

GREETINGS! In your hands is a copy of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Annual Report for 1993. It has been designed not only to chronicle some of the activities and accomplishments of FWP over the past year, but also to introduce new activities and programs that will be undertaken to conserve or enhance your fish, wildlife and parks.

Many of you are far more than customers of the services we provide, you are part owners in the public business of managing Montana's fish, wildlife and parks. Our accomplishments are your accomplishments, the result of many partnerships and initiatives among individuals, organizations and agencies.

It is important to reflect upon and celebrate the accomplishments of 1993. It is just as important to look to the future. The Department and Commission wanted to share with you some of the challenges and opportunities that we foresee.

All of this is presented in a new format that we hope is more readable and valuable to you. Please let us know what you think. After all, this annual report was designed for you...our customer.

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

Pat Graham

Patrick J. Graham
Director

MARC RACICOT, Governor, State of Montana

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks



COMMISSIONERS

STANLEY F. MEYER, Chairman Great Falls	ELAINE K. ALLESTAD Big Timber
JAMES D. RECTDR, Vice-Chairman Glasgow	CHARLES R. DECKER Libby
	DAVID W. SIMPSON Hardin

1993

We are a state agency. The Department's Director is appointed by the Governor, as is the five-member Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. The agency's operating budget and hunting and fishing fees are approved by the legislature. Commissioners set fish, wildlife and parks regulations, set park fees, must approve all Department land-related matters, set policy and approve the Department's budget prior to submission to the legislature. The Director oversees the development of Department policy, planning, management and operations.

We believe it is important to keep those interested in Montana's fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources informed. This report provides an overview of highlights of the 1993 calendar year and direction anticipated for 1994 and beyond.

We realize we must be responsive to the needs of the diverse resources entrusted to our care with a focus on the habitat and ecological systems on which they depend. While we recognize we cannot be "all things to all people," we must consider an increasingly diverse spectrum of values when making decisions and implementing actions.

We undertake public involvement efforts as a part of the development of plans aimed at helping us determine priorities and preferred direction for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The five goals, the accomplishments and the views of the future that follow are a specific reflection of what we heard from the thousands of Montanans who were a part of a long-range planning process initiated in 1991.

Where The Money Comes From

- FWP IS FUNDED PRIMARILY BY USER FEES:
- LESS THAN 1% OF FWP'S TOTAL BUDGET COMES FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND.

FISCAL YEAR 1994 (budgeted)

REVENUE DEFINITIONS:

GENERAL FUND - State tax dollars.

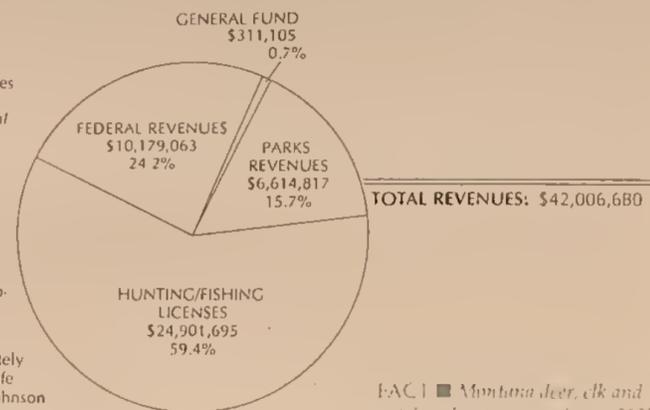
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES. This includes license sales revenue, interest earnings and other miscellaneous revenue. Non-resident license sales account for nearly 2/3 of FWP's total license revenue.

PARKS REVENUES - Only State revenue sources are included, such as: fees for state park use; a portion of the state's accommodations tax; a small percentage of the state fuel tax; interest earnings from coal severance tax receipts; and other miscellaneous revenue sources.

FEDERAL REVENUES. The department receives federal monies to: aid in fish and wildlife restoration efforts; for parks development and maintenance; for boating safety, education and regulation; and other programs.

