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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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*The United States
Fish and Wildlife
Service's mission is,
working with
others, to conserve,
protect, and
enhance fish,
wildlife, and plants
and their habitats
for the continuing
benefit of the
American people.*

This book is available on the FWS Mountain-
Prairie Region website:
<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/reference>

03/2001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Presence in Montana

Employment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employs approximately 196 people in Montana.

The FY 2000 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Montana totals \$12,924,000.

25,246 hours were donated by 432 volunteers to help with Service projects.

Fisheries Program Facts

2 National Fish Hatcheries

1 Fisheries Technology Center

1 Fish Health Center

1 Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office

Provide over 700,000 fishes for stocking and over 20 million eggs to other hatcheries, to support recreational fishing.

Fisheries Staff

Assist with conservation of native trout and arctic grayling and provide fish and wildlife management assistance to 10 Tribes on reservations within Montana.

Fisheries staff in Montana also provide state of the art scientific support in fish health and technology development to support fish culture and management throughout the 8 state region and beyond.

National Wildlife Refuge Facts

22 National Wildlife Refuges totaling more than 1,144,000 acres.

Wetland Management District

Five Wetland Management Districts totaling more than 128,000 acres.

Volunteer Hours: 20,786

Visitation

506,000 people visited Refuges and Wetland Management Districts in Montana in 1999.

Of these:
43,000 people fished on Refuges.

61,000 people hunted on Refuges.

475,000 people visited Refuges to view wildlife.

8,700 school children participated in Service educational programs.

Federal Aid to State Fish and Wildlife Programs

In 2000, Montana received: \$5,600,000 for sport fish restoration, and \$5,600,000 for wildlife restoration.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Facts

With a variety of partners, the Service helped private landowners develop and restore wetlands, uplands, riparian and instream habitat for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

Endangered Species

Recovery Program Facts

The Service is responsible for the administration of the endangered species recovery programs for the State of Montana including bull trout, Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout, bald eagle, Canada lynx, grizzly bear, and gray wolf.

Bozeman Fish Health Center

Contact: *Crystal Hudson*
Project Leader
Address: *920 Technology Blvd.*
Suite G, Nopper Center
Bozeman, Montana 59718

Telephone: *406-582-8656*
Fax: *406-587-3998*
E-mail: *crystal_hudson@fws.gov*

Station Facts

Established: 1974

Station Objectives

Provide and promote quality fish health care for wild and hatchery-reared fish resources in the 8-State Mountain-Prairie Region to assist State, Tribal, and Federal managers in the protection, restoration, and management of these resources for present and future generations.

Station Fiscal Facts

- Staff: 7
- Current Budget (FY 00): \$407,300

FY 1999 Accomplishments

Fish health case load: 446 cases.

As part of the National Wild Fish Health Survey, accepted 73 cases for fish health testing of wild fish stocks on Tribal lands, National Parks, and State lands in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

Provided fish health research and monitoring of captive and free-ranging imperiled aquatic species, including Yellowstone cutthroat trout,

pallid sturgeon, paddlefish, razorback sucker, Arctic grayling, and bull trout.

Conducted 5 whirling disease research projects related to identification, exposure, non-lethal sampling, Fumagillin control, and infectivity processes.

Provided fish health inspection services to the ten National Fish Hatcheries in Region 6 resulting in the successful stocking of recreational and ecologically important fish.

Monitored all State and commercial hatcheries in Region 6 for the presence of viral pathogens, assisting the States in stocking recreational fish.

Activity Highlights

National Wild Fish Health Survey: Tested 2,800 fish samples collected by 11 survey partners.

Completed entering case results into the Wild Fish Health Survey national database.

Wrote outreach articles and gave presentations.

Opportunities/Issues

Increasing need for fish health research and services to endangered species recovery programs, and warm and cool water fish species.

Increasing interest in monitoring fish health of wild fish stocks in Region 6. Six States in Region 6 have actively participated in National Wild Fish Health Survey.

Fish virus detection for States and commercial hatcheries may need to be curtailed.

Bozeman Fish Technology Center

Contact: *Dr. Bill Krise
Project Leader*

Address: *4050 Bridger Canyon Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715-8713*

Telephone: *406-587-9265*

Fax: *406-586-5942*

E-mail: *bill_krise@fws.gov*

Station Facts

Established in 1892 and operated as a fish hatchery until 1966, when it was converted to a fish technology center.

Station Objectives

Scientific support in fish culture and management, and technology development for the Service's operational programs involving aquatic species.

Assistance to Federal and State agencies and private sector by disseminating technical information to user groups.

Service's national Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) field office, conducting efficacy and registration studies for fish therapeutic drugs.

Principal Expertise

Diet testing, feed development.

Histopathology, whirling disease, fish health.

Broodstock, fish spawning.

Fish culture techniques for threatened, endangered, and imperiled fish.

Use of water reuse systems, fish quality improvement.

Testing animal drug efficacy.

Biotechnology development.

Effects of nonnative aquatic nuisance species.

Fish passage in western waters.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 15

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$1,091,000

Annual Visitation: 6,000

Public Use Opportunities

- Tours
- Nature trail
- National Fishing Week fishing derby
- Community Watershed Festival
- Bridger Environmental Education Program
- Bowhunter education classes
- "M" trailhead on Center grounds provides access to national forest and mountains.

Activity Highlights

Capability and equipment for manufacture of unique fish feeds.

New fish rearing facilities allow working with nonnative species without risk of escapement.

Maintain captive broodstock of genetically sound fluvial Arctic grayling for restoration programs.

