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# BIENNIAL REPORT

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Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

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The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is charged with the responsibility of managing Montana's fish, wildlife and recreational resources and with providing optimum outdoor recreational opportunities for Montanans and their guests.

Montanans have always enjoyed abundant and high quality hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation. This has been due partly to the state's geography, but it has also required aggressive fish, wildlife and parks management and good stewardship of our basic resources -- land and water.

As the demands upon land and water become greater, the job of providing optimum outdoor recreational opportunities is compounded. But we are determined to meet this challenge through more refined and innovative management and through enhanced public information and education efforts.





# ORGANIZATION

Commission: Montana is divided into five Fish and Game Commission Districts. Each District is represented by one Fish and Game Commissioner.

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate. Three are appointed to serve terms concurrent with the gubernatorial term. The remaining two members are appointed to serve terms that end on the first day of the third January of the following gubernatorial term.

Director: The Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Director is also appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Director serves a term concurrent with that of the Governor. The Director is the chief administrative officer of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, is responsible for all programs and actions of the Department and has direct authority over all activities and employees of the Department.

Deputy Director: The Deputy Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the following Division Administrators: Enforcement, Centralized Services and Conservation Education.

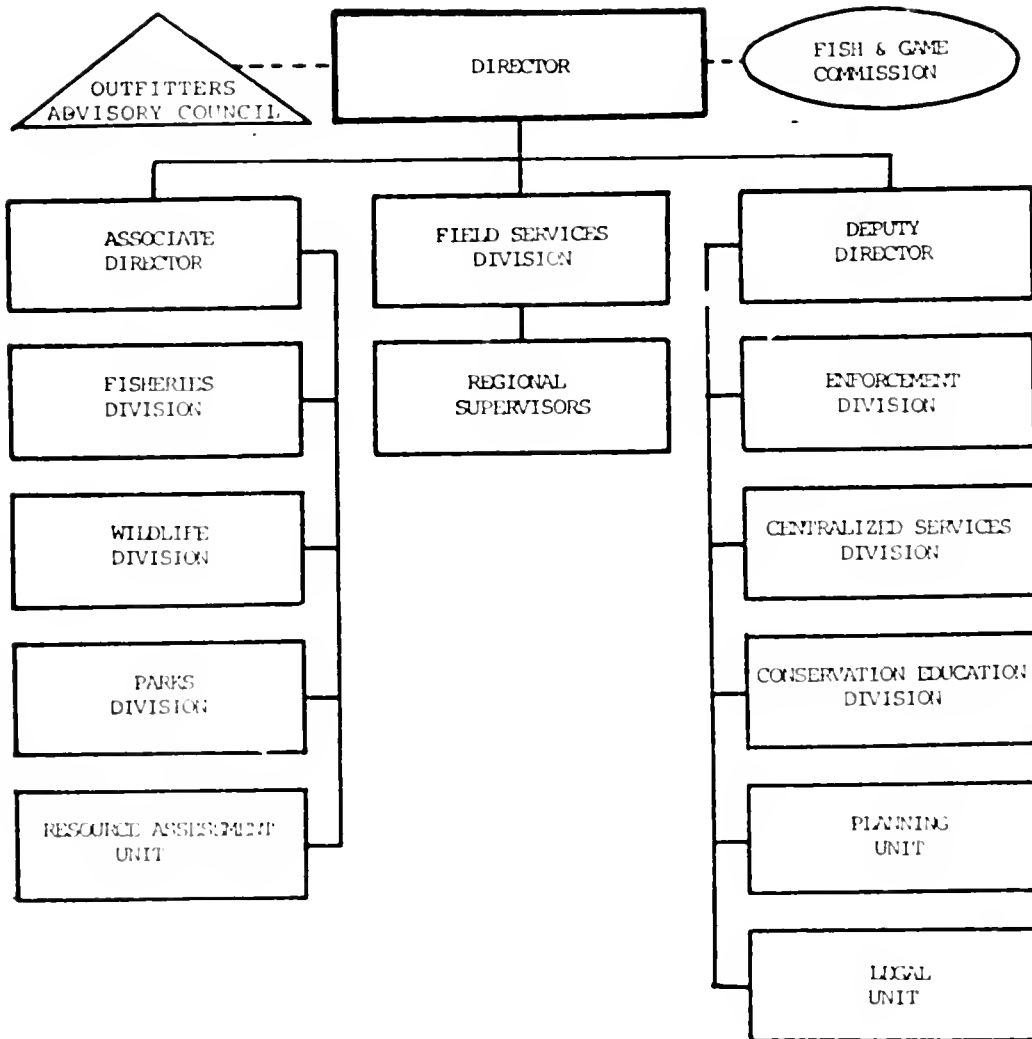
Associate Director: The Associate Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the following Division Administrators: Fisheries, Wildlife, Parks and Field Services.