In 1994 nearly 90% of FWP's federal assistance, or approximately \$8.75 million, was appropriated to Montana for fish and wildlife restoration through the Pittman-Robertson (P.R.) and Dingell-Johnson (D.J.) programs. P.R. monies are derived from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, pistols and revolvers and certain archery equipment. D.J. monies are derived from an excise tax on fishing equipment and electronic trolling motors, a portion of the federal fuels tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

The balance of federal monies comes from various federal sources and is used for other purposes including parks programs.



FACT ■ Montana deer, elk and antelope hunters spend over \$137 million annually on goods and services, excluding license fees.

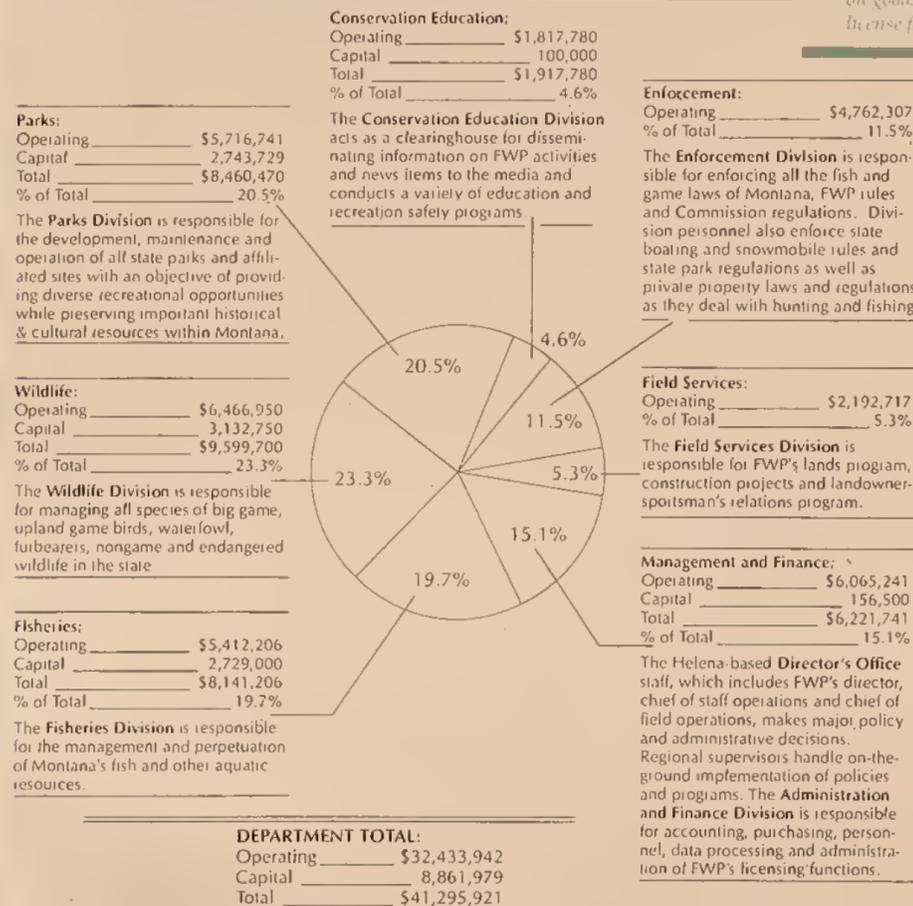
FACT ■ Wildlife economy contributes more than \$108 million annually to Montana's economy.

FACT ■ Anglers in Montana spend over \$100 million annually on goods and services, excluding license fees.

Where The Money Goes

- FWP SPENDS MONEY IN TWO MAIN WAYS:
- OPERATIONS for day-to-day management of fish, wildlife & park resources.
- CAPITAL for major repair & maintenance of FWP properties, for renovation & construction of facilities & to acquire land.

FISCAL YEAR 1994 (estimated)



Parks:
Operating \$5,716,741
Capital 2,743,729
Total \$8,460,470
% of Total 20.5%

The Parks Division is responsible for the development, maintenance and operation of all state parks and affiliated sites with an objective of providing diverse recreational opportunities while preserving important historical & cultural resources within Montana.

Wildlife:
Operating \$6,466,950
Capital 3,132,750
Total \$9,599,700
% of Total 23.3%

The Wildlife Division is responsible for managing all species of big game, upland game birds, waterfowl, furbeares, nongame and endangered wildlife in the state.

