

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1899. In 1938, by voter initiative, the Fish and Game Commission was created to set policy for the Department. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor from the 7 administrative regions of the Department: Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon.

The Director, Steven M. Huffaker, is appointed by the Commission and serves as Secretary to the Commission and leader of the Department. The Department's 525 classified employees are divided into seven core functions: administration, communications, enforcement, engineering, fisheries, natural resources policy, and wildlife. Each function is divided into operations and program staff. Operations staff, led by Regional Supervisors, implements Department programs in 7 regional offices. Boise program staff, led by Bureau Chiefs, direct and integrate statewide operations as well as hatchery, research, intergovernmental, and interagency programs. The Department's strategic plan, The Compass, was adopted in 2005 and describes the goals, desired outcomes, and objectives of the Department.

The Department's FY 2007 budget of \$74 million is funded by license and tag sales, federal and private grants, and contracts. The budget does not include any annual Idaho general tax revenue appropriation. Hunters, anglers, and wildlife viewers in Idaho generate \$1.6 billion in economic output that provides nearly 20,000 jobs and over \$63 million in sales tax revenue to Idaho (in 2001 dollars).

Key challenges to achievement of the Department's mission are population growth and development, changes in how people use the land, and how they value fish and wildlife.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

The Department's mission and charter are outlined in Idaho Code, Section 36-103. Briefly, it states that all wildlife in Idaho is to be preserved, protected, perpetuated and managed for the citizens of the state and to provide for continued supplies for hunting, fishing and trapping.

To fulfill this mission, the Department has four goals:

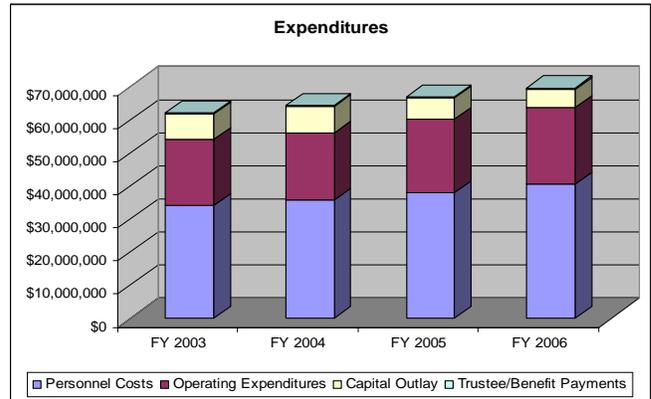
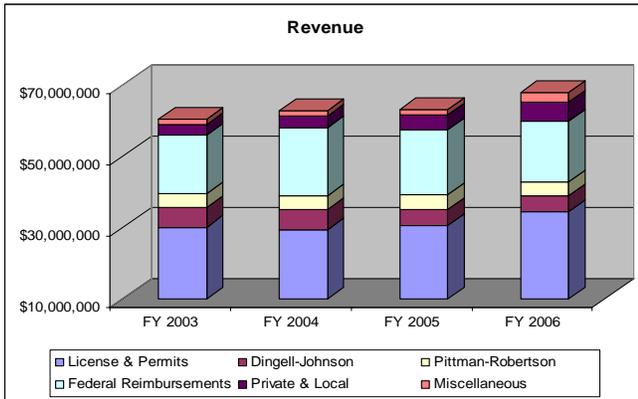
- Sustain Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Meet the demand for fish and wildlife recreation.
- Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management.
- Enhance the capability of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public.

