

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 1995 (budgeted)

REVENUE DEFINITIONS:

GENERAL FUND State tax dollars

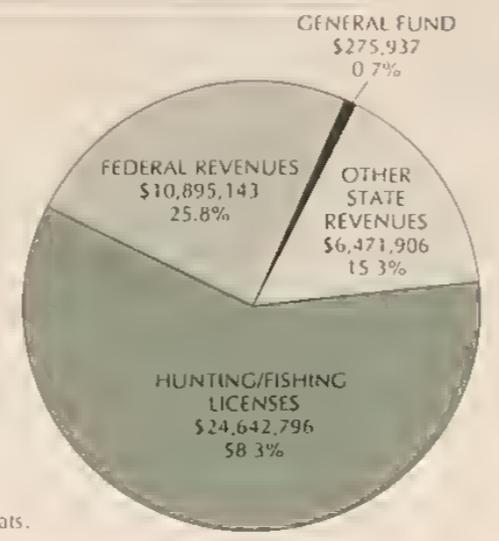
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES This includes license sales revenue, interest earnings and other miscellaneous revenue. *Non-resident license sales account for nearly 1/3 of FWP's total license revenue*

OTHER STATE REVENUES — Other State revenue sources include: 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 FY95 nearly 90% of FWP's federal assistance, or approximately \$9 million, was apportioned to Montana for fish and wildlife restoration through the Pittman-Robertson (P.R.) and Wallop-Breaux (W.B.) programs. P.R. monies are derived from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, pistols and revolvers and certain archery equipment. W.B. monies are derived from an excise tax on fishing equipment and electric 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



TOTAL REVENUES: \$42,285,781

FWP SPENDS ITS MONEY 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 and to acquire land.

FISCAL YEAR 1995 (estimated)

Where the money goes

Parks:

Operating	\$5,695,587
Capital	2,743,729
Total	\$8,439,316
% of Total	20.0%

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

Conservation Education:

Operating	\$1,787,842
Capital	100,000
Total	\$1,887,842
% of Total	4.5%

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:

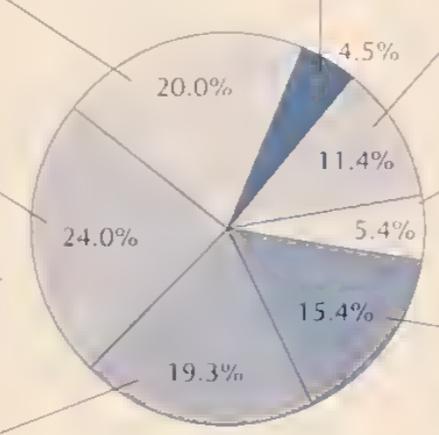
Operating	\$4,827,293
% of Total	11.4%

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

Wildlife:

Operating	\$6,901,859
Capital	3,237,750
Total	\$10,139,609
% of Total	24.0%

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



Field Services:

Operating	\$2,291,707
% of Total	5.4%

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

Management and Finance:

Operating	\$6,368,939
Capital	156,500
Total	\$6,525,439
% of Total	15.4%

The Helena-based Director's Office staff 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

Fisheries:

Operating	\$5,445,575
Capital	2,729,000
Total	\$8,174,575
% of Total	19.3%

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

DEPARTMENT TOTAL:

Operating	\$33,318,802
Capital	8,966,979
Total	\$42,285,781

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Annual Report



Following the review of comments from thousands of Montanans involved in a long-range planning process, the department in 1991 established several goals. A brief overview of some of the more significant accomplishments of the past year in relation to those goals follows, in this annual report for

Conserving Habitat

Wildlife Habitat Conservation/Enhancement

A policy called "Habitat Montana," which will guide the acquisition of lands in the future, was adopted by the FWP Commission

In keeping with the intent of HB 526, a habitat acquisition initiative passed by the 1987 Legislature, the department has increased efforts to conserve critical habitat through acquisition of conservation easements. Conservation easements were negotiated on 49,178 acres at a cost of \$3,659,000. Fee title was acquired to 1,280 acres at a cost of \$155,000.

Private landowners, Ducks Unlimited, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cooperated on 109 waterfowl enhancement projects, resulting in nearly 8,000 acres being improved. Over \$180,000 was expended.

As of December 1994, 200,000 acres of upland game bird habitat had been improved, the result of over 575 projects with individual land managers.

Stream Habitat Improvement

Construction began on a selective withdrawal system for Hungry Horse Dam. The system will correct a long-standing water temperature problem in the Flathead River.

