

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Governor's Office of Species Conservation was created in 2000 with passage of Senate Bill 1490, which set up the agency within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Governor's Office of Species Conservation is dedicated to planning, coordinating and implementing the State's actions to preserve, protect and restore species listed as threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). This work will be done in coordination with the State's natural resource agencies and with input of the citizen of Idaho, while taking into consideration the economic vitality of the State. The Office of Species Conservation is located on the first floor of the Borah building across the street from the State Capitol building.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

- 1) **Coordinate** federal ESA programs with State agencies (§ 67-818).
- 2) **Solicit**, provide, and delegate funding for ESA programs (§67-819).
- 3) **Create** de-listing advisory teams (§ 36-2402, 2403, 2404).
- 4) **Serve** as the State's "one voice" on ESA policy (§ 67-818, 2(a)).
- 5) **Provide** a mechanism for Idaho citizens to voice ESA concerns (§ 67-818, 2(g)).
- 6) **Facilitate** collaboration between State, federal and private stakeholders (§ 67-818, 2(b)(c)(g)).

The Office of Species Conservation has four goals that guide the performance of its core functions:

- 1) Coordinate implementation of State policy among State agencies with regards to ESA programs.
- 2) Negotiate agreements with federal resource agencies that rely upon science and common sense, involve all parties affected by recovery decisions, and incorporate Idaho's economic vitality and values.
- 3) Coordinate the solicitation of funding resources, provide reasonable oversight and insure cost effective allocation of funding for ESA programs.
- 4) Provide excellent constituent services for State, federal and private stakeholders seeking assistance with ESA issues.

Key Challenges to fulfilling the Office's mission are changes in federal regulations, adjustments in priority due to petitions and/or litigation, unpredictable funding sources, and random environmental events with implications for ESA species.

Revenues and Expenditures

Revenue	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
General Fund	\$484,500	\$477,500	\$451,000	\$473,200
Federal Grant	\$15,694,317	\$13,347,023	\$10,147,539	\$12,743,100
Miscellaneous	\$28,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total	\$16,206,817	\$13,844,523	\$10,613,539	\$13,231,300
Expenditure	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Personnel Costs	\$588,883	\$821,149	\$890,500	\$870,103
Operating	\$332,334	\$253,441	\$303,900	\$197,316
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$2,535	\$0	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$6,699,639	\$8,574,245	\$5,236,200	\$8,902,772
Total	\$7,620,856	\$9,651,370	\$6,430,600	\$9,970,191

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
BPA Expenditures	\$76	\$576,870	\$755,425	\$1,949,963	\$2,111,184	\$3,398,736
PCSRF Funds Expenditures	\$1,994,545	\$2,446,394	\$3,264,299	\$2,614,016	\$2,272,873	\$1,864,980
SRBA Funds Expenditures	\$0	\$1,964,762	\$1,657,147	\$2,790,254	\$864,617	\$2,683,452
Sage Grouse Funds Expenditures	\$211,492	\$159,388	\$343,649	\$533,319	\$254,178	\$165,573
Aquatic Species Habitat Funds Expenditures	\$47,024	\$64,267	\$218,860	\$181,610	\$64,703	\$15,000
Freshwater Mollusk Funds Expenditures	\$46,307	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,340	\$810
Bull Trout	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,181	\$1,200
Gray Wolf Funds Expenditures	\$523,210	\$582,336	\$879,244	\$1,170,863	\$308,367	\$1,192,637
Roadless Funds Expenditures	\$8,262	\$4,143	\$13,486	\$6,257	\$14,569	\$17,259
Slickspot Peppergrass Funds Expenditures	\$834	\$13,802	\$54,685	\$0	\$0	\$8,846
Miscellaneous Funds Expenditures	\$2,518	\$449	\$10,000	\$338	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,834,267	\$5,812,411	\$7,196,795	\$9,246,620	\$5,932,013	\$9,348,493

Performance Highlights

- Participated in and/or led more than 50 State policy coordination meetings.
- Dispensed wolf depredation compensation funds: received 27 claims/awarded 27 claims/paid \$11,500. OSC has not yet received compensation funds for the 2012 grazing season.
- Conducted 3 proposal solicitations (RFP's) for OSC federal assistance programs.
- Received 25 project proposals for federal assistance.
- Awarded 22 projects for funding totaling \$4,491,175.
- Slickspot Peppergrass-
 - In August of 2012, the District Court ruled in our favor and vacated the threatened listing determination for slickspot peppergrass. This means that while the Fish and Wildlife Service, goes back and reviews the plant's status, it remains off the "threatened" list. Shortly after, FWS filed a motion of reconsideration with the District Court to allow the rule to remain in place while they underwent review of slickspot's status. The Court denied the agency's motion and so the listing remains vacated. This is a significant victory for the State, as we have been fighting to keep this plant under State management for over 10 years.
- Sage Grouse-
 - Governor Otter, with assistance from OSC and other State agencies and the Governor's Sage Grouse Task Force, developed and submitted a proposed alternative to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for consideration under the agency's land use planning process. The BLM is currently evaluating multiple alternatives that address the needs of sage grouse. In April 2013, The State of Idaho received a concurrence letter from FWS in support of many components of the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Alternative. OSC continues to collaborate with the BLM as it works through the EIS process to insure that the Governor's alternative becomes the "preferred alternative".
- Bull Trout-
 - The State of Idaho completed its work on recovery planning. The State of Idaho is waiting for the FWS to finish and release the draft bull trout recovery plan. The draft is supposed to be released in early 2014.