Work cooperatively with all Service hatcheries, 35 other Service offices, and 75 non-Service entities.

Opportunities/Issues

Construction project in FY 2001 for a laboratory/admin. building.

Spring water ranging from 45-75 degrees allows aquatic species temperature tolerance studies to be conducted.

Creston

National Fish Hatchery

Contact: Mark Maskill
Project Leader

Address: 780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Telephone: 406-758-6868

Fax: 406-758-6877

E-mail: mark_maskill@fws.gov

Station Facts

Established: 1936

Hatchery building and 48 fish rearing raceways are fed by a 15,000-gpm spring and one well.

Station Objectives

Rear and stock trout in support of the Federal Government's stewardship responsibility on seven Indian Reservations in Montana.

Rear and stock trout under a reimbursable agreement with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for the Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation Plan.

Assist with recovery of native populations of bull trout, coordinate Montana participation in recovery team planning, design programs to enhance native fish species in northwest Montana.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 6

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$126,900 Service
\$160,000 BPA

Annual Visitation: 8,000, plus scheduled tours for an additional 600.

Public Use Opportunities

More than 100,000 angler days valued at over \$5 million are supported by Creston NFH fish production

Opportunities exist for fishing, wildlife viewing, and picnicking, on Jessup Mill Pond, in addition to observing hatchery fish culture.

Historic photographs in Hatchery entrance.

.FY 1999 Fish Stocking

83,000 Mitigation
(reimbursable with BPA)
83,000 Montana Partnership
(reimbursable)
560,000 Tribal Lands
725,000

Species produced: rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon, and bull trout.

Activity Highlights

Stocking contributes to the \$448 million economic impact attributed to recreational fishing in Montana.

Maintains a genetically viable broodstock of bull trout for potential use in restoration programs.

Native cutthroat trout propagation support restoration efforts throughout western Montana. Staff are assisting in efforts to remove nonnative lake trout in Glacier National Park.

Ennis

National Fish Hatchery

Contact: Tom Pruitt
Project Leader

Address: 180 Fish Hatchery Road
Ennis, Montana 59729

Telephone: 406-682-4847

Fax: 406-682-7635

E-mail: tom_pruitt@fws.gov

Station Facts:

Established: 1931

Total of 36 fish rearing raceways fed by a 15,000-gpm spring.

Largest facility in the Service's National Broodstock Program, providing about 20 million eggs annually from 6 different strains of rainbow trout.

Ennis NFH continues to be whirling disease free, and recent construction to cover the springs ensures its continued disease-free status.

Station Objectives

The Service's National Broodstock Program (NBP) was established in 1970 to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of distinct strains of trout eggs.

Meet two primary objectives of the NBP:

Provide eyed eggs to production hatcheries so they can meet their fish production goals.

Perpetuate genetically distinct strains for future fishery management needs.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 6

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$353,000

Annual Visitation: 3,000

Public Use Opportunities

- Self-guided tours during daylight hours.
- Guided tours on request.
- Off-site presentations on request.
- Angling benefits from efforts: 5 million angler days, \$50 million per year in 26 States.

Activity Highlights

FY 1999 Egg Distribution:	
10,201,000	Service Hatcheries
8,892,000	State Hatcheries
841,000	Research Facilities
391,000	Tribal Hatcheries
<u>158,000</u>	<u>Local Hatcheries</u>
20,483,000	Total

Species produced: rainbow trout (6 strains).

- FY 1999 Fish Stocking: 18,000 Retired/Culled Broodstock

Eggs provided to production hatcheries in 16 States contribute to the multi-million dollar economic impact attributed to recreational fishing throughout the Nation, including Montana; mitigation of Federal water project impacts; and meeting tribal trust responsibilities.

Ennis NFH staff continue to be actively involved in the development and testing of broodstock diets, genetics, and fish health.

Montana Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office

Contact: Ron Skates
Project Leader
Address: 4052 Bridger Canyon Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Telephone: 406-585-9010
Fax: 406-586-6798
E-mail: ron_skates@fws.gov

Station Facts

Established in 1962, by Executive Order of President John F. Kennedy.

Staff provide fish and wildlife management technical assistance to Federal agencies, such as Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Forest Service, military installations, and National Wildlife Refuges located in Montana. Primary focus is working with Tribal Governments on a wide variety of fish and wildlife issues. However, Office relies on many of non-governmental cooperators who partner on a variety of issues; e.g., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, etc.

Station Objectives

Provide Federal stewardship responsibilities for trust resources on seven Indian Reservations.

Assist Tribes, Federal agencies and the State of Montana in restoration and conservation of native fish and wildlife resources.

Provide college education opportunities for Native American students enrolled in the "Student Career Experience Program." Additional training opportunities are provided to Native American conservation offices across the U.S., and technical type training/workshops to tribal resource managers at various sites in the Region.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 10

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$537,100

Activity Highlights

- Provide fish and wildlife assistance to 10 different Indian Tribes on 7 Indian Reservations in Montana.
- Participate in Yellowstone cutthroat trout conservation plan development and cooperative efforts with the Forest Service on Tribal lands.
- Conduct management investigations on native Arctic grayling and bull trout on Federal and Tribal lands.