Division Administrators: Division Administrators are staff officers who advise the director on matters related to resource management, administration of resource programs and other special problems related to the division's area of expertise.

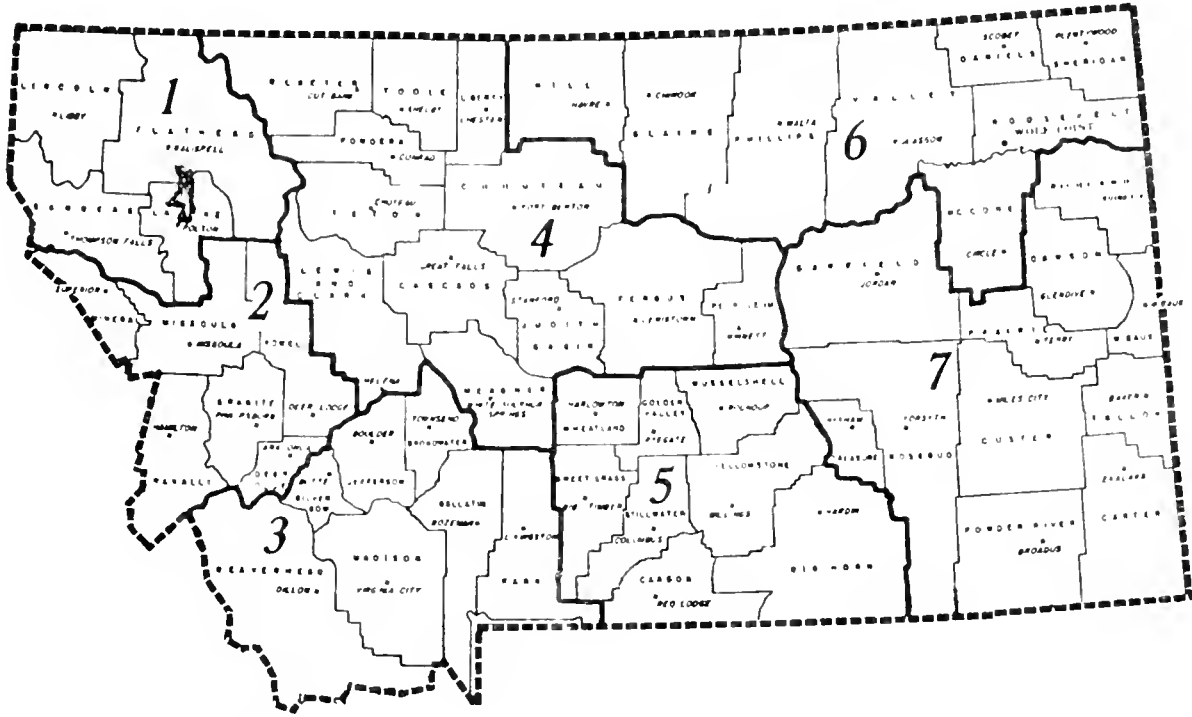
Administrators are responsible for statewide programs and budgets which they recommend to the Director after considering, among other things, requests and proposals from Regional Supervisors.