Fisheries:
Operating \$5,412,206
Capital 2,729,000
Total \$8,141,206
% of Total 19.7%

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and perpetuation of Montana's fish and other aquatic resources.

Conservation Education:
Operating \$1,817,780
Capital 100,000
Total \$1,917,780
% of Total 4.6%

The Conservation Education Division acts as a clearinghouse for disseminating information on FWP activities and news items to the media and conducts a variety of education and recreation safety programs.

Enforcement:
Operating \$4,762,307
% of Total 11.5%

The Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing all the fish and game laws of Montana, FWP rules and Commission regulations. Division personnel also enforce state boating and snowmobile rules and state park regulations as well as private property laws and regulations as they deal with hunting and fishing.

Field Services:
Operating \$2,192,717
% of Total 5.3%

The Field Services Division is responsible for FWP's lands program, construction projects and landowner-sportsman's relations program.

Management and Finance:
Operating \$6,065,241
Capital 156,500
Total \$6,221,741
% of Total 15.1%

The Helena-based Director's Office staff, which includes FWP's director, chief of staff operations and chief of field operations, makes major policy and administrative decisions. Regional supervisors handle on-the-ground implementation of policies and programs. The Administration and Finance Division is responsible for accounting, purchasing, personnel, data processing and administration of FWP's licensing functions.



S
639.9
F2ar
1993

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
3 0864 0015 6403 1

MISSION: The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
27 2001
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Manage with a focus on ecological systems to reflect the diversity of all wildlife and their habitats while

A

FISH OF SPECIAL CONCERN ■ FWP worked closely with the Governor's Office, Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help develop a bull trout recovery plan. These efforts culminated in a Governor's Bull Trout Roundtable where participants recommended that the state develop a restoration plan for bull trout.

Projects to expand the range of stream-dwelling Arctic grayling included protection of the population in the Big Hole River, establishment of a genetically sound brood stock and reintroduction of the species in three river systems.

In cooperation with North Dakota, a draft plan for paddlefish research and management in the Yellowstone-Sakakawea and Fort Peck populations was completed.

FISHING ACCESS SITE IMPROVEMENTS ■ Projects at 13 fishing access sites improved accessibility for those with disabilities, boating access and site protection.

COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ■ Completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) specific to the state's black bear management program aimed at improving the bear population and addressing other concerns.

Completed a Snowmobile Programmatic EIS that will guide the future of this trail grants program. This EIS identifies potential cultural and natural resource impacts and provides an array of measures to minimize or eliminate negative impacts.

Completed environmental assessments on numerous game farm license applications.

GAME FARMS ■ Legislation passed by the 1993 Legislature strengthened the regulation of the game farm industry by addressing license procedures, criteria for license issuance, record keeping, license revocation procedures and penalties for violation of laws.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ■ Undercover wildlife enforcement operations continued to address serious violations. Twelve cases involving 64 defendants and 327 counts were investigated.

2,700 TIP-MONT calls resulted in 547 violation reports being distributed to field wardens for investigation.

FACT ■ The Department's 70 field offices cover an average 2,079 square miles of land and water.

Law enforcement partnerships were established with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SURVEY ■ A User Preference Survey of residents and nonresidents, funded by contributions to the Income Tax Checkoff for Wildlife, was conducted. The intent of the survey was to determine what is preferred in the way of a watchable wildlife program for Montana ... which opportunities to pursue and how to fund them.

'94 and beyond ... areas of emphasis

We will:

- Complete a first draft of a wildlife management programmatic environmental impact statement that will provide long-term direction for Montana's wildlife program.
- Complete environmental impact statements addressing mountain lions, upland game birds, waterfowl and the management of those species.
- Implement the black bear management program detailed in the Record of Decision in the EIS completed in 1993.
- Develop draft criteria specific to future deer management in Montana.
- Continue habitat protection and improvement efforts including partnerships with federal agencies on public land as well as private land managers.
- Address endangered species management in Montana including reviewing the Endangered Species Act, future funding and FWP priorities.
- Continue efforts to secure water leases necessary for healthy fisheries.
- Complete Yellowstone cutthroat trout management guidelines.
- Increase public information and enforcement efforts addressing illegal fisheries introductions.
- Develop a hunter ethics program that will address hunter responsibilities and contributions made by hunters to wildlife conservation.
- Formulate a Watchable Wildlife Plan for 1994-1999 based on the results of the User Preference Survey.
- Address funding options for a Watchable Wildlife Program.