- Assist Ecological Services program by conducting status review for westslope cutthroat trout.
- Conduct periodic habitat, big game and upland game bird population surveys on 6 Montana Indian Reservations.
- Conduct capture and relocation of big game, upland game birds and other wildlife species of concern to Tribal and Federal lands, as requested by the affected governments.
- Conduct interagency elk research in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and Montana, that is important to the long-term management of Tribal and State resources.
- Provide critical fish and wildlife expertise to Federal Water Rights Negotiation Teams forging Water Compact between the State of Montana and Indian Tribes.
- Provide presentations to civic groups, schools, universities, and other professional organizations.
- Provide information to Congressional constituents upon request and in support

of various funding initiatives.

- Work in cooperation with Ecological Services and the Tribes of Montana in an effort to protect/maintain/restore prairie and mountain ecosystems, as well as several candidate and listed species and species of special concern through the development of candidate conservation, safe harbor, and wildlife extension agreements on tribal and private lands.
- Work with many Tribes in the Region on bison management and the restoration of bison herds.

Benton Lake

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Contact: Dave Johnson

Refuge Manager

Address: Benton Lake NWR

922 Bootlegger Trail

Great Falls, Montana 59404-6133

Telephone: 406-727-7400

Fax: 406-727-7432

E-mail: dave_n_johnson@fws.gov

Station Facts

This Complex includes Benton Lake NWR and Benton Lake Wetland Management District (WMD).

Benton Lake NWR

Established: November 21, 1929

Acres: 12,383

Refuge located 10 miles north of Great Falls.

Benton Lake WMD

Established: 1975

Ten-county district includes Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Pondera, Powell, Teton, and Toole Counties. Contains 22 Waterfowl Production Areas totaling 16,309 acres.

Wetland easements: 134 contracts protecting 6,700 wetland acres.

Grassland Easements: 3 contracts protecting 3,742 acres of upland wildlife habitat.

Other Conservation

Easements: 23 contracts protect wildlife habitat and agricultural use on 41,485 acres of wetlands, streams, and uplands.

Station Objectives

Provide and manage migration and production habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds and other resident wildlife.

Provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 9

Current Budget (FY 00): \$800,000

- Annual Visitation: 15,000
- Volunteer hours: 3,268

Public Use Opportunities

- Refuge used by 2,000 Great Falls students annually for environmental education activities.
- Wildlife observation and photography.
- Self-guided auto tour route.
- Environmental education and interpretation.
- Game bird and waterfowl hunting.

Activity Highlights

Montana's greatest concentration of nesting Franklin gulls with over 15,000 pairs in most years.

The largest colony of nesting white-faced ibis in Montana with over 200 birds present.

Up to 5,000 tundra swans use the refuge during spring and fall migration.

Over 50,000 snow geese use the Arod Lakes Waterfowl Production Area during migration.

Charles M. Russell

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Contact: Mike Hedrick
Project Leader

Address: P.O. Box 110
Lewistown, Montana 59462

Telephone: 406-538-8706

Fax: 406-538-7521

E-mail: mike_hedrick@fws.gov

Station Facts

The Complex consists of 10 National Wildlife Refuges and 2 Wetland Management Districts.

Charles M. Russell NWR

- Established: 1936
- Acres: 1,100,000

Lake Mason NWR

- Established: 1937
- Acres: 16,786

Lake Thibadeau NWR

- Established: 1937
- Acres: 4,040

War Horse NWR

- Established: 1937
- Acres: 3,232

Bowdoin NWR

- Established: 1938
- Acres: 15,551

Black Coulee NWR

- Established: 1938
- Acres: 1,494

Hewitt Lake NWR

- Established: 1938
- Acres: 1,680

Creedman Coulee NWR

- Established: 1941
- Acres: 600

Halfbreed NWR

- Established: 1942
- Acres: 3,246

UL Bend NWR

- Established: 1959
- Acres: 59,000

Bowdoin WMD

- Established: 1979

- Acres: 7,897

CMR WMD

- Established: 1984
- Acres: 4,143

Station Objectives

Preserve, restore and enhance federally listed threatened and endangered species and habitats on which they depend.

Promote the biological diversity and natural abundance of native flora and fauna with emphasis on sharp-tailed grouse and pronghorn antelope.

Protect, preserve and interpret cultural resources.

Provide life requirements of migratory birds.

Protect and manage designated wilderness areas and associated resources.

Provide opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 36

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$1,900,000

- Annual Visitation: 150,000
- Volunteer hours: 4,434

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing and hunting.
- Auto tour with wildlife viewing and interpretive sites.
- Hiking, canoeing, wildlife and wildland photography and solitude.
- Opportunities to see a wide variety of forest and grassland wildlife.
- Environmental Education

Activity Highlights

Twelve miles of the Wild and Scenic Missouri River with native riparian bottomlands along the Lewis and Clark route.

Black-footed ferret reintroduction site at UL Bend NWR.

19,000-acre UL Bend Wilderness Area.

Another 150,000 acres of proposed wilderness within the Complex.

Spectacular wildlands with Missouri River breaks and badland vistas, unchanged by man.

Viewing of up to several hundred rutting elk in native riverbottoms along the Missouri River.

Large populations of elk, mule deer, black-tailed prairie dogs and native predators.

Viewing opportunities of dancing sharp-tailed grouse and booming sage grouse in the spring.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep can be observed in the Missouri River breaks and antelope in the grasslands and shrub lands.

Paleontological digs of large dinosaurs are conducted under special permit.