The Department achieves its goals through its core functions:

- **Administration** - Provide fiscal services, information technology, and internal controls.
- **Communications** – Inform, educate, and involve people in the management of Idaho's fish and wildlife.
- **Enforcement** – Enforce the law and provide public information to achieve compliance with regulations.
- **Engineering** – Construct and maintain facilities in a cost-effective, efficient, and safe manner.
- **Fisheries** – Inventory, monitor, and manage Idaho's fish resources.
- **Natural Resources Policy** – Promote land and water use sustaining Idaho's fish and wildlife resources.
- **Wildlife** – Inventory, monitor, and manage Idaho's wildlife resources.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
License & Permits	\$30,139,700	\$29,337,500	\$30,553,100	\$34,601,563
Dingell-Johnson	5,484,800	5,838,100	4,585,700	4,308,456
Pittman-Robertson	3,822,700	3,695,800	4,015,000	3,893,916
Federal Reimbursements	16,480,600	19,205,300	18,452,600	17,186,256
Private & Local	2,987,300	3,285,400	3,944,500	5,133,160
Miscellaneous	<u>1,595,200</u>	<u>1,568,600</u>	<u>1,583,200</u>	<u>2,918,978</u>
Direct Receipts	\$60,510,500	\$62,930,800	\$63,134,000	\$68,042,329
Cash Transfers In	2,207,600	1,393,500	2,196,300	5,688,260
Cash Transfers Out	<u>-1,505,000</u>	<u>-702,100</u>	<u>-1,431,600</u>	<u>-4,531,379</u>
Current Year Revenue	\$61,213,100	\$63,622,300	\$63,898,700	\$69,199,210
Expenditure	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personnel Costs	\$34,213,000	\$35,752,200	\$38,120,300	\$40,637,021
Operating Expenditures	19,900,900	20,274,100	22,295,400	23,091,936
Capital Outlay	7,709,500	8,072,100	6,241,300	5,562,810
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>304,300</u>	<u>337,900</u>	<u>356,400</u>	<u>464,562</u>
Total	\$62,127,700	\$64,436,300	\$67,013,400	\$69,756,329



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Provide opportunity to harvest game fish and wildlife (# of hunting, fishing, and combination licenses sold)	533,067	525,862	539,590	521,489
Scientifically assess the abundance and health of big game populations to inform management decisions (# of hours of deer and elk aerial surveys flown)	858	1035	924	797
Provide public access to private lands or through private lands to public lands for hunting, fishing, and trapping (acres provided through Access Yes! program)	348,609	483,277	778,028	1,320,655
Provide public access to important wildlife areas for hunting, fishing, trapping, and viewing (# of acres managed)	378,507	378,510	367,081	358,800
Provide opportunity to hunt big game (# elk and deer hunter days) ^a	1,103,376	1,329,056	1,325,500	NA ^b

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Alleviate wildlife damage to agriculture (<i>minimum # of depredation complaints responded to</i>)	369	651	462	600
Compensate for wildlife damage to agriculture (<i># depredation claims paid</i>)	23	24	20	24
Improve opportunity to harvest game fish (<i># of Department-operated hatchery-raised resident and anadromous fish stocked in ponds, lakes, and streams</i>)	28,549,579	39,264,210	41,740,417	40,649,467
Provide opportunity to harvest salmon and steelhead without harming threatened populations (<i>angler hours spent fishing for salmon and steelhead</i>)	2,019,553	1,720,129	1,493,897	1,308,276
Provide public access to fishing waters (<i># fishing and boating access sites maintained</i>)	325	328	325	325
Scientifically assess the abundance and health of fish populations to inform management decisions (<i># surveys conducted on lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams</i>)	178	178	132	305 ^b
Enforce fish and game laws (<i># of warnings and citations issued</i>)	4,941	5,202	4,681	4,790
Protect game populations, provide information, ensure human safety (<i># of licenses checked by officers in the field</i>)	84,856	77,201	83,951	76,175
Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to improve fish and wildlife habitats and reduce impacts from land and water use (<i>minimum # technical comments, reviews, meetings, site visits, and technical data requests filled</i>)	2,568	2,218	2,576	2,432
Minimize the impacts of fish and wildlife diseases on fish and wildlife populations, livestock, and humans (<i># cases, biological samples, and necropsies handled by health labs</i>) ^c	2,925	3,170	3,762	4,039
Educate students about hunting and firearms safety, ethics and responsibilities, wildlife management, and fish and game rules and regulations (<i># of students Hunter Education certified</i>)	13,195	11,962	9,568	9,457
Provide information on fishing and hunting, fish and wildlife, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and other general agency information to the public (<i>average # visitors per month to agency website</i>)	131,474	140,000	150,000	154,593

