

Mountain-Prairie Region (6)

Overview

The Service's Mountain-Prairie Region encompasses the states of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, the Region is defined by three distinct landscapes: the central and northern Great Plains; the Rocky Mountains; and in the northeast millions of shallow wetlands known as "prairie potholes" which produce a large portion of the continent's waterfowl. Some of the nation's greatest rivers rise in the Region: the Missouri, the Colorado, and the Platte. The fish and wildlife that make their home on the Region's prairies and in its mountains are among the nation's most iconic species: grizzly bear, gray wolf, American bison, and cutthroat trout. Livestock production, energy development, and urbanization all exert major influences on the Region's landscapes.



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Resource Facts and Figures

- 5 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), including 134 refuges, Waterfowl Production Areas, and easements on private land
- More than 2.7 million visitors to Refuges in Fiscal Year 2008
- 14 units of the National Fish Hatchery System (including a National Fish Technology Center and National Fish Health Center)
- 79 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and 18 candidate species
- The Region has 1,015 FTEs.

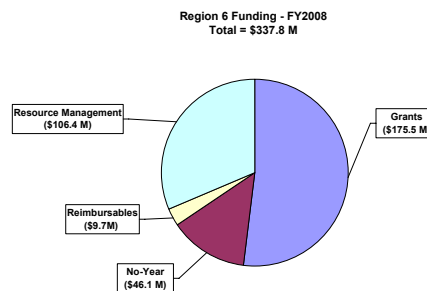
Regional Demographics

- 37 federal congressional districts.
- Population of approximately 14.9 million people with 10.5 million living in an urban setting and more than 4.4 million living in a rural setting.
- 137 million acres of federal and state land ownership.
- 36 federally recognized Native American tribes in the Region.
- In 2006 more than 7.5 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching.

Key Habitats and Ecosystems

The Mountain-Prairie Region contains some of the last large, intact and ecologically functional landscapes in the lower 48 states. Using an integrated, cross-programmatic approach, the Service is working to establish community-based conservation programs that seek to maintain rural economies and landscape integrity throughout the Region, including the Rocky Mountain Front of north-central Montana, the Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas and eastern Montana, and the playa wetlands of south-central Nebraska's Rainwater Basin. In addition, the Service is working with partners to recover and conserve fish and wildlife and habitat in the Missouri, the Platte and the Upper Colorado River systems.

Regional Budget



Conservation Successes and Challenges

- The Mountain-Prairie Region and our partners have achieved significant conservation successes, including recovery of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population and the Northern Rocky Mountain population of gray wolf
- The Region implemented a successful genetic conservation program for American bison on NWRS lands



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- The Region also pioneered innovative methods to target land acquisition for waterfowl conservation
- The Region is working to Address the impacts of intensive energy development on habitat and fish and wildlife species and their habitats
- Managing water for imperiled aquatic species such as pallid sturgeon and native fishes in the face of increasing water demand from urbanizing areas and a changing climate

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<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>

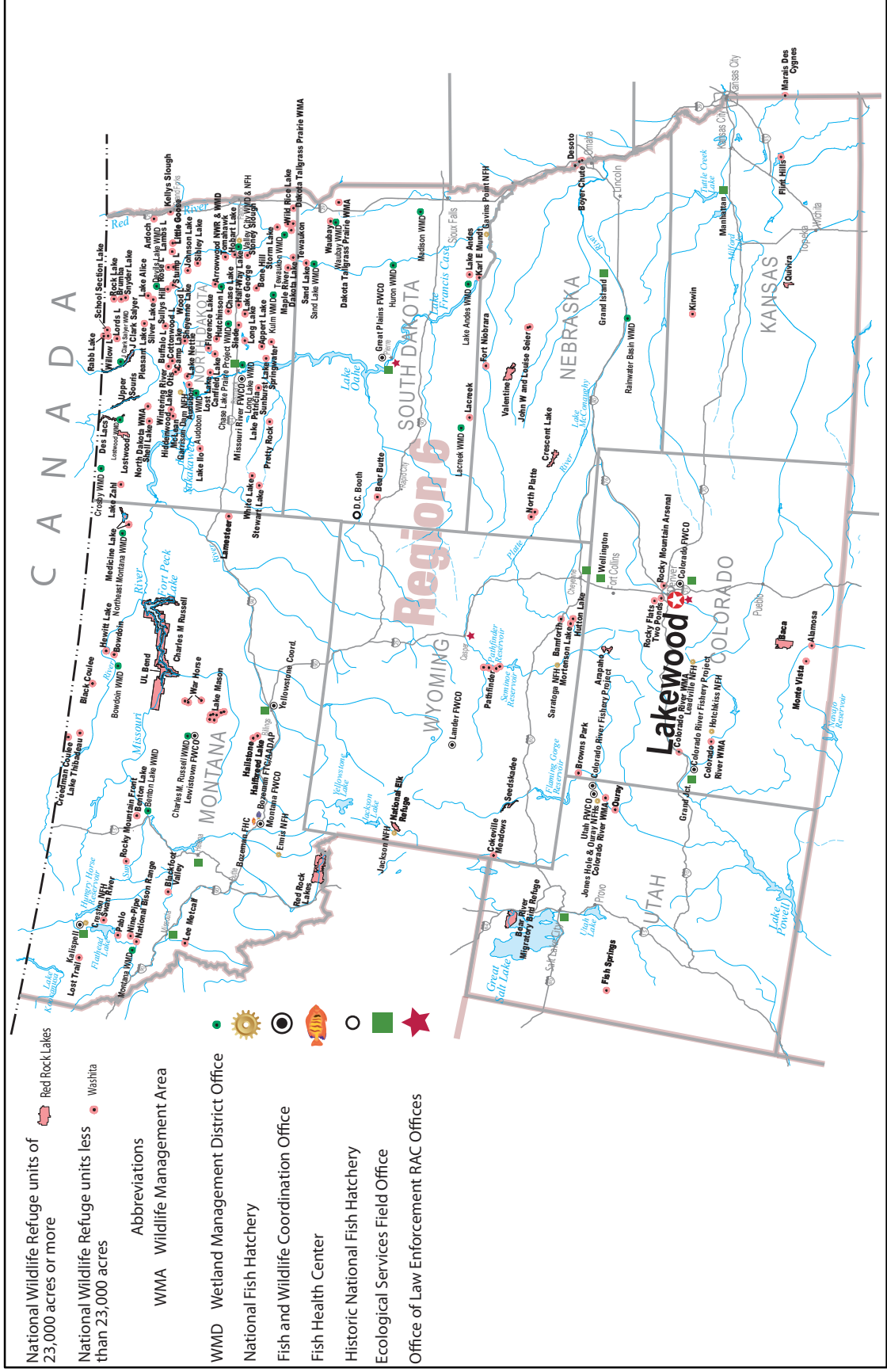
November 2008



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 6

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming



PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY
 WASHINGTON, DC
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 9/30/2008
 MAP DATE: 10/10/2008
 BASEMAP: Topographic
 MERIDIAN: NAD
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