, irrigation water delivery systems, and infrastructure on five WMAs in the Magic Valley Region to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, wildlife viewing, wildlife conservation education, and other wildlife-related recreational opportunities on 7,026 acres of Department-managed lands. Magic Valley Region PR-funded WMAs include:
 - Hagerman
 - Billingsley Creek
 - Centennial Marsh
 - Carey Lake
 - Big Cottonwood
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Maintained 8.5 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails for public access to Department-managed lands; 17.5 miles of fence; 11 miles of unimproved roads; 6.5 acres of vehicle parking area; five restrooms; and seven miles of gated, wheel, and hand-line irrigation pipe, Maintained and repaired eight project buildings and equipment, and operated and maintained 33 water structures, six pumps, and one center pivot. Maintained seven project buildings and equipment.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southeast Region. All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham and Oneida counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

Operate and maintain buildings, structures, and infrastructure on five WMAs, five conservation easement areas, and four access areas not tied to boating or fishing access. Of the 15,500 acres involved, the majority is managed as part of one of the WMAs. The Department is also directly responsible for assisting with the administration of the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area and private property that is enrolled in HIP. Through MDI, the Department also cooperates with private landowners and other public agencies to improve habitat for mule deer.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

PR funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating funds. All funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Approximately 12 miles of roads or trails and 23 parking areas were maintained through mowing and spraying to provide good quality and controlled access.

Information centers and sign-in stations were maintained at all parking areas. Signs, gates, and stiles to control access on the Soda Springs mitigation area (BPA mitigation) were maintained. A contractor was hired to improve approximately one mile of road on the Portneuf WMA. One administrative road on Sterling WMA was graveled and a number of parking areas were upgraded.

- All other structures received maintenance as needed. Except for a heater and the fuel tank, all propane appliances were removed from the Blackfoot River WMA cabin. Other non functional furnishings and old materials in the cabin vicinity were also removed. Significant renovation and repair was made to the accessible blind at Sterling WMA. Use of this facility was extended to youth hunters in fall 2007. It is available for non-consumptive use by all.
- Directional and informational signing pertaining to all sites was evaluated and maintained seasonally.
- Seven road vehicles, three ATVs, and four pieces of farm machinery were maintained (generally through other funding).
- The contracted fencing project on the Portneuf WMA was mostly completed in the fall and then finished up in spring 2008. A .75 mile fencing project on the east boundary of the Blackfoot River WMA was begun by regional personnel and seasonal employees at the end of the fiscal year. This need was identified after the project statement was written and the project will be completed earlier in the next fiscal year. Significant repairs and renovations were again made to the fencing on a conservation easement property in Oneida County.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Due to scheduling by the fencing contractor and the onset of harsh weather, the Portneuf WMA fencing project was not completed until spring 2008. An additional fencing project, partially funded by a Department of Environmental Quality grant, was initiated on the Blackfoot River WMA at the end of the fiscal year. Additional signing was placed on Sterling WMA particularly to accommodate an additional 500 acres turned over by the BOR.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Upper Snake Region. All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Operate and maintain buildings, informational kiosks, dikes, water control structures, restrooms, parking lots, roads and trails, fences, equipment, vehicles, irrigation systems, and miscellaneous user facilities on Department-managed properties in order to provide wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife-oriented recreation.
- Maintain a safe workplace for Department employees and safe facilities for the public.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Upper Snake Habitat Management Program consists of five Habitat Districts, which contain the following managed properties. These management areas are a mixture of land ownership including IDFG, IDL, BLM, and BOR.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>County</u>
Cartier Habitat District		
Cartier Slough WMA	1,028	Madison
Gem State WHA	70	Jefferson

Twin Bridges (Allen) Wildlife Mitigation Unit (WMU)	81	Jefferson
Access Areas	600	Madison and Teton
Beaver Dick WMU	310	Jefferson
Market Lake Habitat District		
Market Lake WMA	5,071	Jefferson
Deer Parks WMU	3,173	Jefferson
Mud Lake Habitat District		
Mud Lake WMA	8,853	Jefferson
Chilly Slough Wildlife Conservation Agreement (WCA)	1,800	Custer
Sand Creek Habitat District		
Sand Creek WMA (SCWMA)	32,215	Fremont
Tex Creek Habitat District		
Tex Creek WMA (TCWMA)	32,337	Bonneville
Easements		
Winterfeld	422	Bonneville
Birch Creek Ranches	300	Clark
Total Acres administered:	86,362	

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of TCWMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. IDFG owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Slough WCA, SCWMA, and TCWMA. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Implemented the Upper Snake Region Habitat Management Program objectives as defined in existing long-range Department plans through regional personnel.
- The utility craftsman engineered and helped construct and maintain projects on all management areas as needed. The utility craftsman was designated the Habitat Section's safety officer and, as such, periodically inspected equipment.
- The RWHM conducted a formal inspection of WMAs and facilities with staff. Most vehicles and boats are on a Department-managed fleet maintenance system. Some services are contracted locally.
- Maintained 14 buildings, 148 miles of fence, 38 miles of roads, four miles of trails, and constructed seven miles of fence (again). Maintained 22 miles of dikes, over 25

parking areas, 230 goose nest boxes, 73 wood duck boxes, 35 ponds, and at least 20 kiosks including one new kiosk. Hundreds of water control structures were maintained and at least 60 (headgates) were replaced. Six irrigation wells, pumps, and associated sprinkler lines were maintained. About 10 miles of irrigation ditches were maintained and repaired.

- Installed one herbicide loading/mixing station.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project II – Operation and Maintenance
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Salmon Region. All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Supervise the operation and maintenance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure on seven backcountry WHAs and 24 access areas at current levels of use. These properties provide wildlife and fisheries habitat, fishing, hunting, boating access, and other wildlife-oriented recreation.
 - Two outhouses are scheduled for placement: one at the Watt’s Bridge Access site and one at the PRAA. Both sites are on disturbed/filled areas previously occupied by torn-down buildings.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

The Salmon and Steelhead Program provides funding to maintain and create new anadromous fishing access sites. This program funded much of the fishing and boating access site maintenance in the region.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Supervised and maintained the region's seven miles of roads and trails, four miles of fence, 24 parking areas, five buildings, eight restrooms, signs, three water control structures, and equipment used for operation and maintenance.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- The PRAA outhouse (CXT) was delayed to FY09 due to easement issues.
- The Watt's Bridge land transfer from the Idaho Transportation Department to IDFG was delayed to 2009.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Annual PR report.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual PR and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	430,500	340,598
State: Match	143,500	113,533
Total Project	574,000	454,131

5. Objective(s):

- Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department.
- Create additional habitat in areas lacking adequate habitat to support a desired population level.
- Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Habitat development and enhancement activities are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants. Federal Aid funds were used only for personnel and

administrative costs associated with habitat development projects on private land. Farm Bill conservation programs, federal and state conservation programs, Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), and other competitive conservation grants typically fund projects on private land.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Objective 1. Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 3. Fiscal Year 2008 ongoing habitat maintenance.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Winter range (acres)	15,090		64,900		9,000	13,000	180	102,170
Wetlands (acres)	19,090		1,360	190	1,000	2,410		24,050
Forest/timber mgmt (acres)		1,600			700			2,300
Shelterbelts (miles)				^a 2,506	5	5		10
Other (acres)	1,023				4,300			5,323
Artificial nests (#)			1,375	350	350	303		2,378
Food plots (acres)	5		197		250	1,134		1,586
Nesting cover (acres)	33		1,920	670	600	7,000		10,223
Tree/shrub planting (acres)		15	645	50	400	50,000	5	51,115
Water level mgmt (acres)			520	4,225	800	70		5,615
Grazing lands (acres)			56,000		110			56,110
Riparian (miles)		2	69		8	9		88
Noxious weed control (acres)		1,350	2,979	6,212	2,000	7,000	55	19,596
Guzzlers (#)		10				14		24

^a Linear feet.