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Bowdoin

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Contact: Carmen R. Luna
Refuge Manager
Address: HC 65, Box 5700
Malta, Montana 59538

Telephone: 406/654-2863
Fax: 406/654-2866
E-mail: r6rw_bwd@fws.gov
(Located 7 miles east of Malta, MT on old Hwy. 2)

Refuge Facts

The Refuge is part of the Charles M. Russell Complex and consists of Bowdoin NWR, Black Coulee NWR, Creedman Coulee NWR, Hewitt Lake NWR, Lake Thibadeau NWR, and Bowdoin Wetland Management District.

Bowdoin NWR:

- Established 1936
- Acres: 15,551

Lake Thibadeau NWR:

- Established 1937
- Acres: 4,040

Black Coulee NWR:

- Established 1938
- Acres: 1,494

Creedman Coulee NWR:

- Established 1941
- Acres: 600

Bowdoin Wetland

Management District:

- Established 1979
- Acres: 7,897

Refuge Objectives

Preserve and maintain natural breeding, feeding, and resting habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Preserve, restore and enhance Federally listed threatened

and endangered species and the habitats on which they depend.

Protect and maintain state and nationally designated historic, cultural, and natural areas.

Provide natural, life requirements for indigenous, resident wildlife species consistent with available habitats.

Provide opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Refuge Fiscal Facts

Staff: 6

Current Year Budget (FY00): \$295,008

- Annual Visitation: 5,000
- Volunteer hours: 295

Public Use Opportunities

Fifteen-mile self-guided auto tour route.

Accessible blind on Pearce Waterfowl Production Area.

Accessible boat launch and dock.

Environmental education program, wildlife viewing and photography.

Viewing of colonial nesting birds on Lake Bowdoin.

Upland game and waterfowl hunting program on Refuge and all Waterfowl Production Areas.

Refuge Highlights

- Sensitive species supported on NWR lands include piping plovers, black terns and 263 species of birds.
- Refuge research study area for sensitive grassland birds (Baird's sparrow and Sprague's pipit).
- Propagation and conditioning facility for the endangered black-footed ferret.
- Active U.S. Fish and Wildlife wetland easement program and administers the protection of 8,396 wetland acres.
- Outstanding opportunity to view pronghorn antelope in native habitat.

Lee Metcalf

National Wildlife Refuge

Contact: Vacant
Project Leader

Address: P.O. Box 247
Stevensville, Montana 59870

Telephone: 406-777-5552

Fax: 406-777-4344

E-mail:

Station Facts

Established: 1963

Acres: 2,797

Lee Metcalf NWR lies in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley.

Station Objectives

Provide sanctuary for migratory birds.

Preserve and enhance habitat for federally listed endangered and threatened animals and plant species.

Maintain and enhance habitat for resident fish and wildlife species.

Identify, preserve and protect cultural resource values.

Provide opportunities for scientific and professional research.

Provide public understanding and appreciation of the fish, wildlife, recreational, cultural, and scenic resources on the Refuge.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 6

Current Budget: (FY 00):
\$278,000

- Annual Visitation: 60,000
- Volunteer hours: 3,390

Public Use Opportunities

Bitterroot River Recreation Area with both accessible and primitive hiking paths, accessible restroom facilities, and interpretive signs.

Self-guided auto tour drive along county road. Excellent watchable wildlife opportunities year-round (bald eagles, osprey, waterfowl, songbirds, beaver, white-tailed deer).

Extensive environmental education program for Ravalli and Missoula County schools Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Hunting program hosts over 2,300 waterfowl hunter visits and over 700 archery hunter visits annually.

Activity Highlights

Coordinates the annual Conservation through The Arts Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program.

Sponsors several events for International Migratory Bird Day in cooperation with Bitterroot Audubon and the Bitterroot National Forest. This includes the annual community festival, Migration Mania which celebrates the return of migratory birds to the Bitterroot Valley with educational programs in a festive atmosphere.

Cooperates with Big Sky Bassers to provide an annual Kid's Fishing Clinic during National Fishing Week.

Medicine Lake

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Contact: Theodore W. Gutzke
Project Leader

Address: 223 North Shore Road
Medicine Lake, Montana 59247

Telephone: 406-789-2305

Fax: 406-789-2350

E-mail: thedd_gutzke@fws.gov

Station Facts

The Complex consists of two National Wildlife Refuges and one Wetland Management District.

Medicine Lake NWR

- Established: August 19, 1935
- Acres: 31,660

Lamesteer NWR

- Established: May 19, 1942
- Acres: 800

Northeast Montana WMD

- Established: 1968
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 44 units totaling 11,791 acres.
- Wetland easements: 132 contracts protecting 8,556 wetland acres.
- Grassland easements: 12 contracts protecting 10,968 acres.

Station Objectives

Maintain, enhance and support the full diversity of indigenous fauna of the glaciated mixed-grass prairie ecosystem.

Preserve, restore and enhance federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats.

Provide opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 9

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$566,000

- Annual Visitation: 15,000
- Volunteer hours: 1,767

Public Use Opportunities

Fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird watching, wildlife photography, trapping.

Hunting for deer, upland game, birds, and waterfowl.

Fourteen-mile interpretive wildlife drive at Medicine Lake NWR.

Viewing blind to observe dancing sharp-tailed grouse during the mating season.

Observation platform with mounted binoculars for viewing colonial birds.

Station Highlights

11,366-acre Wilderness Area at Medicine Lake NWR.

Highest mallard breeding pair densities in Montana.

10,000-bird white pelican colony.

Large blocks of native mixed-grass prairie and associated rare birds (Baird's sparrow, burrowing owl, Sprague's pipit).

Four Research Natural Areas and a National Natural Landmark.

Eighty-five percent of threatened piping plovers in Montana nest within the complex.