In cooperation with the state Department of Transportation, FWP placed boulder structures in the Marias River to provide fish habitat and mitigate effects of bridge construction. FWP also worked with the Marias River Advisory Committee and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to modify outflow from Tiber Dam to produce a more natural springtime flow pattern in the Marias and to benefit fisheries and aquatic habitat.

Participation continued in federal licensing of hydropower facilities at Tiber Dam and seven Montana Power Company dams on the Missouri River. Operating guidelines to protect, maintain and enhance aquatic and recreational resources were recommended.

Special Opportunities

"CROSSING THE BARRIERS"

• FWP increased its efforts to reduce barriers to individuals with disabilities by providing accessible facilities at 19 fishing access sites & 11 state parks.

• A disabled persons access planning and management program was initiated at Freezeout Lake Wildlife Management Area

• An accessible fishing pier was completed at Lake Elmo in Billings, dedicated to the memory of Roger Fligel, the late Region Five supervisor, & to the broad spectrum of users seeking access to Montana's recreational resources.

WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS • A "Becoming an Outdoorswoman" workshop was hosted in August. Approximately 75 women attended from 18 different states. Choosing from a variety of classes, they gained new outdoor skills or improved on their present skills.

1994 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



Some Species & Issues Demanded Special Attention

FISH OF SPECIAL CONCERN

A paddlefish management plan was prepared in cooperation with North Dakota. The plan takes the research and information strategies obtained in both states and lays out possible management strategies and harvest quotas that will join management of this interstate fisheries resource. Five hundred native paddlefish were marked above Fort Peck Dam to study their movements and mortality in the Missouri. Work with larval paddlefish in the Yellowstone River has pinpointed paddlefish spawning to an area near the Montana/North Dakota border. This will allow protection of critical paddlefish spawning habitat.

FWP chaired the Governor's Bull Trout Restoration

WILDLIFE EFFORTS

FWP completed an environmental impact statement to guide development of a plan for future management of black bears in Montana. Team, charged with preparing a bull trout recovery plan for Montana. Several FWP biologists participated on the scientific group, which is providing the Restoration Team with technical expertise in the development of the plan. In addition, stream restoration activities to help bull trout recover were undertaken in the Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Flathead drainages.

An inventory was taken of streams draining the Bear-tooth and Pryor Mountains to clarify the present distribution of pure-strain Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Surveys to determine the distribution & abundance of pure, native Missouri River [Westlope] cutthroat trout were conducted in the upper Missouri River Basin



An environmental impact statement to guide future management of mountain lions began during 1994. The EIS, to be completed in early autumn of 1995, will form the basis for developing a management plan for lions

Twenty-seven river restoration projects were approved. When completed these projects will result in improvements to instream fish cover, spawning habitat, fish passage, and/or riparian vegetation on 24 miles of Montana's rivers and streams and four lakes. These projects will also improve trout survival in many additional miles of the Jefferson, Blair, Kootenai, Yellowstone, Clark Fork, Bitterroot & Missouri rivers. The \$363,313 authorization will be matched by an additional \$707,225 in funding, or in-kind services, from other sources.

Water Conservation

Completed the second year of two water leases on Mill Creek of the Yellowstone and implemented a new lease on Blanchard Creek on the Blackfoot.

A water reservation for fisheries and recreational needs was granted on the lower Missouri River Basin.

Cooperative efforts with water users in the upper Big Hole Basin resulted in additional water in the river. These projects included stock tank development & modified irrigation water management.

WHIRLING DISEASE

In December of 1994, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks announced that whirling disease is the suspected cause of a 90 percent decline in the upper Madison River's wild rainbow trout population. Whirling disease is a parasitic and potentially fatal infection of trout and salmon for which there is no known cure.

FWP is seeking to decipher the relationship between wild trout and the whirling disease parasite. Through intensive study and experimentation, FWP hopes to find a mechanism or technique for controlling the spread of the disease.

A game farm program coordinator was hired to facilitate cooperation with the Department of Livestock, Montana Game Breeders Association and conservation groups. A primary goal was to draft revisions to the game farm rules for public review prior to the 1995 Legislature.

FWP, assisted by the Department of Livestock, collected 125 free-ranging deer in an effort to evaluate the incidence of tuberculosis in wildlife and reduce the probability of the disease becoming established or spreading in the immediate vicinity of the Elk Valley Game Farm, a known source of the disease.

Maintaining Montana's Recreational Opportunities



PRIVATE LANDS/PUBLIC WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL

FWP facilitated the Governor's Private Lands/ Public Wildlife Advisory Council. Addressed were: hunter access, wildlife habitat protection, impacts on and inconvenience to landowners, tangible benefits to landowners who allow hunters access, and maintaining a viable outfitting industry. Legislation stemming from recommendations of the Council was prepared for presentation to the '95 Legislature.