Habitat personnel created new or additional habitat at the following areas:

- Habitat personnel manipulated water levels on approximately 5,600 acres of wetlands to provide seasonal habitats for various wildlife; treated over 19,500 acres of noxious weeds through integrated noxious weed control (PR funded 1,650 acres of biological control and 5,500 acres of mechanical); produced food and nesting cover for waterfowl and upland game birds on over 10,000 acres; restored over 100,000 acres of winter range by planting or seeding grasses, shrubs, and forbs; planted an additional 51,000 shrubs but acreage was not recorded; and managed livestock grazing on over 56,000 acres of big game winter range. This partial list is representative of the habitat activities conducted during this grant period.

Table 4. New habitat development.

Feature	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
Winter range (acres)			600		500		250	1,350
Wetlands (acres)					5			5
Forest/timber mgmt (acres)		412			2,500			2,912
Shelterbelts (miles)					1			1
Other (acres)	20							20
Artificial nests (#)	50							50
Food plots (acres)	20				2,000			2,020
Nesting cover (acres)		4,035			600			4,635
Tree/shrub planting (acres)	5	63			6,500	20		6,588
Grazing lands (acres)						0		0
Riparian (miles)		2			2			4
Guzzlers (#)						0		0

Objective 2. Create additional habitat in areas lacking adequate habitat to support a desired population level.

- Coeur d’Alene River WMA, Panhandle Region:** The project established a 10-acre food plot for wild turkeys within a cultivated area on the Coeur d’Alene River WMA. Approximately three acres was fenced to exclude deer and elk. The interior of the fenced area was plowed, disced, and harrowed to remove competing vegetation. Mast-producing trees and shrubs were planted on a grid. The planting was cultivated, fertilized, and watered and this will continue for 3-4 years to ensure successful further establishment. In addition to the fence area, six acres was planted to winter wheat. The project was coordinated with and partially funded by the National Wild Turkey Federation
- Hagerman WMA, Magic Valley:** Developed 50 acres of upland bird and waterfowl nesting habitat on the Hagerman WMA. Targeted acres were treated with Plateau herbicide to remove/reduce weeds prior to planting. Seed mix was a mix of native grasses and forbs. Field preparation and planting were done using conventional farming practices. Habitat improvement activities did not increase the boundaries of the field or the depth of previous disturbance. PR funds were used for personnel only.

Objective 3. Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property.

Panhandle Region

- Development projects completed on private lands in FY08 involved 25 habitat agreements.
- Progress was made towards a >500-acre wetland restoration associated with the Pack River Flats. A restoration plan was generated, partners were solicited, and \$500,000 worth of grants funds was secured to complete the project in FY09.

Clearwater Region

- Planted over 50,000 shrubs on 20 sites covering over 63 acres in the Clearwater Region.
- Enhanced several thousand acres of existing CRP land with more wildlife-friendly plantings.
- Secured \$150,000 in funding for the restoration of Corral Creek riparian and upland areas and planted over 13,000 shrubs and herbaceous plantings.
- Worked with landowner to begin work on two off-channel livestock watering troughs associated with the FMHA Henderson Riparian Easement Area. Goal was better spacing and management of livestock on adjoining lands. Work was coordinated with NRCS.

Southwest Region

- Developed six waterfowl and 42 upland projects to develop wildlife habitat on private land, including cost-share agreements using Department HIP funds.
- Restored over 600 acres of mule deer winter range on private land affected by wildfires by aerially seeding grasses and forbs.

Magic Valley Region

- Developed 44 HIP projects on private lands in the Magic Valley Region.

Southeast Region

- Approximately 200 feet of riparian habitat was planted on a section of Angus Creek (a tributary of the Blackfoot River) in spring 2008.
- 900 acres of CRP parcels involving 22 private landowners were improved with forb plantings to provide forage for big game and brooding cover for upland game. Woody cover plantings were established at 21 separate locations on private property to improve habitat for big game, upland game, and nongame. This included establishment of approximately 110,000 seedlings of highly-palatable forage species (bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush, Hobble Creek sage, and mountain mahogany) planted on CRP and native range sites to approximately 500 mountain acres.

Upper Snake Region

- Planted 80,900 upland shrubs on public and private property.
- Helped design habitat improvements including 34 acres of corn food plots on private and public land and provided cost-sharing where appropriate.
- Monitored existing habitat improvement agreements, conservation easements, and leases.

Salmon Region

- 1,060 trees and shrubs were planted on three private properties to improve upland and waterfowl habitat along Tower, 12-mile, and Challis creeks, and one shallow water site was sprayed to enhance waterfowl habitat along lower Challis Creek.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

In the Southeast Region, the planned project at Blackfoot River WMA was delayed until spring and summer 2009 due to scheduling conflicts, and riparian projects fell below the number planned due to insufficient potential cooperators. However with MDI and HIP

projects combined, both the number of projects and the targeted acres were exceeded. Due to time constraints, no fertilization projects or aspen treatments were completed by Department personnel during the reporting period.

In the Salmon Region, the riparian plantings and upland seedings were not completed due to the lessee not moving from the leased property until 2009.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 IDFG Habitat Program Report
FY08 HIP Annual Report
2008 Noxious Weed Report
Pheasant and Quail Initiative Annual Progress Report-2007

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region. All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Improve key wildlife habitat associated with wetlands and big game winter range located on Department-managed lands.
- Improve upland game bird and featured nongame species habitat located on Department-managed lands as peripheral opportunities allow.
- Improve wildlife habitat on private property.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Management activities on Department-administered lands located within the Panhandle included a variety of activities. The entire 32,581 acres was evaluated for noxious weed infestations, and control actions were implemented as appropriate. Approximately 15,090 acres of wetlands were managed to maintain important hydrologic functions, maximize

waterfowl production, maintain nongame species habitat, and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities. Approximately 16,468 acres of big game range were managed to promote critical habitat features including winter range and provide big game hunting opportunities. On the remaining 1,023 acres, habitat improvement activities were completed in a fashion peripheral to facility development and operation.

1. Habitat development projects completed on Department-managed lands in FY08 include the following:
 - A total of five acres were planted to native tree and shrub species on the Smith Creek Segment of the Boundary Creek WMA in spring 2008.
 - Approximately 20 acres of grain food plots were planted on the Boundary Creek, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs to provide feed for upland game birds and migrating waterfowl.
 - A four-acre fenced enclosure was constructed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA to protect a mast-producing tree and shrub planting.
 - A moist soil management strategy was implemented on the McArthur Lake WMA, Boundary Creek WMA, and Albeni Cove Segment of the Pend Oreille WMA (~3,000 acres total) to enhance wetland productivity and maintain hemi-marsh conditions.
 - A small winter range burn (100-250 acres) was coordinated on the Snow Peak Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) during spring 2008.
 - Approximately 150 acres of grass stands were burned on the Boundary Creek WMA and Pend Oreille WMA during spring 2008 to maintain plant vigor.
 - Skunks and other mammalian nest predators were removed from the Boundary Creek WMA during spring 2008 to promote waterfowl and shorebird production.
 - A plan to restore a 150-acre ponderosa pine stand located on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA was finalized, public input was solicited, and stand improvements were scheduled.
 - A plan to restore a 100-acre old growth ponderosa pine stand located on the Sunnyside Segment of the Pend Oreille WMA was finalized, public input was solicited, and stand improvements were scheduled.
 - Goose nest platforms were repaired and replaced on the McArthur Lake WMA.
 - Approximately 50 bluebird nest boxes were installed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.

2. Additional habitat development projects were completed on privately-owned property. Development projects completed on private lands in FY08 involved 25 habitat agreements. Habitat agreements included the following:
 - Wood duck boxes and goose platforms were installed.
 - Shallow water wetland areas were constructed.
 - Grass plantings were completed.
 - Native trees and shrubs were planted.
 - Emergent wetland vegetation was planted.
 - Winter wheat and milo food plots were established.

- Progress was made toward a >500-acre wetland restoration associated with the Pack River Flats. A restoration plan was generated, partners were solicited, and \$500,000 worth of grant funds were secured to complete the project in FY09(?).