Highlights '93

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ■ Through an innovative project to protect critical wildlife habitat, preserve Montana's agricultural heritage and maintain the local tax base, the FWP Commission approved the transferring of fee title ownership of 17,845 acres in southeastern Montana to a private operator. The Department retained a conservation easement on the 17,845 acres and acquired a conservation easement on 22,959 additional acres from the private operator. Nearly 41,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat were, thus, protected in perpetuity.

FACT ■ Conservation easements are a unique way to protect wildlife habitat, conserve land, and open space from land use practices detrimental to the property's natural values. A conservation easement is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development and use allowed on the property.

A plan was prepared to conserve important wildlife habitat in the Blackfoot Valley. This plan utilizes conservation easements to keep private land in private ownership while providing for the basic needs of many wildlife species.

SYKES ACT ■ In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, 20 fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects were completed on public lands.

STATE WATERFOWL STAMP PROGRAM ■ Waterfowl enhancement projects were completed at 45 sites in 1993. Projects included clearing land, nesting culverts, goose nesting platforms, wood duck boxes and water control structures.

UPLAND GAME BIRD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ■ As of December 31, FWP had entered into over 500 contracts with private landowners through the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program. Nearly \$2 million has been committed to: shelterbelts totaling 8,263 acres; 10,044 acres of winter food plots; 70,378 acres of nesting cover and range management projects totaling 94,897 acres.

STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS ■ Twelve river restoration projects located on 11 streams statewide included approximately nine miles of riparian fencing, removal of two streamside feedlots, improved fish passage, willow planting, conversion of a flood irrigation system to sprinkler to preserve instream flows and installation of rock drop structures to reduce erosion.

Habitat restoration projects on tributaries of the Missouri River and Canyon Ferry Reservoir included the delivery of surplus water to traditionally dewatered stream sections (three miles), riparian fencing (one mile) and control and reduction of sedimentation (25 miles).

FACT ■ Over 2,100 individual citizens in Montana support so-called "A" projects.

In the Blackfoot River and Rock Creek drainages, restoration and enhancement efforts are underway through the cooperation of private landowners, federal agencies and private organizations. Projects include riparian vegetation enhancement, fish barrier removal to open spawning streams for cutthroat and bull trout and wetland and rangeland improvements to enhance fisheries habitat on approximately 147 miles of streams.

WATER LEASES ■ To ensure water necessary for a healthy fishery were approved and implemented on two streams.

Provide increased opportunities for public enjoyment of fish, wildlife and parks resources while maintaining our commitment to improve landowner-sportsperson

B

Highlights '93

PRIVATE LANDS/ PUBLIC WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL ■ FWP helped establish the Governor's Private Lands/Public Wildlife Advisory Council and local advisory groups to: address hunter access; protect wildlife habitat; minimize impacts on and inconvenience to landowners; maintain a viable outfitting industry; and provide tangible benefits to landowners who allow hunter access.

BLOCK MANAGEMENT ■ FWP's Block Management Program exceeded 5 million acres in 1993, with over 275 landowners cooperating in this land access program. Over 150,000 hunter days of recreation resulted.

As a result of changes in administrative rules specific to state lands access, FWP initiated rule making for Block Management Areas. Equal access, equal opportunity, availability of information and how to better ensure public participation in the discussion of how state lands will be included in the program were addressed.

FACT ■ Over 75 percent of the annual white-tailed deer and antelope harvest occurs on private lands in Montana.

MANAGING WILDLIFE NUMBERS ■ A record 75,000 antlerless elk permits were issued through special drawings.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES ■ In December, the FWP Commission accepted ownership of the 4,000-acre Thompson Chain of Lakes located between Kalispell and Libby. The Chain of Lakes Advisory Council helped develop a management plan and environmental assessment.