Administrators maintain line authority over division staff personnel as assigned by the Director.

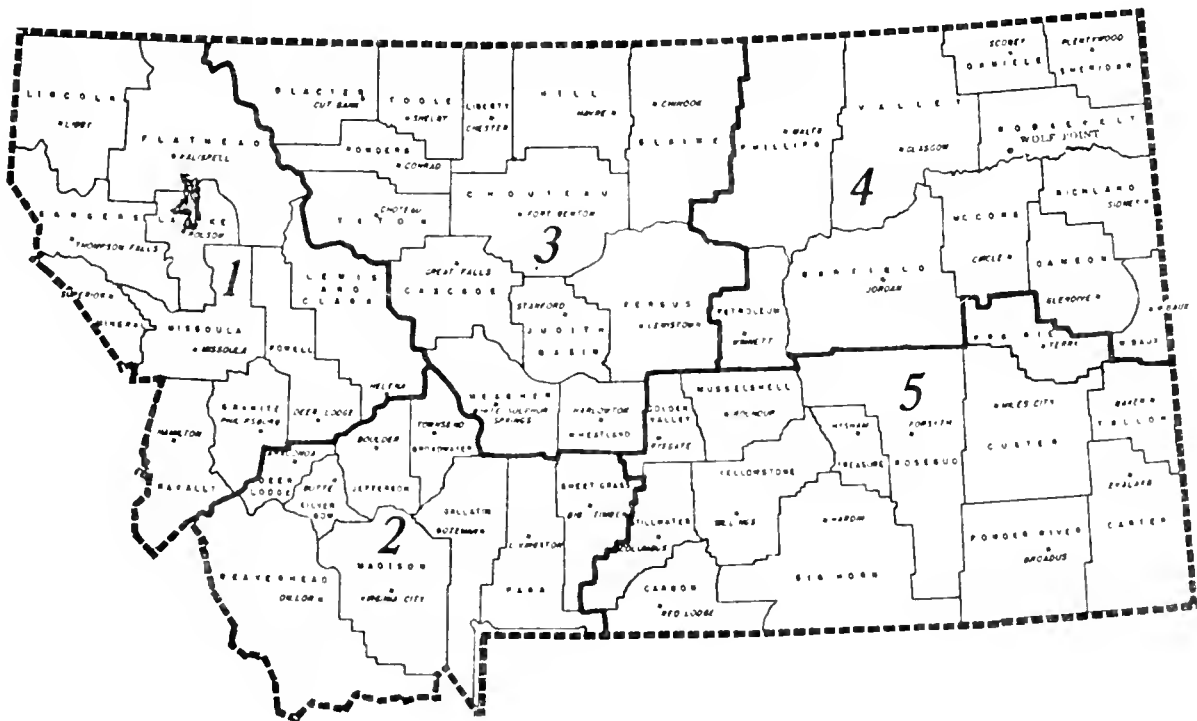
Regional Supervisors: Regional Supervisors are line officers who are the Director's representatives in each administrative region. As such, they are the chief administrative officers for the respective regions.







**Fish, Wildlife and Parks Administrative Regions**



**Fish and Game Commission Districts**

# DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The Department's major source of funding is revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The 1985 Legislature approved several license fee increases that were effective during the 1986-1987 biennium. These fee increases were as follows:

## Resident Licenses

\$1 on the Sportsman's  
\$1 on the Season Fishing

## Nonresident Licenses

\$50 on the Big Game Combination  
\$5 on the Season Fishing  
\$2 on the 2-Day Fishing  
\$7 on the Paddlefish Tag

In addition to these fee increases, the Legislature approved the following new licenses and programs:

- (1) \$200 Resident and \$1,000 Nonresident Buffalo Licenses
- (2) \$5 Waterfowl Stamp and the Sale of Related Artwork
- (3) 1 Mountain Sheep License Sold at Auction

The department's second major source of income is federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funding. These funds are derived from excise taxes on sport hunting and fishing equipment, motorboat fuel taxes, and import duties on yachts and fishing equipment. These funds are available to the states on a matching basis, 75 percent federal and 25 percent state. The size of the allotment depends upon the state's land area and the number of paid fishing and hunting license holders.