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Habitat issues were addressed as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Clearwater Region. All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

1. Improve habitat quality and quantity on big game winter and summer range, waterfowl and upland bird production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities, on lands managed by the Department in the Clearwater Region.
2. Assist private landowners in enhancing wildlife habitat on their lands.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

By combining IDFG HIP funds, funds from outside grants, LIP funds, and NRCS Farm Bill funds, Clearwater staff are able to maximize enhancement of private lands for upland birds and other wildlife species. BPA funds, Trust funds, and Department license funds are utilized to accomplish the majority of habitat developments on Department lands.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

1. Improved wildlife habitat on Department lands.
 - Continued shrub planting and grazing enclosure project at Red River WMA with BPA funds. Goal is to establish riparian community where one historically

occurred. Planted an additional 3,500 shrubs and maintained over 40,000 shrubs along over 1.0 mile of stream, covering 15 acres.

- Completed salvage activities on 400 acres of timber damaged by the 51,000-acre Chimney Complex fire.
- Restored over 200 acres of grasslands impacted by Chimney Complex fire. Planted over 8,000 shrubs in the vicinity of Billy Creek Ranch.

2. Improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

- Planted over 50,000 shrubs on 20 sites covering over 63 acres in the Clearwater Region.
- Enhanced several thousand acres of existing CRP land with more wildlife-friendly plantings.
- Secured \$150,000 in funding for the restoration of Corral Creek riparian and upland areas and planted over 13,000 shrubs and herbaceous plantings.
- Worked with landowner to begin work on two off-channel livestock watering troughs associated with the FMHA Henderson Riparian Easement Area. Goal was better spacing and management of livestock on adjoining lands. Work was coordinated with NRCS.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southwest Region. All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

- Improve the quality of key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland bird production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to provide for existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department in the Southwest Region.
- Develop additional quantity of wildlife habitat to support increased production on Department-managed lands in the Southwest Region.
- Assist private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on their lands.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Improved wildlife habitat quality on Department lands by the following:

- Management of livestock grazing on 56,000 acres of big game winter range to improve rangeland plant communities.

- Controlled noxious weeds and invasive plant species on 2,979 acres of Department-managed wildlife habitat.
- Treated 200 acres of common reed (*phragmites* spp.) on Fort Boise WMA to restore native wetland vegetation.
- Managed water levels on 1,360 acres of ponds and wetlands to improve waterfowl nesting and brood-rearing habitat.
- Maintained or installed 1,375 waterfowl nest structures.
- Planted and maintained 197 acres of food plots.
- Restored 600 acres of fire-affected winter range by planting or seeding grasses, shrubs, and forbs.
- Submitted water right application for groundwater to restore Roswell Marsh WHA while managing vegetation on the area to optimize habitat values.
- Replaced 1,000 feet of pipeline on the Birding Islands segment of the Payette River WMA to improve water delivery to production ponds.

Developed wildlife habitat on private lands by the following:

- Coordinated with federal, state, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) to develop wildlife habitat on private lands within respective habitat districts through the Farm Bill, competitive grants, and other conservation programs as opportunities became available and varying degrees of partnership occurred throughout the region.
- Developed six waterfowl and 42 upland projects to develop wildlife habitat on private land, including cost-share agreements using Department HIP funds.
- Restored over 600 acres of mule deer winter range on private land affected by wildfires by aerially seeding grasses and forbs.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Grant funds were used to replace 1,000 feet of pipeline for wetland water delivery on the Payette River WMA; the project statement conveyed intent to use license funds.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Magic Valley Region. All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, and Twin Falls counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 1. Maintain wildlife habitat in the Magic Valley Region.
 - Provide wintering habitat for waterfowl and upland birds.
 - Provide nesting habitat for waterfowl and upland birds.
 - Provide brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl.
 - Provide feeding and foraging areas for waterfowl, upland birds, and shorebirds.
 2. Develop wildlife habitat in the Magic Valley Region.
 - Provide additional waterfowl and upland bird nesting and security cover areas.
 - Increase availability and diversity of winter habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and big game.
 - Provide additional foraging habitat.
 3. Develop and enhance wildlife habitat on privately-owned lands in the Magic Valley Region.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Managed water levels throughout winter on 25 acres of water impoundment areas at Hagerman WMA.
- Maintained 190 acres of wetlands vegetation on Hagerman and Billingsley Creek WMAs to provide thermal and escape cover for wintering upland birds.
- Maintained six miles of shelterbelts on Carey Lake and Hagerman WMAs to provide cover and food.
- Irrigated 670 acres of herbaceous cover for nesting habitat on Centennial Marsh, Hagerman, and Carey Lake WMAs.
- Maintained 350 artificial nesting platforms for waterfowl on Centennial Marsh, Carey Lake, and Hagerman WMAs.
- Controlled weeds on 6,212 acres on PR-funded WMAs.
- Utilized biological weed control of purple loosestrife on 200 acres of wetlands at the Hagerman and Billingsley Creek WMAs.
- Maintained water levels for 4,200 acres of wetlands on Billingsley Creek, Hagerman, Carey Lake, and Centennial Marsh WMAs.
- Maintained grazing pastures for waterfowl.
- Maintained 28 acres of food-producing trees and shrubs on Carey Lake and Hagerman WMAs.
- Developed 44 HIP projects on private lands in the Magic Valley Region. Maintained 2,500 linear feet of shelterbelts at Carey Lake WMA.
- Treated and rehabbed 40 acres of cheatgrass at Hagerman WMA.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Annual Project Performance Report, Grant Number W-173-R, Segment 24
- Times-News, Twin Falls (Article on Shrub Plantings on Mule Deer Winter Range)
- KMVT Southern Idaho, Twin Falls (TV segments on shrub plantings and rehabilitation projects on Murphy Complex Fires)

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Southeast Region. All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham and Oneida counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objectives:**
 - Improve key wildlife habitat on four specific big game winter ranges, one waterfowl and upland game production area, and other riparian areas and native plant communities managed by the Department.
 - Create additional habitat in areas lacking components to support desired population levels.
 - Work with private landowners and other public land managers to enhance wildlife habitat with particular emphasis on mule deer, sage-grouse, waterfowl, and other upland game populations.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