Red Rock Lakes

National Wildlife Refuge

Contact: Daniel Gomez
Refuge Manager
Address: 27820 Southside Centennial Road
Lima, Montana 59739
Telephone: 406-276-3536
Fax: 406-276-3538
E-mail: daniel_gomez@fws.gov

Station Facts

Established: April 22, 1935

Acres: 44,963

In 1976, 32,350 acres were designated as the Red Rock Lakes Wilderness Area.

Refuge serves as a breeding and staging area for trumpeter swans, other migratory birds and thousands of migrating waterfowl, including tundra swans. It also serves as a year-round range for big game, including moose, and hosts a diversity of other species, including badgers, beavers, fox, eagles, and other raptors.

Station Objectives

Maintain the Refuge's natural character and protect archaeological and cultural resources.

Continue to protect landscape integrity through fee title acquisition of inholdings or conservation easements on surrounding private lands.

Promote and support trumpeter swan recovery efforts.

Maintain a diversity of wildlife.

Manage Refuge wetland habitats for their optimum role as intermountain wet meadow environments.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 5

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$448,000

- Annual Visitation: 10,000
- Volunteer hours: 282

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing and hunting.
- Wildlife observation in a scenic and primitive wilderness setting.
- Environmental education.
- Solitude where the sounds of nature dominate the senses.
- Hiking.
- Camping.

Activity Highlights

Contains one of the last remaining indigenous populations of lake-dwelling Arctic grayling, a rare trout species.

Serves as a core area for Rocky Mountain trumpeter swans.

Provides one of the last undeveloped landscapes where people can experience a wilderness refuge.

Along with The Nature Conservancy and other partners and landowners, the Refuge guides the Centennial Valley Conservation Easements Program, a Congressionally recognized private-public partnership to protect private lands in this wild landscape.

Contains high quality willow and stream habitats used by moose and diversity of birds.

Along with adjacent public and private lands, the Refuge forms the wildlife keystone in the Centennial Valley, a largely intact biological system.

Assist in Partners for Fish and Wildlife habitat conservation projects on private lands.

Lost Trail

National Wildlife Refuge

Contact: Ray Washtak
Refuge Manager
Address: National Bison Range
132 Bison Range Road
Moeise, Montana 59824

Telephone: 406-858-2216
Fax: 406-644-2661
E-mail: ray_washtak@fws.gov

Station Facts

Lost Trail NWR is part of the National Bison Range Complex.

Established: 1999

Acres: 9,325

Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge, located in what is locally known as Pleasant Valley, is a relatively recent addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In 1996, Lost Trail Ranch was purchased by the Montana Power Company to partially satisfy a mitigative settlement agreement for habitat and wildlife losses on the Flathead Waterfowl Production Area caused by operation of Kerr Dam.

In 1999, 3,112 acres of these lands were transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service for ownership and management.

Another 4,773 acres were purchased in fee title and 1,440 acres are leased from Montana Department of State School Lands.

Station Objectives

Preserve a natural diversity and abundance of flora and fauna with emphasis on wetland-dependent birds.

Conserve, protect and enhance recovery of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and the habitats on which they depend.

Provide opportunities for high quality wildlife-dependent recreation.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: On-site Refuge Manager.

Current Budget (FY 00): Included in National Bison Range Complex funding

- Annual Visitation: Minimal for new, as yet, unopened refuge.
- Volunteer hours: 1,286

Public Use Opportunities

Wildlife viewing and photography.

Wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities and visitation are anticipated to increase significantly upon

completion of the refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Station Highlights

The focal wetland of the Refuge is the partially drained Dahl Lake, a shallow lacustrine wetland system.

The stream draining Dahl Lake meanders through the length of the refuge with associated adjacent wetlands.

The riparian areas give way to a mosaic of prairie grasslands. Surrounding wooded slopes are composed of deciduous and coniferous forests.

Wetlands support abundant waterfowl and other wetland dependant species.

Uplands and forested areas support a diversity of wildlife including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, black bears, mountain lions, wolverine and bobcat.

Two federally listed species, the grizzly bear and grey wolf, inhabit the Pleasant Valley.

National Bison Range Complex

Contact: David Wiseman
Project Leader
Address: National Bison Range
132 Bison Range Road
Moeise, Montana 59824

Telephone: 406-644-2211
Fax: 406-644-2661
E-mail: david_wiseman@fws.gov

Station Facts

The Complex consists of five National Wildlife Refuges and one Wetland Management District.

National Bison Range

- Established: 1908 (first Refuge purchased through Congressional appropriations)

- Acres: 18,563

Ninepipe and Pablo NWRs

- Established: 1921
- Acres: Ninepipe: 2,062; Pablo: 2,542
- Overlay Refuge superimposed on reservoir and land owned by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Swan River NWR

- Established: 1973
- Acres: 1,568

Lost Trail NWR

- Established: 1999
- Acres: 9,325

Northwest Montana WMD

- Established: 1970
- Two-county district includes Lake and Flathead Counties.
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 13 units totaling 8,379 acres.
- Conservation Easements: 23 contracts protecting 6,015 acres.

Station Objectives

Maintain a representative herd of North American bison and bison habitat, along with representative populations of other big game species and their habitats under reasonably natural conditions.

Assist in maintaining a publicly-owned gene pool for continued preservation of bison as a native species of North America.

Provide for public viewing and enjoyment of the animals and their habitat to foster understanding and appreciation for wildlife and wildlands.

