

FWP FY2010/11 Budget and Legislative Goals

**Approved by FWP Commission
On January 17, 2008**

Fisheries

Program Element: Fisheries Management

- Review field sampling strategies and techniques to assure they are providing the information necessary to meet FWP management objectives.
- Develop sterile rainbow and walleye for the fish management program and implement their use, if desirable and technically feasible and begin providing sterile trout eggs to private hatcheries.
- Complete a statewide fish management plan for sport fish, native fish, warm water fish and species of concern and in need of special management.
- Resolve funding shortfall and limits on operations at Fort Peck Hatchery.
- Sell the Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery and use the revenue to develop Rose Creek hatchery.

Program Element: Fisheries Habitat Conservation

- Broaden the focus of the Habitat Montana program to include aquatic and riparian habitats.
- Participate effectively in water allocation decisions, particularly the adjudication process, new water permits and legislative planning.
- Develop an aquatic habitat information and education campaign similar to what has been done for native fish.

Program Element: Fishing Access

- Complete the assessment of the FAS program to determine the needs of the program from the perspective of both the agency and the public.
- Increase funding for fishing access site acquisition, operations, maintenance and enforcement.
- Integrate river recreation management with FAS management to avoid duplication of efforts and integrate recreation management direction on water with land base.

Wildlife

Program Element: Wildlife Habitat Conservation

- Identify highest priority habitats and specific parcels for conservation using GIS modeling of vegetation type, biodiversity importance, relative conservation value to specific species, migratory corridors, etc.
- Increase emphasis on maintaining and protecting highest priority habitat at an ecosystem level to comprehensively conserve all of Montana's wildlife.
- Leverage Habitat Montana with other federal and non-government programs to better meet the mission of FWP to manage all wildlife.

- Work with the energy industry at the state and national level for a coordinated approach to development.
- Develop expertise and knowledge about planning and land use, and provide direction and resources to local governments to ensure wildlife needs are addressed in planning and development. Work with counties, municipalities and communities to influence patterns and methods of rural subdivision in a way that minimizes impacts to wildlife communities.

Program Element: Wildlife Management

- Refine harvest management programs to strengthen links between population monitoring parameters, population objectives, social expectations, and hunting season recommendations; focus population management prescriptions on the 5-week general gun season and simplify regulations.
- Develop survey and inventory protocols for big game species to maximize sampling efficiency, consistency, and robustness. Enhance population surveys to meet management objectives via efficiency and protocol standards.
- Integrate game and nongame programs to manage more comprehensively; implement the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CFWCS) and move forward with the implementation of priority strategies for identified species and their related habitats.
- Identify, prioritize and implement research to address management needs.

Parks and Recreation

Program Element: State Parks

- Improve consistency and quality of development and service in state parks through policy, standards, tracking and reporting.
- Improve pace and effectiveness of capital development processes in department to complete projects in same biennium as started/approved.
- Provide new recreational opportunity by implementing the Access Montana program.
- Refine park security efforts to assure that staff are trained and secure in their work environments and to ensure public safety in state parks. Review park ranger program.

Program Element: Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Effectively communicate the value and benefits of the LWCF program to the public, Montana's congressional delegation, and other appropriate groups.

Program Element: Statewide Trails Programs

- Resolve issues such as grooming, Montana Environmental Policy Act, conflicts, impacts to trails.
- Effectively administer, and revise as needed, a broad-based program in the trail grant process.

Program Element: Water-based Recreation

- Complete planning and establish management systems to further address challenges of safety, resource impacts and visitor management on the Blackfoot, Madison and Smith Rivers.

- Improve permit program on Blackfoot and Smith Rivers in cooperation with Forest Service and BLM.

Management and Finance

Program Element: Agency Direction

- Increase efficiency and accountability of agency programs.

Program Element: Finances

- Actively encourage and document accountability of MFWP programs with staff and external interested parties.
- Promote dedicated congressional funds for SWG programs.
- Develop marketing efforts that increase the yearly purchase of licenses.

Program Element: Human Resources

- Develop fair and usable competency and results-based pay components within budget constraints under the Broadband Pay Plan utilizing the MFWP performance agreement/review process and ensuring managers receive appropriate training.
- Establish procedures to address pay inequities so that these can be corrected as funding becomes available.

Program Element: Licensing

- Accelerate the transition from a paper-based licensing and permit system to a fully automated process that provides timely sales, improved accuracy, and increased availability of information for program specialists, enforcement personnel and the public.

Program Element: Physical Property

- Explore options to co-locate Helena staff by expanding the existing headquarters or developing options for new office space.
- Increase energy efficiency of operations.

Information Services

Program Element: Information Services

- Enhance security and continuity of operations across all mission critical areas.
- Develop standard approaches to field data collection analysis, data storage, data dissemination, and reporting.

Field Services

Program Element: Access

- Maintain or enhance FWP's Access programs to ensure access on private and public lands.

Program Element: Safety

- Initiate mandatory annual safety training within the field focused programs for all temporary and seasonal employees.

Law Enforcement

Program Element: Fisheries Law Enforcement

- Enhance enforcement response, patrol and administrative services to FAS sites to better address fee compliance, river recreation and user conflicts.
- Develop and implement specialized compliance techniques and strategies to deter, detect and investigate illegal introductions of aquatic species into public and private waters.

Program Element: Wildlife Law Enforcement

- Increase visibility of enforcement during high use periods.
- Reduce illegal use of OHV's and related user conflicts.

Program Element: Parks Law Enforcement

- Effectively implement and enforce new non-resident snowmobile registration fees.
- Increase officer presence and involvement at selected parks.
- Develop legislative authority and an enforcement strategy to address Minors in Possession of intoxicating substances (MIP).
- Increase public awareness of TIPMONT as a tool to help reduce vandalism and other violations in state parks.

Communication and Education

Program Element: Aquatic Education

- Utilize the community pond program to help communities develop ponds that can be used for educational, as well as recreational, purposes such as Hooked on Fishing.

Program Element: Wildlife Education

- Develop an educational program to increase awareness of non-hunting, wildlife-related recreational opportunities on land managed by MFWP.
- Develop an outreach program to create a vision of the role people play in restoring and conserving wildlife and their habitats.
- Develop information programs on the most threatened habitats as identified by the CFWCS that will increase public knowledge of the importance of habitat for all wildlife, including species not hunted or fished.

Program Element: Recreation Education

- Increase OHV user education programs to decrease resource damage, noxious weeds and trail conflicts between OHV operators and other trail users.