PR funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating funds. All funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Water levels were monitored and controlled on one waterfowl production area to maximize nesting and brooding habitat and to prevent disease outbreak. Particular effort was made to regulate levels in one pond and improve monitoring of other water bodies at Sterling WMA.
- A joint project with Monsanto Corp. and the Moose Foundation involved the planting of 500 bare-root seedlings on the Blackfoot River WMA.
- Personnel consulted with private landowners and Farm Bill administrators to develop wetland projects through cooperative agreements and HIP funds.
- Artificial nesting structures (goose-300, mallard-25, wood duck-25) at Sterling WMA, Blackfoot River WMA, and throughout the region were maintained or replacements installed as necessary.
- Approximately 600 acres were treated to maintain high-quality nesting and brooding areas. Methods included grazing, mowing, disking, and some cutting and chemical treatment of Russian olives. All other Department acreages were protected from grazing, early mowing, and wildfire to maximize vegetation structure for cover.
- Approximately 300 acres of high-energy grains were provided on Department-administered properties or on private property (20 projects) to serve as food for upland game and/or waterfowl. However, several thousand additional acres have also been improved through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) (reported separately). Nine hundred acres of CRP parcels involving 22 private landowners were improved with forb plantings to provide forage for big game and brooding cover for upland game. Woody cover plantings were established at 21 separate locations on private property and Department lands to improve habitat for big game, upland game, and nongame. This included establishment of approximately 110,000 seedlings of highly palatable forage species (bitterbrush, 4-wing saltbush, Hobble Creek sage, and mountain mahogany) planted on CRP and native range sites (improved approx. 500 acres).
- Field tours and meetings were attended and written comments provided pertaining to 22 project proposals from other land management agencies (See Subproject V-E below). Some projects involved considerable time commitments from all habitat staff and continue as ongoing projects (Sage-grouse Planning Areas/Working Groups, Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group, Soda Springs Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area).
- Three specific predators (feral house cats, striped skunks, and raccoons) were controlled on Sterling WMA during the nesting season by Department personnel.
- Approximately 1,800 acres were directly treated for noxious weeds in cooperation with county weed departments and four CWMA's. An inmate crew from the Pocatello Women's Correctional Facility was contracted to assist with weed control on the Portneuf WMA.
- Two meetings were held with the BLM, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, and Caribou County Commission regarding proposed vegetation treatments and road management on the Soda Springs Hills Mitigation Area.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Riparian projects fell below the number planned due to insufficient potential cooperators. However, with MDI and HIP projects combined, both the number of projects and the targeted acres were exceeded. CREP project acres, reported separately, provided additional upland habitat improvement. We provided technical assistance and/or financial assistance to approximately 50 cooperators including private and public land managers in the course of carrying out the various projects mentioned above. Due to time constraints, no fertilization projects or aspen treatments were completed by Department personnel during the reporting period.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- Planting records: ArcView project, R-5 server @ U:\Habitat\Projects\projects.apr, shapefile-U:\Habitat\Habitat\bitterbrush.shp.
- Nest box records: ArcView project, R-5 server @ U:\Habitat\Projects\projects.apr, shapefile- U:\Habitat\Nestbox\nestbox.shp.
- HIP records: HIP statewide database.
- Weed control records: Statewide weed plan and report.
- Predator control records: Regional predator removal report.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Upper Snake Region. All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Improve and maintain high-quality waterfowl and upland game habitat.
 - Improve and maintain high-quality big game transition, migration, and winter range habitats.
 - Inventory Department-managed properties for nongame wildlife species.
 - Focus efforts to improve habitat for mule deer as per MDI and the MDI action plan.
 - Pursue projects that benefit greater sage-grouse.
 - Restore or replace in-kind habitat on mitigation properties.
 - Provide high-quality habitat for wildlife species at risk (Threatened and Endangered, sensitive, etc.).
 - Provide custodial management of federally threatened Ute's Ladies Tresses on SCWMA.
 - Manage habitat on Department-administered properties to provide diverse recreational opportunities.
 - Pursue habitat developments on Department-administered properties within the context of healthy ecosystems and landscape management.
 - Assist private landowners in efforts to improve or develop wildlife habitat on private land.
 - Collaborate with public land managers to improve or develop wildlife habitat on public land.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of the TCWMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. IDFG owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Sough WCA, SCWMA, and TCWMA. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans. Upper Snake Region is responding to a new, priority mule deer management plan, as directed by the Commission and IDFG leadership. The Idaho Governor's office through the Office of Species Conservation has also identified sage-grouse habitat conservation as a high-priority issue. CREP has been a priority in the region in 2008.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Investigated opportunities to secure wildlife habitat on private and public lands. Administered HIP and Adopt-A-Wetland programs on private and public lands.
- Region participated in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group to address concerns about aspen decline in eastern Idaho.
- Established regional programs, priorities, and policies regarding habitat development.
- Reviewed and approved habitat improvement plans.
- Administered regional budgets and resources toward habitat development.
- Administered management agreements and leases including four sharecrop or use/trade agreements.
- Reviewed and developed land acquisition proposals. Completed acquisition of one property, evaluated and supported numerous conservation easements proposed by Land Trusts in the region.
- Improved 500 acres of CRP lands through the MDI.
- Developed Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to provide planning tools, and map and evaluate habitats and project proposals.
- Planted over 100 acres of permanent vegetation to improve habitat.
- Planted 80,900 upland shrubs on public and private property.
- Maintained 13 guzzlers to provide water sources.
- Manipulated existing habitat via prescribed fire, mowing, and harvest techniques.
- Improved 200 acres of marsh through reduction of cattails and bulrush.
- Supported USFS in Fire Use areas.
- Administered vehicle restrictions.
- Maintained 148 miles of boundary fences to prevent unauthorized livestock grazing on WMAs and coordinated fence maintenance with neighbors.
- Replaced approximately seven miles of boundary fences.
- Developed new and maintained existing artificial nesting structures for Canada geese and ducks.

- Monitored area closures to protect habitats and wildlife.
- Monitored and protected sensitive plant species.
- Treated noxious weeds on over 4,000 acres via biological, chemical, and mechanical means. Coordinated with other agencies to treat more acres on public and private lands.
- Monitored water rights and coordinated water delivery to WMAs.
- Protected nesting habitats for Threatened and Endangered species.
- Established food plots on WMAs via sharecrop agreements, volunteer support from NGOs, and through IDFG labor and equipment.
- Replaced water delivery structures to provide better water level control in marshes and ponds.
- Provided 500 acres of standing crops and crop residue on WMAs for wildlife food and cover via sharecrop agreements and direct Department efforts.
- Administered motorized use plans on WMAs to regulate motorized use.
- Helped design habitat improvements including 34 acres of corn foodplots on private and public land and provided cost-sharing where appropriate.
- Monitored existing habitat improvement agreements, conservation easements, and leases.
- Participated in management activities of CWMAAs.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

The Upper Snake Region Habitat Section is full of overachievers. We will try harder to stick to doing only what we said we would do next year.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project III – Habitat Development

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. **Location of work:** Salmon Region. All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. **Objective(s):**

1. Improve key wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, waterfowl and upland game production areas, riparian areas, and native plant communities to meet existing wildlife habitat needs on lands managed by the Department. Habitat development projects on department lands include:

Pahsimeroi River Access Area

- Riparian plantings on the PRAA in spring 2008. Quantities and locations were to be determined fall 2007. Riparian species will be hand planted on 150 feet of eroded banks, taking about three days in May 2008. Endangered fish (Chinook, steelhead, bull trout), waterfowl, upland game, and nongame will benefit.
- Management activities at the PRAA are designed to preserve and improve habitat for the production and maintenance of wildlife populations. A project will treat 25 acres of noxious weeds and remove all 0.9 miles of internal cross fences. The work will occur fall 2007 - spring 2008 when conditions are optimum for Milestone chemical treatments. Upland game, big game, and nongame species will benefit, including bald eagles and curlews.
- Reseed 20 acres to upland and waterfowl habitat in October 2007 on the PRAA, provided the lessee's relocate in summer 2007. An existing field will be sprayed, tilled, and reseeded to grain. Upland game birds, big game, and waterfowl will benefit (see attached location map).

2. Enhance habitat conditions on public lands to support a desired population level as opportunities arise.
 - Two spring/pasture areas (16 acres total) on public land will be fenced with an Office of Species Conservation grant to enhance sage-grouse summer habitat through the Challis Sage-grouse Local Working Group, June 2008. Sage-grouse, upland game, big game, and nongame species will benefit.
3. Work with private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on private property. Habitat development projects on private lands include:
 - Create a 1-acre shallow water area five miles south of Salmon near the Salmon River, late summer 2008. Waterfowl and shorebirds will benefit.
 - Tree and shrub plantings on three acres (three landowners located at 12-mile, Challis Creek, and Tower Creek) to enhance upland habitat during May 2008. Upland game birds and nongame birds will benefit.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Salmon and Steelhead Program provides funding to maintain and create new anadromous fishing access sites. This Program funded much of the Fishing and Boating Access site maintenance in the region.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Management activities in the Salmon Region included implementing the noxious weed control program on the region's access areas and WHAs (1,140 acres); coordinating with the Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMAs; and tree and shrub plantings and other practices designed to improve riparian, rangeland, grassland, and forestland plant communities. Habitat personnel also worked within the region to help develop and implement conservation programs and grants that are designed to restore wildlife habitat on private lands. Farm Bill conservation programs, federal and state conservation programs, and competitive conservation grants funded projects on private land. In addition:

- 20 acres of the PRAA were sprayed for noxious weeds through a cooperative program with Lemhi County.
- Two cooperative federal-state habitat fencing projects were completed to benefit sage-grouse habitat.
- 1,060 trees and shrubs were planted on three private properties to improve upland and waterfowl habitat along Tower, 12-mile, and Challis creeks, and one shallow water site was sprayed to enhance waterfowl habitat along lower Challis Creek.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of fence was picked up and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile fence built to secure the PRAA from trespass livestock.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

The riparian plantings and upland seedings were not completed due to the lessee not moving from the leased property until 2009.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Annual PR report.

Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual PR and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	122,625	74,100
State: Match	40,875	24,700
Total Project	163,500	98,800

5. Objective(s):

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Survey and inventory activities conducted by habitat personnel are funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Objective 1. Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.

- Collected visitor use information at most WMAs using traffic counters, random visitor surveys, targeted field contacts, hunter participation check stations, and trailhead surveys (see below for a list of completed surveys). For 2008, over 35% of visitor use can be attributed to hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- A public use survey was completed on the McArthur Lake WMA and continued on the Snow Peak WMA (Panhandle Region).
- Implemented recreational use survey associated with Redbird (Clearwater Region) parking lot.

Objective 2. Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.

- Wildlife habitat and population information collected on Department-managed lands is site-specific and designed to monitor the primary objectives of each parcel. Survey and inventory activities included vegetation transects on big game winter range and riparian habitats, stream flow and water table monitoring, noxious weed monitoring and mapping, breeding bird surveys, waterfowl brood and pair counts, sage-grouse lek counts, and aerial big game and chukar surveys. All regions participated at the levels anticipated. See the Statewide Annual Habitat report for a complete listing of activities within each region.

Objective 3. Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

- Habitat personnel were involved in survey and inventory activities within their area of responsibility (i.e., habitat district or region). Activities were similar to those listed in Objective 2 but included more collaborative work with outside agencies and Department personnel.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Overall program emphasis remained skewed toward implementing habitat projects on public and private lands and providing technical assistance to landowners. The consequence was that fewer days were allocated toward survey and inventory activities within the regions. Actual project cost was \$64,700 less than the estimated project budget of \$163,500 as of 30 June 2008.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 IDFG Statewide Habitat Program Report
2006-2008 IDFG Public Use Survey: McArthur Lake WMA

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region. All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinion, hunting success, and harvest information.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristic information on Department-managed lands.
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristic information for regional management direction.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Survey and inventory work completed on Department-managed lands in the Panhandle included the following:

- All three regional wildlife biologists revised existing monitoring plan for their respective habitat district.
- A public use survey was completed on the McArthur Lake WMA and continued on the Snow Peak WMA.
- A western grebe colony was monitored on Pend Oreille WMA and the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.
- Water right use and diversion was monitored on Boundary Creek WMA.
- Stream flows were monitored on Boundary Creek WMA.
- Waterfowl breeding pair/brood counts were completed on four WMAs.
- Waterfowl banding occurred on four WMAs and ~1,500 ducks were banded.
- Hunter check stations were operated on three WMAs during opening weekend of waterfowl season.
- Photo-points were monitored on three WMAs.
- Noxious weed infestations were monitored and the success of treatment was evaluated on five WMAs.
- Bat and songbird mist netting occurred on Coeur d'Alene River WMA.
- Goose nest platform and wood duck nest box surveys were conducted on the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs.
- Osprey nests were surveyed on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA.
- Monitoring activities specific to areas on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA slated for timber stand restoration were evaluated and/or initiated:
 - a. Small mammals surveys
 - b. Passerine breeding bird surveys
 - c. Owl surveys
 - d. Vegetation transects
 - e. Pellet transects

In addition to activities on Department-managed lands, the following survey and inventory work was completed on alternate areas to assist with the collection of regional data utilized by the Wildlife Population Management Section.

- Bald eagle productivity was monitored throughout Panhandle Region.
- Pheasant crow counts were conducted.
- Regional wildlife habitat biologists assisted with the operation of deer and elk hunter check stations.
- Regional wildlife habitat biologists assisted with winter aerial surveys for big game.
- Habitat Section staff completed the annual midwinter waterfowl survey.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Survey and inventory issues were addressed as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Clearwater Region. All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands, including public use levels, activities, and harvest information.
 - Collect current information on wildlife habitat and population characteristics on lands managed by the Department.
 - Assist in collecting regional wildlife population information for statewide population management decisions.
 - Monitor upland game populations in reference to new habitat improvements and from programs including HIP, Clearwater Pheasant Initiative, and the NRCS Farm Bill implementation.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Project funding was combined with other license and federal funds to accomplish objectives.
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Conducted snow track surveys for forest carnivores.

- Conducted regional waterfowl survey with wildlife population personnel.
- Coordinated and conducted regional pheasant brood route surveys.
- Participated in black bear survey routes.
- Assisted population staff on aerial big game surveys.
- Conducted crop residual pheasant flushing surveys to measure effectiveness of stubble management program.
- Implemented recreational use survey associated with Redbird parking lot.
- Continued surveying and mapping noxious weeds across CMWMA.
- Assisted in capture and collaring of seven bighorn sheep associated with CMWMA.
- Surveyed over 40 potential Palouse Prairie remnant parcels for the presence of native vegetation plant communities.
- In coordination with USFS, developed procedure to evaluate post-burn habitats across national forestlands in relation to habitat effectiveness for elk. Conducted preliminary assessments.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Species progress reports including elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, upland game, and waterfowl

Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. **Location of work:** Southwest Region. All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. **Objectives:**

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including public use levels, activities, and harvest information.
- Collect current information on wildlife habitat and population characteristics on lands managed by the Department.
- Assist in collecting regional wildlife population information for statewide population management decisions.

6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Work accomplished under this grant was done, in part, in support of regional and statewide wildlife population and habitat survey and inventory projects funded from non-project sources.

7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**

Public use information:

- Quantified visitor use on Department-managed areas using car counters and random surveys.

- Monitored indices of hunter participation and success using annual check stations on opening days of upland and waterfowl seasons on Fort Boise WMA.
- Monitored use and success of hunters on Cecil D. Andrus WMA using season-long hunter check-in procedures.

Wildlife on Department lands:

- Collected avian influenza survey samples from live and dead waterfowl.
- Conducted annual brood pair counts on WMAs with waterfowl production.
- Measured forage utilization using standard techniques on Department lands with livestock grazing management.
- Continued progress in the area of developing GIS application skills through training, practice, and software support for WMA personnel to document and communicate wildlife habitat and population information on Department lands.

Regional wildlife surveys:

- Trapped and banded migratory birds.
- Conducted counts of sage-grouse leks and roadside counts for other game birds, including pheasants and mourning doves.
- Conducted aerial surveys of big game, waterfowl, and chukars.
- Collected and analyzed condition and location information for big game traffic mortalities.
- Coordinated with CWMA's to inventory and map noxious weed infestations in respective habitat districts.
- Assisted in capture operations for regional mule deer winter survival studies.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Magic Valley Region. All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, and Twin Falls counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational uses, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
 - Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands.
 - Collect and obtain current fish and wildlife habitat and population characteristics information throughout Magic Valley Region for statewide management recommendations.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Trailhead sign-in registers and random field surveys were conducted to determine visitor use on WMAs. Conducted random field checks of hunters on opening day of specific hunts and on weekends. Used traffic counters on WMAs to determine

motorized access use during different seasons of the year. Worked with local Conservation Officers to enforce motorized closures on WMAs.