Promote such research on bison and other wildlife species and their habitats as may be compatible with other objectives.

Protect, preserve, and restore habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife.

Provide opportunities for high quality wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Manage for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of endangered, threatened and

sensitive species and the habitats on which they depend.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 19

Current Budget (FY 00): \$993,000

- Annual Visitation: 251,000
- Volunteer hours: 6,064

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing and hunting on some refuges and WPA's.
- Three auto tour routes, interpretive nature trails and visitor center at National Bison Range.
- Interpretive nature trail at Ninepipe.
- Wildlife viewing and photography on all units.
- Bird watching: 280 species from wetlands to palouse prairie and forest.
- Environmental education, primarily at National Bison Range facilities.

Station Highlights

Support immense diversity of trust species including bull trout, bison, grizzly bear, black terns, trumpeter swans, common loon, gray wolf, and 280 species of birds. Use of integrated pest management in a progressive

biocontrol program with 23 insects on 5 different species of noxious weeds.

Extensive and diverse research projects in cooperation with numerous universities, agencies, and organizations.

The annual bison roundup attracts up to 5,000 visitors in a two-day span, including 1,100 students and teachers.

The conservation easement program was developed in 1995 and over 6,000 acres have been protected in the last five years.

The Bison Range is one of the last remaining pockets of native palouse prairie left in the United States.

Northwest Montana Wetland Management District

Contact: David Wiseman
Project Leader
Address: National Bison Range
132 Bison Range Road
Moeise, Montana 59824

Telephone: 406-644-2211
Fax: 406-644-2661
E-mail: david_wiseman@fws.gov

Station Facts

The Northwest Montana Wetland Management District is a two-county district including Lake and Flathead Counties. The WMD is part of the National Bison Range Complex.

Established: 1970

Waterfowl Production Areas: 13 units totaling 8,379 acres.

Conservation Easements: 23 contracts protecting 6,015 acres.

Station Objectives

Protect, preserve, and restore habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife.

Provide opportunities for high quality wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: Lake County units managed by National Bison Range personnel. Flathead County units managed by Lost Trail NWR personnel.

Current Budget (FY 00): Included in National Bison Range Complex funding

Annual Visitation: 8,000

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting and fishing on the Waterfowl Production Areas.
- Wildlife viewing and photography.
- Bird watching: 280 species from wetlands to palouse prairie and forest.

Station Highlights

Located in the Flathead and Mission Valley floor, the WMD consists of intermountain grasslands interspersed with high densities of wetlands.

Preserves some of the remaining native palouse prairie left in the United States.

Lake County Waterfowl Production Area and conservation easements are located within the exterior boundary of the Flathead Reservation.

Wetlands support abundant waterfowl and other wetland dependant species.

Upland habitats support some of the higher densities of ground nesting birds such as Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harriers, and Short-eared Owls on the continent.

Grizzly bears frequently forage on certain Waterfowl Production Areas.

The conservation easement program was developed in 1995 and over 6,000 acres have been protected in the last five years.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Contact: *Jim Stutzman*
State Private Lands Coordinator
Address *922 Bootlegger Trail*
Great Falls, Montana 59404-6133

Telephone: *406-727-7400*
Fax: *406-727-7432*
E-mail: *jim_stutzman@fws.gov*

Station Facts

Established in 1988. Statewide coordination was implemented in 1992, and program headquarters are located at Benton Lake NWR near Great Falls.

Over two-thirds of our Nations' land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the U.S. The Montana Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFFW) assists private landowners with the restoration and protection of fish and wildlife habitat on their properties. PFFW contributes to the health of the land and ultimately the quality of life of the people living on it.

Program Objectives

Restore habitat to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife diversity in key focus areas.

Offer technical and financial assistance to private (non-Federal) landowners to voluntarily restore fish and wildlife habitats on their land. In addition to improved habitat, PFFW contributes to the overall health of the land and the quality of rural lifestyles.

Program Fiscal Facts

Staff: 9

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$700,000

In addition to Service money, the PFFW program applies for Federal and non-Federal grant money to accomplish mutually beneficial projects.

Primary Partners

- Ducks Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Native American tribes
- Arctic Grayling Recovery Program
- Kootena River Network
- Pheasants Forever
- Numerous private foundations

Focus Areas

The Montana PFFW program has established nine focus areas:

- Missouri River Coteau
- Milk River Basin
- Rocky Mountain Front
- Blackfoot River Watershed
- Upper Kootenai Watershed
- Mission Valley
- Centennial Valley
- Big Hole Watershed

Activity Highlights

In FY 2000, Montana Partners for Fish and Wildlife activities lead to the:

- Restoration of 1,410 acres of depressional wetlands on a total of 78 sites.
- Restoration of 208 acres of riparian wetlands on a total of 24 sites.
- Restoration of 35,523 acres of upland restoration on a total of 13 sites.
- Restoration of 68.5 miles of instream habitat on a total of 23 sites.
- Protection of 8,077 acres of wetland and upland habitat on 10 land tracts through easement programs.

Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Office

Contact: Gary Sullivan
State Coordinator
Address: 922 Bootlegger Trail
Great Falls, Montana 59404-6133

Telephone: 406-727-7400
Fax: 406-727-7432
E-mail: gary_l_sullivan@fws.gov

Station Facts

Realty efforts in Montana date back to the early 1970's when the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program was initiated to protect migratory bird habitat. The program was expanded in 1995 to include a broader effort to protect fish and wildlife habitat across the State. In 1995, the Realty Office moved from Charles M. Russell NWR in Lewistown, to the Benton Lake NWR/WMD complex in Great Falls.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 3

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$ 7.25 million

Program Objectives

Conserve, protect, and enhance Montana's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Specific objectives include: Protecting and conserving important wildlife habitat on Montana farms and ranches that are being lost to residential and commercial development or converted to other non-agricultural uses.