- Salmon and Steelhead Recovery-
 - The Office of Species Conservation, in collaboration with our satellite offices in Salmon and Moscow, and partner agencies, continues to implement habitat restorative actions in watersheds with significant potential for salmon and steelhead recovery in Idaho. During FY13, OSC implemented 7.9 million dollars in habitat restoration projects in the Salmon and Clearwater watersheds.
- Lemhi/Upper Salmon Biological Opinions-
 - In 2012, The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued two Biological Opinions addressing the use and operation of in-stream diversions located on U.S. Forest Service land in the Lemhi and Upper Salmon watersheds. These opinions concluded that the continued operation of these diversions would jeopardize threatened and endangered fish species and would also adversely modify their habitat. OSC, along with other interested parties, convinced the Forest Service to re-consult with NMFS on the diversions in the Lemhi watershed in order to address some major deficiencies within the 2012 Biological Opinion. Currently, NMFS and the U.S. Forest Service, with input from OSC, are working collaboratively to publish a new Biological Opinion as soon as possible; however, because Forest Service resources were shifted to deal with fires, the new opinion will likely be delayed until early 2014.
- Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel-
 - OSC is collaborating with a Weiser area landowner, IDFG and the FWS to establish a conservation agreement on private land to protect the species should it become listed and provide the landowner with reasonable assurances that he will be able to continue his operations in spite of a listing.
- Yankee Fork Project-
 - OSC, Federal, Tribal, State, and local partners are collaborating to improve fish habitat on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. The J.R. Simplot Company is partnering with various agencies and organizations (such as Trout Unlimited) to make this project possible.
- Woodland Caribou-
 - In November 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published the final rule designating critical habitat for the Southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou. The final rule designates a total of 30,000 acres within northeast Washington and north Idaho. The critical habitat in Idaho is limited to 6,000 acres of federal land within Boundary County. This designation by the Service marks a vast departure from the 2011 proposed rule, which set out to designate a total of 375,000 acres of critical habitat across Washington and Idaho. The State of Idaho, along with the relevant tribes, local communities, and other interested parties, submitted comments which showed that the Service's initial assessment of the species' occupancy at the time of listing was flawed. After much collaboration, peer review, and analysis, the Service agreed that the 2011 proposed rule did not accurately reflect the occupancy of the woodland caribou at the time of listing, and their final rule designates only.
- Provided comments behalf of the executive office regarding:
 - North American wolverine listing
 - BLM environmental analyses pertaining to Owyhee grazing permit renewals
 - Gateway West energy corridor
 - Federal code changes pertaining to economic analyses associated with critical habitat designations

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measures	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Benchmark
BPA Expenditures	\$576,870	\$755,425	\$1,949,963	\$2,111,495	\$3,398,736	\$1,000,000
PCSRF Funds Expenditures	\$2,446,394	\$3,264,299	\$2,614,016	\$2,267,378	\$1,864,980	\$2,000,000
SRBA Funds Expenditures	\$1,964,762	\$1,657,147	\$2,790,254	\$864,568	\$2,683,452	\$2,000,000
Sage Grouse Funds Expenditures	\$159,388	\$343,649	\$533,319	\$254,178	\$165,573	\$250,000
Aquatic Species Habitat Funds Expenditures	\$64,267	\$218,860	\$181,610	\$64,703	\$15,000	\$50,000
Freshwater Mollusk Funds Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,340	\$810	\$3,000
Bull Trout	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,181	\$1,200	\$15,000
Gray Wolf Funds Expenditures	\$582,336	\$879,244	\$1,170,863	\$308,367	\$1,192,637	\$750,000
Wolf depredation and compensation (claims/awarded/amount)	45/42/100K	48/38/100K	48/38/100K	84/78/196K	27/27/11K	50/45/150K
Roadless Funds Expenditures	\$4,143	\$13,486	\$6,257	\$14,569	\$17,259	\$8,000
Slickspot Peppergrass Funds Expenditures	\$13,802	\$54,685	\$0	\$0	\$8,846	\$0
Miscellaneous Funds Expenditures	\$449	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,812,411	\$7,196,795	\$9,246,282	\$5,926,780	\$9,348,493	\$6,076,000
State policy coordination meetings	36	24	25	40	50	12
Wolf depredation and compensation (claims/awarded/amount)	45/42/100K	48/38/100K	46/42/100K	84/78/196K	27/27/11K	50/45/150K
Solicitations for conservation projects	3	5	3	3	2	2
Number of proposals received	31	36	29	23	25	25
Number of projects awarded funds	24	33	22	18	22	23
Amount of funding awarded to projects	\$9,870,098	\$4,859,427	\$6,158,301	\$7,704,631	\$4,491,175	\$6,000,000
Species/habitat/policy comments	4	6	10	7	10	3
Requests for ombudsman assistance	no data	180	120	60	150	150

For More Information Contact

Dustin Miller
Administrator
Governor's Office of Species Conservation
304 N. 8th St., Rm. 149
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 334-2189
E-mail: dustin.miller@osc.idaho.gov