- Mapped noxious weed infestations and treatment areas using GPS and ArcView software on Department-owned lands. Conducted riparian transect surveys and/or historical photo points to document riparian vegetation succession.
- Assisted regional Department population biologists, and BLM and USFS biologists with various field projects to determine fish and wildlife presence/absence, distribution, relative abundance, hunter or angler harvest information, and public response/acceptance, etc. to wildlife management programs and policies. Conducted surveys to detect presence of West Nile Virus in bird populations on WMAs in the Magic Valley Region.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southeast Region. All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham and Oneida counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

- Collect current public use information on five WMAs and four access areas including type and level of use, harvest and miscellaneous comment.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on all five WMAs in the region.
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

PR funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating funds. All funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Traffic counters, random user survey (field contacts), and data from sign-in stations were employed to determine the level and type of public use throughout the year on Sterling WMA. Traffic counters were also installed on five main access points on the

- Portneuf WMA and four access points on the Blackfoot River WMA to obtain a more accurate total count of user visits. In addition, as with all other WMAs excepting Montpelier, more detailed information was gathered at voluntary sign-in stations to collect user opinions and information on types of use. Compliance with the new travel management imposed on the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area was again monitored in cooperation with BLM and the Shoshone Bannock Tribes. Negotiation with county officials to maintain the effectiveness of travel restrictions continues.
- Waterfowl pair counts and brood surveys were conducted on Sterling WMA to continue monitoring or nesting success.
 - Nest structure use was monitored on Sterling WMA.
 - Sharp-tailed grouse lek surveys were conducted on Portneuf WMA.
 - Habitat personnel assisted with biological check stations and research projects to monitor movements and population trends of upland game, waterfowl, and big game as requested.
 - Small mammalian predators were removed from Sterling WMA throughout the nesting season (See Subproject III E above).
 - As per the MDI action plan, big game winter ranges throughout the region have been designated and mapped. Progress has continued on detailed assessments and plans for two key winter ranges (Rockland Valley and East Bear Lake).
 - Regional personnel have been working closely with other agencies, NGOs, and publics to identify and address concerns with aspen communities. This has included participation in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group and particularly the Science and Technology Subcommittee. Numerous meetings and three field tours were attended by regional personnel.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- Voluntary sign-in stations have been placed on all WMAs except Montpelier WMA. An annual newsletter was produced for all WMAs and a Working Group meeting was held for the Portneuf WMA.
- Due to time constraints and personnel shortages, no vegetation transects were surveyed on the big game winter ranges.
- We continue working with NGOs and other land management agencies to prioritize and expedite aspen restoration projects through the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.
- Riparian habitat concerns have not been specifically identified and prioritized though considerable time has been spent on improving riparian conditions throughout the region through proposed rehabilitation projects, acquisition proposals, and administration of conservation easements on private land.
- Identification and mapping of noxious weed concerns is ongoing as is cooperation with local weed control authorities and weed cooperatives. In the past year, only the Highlands Weed Cooperative has been active.
- In the past year, there has been continuing involvement with Bingham County officials regarding West Nile Virus concerns and the Sterling WMA wetlands.

Personnel have cooperated with county officials to monitor mosquito populations and apply recommended treatments including larvacide application and minnow releases.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- User survey records: Summarized for Blackfoot River WMA, Georgetown Summit WMA, Portneuf WMA, and Sterling WMA with internal regional memos and reports.
- Waterfowl production records: Summarized for Sterling WMA in an internal regional report.
- Sharp-tailed grouse lek records: Summarized for Portneuf WMA in an internal regional report.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Upper Snake Region. All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Collect public use information on Department-managed properties to determine public use levels, user activities, and harvest information.
 - Collect information on wildlife habitat on public land.
 - Collect information on wildlife populations on public land.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Cartier Slough WMA and a portion of TCWMA are BOR mitigation projects for the Ririe Dam and Teton Dam projects. Gem State WHA is a City of Idaho Falls mitigation project. Deer Parks WMU and Twin Bridges WMU are BPA mitigation projects. IDFG owns lands at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, Chilly Sough WCA, SCWMA, and TCWMA. Other properties are managed by the Department via agreements and management plans. BPA mitigation projects have defined monitoring programs. TCWMA and Cartier Slough WMA are managed consistent with the BOR Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan of 2001.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Public use information was collected via traffic counters, incidental personal contact surveys, and some stratified random surveys per regional protocol.
- Wildlife habitat was monitored on managed properties with permanent vegetation transects, photo points, and GIS mapping. An emphasis was placed on mapping noxious weeds and control operations.
- RHBs and the Tex Creek technician have been very involved in research monitoring the impacts of elk upon mule deer.
- Winter range on TCWMA is being evaluated in conjunction with the elk/deer research.
- Summer mule deer habitat is being monitored in conjunction with the elk/deer study.
- Wildlife populations were monitored in a wide variety of methods. Some of those methods included lek survey routes, hunter harvest reports; aerial surveys, goose pair counts, point count surveys, wing barrels, brood counts, spotlight counts, capture and marking, small mammal live trapping, and direct observations of individuals and groups of animals.
- Piezometers were monitored at SCWMA to monitor water tables in order to determine effects on federally threatened Ute's Ladies Tresses.
- RHBs monitored habitat on some public land via field tours with federal and state agency personnel and through independent inspections of grazing allotments and proposed timber and range projects.
- Avian Influenza was monitored via trapping and monitoring hunter harvest. This effort was led by RHBs.
- RHBs inspected sites for proposed subdivisions and reported findings in over 100 comment letters to county planning and zoning officials.
- RHBs have been engaged in providing input to three counties as they revise comprehensive plans.
- RHBs inspected proposed conservation easements submitted by the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) as requested and reported findings to TRLT personnel.
- Habitat staff took the lead on trapping and banding of mourning doves.
- Habitat staff assisted with trapping and radio-collaring deer and elk.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Waterfowl brood surveys conducted only on some areas and not every year.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project IV – Survey and Inventory

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Salmon Region. All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Collect current public use information on Department-managed lands including recreational use, opinions, hunting success, and harvest.
- Collect current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information on Department-managed lands (December 2007 – March 2008).
- Collect and/or obtain current wildlife habitat and population characteristics information for statewide management recommendations (year-round).
- A revised Excel database with the region's sage-grouse lek routes will be created July 2008. Also, a database system will be created to store the region's bighorn sheep aerial survey data. The database will be made available to help Department and other natural resource personnel evaluate impacts of habitat projects on populations.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

This work was completed in conjunction with the region's Wildlife Population Management Program and budgeted with additional funding from the Office of Species Conservation on sage-grouse work.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- A database system was created to store the region's bighorn sheep and sage-grouse survey data. Regional habitat personnel continued mapping noxious weed infestations and treatment areas using GPS and ArcView software.
- Regional habitat personnel assisted CWMAs with regional noxious weed inventory and mapping projects. Regional habitat personnel assisted with all aerial big game surveys, fawn mortality studies, sage-grouse lek counts, and trapping/banding studies. The sage-grouse lek database was updated in 2008. These data are kept in ArcView 9.1 shapefiles

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Recreational use and habitat/population data were not gathered on the PRAA since hunting is not allowed until the lessee moves from the leased area. Circumstances did not allow the lessee to move until 2009.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Annual PR reports.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual PR and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	135,742	100,071
State: Match	45,247	33,356
Total Project	180,989	133,427

5. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, express concerns, and convey recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects that may affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Technical guidance provided by habitat personnel to outside entities is funded by PR and State License funds and other Federal grants.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Habitat personnel dedicated approximately 600 days to implement the technical guidance project. Objectives were often met by working cooperatively and collaboratively with other state and federal agencies, private parties, and NGOs. Examples of how these objectives were met include the following: MDI, Clearwater Pheasant Initiative, hydropower relicensing, urban-wildland development, forest practices, livestock grazing management, range rehabilitation, noxious weed control, wetland and riparian enhancement, transportation projects, wind-power development, and wildlife habitat improvements on private property (LIP, NRCS/Farm Bill).