ENFORCEMENT

- Montana state game wardens contacted 46,000 hunters, 52,000 anglers, 8,000 landowners, 750 trappers, 17,415 boaters, 13,100 snowmobilers & 2,700 OHV riders.
- Efforts in the area of license fraud investigations of non-residents buying resident hunting and fishing licenses were increased.

COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

- Twenty-nine grazing leases and 17 share-cropping leases are in place on 24 of Montana's 65 wildlife management areas. These leases, in turn, provide approximately 18,000 AUMs and 4,500 acres of cropland for members of Montana's agricultural community.
- FWP spent approximately \$220,000 in efforts to reduce game damage/depredation problems.
- FWP spent approximately \$110,000 on weed control efforts on department properties, principally wildlife management areas, fishing access sites and state parks.
- Payments equal to taxes paid on department lands totaled \$266,800 in 1994.

BLOCK MANAGEMENT

- Through the Block Management Area (BMA) Program, 3.3 million acres of private land were opened to public access on 244 BMAs.
- Rules for BMAs were completed. They should help ensure equal access, opportunity, availability of information and better public participation in the discussion of how state lands will be included in the program.

HUNTING

- Moose, sheep and goat license drawings were separated from all other drawings and conducted 60 days earlier than in previous years. This allowed successful applicants more time for scouting & planning their hunts.
- Nine Montana communities received new shooting range grants bringing the total to 37 grants that have been awarded for the improvement of state public ranges. Grants are awarded on a 1:1 matching basis—for each state dollar, local sponsors provide a matching dollar.

A promotional manual specific to Montana's Hunting Heritage Week was developed for use by interested organizations. The topics include how to organize and publicize events, generate interest & work with local media.

FISHING

- In Canyon Ferry Reservoir, a change in the management of rainbow trout continues to improve fishing success. Rainbow trout numbers have increased over 400 percent. Illegal introductions of walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike may, however, negatively impact the future of the Canyon Ferry trout fishery.
- FWP completed a three-year project to rejuvenate the Marias River-Tailswater rainbow trout population by introducing wild rainbows.
- Forty million eggs, a record, were taken at walleye stations on Fort Peck Reservoir. Young fish raised from this effort will enhance walleye fishing throughout central and eastern Montana.
- Region One's kokanee egg take goal of 4 million eggs was exceeded by over 1 million. Five million eggs are being held for development and release in 1995.

Fishing access opportunities were improved by adding seven new sites and initiating site protection and facility improvement at 19 others.

SMITH RIVER

- The second year of the boater launch allocation and permitting system was completed on the Smith.
- A boating access take-out site was acquired at Eden Bridge on the Smith.

TRIBAL NEGOTIATIONS

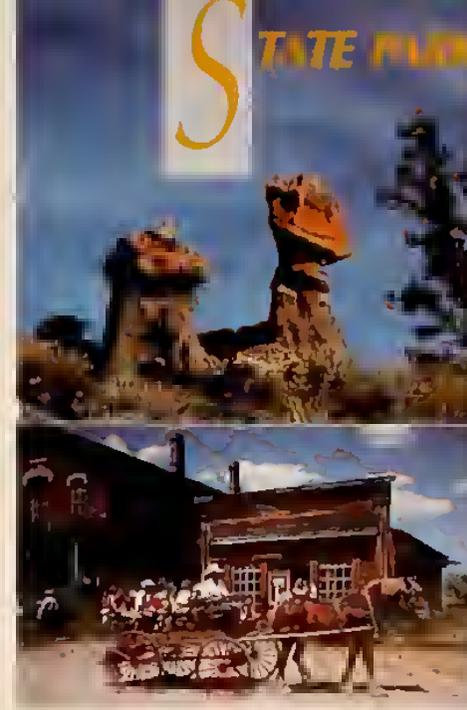
The state-tribal agreement was reauthorized regarding bird hunting and fishing on lands of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai tribes.

TRAILS

A state trails plan & Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was initiated. This will be the first state-wide look at trails in Montana.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

- Five new brochures on wildlife viewing were completed. They are: "Bald Eagles on the Move - Montana's Fall Gatherings," "A Guide to Ultimate Wildlife Viewing," "Wildlife Viewing on the Rocky Mountain Front," "Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Viewing Guide," and "Watchable Wildlife Safari for the Glasgow Area." These brochures were all developed and funded in partnership with other state and federal agencies and private organizations.
- Over 14,000 people observed bald eagles feeding on spawning kokanee salmon at Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The viewing opportunities were the result of a multi-agency effort coordinated by FWP.