At Big Casino Creek Reservoir near Lewistown, a cooperative effort between a private landowner, Fergus County, the City of Lewistown and FWP resulted in flatwater fishing opportunities for those with disabilities and the residents of the State Center for the Aged.

FACT ■ In 1992, Montana lakes and reservoirs were stocked with over 34 million fish.

A disabled access/interpretive site at Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area was completed.

Special events at state parks were increased from 6 to 48. These included: Buzzard Day at Makoshika, Kids Day at Spring Meadow Lake and the Beach Olympics at Lake Elmo.

FORT PECK FISHERY ■ Fifty-four thousand Chinook salmon were released in an effort to establish a self-sustaining salmon fishery in Fort Peck Reservoir.

MAKOSHIKA IMPROVEMENTS ■ A new visitor center was nearing completion at the end of 1993 at Makoshika State Park. The center will serve as a focal point for Montana's largest state park providing visitor information, comfort services, a gift shop and park offices.

FACT ■ The first Olympic trailering stall was found at Makoshika State Park.

TRIBAL NEGOTIATIONS ■ A Memorandum of Understanding with the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation established a limited antelope hunting season for non-tribal members on tribal lands.

A meeting was held with the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation and with the Chippewa-Cree Tribes of the Rocky Boy Reservation to discuss consistent hunting and fishing seasons, bag limits, enforcement and conservation efforts on the reservations.

PROTECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES ■ Preservation and stabilization projects were completed at Plenty Coups and Bannack state parks as well as Elkhorn Ghost Town.

'94 and beyond ... areas of emphasis

We will:

- Increase emphasis on hunter access and landowner benefits through involvement with the Governor's Private Lands/Public Wildlife Advisory Council.
- Complete the rule-making process for the Block Management Program.
- Evaluate our game damage program with the intent of more effectively serving private landowners who allow public hunting access, but are being impacted by game damage.
- Continue to evaluate how recreational facilities and programs are designed for persons with disabilities.
- Increase efforts to provide more opportunity and training to women, youth and disabled persons interested in fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities.
- Continue discussions with Native American Tribes in Montana to address fish and wildlife issues within the boundaries of reservations.
- Provide more special events, interpretive trails and guided tours in state parks.
- Implement early moose, sheep and goat drawings to allow successful applicants additional time to plan their hunts.
- Evaluate an automated system to allow the use of personal credit cards for the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses.

Achieve a quality, financially sound State Park System.

C

Highlights '93

PARKS FUNDING ■ As a result of the 1993 legislative session, the Parks Division received funding to help in two new areas — from the State Accommodations Tax to maintain state parks, and from the Vehicle Fuel Tax to begin improving park system roads.

VOLUNTEERS ■ 22,000 hours of service were donated in Montana's State Park System.

PRIMITIVE PARKS ■ The 1993 Legislature passed the Primitive Parks Act restricting the development and collection of user fees at 15 state parks. Future development will be limited to replacing existing facilities, improving access for those with disabilities and solving health and safety problems.

PARTNERSHIPS ■ Management of Hell Creek on Fort Peck Reservoir and sites on Hauser Lake were negotiated.

FACT ■ Ulu Pishkui State Park is the largest buffalo mump in the world.

SITE TRANSFERS ■ Two state park sites at Holter Lake were transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. Bears Paw Battlefield near Chinook was transferred to the National Park Service. Management of Canyon Ferry was transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation.

'94 and beyond ... areas of emphasis

We will:

- Ask for public input as we develop management plans for some of our most popular state parks.
- Seek to retain our diverse funding and seek new sources to

meet needs such as protecting buffalo jumps, dinosaur fossil sites and historic buildings.

■ Improve the professional training of our staff so that they can better serve and care for the natural and cultural resources in Montana's parks.

■ Offer more educational and interpretive programs for state parks users.

■ Continue to stabilize historic buildings for future generations.

■ Continue repair of roads in state parks.

■ Continue to repair and replace worn out facilities, such as toilets, picnic tables and boat ramps.

■ Work with a statewide advisory committee on a State Trails Plan. Subsequent to the development of the plan, trails-related functions administered by FWP, such as the Off-Highway Vehicle program, will undergo environmental reviews.