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Hours of technical assistance decreased over the previous year but it is likely that personnel time may have been charged to Project I and III when it should have been charged to Project V due to similarities. It is also likely that technical assistance was covered under another grant that is part of the larger Habitat Program undertaking.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 IDFG Habitat Program Report

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Panhandle Region. All work was accomplished in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objective(s):

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

The Panhandle Habitat Section is funded by a variety of sources including state-generated license funds, PR funds, DJ funds, and BPA funds. Funding sources are used in a coordinated fashion to attain similar, supporting objectives.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Panhandle Habitat Section staff met regularly with the USFS, BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NRCS, FSA, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, IDL, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho Department of

Agriculture. Additionally, contact was maintained with the major private landowners throughout the Panhandle including primarily timber companies, large farmers/ranchers, and hydropower operators. As requested by private entities and as deemed prudent with public entities, Panhandle Habitat Section staff reviewed project proposals and provided input to reduce, eliminate, and/or mitigate for potential wildlife impacts associated with land management activities.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

Technical guidance issues were addressed as anticipated. No discrepancies of consequence exist.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. **Location of work:** Clearwater Region. All work was accomplished in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties.

4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. **Objective(s):**

- Provide current information on wildlife populations and habitat and provide recommendations to federal, state, and local government agencies, industry, and private parties regarding potential wildlife impacts and mitigation actions related to projects that they are proposing within the Clearwater Region.
- Work closely with the public, including private landowners, to maintain and improve habitat on both public and private lands.
- Provide technical assistance to the NRCS through the TSP program.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Share information with internal and external customers.

6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

During the last year, Clearwater regional personnel have continued to act as TSPs for planning and implementation of the wildlife practices within the USDA Farm Bill, under the terms of a Contribution Agreement. Funding to implement the Contribution Agreement was provided by NRCS. Implementation of the Contribution Agreement, in combination with the Department's HIP and LIP programs, greatly expanded the

Department's landowner contacts and our ability to affect large acreages of habitat for upland game and other wildlife species.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Provided TSP services to NRCS. Worked with landowners to enhance existing CRP fields for wildlife.
- Worked with FSA and private landowner and provided 25% cost share on six miles of fence replacement between the CMWMA and a private ranch. The original fence was damaged by the Chimney Complex fire.
- Assisted environmental staff biologist when requested to respond to requests for Department input on proposed projects within respective habitat districts in the Clearwater Region.
- Participated on the Tri-State Weed Management Committee, the Salmon River Weed Management Committee, The Palouse Weed Cooperative Management Committee, the Dworshak Master Planning Committee, and Nez Perce and Latah County Animal Feeding Operation and Environmental Quality Incentives Program Technical Committees.
- Worked on local committees for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, and Pheasants Forever. Also worked closely with Latah Wildlife Association.
- Provided technical guidance to the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Board on issues of Outfitter Overlap on CMWMA.
- Participated in Society of American Foresters field trip on CMWMA to review post-Chimney Complex fire conditions.
- Participated in Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation summer tour of CMWMA, providing technical information on habitat conditions and elk populations.
- Sent letters to over 400 Palouse Prairie landowners, including information on Palouse Prairie plant communities.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southwest Region. All work was accomplished in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

- Provide current wildlife population and habitat information, express concerns, and provide recommendations to federal, state, and local government agencies, industry, and private parties regarding potential wildlife impacts of projects which they are planning within the Southwest Region.
- Provide technical advice on wildlife habitat and species information to private parties and public entities to assist them in decisions on management activities that will sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

- NA -

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Regional habitat personnel responded to requests for technical assistance regarding potential impacts of proposed projects as requested either through individual evaluations and comment or participation in cooperative groups:

- In response to approximately 146 requests for comment on proposed projects within the Southwest Region, biologists provided information on wildlife habitat, probable species impacts, and recommended mitigation measures using current available sources resulting in 98 written responses.
- Participated in interagency and intradepartmental technical and advisory groups for species recovery, hydropower development, and regional planning.
- Wildlife habitat program personnel responded as requested in person, via telephone, or letter to approximately 280 direct inquiries regarding methods and recommendations for management of wildlife habitat on private and public lands within the Southwest Region.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

The following articles written by Southwest Region Wildlife Habitat staff appeared in the *Idaho Press Tribune*. Some were subsequently published in other local newspapers:

Pocket Gophers (3-part series)	Anna Owsiak	Aug/Sep 2007
Roswell Marsh	Jerry Deal	Sep 2007
Winter Recreation on Boise River WMA	Ed Bottum	Feb 2008
Chukar Ecology	Andy Ogden	Mar 2008
Chukar Hunting Outlook	Andy Ogden	May 2008
C.J. Strike WMA	Robin Holmquist	Mar 2008

An additional news article in the *Idaho Statesman* and local Fox television news coverage featured the 20,000 snow geese using Fort Boise WMA in February 2008.

The Lower Weiser River CWMA December 2007 newsletter highlighted the Department's sagebrush seed collection efforts for burn area restoration and provided an update on the weed control efforts on the Rocking M Ranch Conservation Easement.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Magic Valley Region. All work was accomplished in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, and Twin Falls counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect fish and wildlife resources in the Magic Valley Region.
 - Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Worked with BLM, USFS, FSA, NRCS, and similar entities by providing information regarding resident and migratory wildlife populations within Magic Valley Region and how proposed land management practices or treatments may affect those resources directly and indirectly.

- Provided 47 written comments regarding proposed land management practices to city, county, state, and federal agencies.
- Provided technical assistance to 44 private landowners in Magic Valley Region wishing to improve habitat for wildlife resources.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Southeast Region. All work was accomplished in Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Power, and portions of Bingham and Oneida counties.

4. Costs: See statewide summary for estimated costs.

5. Objectives:

- Provide current wildlife habitat and population information concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife.
- Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

PR funding was used to cover portions of permanent and temporary salaries as well as operating funds. All funding sources were used to accomplish the objectives as listed below.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Habitat staff worked closely with the regional environmental staff biologist and other staff to gather and provide written comment, attend tours, meetings, or otherwise represent the Department on 22 projects. Of particular note was lead roles in the sage-

grouse local working groups (three in the Southeast Region) and ongoing participation in the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.

- We continued to assess potential impacts to wildlife values on CRP plantings and other habitat, especially regarding improvements conducted or proposed by the Department or other land managers. This has involved close coordination with our Farm Bill coordinator and the MDI biologist and regional technicians. Monitoring protocol for assessing herbaceous and woody plantings has been developed and is being followed for improvement projects.
- We continued correspondence with the BLM, Caribou County, and the Shoshone Bannock tribes regarding the Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation Area Management Plan and the implementation of travel restrictions. This included several meetings with various parties.
- Provided technical assistance to approximately 70 private landowners or other land management agencies for the improvement or development of wildlife habitat through the Habitat Management Program. This included field contacts, project designs/cooperative agreements and the coordination of necessary equipment, materials, and personnel. Many of these projects that occurred on public land or privately-owned CRP were funded at no cost to the actual landowner. Most projects were designed to primarily benefit mule deer and upland game.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

With the assistance of temporary technicians and the Farm Bill Coordinator housed in the American Falls NRCS office, we exceeded the goal for landowner contacts.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Upper Snake Region. All work was accomplished in Butte, Bonneville, Bingham, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Provide wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to local, state, and federal agencies proposing projects or considering actions with the potential to affect wildlife.
 - Provide assistance to private landowners who have interests in improving wildlife habitat on their property.
 - Provide technical assistance which will sustain or enhance wildlife resources and which will help alleviate wildlife problems or concerns.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

Technical assistance is provided to the public and other agencies from a variety of employees in Upper Snake Region. The Habitat Section is responsible for providing technical assistance to private landowners who wish to improve their property for wildlife. The Habitat Section is also responsible for projects that are proposed at the Habitat District level, which may affect wildlife habitat. These would include subdivisions, timber sales, range allotment plans, prescribed fires, and other projects submitted by area agency representatives. The region's environmental staff biologist handles programs and projects that will impact the entire Upper Snake Region or a

significant portion thereof. The environmental staff biologist is also responsible for projects that deal with water issues and most fisheries issues. The region's landowner sportsmen coordinator is responsible for responding to landowners with wildlife depredation complaints and public access issues.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