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Train schoolteachers about how to improve their students' awareness, knowledge, skills, and responsible behavior related to Idaho's fish and wildlife. (<i># teachers who attended Project Wild workshops</i>)	319	463	368	486
Provide information to license buyers to increase their recreation satisfaction and opportunities (<i># visitors to Idaho Hunt Planner web page</i>)	NA	NA	18,473 ^d	144,622
Provide for community and public involvement in management and education while reducing costs (<i># Volunteer, Reservist, and Hunter Ed Instructor hours</i>) ^c	70,846	74,259	78,703	17,902 ^b

^a - Measure based on a calendar year

^b - Tally is incomplete

^c - Measure combines fiscal and calendar years.

^d - Service began in late 2005.

Performance Highlights:

The Department assumed the lead role in managing wolves in the state.

A limited spring Chinook salmon season was opened on the Snake River in Hells Canyon, Lower Salmon River, Clearwater River, and the Little Salmon River.

In July, the first Chinook salmon sport fishery allowed in the upper Salmon River since 1978 was offered on surplus Pahsimeroi Hatchery summer chinook salmon. Anglers spent 10,418 hours to harvest 152 hatchery-origin summer Chinook salmon. Anglers caught and released an additional 104 Chinook salmon comprised of 37 hatchery and 67 wild/natural fish. The season's catch rate averaged 41 hours per fish caught and 69 hours per fish kept.

Under the Mule Deer Initiative, habitat improvements covered more than 2,500 acres. In the Magic Valley, 8,000 seedlings were planted for winter mule deer habitat.

In an effort to prevent the transmission of brucellosis between elk and livestock, the Department is leading an effort to fence haystacks and feedlots to separate elk and livestock; improving elk habitat to encourage elk to disperse; conduct late season hunts to reduce numbers; and trapping and culling elk.

To recover kokanee fisheries in Lake Pend Oreille, the Fishery Recovery Task Force has implemented a successful incentive program to reduce kokanee predators. Harvest rates (% of fish kept by anglers) on lake trout increased from about 80% to 100%, and harvest rates on rainbow trout increased from about 40% to more than 95%.

The Governor signed the Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage Grouse, which was a collaborative effort among the diverse interests in sage grouse conservation. The plan is designed to support local working groups in developing plans for sage grouse conservation. Seven local working groups are active and several others are beginning their work in Idaho.

Department biologists and their counterparts in Washington have initiated studies to learn more about mountain quail, how they use their habitat, and why their numbers have dropped so significantly since the 1950s.

The Department is implementing a pilot project for south-central Idaho to evaluate a variety of non-monetary incentives for landowners that promote good wildlife habitat and access for hunters and anglers.

About 165 landowners received technical assistance to develop and adopt conservation practices for wildlife, fish and rare native plants on about 6,500 acres.

Under the Pheasant and Quail Initiative, about 5,000 acres of habitat have been improved by providing technical assistance to landowners in north-central and southwest Idaho.

The Department is developing a trapper education program to teach basic trapping and fur-handling techniques and skills. A pilot class will be conducted in fall 2006.

The Idaho Birding Trail guide was published, featuring almost 200 sites and about 2,000 miles of trail. The Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor's Division of Tourism will promote the trail.

Over 100 private property owners – comprising 620,215 acres – have signed up with the Access Yes! program, double the number from last year.

To provide hunters and anglers with disabilities more access to fish and wildlife recreation, the agency website now includes an "Accessible Idaho" web section to provide information on these opportunities.