Active Acquisition Programs

The Program continues to focus primarily on the purchase of conservation easements to protect trust resources on private land. The Service has also emphasized fee title acquisition of private inholdings within the boundaries of existing NWRs.

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements with landowners that restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on a property in the future. These restrictions generally allow for the continued agricultural use of the property, while prohibiting or limiting other uses that would diminish its conservation values.

Easements can be donated or sold with land use restrictions tailored to meet specific conservation goals in accordance with the needs of the landowner. Lands protected with easements remain in private ownership and continue to contribute to the local tax base.

Fund Sources for Habitat Acquisition and Easements

- Monies come from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and North American Wetlands Conservation Fund.
- Other sources include cooperative agreements between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and donations of easements from private landowners.

Program Highlights

To date, the Program has been very successful, with landowner interest far exceeding the available funding. In the past 5 years, the Service has purchased conservation easements on nearly 60,000 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat in western Montana.

Ecological Services (ES) Field Office

Contact: Mark Wilson
Field Supervisor
Address: 100 N. Park, Suite 320
Helena, Montana 59604

Telephone: 406-449-5225
Fax: 406-449-5339
E-mail:

Station Facts

Manage Service programs for the conservation of fish and wildlife within Montana, and coordinate activities with surrounding States and Canadian provinces.

Primary activities include coordination on Federal projects, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), wetland initiatives and Clean Water Act, environmental contaminants, permits, and licenses.

Besides the main Helena Field Office, Montana has two sub-offices, in Billings and Kalispell.

Station Objectives

Work cooperatively with State, Tribal and Federal agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners to conserve and restore the threatened, endangered and declining species of Montana.

Conduct activities necessary to meet Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act responsibilities.

Participate in the environmental review of

federally funded projects that may affect fish and wildlife.

Address potential contaminant impacts on natural resources.

Contribute to wetlands conservation through review of proposed work plans and implementation of the Clean Water Act.

Conduct Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and ESA consultation activities related to Federal dam operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System in northwest Montana, and Madison and Missouri River Systems.

Station Fiscal Facts

Staff: 17

Current Budget (FY 00):
\$831,100

Activity Highlights

Protect, maintain and restore the Yellowstone and Missouri River Ecosystems by review and coordination of projects, implementing fish passage technologies, and providing technical support for these ecosystems

Conserve wetlands through coordination, partnerships, project review, and alternative development.

Promote public awareness and technical assistance on endangered species, environmental contaminants, wetlands, and prairie and river issues throughout Montana.

Lead recovery activities for the bull trout, bald eagle, Canada lynx, water howellia, Ute ladies'-tresses, grizzly bear, and gray wolf.

Protect, maintain and restore the prairie ecosystems by review and coordination of projects and technical assistance.

Principal on preparation of the intra-Service biological opinion for the three-State 1.7 million-acre Plum Creek Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan (NFHCP).

Law Enforcement

Contact: Vacant, Senior Resident Agent

Telephone: 406-247-7355

Fax: 406-247-7357

E-mail:

Telephone: 406-329-3000

Contact: Rick Branzell, Special Agent

Address: Federal Building

200 East Broadway, Room 136

Missoula, Montana 59807-7488

Contact: Doug Goessman, Special Agent

Telephone: 406-582-0336

Address: 220 West Lamme, Suite 1C

Bozeman, Montana 59715

Contact: Kim Speckman, Special Agent

Telephone: 406-453-4761 or 453-5790

Joe Early, Wildlife Inspector

Address: Great Falls Airport

2800 Terminal Drive #105

Great Falls, Montana 59403-3172

What is Wildlife Law Enforcement?

Wildlife law enforcement is one of the basic tools used by FWS to achieve its wildlife management goals. LE personnel assist in controlling human interactions with the wildlife resource. They promote, through outreach and other educational programs, voluntary compliance with Federal wildlife laws. LE personnel apprehend those individuals and organizations who elect to violate the law.

Special Agents are criminal investigators who enforce Federal wildlife laws across the U.S.. Their investigative activities include surveillance, undercover work, developing intelligence on suspected violators, collecting evidence, making arrests, and preparing cases for court. Special Agents often work with other Federal, Tribal, foreign, or State LE agencies, as well as provide training to them about

wildlife law enforcement techniques.

Wildlife Inspectors are the front line defense against the illegal wildlife trade - a criminal enterprise that threatens species worldwide. They are stationed along the Canada border and interior Customs Ports of Entry to inspect wildlife, their parts and products that are being imported into or exported from the U.S. When violations are encountered, they either refuse entry into the U. S., detain the shipment for further inspection, or seize the shipment, either seeking abandonment or referring to a Agent for investigation.

Activity Highlights

- Protect endangered species and their habitats, from illegal take, import/export, and commercialization.
- Investigate illegal take, transportation, and

commercialization of big game and other wildlife.