- Requests for technical assistance were routed through the regional supervisor who assigned them to either the RWHM, environmental staff biologist, or landowner sportsman coordinator.
- The RWHM assigned technical assistance projects to the appropriate RHB.
- The RHB prepared draft comment letters for subsequent approval by the RWHM and the regional supervisor. Well over 100 comment letters were written.
- The Habitat Section did its best to respond to all requests for technical assistance and to provide some technical guidance independent of whether cost-sharing was available from the Department.
- Of note, the Habitat Section has been involved in one existing and two new sage-grouse local working groups and the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.
- RHBs have been instrumental in providing comments on conservation easement proposals. In many instances, IDFG comments have been critical in obtaining the easements.
- RHBs were encouraged to become familiar with and maintain current knowledge of habitats, issues, and projects within their Habitat Districts.
- Regional habitat staff was encouraged to develop and maintain close working relationships with field-level personnel of local, state, and federal agencies as well as key members of NGOs operating within their Habitat District.
- All RHBs actively participate with their corresponding CWMA. One RHB sits on the Idaho State Weed Board.
- Technical assistance is provided in written form, verbally, in person, and onsite.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

- NA -

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. **State:** Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project V – Technical Guidance
2. **Report Period:** July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008
3. **Location of work:** Salmon Region. All work was accomplished in Custer and Lemhi counties.
4. **Costs:** See statewide summary for estimated costs.
5. **Objective(s):**
 - Provide current wildlife habitat and population information, concerns, and recommendations to state, federal, and private parties contemplating projects with the potential to affect wildlife on a year-round basis.
 - Provide technical habitat and population management advice to public and private landowners and other agencies in order to sustain or enhance wildlife resources on a year-round basis.
 - Participate as a steering committee member for the Challis Local Sage-grouse Working Group and Lemhi, Custer, and Frank Church CWMA's.
6. **If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.**

- NA -
7. **Describe how the objectives were met.**
 - Current wildlife habitat and population information was provided upon request (17 letters, 24 meetings attended) on proposed projects and activities within the Salmon Habitat District. Technical advice and information on Department management

- programs and policies was provided to the public and personnel of the USFWS, BOR, BLM, USFS, NRCS, FSA, Lemhi and Custer Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Challis Local Sage-grouse Working Group, Lemhi and Frank Church CWMAs, and the Lemhi and Custer counties Planning and Zoning Commissions.
- Wildlife population and habitat information was also provided to the Idaho Departments of Water Resources, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Lands, and Agriculture; Challis Experimental Stewardship Group; and other local groups by telephone, letter, person-to-person, and through participation in inter-agency technical and advisory committees.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

- NA -

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

Annual PR reports.

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**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION
ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: W-173-D

Segment number: 24

Grant name: Wildlife Habitat Management

Project number and name: Project VI – *Access Yes!*

2. Report Period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Report due date: September 28, 2008

3. Location of work: Statewide.

4. Costs: Budgeted funds and actual expenditures do not include overhead or leave costs. Actual PR and State Match expenditures represent payments made through 30 June 2008. Expenditures after 30 June 2008 were not available for this report but will be included in the final financial statement submitted by 29 December 2008.

Source	Budgeted	Actual
Federal: PR	85,891	60,928
State: Match	28,631	20,309
Total Project	114,522	81,237

5. Objective(s):

- Provide up to 4,200 acres of sportsman access to private land statewide in lease agreements between the Department and private landowners.
- Provide 12 months of field technician time to assist with landowner-sportsman relations in support of private land access statewide.

6. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Access Yes! is partially funded by PR and State License funds and other non-federal grants. Federal Assistance funds (including Idaho’s funding match) accounted for a part of the combined expenditures associated with this larger undertaking.

7. Describe how the objectives were met.

Actual expenses represent 8% of the total expenditures for lease agreements between the Department and private landowners. In 2008, 444,735 acres were leased; and 8% of the acres leased equals 35,578 acres. Our objective was to provide 4,200 acres in lease agreements to Idaho sportsmen.

8. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

It was anticipated that PR funds would be used for personnel costs associated with providing additional technician time to assist with the *Access Yes!* program. All personnel costs were covered by license dollars. Land lease expenses were charged appropriately to the grant. All planned work was accomplished and resulted in cost saving for this project.

9. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

FY08 IDFG Habitat Program Report

Access Yes! Website:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner/accessyesguide.aspx>

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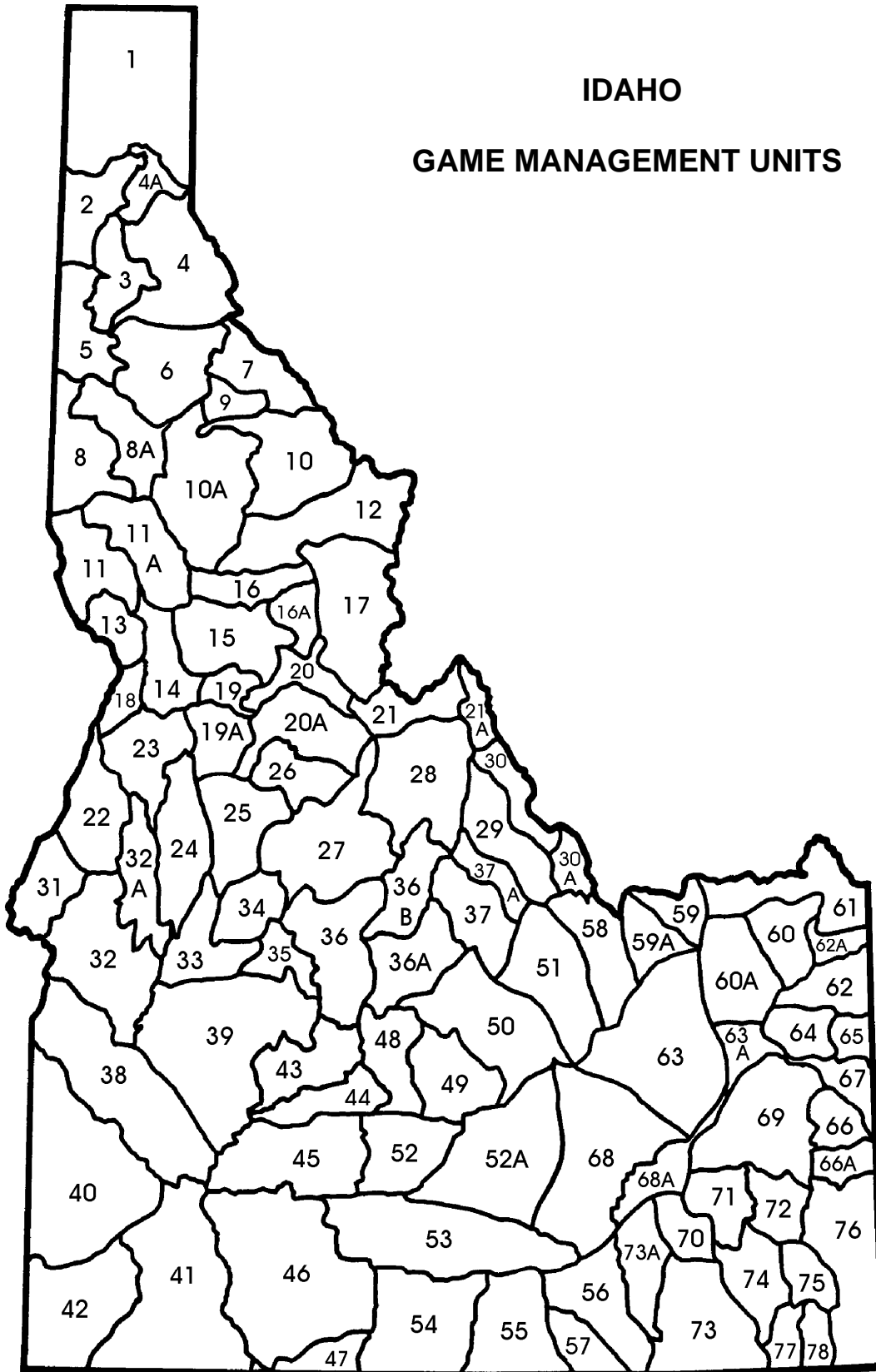
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IDAHO

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