Elevate the importance of public education and participation in all program areas to afford citizens the opportunity to better understand, appreciate and

D

Highlights '93

AQUATIC EDUCATION ■ Information such as posters, videos and computer programs were developed and provided for grades K-12.

Interpretive facilities at fish hatcheries, state parks and popular fishing access sites have been improved.

FISHING CLINICS ■ In cooperation with private conservation organizations, fishing clinics were conducted in all FWP regions. These clinics provided youngsters with the opportunity to learn first-hand how to fish and what fish and other stream species and streamside inhabitants need to survive.

YOUTH MAGAZINE ■ As a result of a public-private partnership, FWP is distributing a conservation education magazine to fourth graders throughout Montana. Teachers will use the information to conduct classroom activities.

FACT ■ 12 Montana youth attend 40 Private WLD camps and 40 youth workshops in 1993.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS ■ A program was initiated with the Montana Education Association to use state parks as outdoor classrooms by providing teachers with resource materials to use at those sites.

The number of youth educational tours at Bannack, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Canyon Ferry for eagle viewing, Grant Springs and Chief Plenty Coups were increased.

HUNTER/TRAPPER EDUCATION ■ Approximately 6,700 Montanans participated in Hunter Education and 1,000 Montanans participated in Bowhunter Education programs. In addition, Hunter Education courses for women were conducted in four FWP regions.

FACT ■ Montana's 700 annual Hunter Education instructors earned 700,000 hours of instruction in 1993.

Trapper Education courses were implemented statewide in cooperation with the Montana Trappers Association. The program teaches safe, legal, ethical and humane trapping practices.

WATER SAFETY ■ Approximately 1,800 individuals, pre-school to adult, participated in water safety and boating education programs.

FWP produced a motorboat operator home study course to fulfill new mandatory certification requirements of young boaters.

FORT PECK FISHING ■ A "Fort Peck Fishing Guide" showing key locations, illustrations of fish and other pertinent information was produced.

"3 MEN ... 3 RIVERS" ■ FWP released a national award-winning 16-mm film documentary entitled, "Three Men ... Three Rivers." The intent of the documentary is to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the many values of our rivers and what they mean to our way of life.

FACT ■ "Lumber On the Loose" is a new resident newsletter to help educate in the United States.

REACHING OUT ■ FWP produced a pilot video newsletter that was distributed to groups throughout Montana. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform viewers of Department-related issues, activities and programs.

TELEVISION ■ Fifty-six weekly outdoor programs were produced for Montana television stations.

LIVING WITH GRIZZLIES ■ A brochure on living in grizzly country was produced by the Department in cooperation with the Flathead National Forest. Information is included on bear biology and human behavior and safety in grizzly country.

'94 and beyond ... areas of emphasis

We will:

- Expand the aquatic education program to include a warm water segment.
- Work with private interests to renovate FWP's Helena-based wild animal shelter to include facility improvement and expanded educational opportunities.
- Expand educational opportunities at the Lewis and Clark Caverns and Makoshika visitor centers.
- Develop five-year plans to guide hunter and bowhunter education. Included will be priorities, goals and objectives.
- Complete a video program in cooperation with the agricultural community and sportsmen/women addressing grazing and the implications to ranch operations, wildlife and the public.

Create a work environment where a diverse workforce can focus on Fish, Wildlife & Parks priorities under healthy satisfying and

E

Highlights '93

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND EXCELLENCE OF FWP PROGRAMS ■ A committee was appointed to address agency culture, working environment and workforce diversity. The primary objectives were to: assure long-term success of FWP programs; improve service to the people who value and participate in those programs; improve hiring and promotion practices and improve retention of experienced employees who are instrumental in developing, implementing and delivering FWP programs and services.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY ■ FWP formed a safety committee, developed a safety policy format and conducted a Department-wide employee safety survey.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE ■ FWP contracted to provide an employee assistance program. The program provides confidential assistance for problems that may be interfering with an employee's family life or the employee's work. This program is designed to help employees get back to full productivity.

'94 and beyond ... areas of emphasis

We will:

- Develop an action plan to improve work environment and workforce diversity.
- Implement recommendations resulting from the employee safety survey.