The Morrison Knudsen Nature Center replaced its fish viewing windows, doubling the viewing surfaces that can better accommodate large groups, small children, and wheelchairs. The project was supported by donations from individuals and corporations.

Idaho is now the first state in the country to offer online versions of both traditional hunter education and bowhunter education.

The Department's Project WILD coordinator was nationally recognized for developing an early childhood version of Project WILD.

Circulation for the 12-page tabloid Idaho Fish and Game News grew about 20% in the past year.

Staff improved efficiencies on detecting illegal purchases of resident hunting/fishing licenses. An automatic query of 2 databases is run each night and automatically sends results to local officers based on the zip code provided by the purchaser.

Idaho's Citizens Against Poaching Board (a non-profit organization) purchased two additional CAP trailers – for the northern and eastern parts of the state. The CAP trailers educate citizens about poaching and encourage them to report wildlife violations.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2003	2004	2005	2006	Benchmark
1. Compliance with regulations (# of violations / # of licenses checked)	4,941 / 84,856	5,202 / 77201	4681 / 83951	4790 / 76175	Less than 10% of licenses checked result in violation / check 15% of total licenses sold
2. Elk and deer populations are meeting objectives (% zones and units)	81	78	76	69	90 in 5 years

Performance Measure	2003	2004	2005	2006	Benchmark
<i>meeting objectives)</i>					
3. Landowners allow access for fish and wildlife recreation (# of landowners enrolled / # private acres in Access Yes! Program)	30 / 108,040	70 / 226,377	87 / 356,038	104 / 622,495	115 / 700,000
4. Attract and retain highly qualified personnel (% successful registers / % retention of hired FTEs after 2 years employment)	95 / 88	94 / 86	91 / 86	95 / 91	94 / 88
5. All that pay benefit, all that benefit pay (% of funding that comes from the general Idaho public)	2.8%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	20% in 5 years

Performance Measure Explanatory Note:

- The benchmark is based on past performance by Department officers.
- The metric is based on cow elk in elk zones; % 4-point mule deer bucks in mule deer data analysis unit; % 5-point whitetail bucks in whitetail data analysis unit. The benchmark is a 5-year target to meet objectives laid out in big game species plans. Objectives in the plans are based on historical biological data as well as the social requests for various hunting experiences. Many external factors, such as wildfire and weather, affect the Department’s ability to achieve objectives.
- The benchmark is based on past success of the Access Yes! program.
- A “successful register” is defined as one with at least 5 qualified applicants. The percent of successful registers was determined by the formula **[# successful registers ÷ total open competitive registers] * 100**. The benchmark is based on the average over the past four fiscal years.
- “Funding from the general public” is defined as revenue from the sales of wildlife license plates, the non-game tax check-off, donations to the Department, and interest income. The percent of funding from the general public was calculated by the formula **[funding from general public ÷ (funding from general public + license sales)] * 100**. The benchmark is a 5-year target based on data from the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation’s 2001 Survey of State Wildlife Agency Revenue. By using the formula **[general fund revenue ÷ (general fund + license revenues)] * 100** for all state fish and wildlife agencies, we calculated a nationwide percent of about 20%.

Several other new measures to track progress towards important goals in the Department’s strategic plan are not reflected here but are planned for the future. They include:

- Idahoans’ satisfaction with the number and variety of fish and wildlife in Idaho
- Satisfaction of hunters, anglers, trappers, and wildlife viewers with fish and wildlife recreation opportunities
- The use Department-owned lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing
- A meaningful measure of stakeholder participation in the decision-making process

For More Information Contact

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Director Attestation for Agency Profile

In accordance with *Idaho Code* 67-1904, I certify the data provided in the Agency Profile has been internally assessed for accuracy, and, to the best of my knowledge, is deemed to be accurate.

Department: Idaho Fish and Games


Director's Signature

8-25-06
Date

Please return to:

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