- Ensure compliance with Federal migratory bird hunting regulations.
- Educate guides and outfitters on how to avoid/mitigate encounters with grizzly bears.
- Protect bald and golden eagles from being illegally poisoned, trapped, shot, electrocuted, or illegal commercial activity.
- Ensure wildlife being is legally imported/exported, including being in compliance with international Treaties (CITES) and other applicable laws.
- Investigate illegal take of migratory birds associated with environmental hazards such as oil production facilities, exposure to herbicides/pesticides, electrocution on power lines, and primary and secondary poisonings.
- Assist with law enforcement on Service lands,

including protection of National Wildlife Refuges, wetland, grass land, and other conservation easements.

Partners

- Montana Department of Wildlife and Parks
- Other land management agencies
- Native American Tribes
- U.S. Attorney's Office



North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Regional Contact: Carol A. Lively
NAWMP Coordinator
Address: P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado 80225

Telephone: 303-236-8155 x 252
Fax: 303-236-8680
E-mail: carol_lively@fws.gov

State Contact: Tom Hine
MT Department of Fish, Wildlife
and Parks
Address: 1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Telephone: 406-444-3248

About the Plan

International agreement signed in 1986.

Goal: Return continental waterfowl populations to levels of mid-1970's.

Achieve population goals by protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetland and grassland habitat.

Includes 12 habitat joint ventures and two species joint ventures in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Partner Involvement

Local/State/Federal Government agencies

Private landowners

Nonprofit organizations

Tribes

Corporations

Montana Projects

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) projects include: Beaverhead Wetland I and II, Milk River Basin, and NE MT Prairie Pothole Phase I and Phase II.

Habitat Accomplishments

Over 65,000 wetland and grassland acres protected, restored and enhanced through NAWCA projects.

Financial Contributions to Montana

Total NAWCA projects:
\$14,642,300

NAWCA Contributions:
\$3,037,000

Partner Contributions:
\$11,605,300

Public Benefits

- Broad coalition of partners that support "voluntary" wetland conservation.
- Improved water quality.
- Enhanced floodwater storage.
- Improved community and landowner relations.
- Enhanced wildlife diversity.
- Increased public recreation opportunities.

Montana Federal Aid-- Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Contact: Vacant
Chief,
Address: P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado, 80225

Telephone: 303-236-7392
Fax: 303-236-8192
E-mail:

Source of Funding

Federal excise taxes paid by hunters, anglers, and boaters on fishing and hunting equipment; portion of the Federal fuel tax; and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

How the Money Can Be Used

Fish and wildlife research; habitat enhancement; technical assistance; environmental review of public projects; land acquisitions; operation and maintenance of areas and facilities; boating and angler access improvements; comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife resources; and hunter and aquatic education.

Federal Aid to Montana (FY 00 Apportionments)

- Sport Fish Restoration: \$5.6 million
- Wildlife Restoration: \$5.6 million

Percent Federal Aid in State Wildlife Budget

22%

Number of Participants and Economic Benefits to Montana

Fishing:

- Number of anglers 1999: 377,668
- Economic Impact of Angler Expenditures:* \$244 million

Hunting:

- Number of hunters 1999: 280,382
- Economic Impact of Hunter Expenditures:* \$216 million

Federal Aid Project Types in Montana **

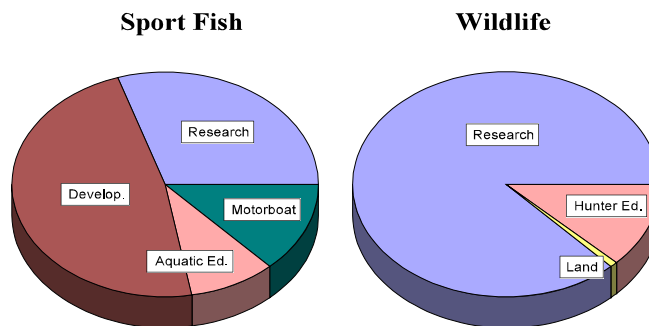
Sport Fish Restoration Projects:

- Research: 30%
- Development: 48%
- Aquatic Education: 9%
- Motorboat Access: 13%

Wildlife Restoration Projects:

- Research: 87.3%
- Hunter Education: 12%
- Land: 0.3%

Percentage of Montana Project Types in Federal Aid:



* Based on the "1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation."

**
Based on approved 1998 Grant obligations (percentages reflect +1%). State has five years to obligate Motorboat Access funds.

Migratory Bird Conservation

Contact: *Dr. John E. Cornely*
Migratory Bird Coordinator

Telephone: 303-236-8155 x259
Fax: 303-236-8680
E-mail: john_cornely@fws.gov

Contact: *Stephanie L. Jones*
Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator
Address: *P.O. Box 25486, DFC*
Denver, Colorado 80225

Telephone: 303-236-8155 x253
E-mail: stephanie_jones@fws.gov

Inventory and Monitoring

Nongame bird monitoring

Mourning dove call count survey

Duck banding program

Habitat inventory and monitoring consultation

Research

Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit:
Demographics of species of concern in mixed-grass prairie at Bowdoin NWR

Effects of high intensity grazing on secondary riparian streams and mixed-grass prairie at CMR NWR

Survivorship and productivity monitoring in lowland riparian areas at Lee Metcalf NWR

Demographic monitoring and survivorship, riparian areas in Bitterroot National Forest; effects of fire on avian species of special concern

Effects of nonnative vegetation on avian species of special concern at Medicine Lake NWR

Management

Migratory Bird permit issuance and management and hunting regulations development

Migratory Bird population surveys and management

Grassland/wetland restoration, creation, enhancement, and protection

Partnerships

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

University of Montana and Montana State University

Montana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

U.S. Forest Service

Outreach

International Migratory Bird Day

Biological intern program

Student Career Experience Program