BISON Fifty more bison from Yellowstone National Park were killed in Montana in 1994, bringing the total killed since 1985 to nearly 1,500. The problem revolves around two conflicting federal policies. While National Park Service policy is to allow nature to regulate animal numbers within Yellowstone, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service administers the National Brucellosis Program, which prohibits the presence of animals infected with brucellosis in Montana if the state wishes to maintain its brucellosis-free status. Montana is caught in the middle of these two conflicting federal policies, unable to control the source of the problem, but forced to deal with it in Montana.

While a long-range plan is being developed, Governor Racicot has filed a lawsuit against the federal government, resulting in an imposed dialogue and movement toward a long-term solution.



STATE PARKS OFFER AN ESCAPE/PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

- PROTECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES** • Building stabilization & archaeological preservation continued at Rosebud Battlefield, Bannack, Elkhorn, Fort Owen, Chief Plenty Coups & Granite state parks.
- Purchase of a conservation easement at Pictograph Cave State Park will allow FWP to address the deterioration of prehistoric pictographs through control of surface water runoff.
- PARTNERSHIPS** • Negotiations were successful for a four-way partnership among FWP and federal agencies for the management, development & operation of Hell Creek State Park at Fort Peck Reservoir.
- At Medicine Rocks State Park near Baker, an agreement with Fallon & Carter counties has led to road improvements and maintenance by the road departments of these two counties.
- SPECIAL EVENTS & INTERPRETATION** • Special events at 26 state parks, such as Bannack Days, holiday candlelight tours at Lewis & Clark Caverns and beach games at Lake Elmo were hosted.
- Through a public/private partnership, an educational video on Makoshika State Park was produced.
- NEW OPPORTUNITIES** • A new visitor center was constructed at Makoshika State Park in Glendive.
- SITE IMPROVEMENTS** • Major site improvements were completed at Black Sandy on Hauser Reservoir north of Helena and Cooney Reservoir southwest of Billings.
- Additional site improvements and rehabilitation took place at parks scattered throughout Montana. They included Wayfarer's Lake Elmo, Lewis & Clark Caverns, Lone Pine, Hell Creek, Makoshika Salmon Lake, Placid Lake and Tongue River Reservoir state parks. Roads, sanitary facilities, boat ramps, docks, building rehabilitation and improved water systems were included in the projects.
- VOLUNTEERS** • In state parks donated hours equivalent to 10 full-time employees to the department.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

YOUTH EDUCATION

- Approximately 6,500 students were certified in Hunter Education, 2,143 in Bowhunter Education and 200 in Trapper Education.
- FWP conducted or participated in 42 "How to Fish" clinics to ensure that new anglers base knowledge, responsible attitudes and skills to appreciate fisheries resources, 6,630 youngsters attended.
- Through Project WILD, in partnership with Montana's educational community, FWP provided training sessions, curriculum guides & resource materials on Montana's natural resources to school administrators, teachers and youth groups throughout Montana. The training occurred through 37 workshops involving 962 teachers and administrators. An estimated 12,698 students were reached through these efforts.
- Over 3,000 educators received information on FWP's education assistance program at the Montana Education Association & Montana Federation of Teachers joint conference in Billings.

- FWP provided stipends to eight Flathead Reservation teachers who participated in curriculum development and implementation workshops at the Salish-Kootenai College designed to bring water quality and environmental management content into their classrooms.
- FWP provided River Watch equipment and training to nine schools: Livingston, Big Timber, Laurel, Billings West High, Hardin, Fergus, Miles City, Savage and Terry in the Yellowstone River watershed. Fourteen teachers involved 516 students in the program and spent 100 hours sampling water with students and 190 hours teaching in the classroom.
- FWP distributed a conservation education magazine, *Falcon*, to fourth graders throughout Montana. Eighty-seven percent of the teachers interviewed indicated they increased the amount of time they spent teaching about fish and wildlife in their classes as a result. Ninety-two percent of the teachers interviewed said they believe their students increased their awareness and knowledge of fish and wildlife and the importance of habitat as a result of the magazine.

TELEVISION

FWP produced 56 weekly television "Outdoor Reports," which air on all Montana television stations during their evening newscasts. The "Outdoor Report" reaches a potential 300,000 households each week and reflects a diversity of outdoor activities involving Montanans and FWP.



CONFLICT resolution

- FWP hosted workshops on crowding and recreational conflicts on Montana rivers, lakes & reservoirs. Participants, including representatives of aquatic recreation groups, the outfitting industry, resource management agencies and industry, developed legislation and educational materials to help relieve future conflicts and to protect resource quality.
- A Hunter Focus Group project in one FWP region yielded extensive information and suggestions regarding FWP's relationship with hunters.