New federal legislation has resulted in a significant increase in the Dingell-Johnson funds available for state fisheries programs. Those funds available to Montana are now more than triple the level of Fiscal Year 1985 funding.

The department also receives interest earned on a portion of the coal severance tax. These interest earnings are used to acquire, develop, and maintain state park system sites. That portion of the tax on which the department receives the interest earnings was capped by the legislature at the June 30, 1986, level. This situation, coupled with declining interest rates, has resulted in decreased interest earnings from this source.

Other sources of funding include federal and private contracts, cabin site and concession rentals, campground fees, entrance fees at Lewis and Clark State Caverns, and fines collected from violators of fish and game, motorboat and snowmobile laws. In addition, the department receives a portion of the gasoline tax for use on areas at which motorboats are operated and for use in providing snowmobiling facilities and promotion of snowmobile safety and education.

Revenue Summary  
FY 1986 and FY 1987

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>FY 1986</u>	<u>FY 1987</u>
Nongame Checkoff	\$ 25,890	\$ 29,316
Waterfowl Stamp & Art	2,609	338,009
Mtn. Sheep Auction	71,100	98,100
Snowmobile Fuel Tax	334,405	359,160
Coal Tax Interest	1,682,115	1,240,332
Fish & Game Lic.	15,966,236	15,576,294
Mt. Outdoors	207,720	193,194
Miscellaneous	74,426	99,760
Property Trust Int.	69,693	88,994
Park Fees	427,137	466,733
Motorboat Fuel Tax	584,571	646,487
Boat Fines	9,109	9,885
Boat Reg. Fees	36,118	35,104
Snowmobile Fines	4,659	4,811
Snowmobile Reg. Fees	34,790	39,666
Fish & Game Fines	221,123	218,014
PR Revenue	3,083,854	2,104,484
DJ Revenue	1,432,011	1,851,955
LWCF	540,014	730,459
Other Fed. & Priv. Rev.	2,360,215	1,971,279
Overhead	690,558	709,523
Revolving Accts.	1,838,128	1,645,103
Property Trust Deposits	388,625	248,015
Total Revenue	<u>\$30,085,106</u>	<u>\$28,704,677</u>

Operating Expenditures  
FY 1986

	Centralized Services	Field Services	Fisheries	Enforcement	Wildlife	Parks	Con. Educ.	Admin.	Total
FTE	46.52	32.15	99.64	87.33	93.34	99.61	21.5	13.36	493.45
Personal Services	\$972,225	\$844,786	\$2,426,736	\$2,652,512	\$2,592,601	\$1,942,565	\$627,712	\$497,544	\$12,556,681
Operations	\$1,875,758	\$469,340	\$1,197,355	\$816,733	\$1,860,501	\$1,192,384	\$464,827	\$315,807	\$8,192,705
Equipment	\$573,490	\$41,663	\$162,073	\$81,946	\$238,100	\$193,335	\$47,086	\$114,358	\$1,452,051
Other		\$8,310	\$36,376	\$221,265	\$6,021	\$638,689		\$155,000	\$1,065,661
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,421,473</b>	<b>\$1,364,099</b>	<b>\$3,822,540</b>	<b>\$3,772,456</b>	<b>\$4,697,223</b>	<b>\$3,966,973</b>	<b>\$1,139,625</b>	<b>\$1,082,709</b>	<b>\$23,267,098</b>
Funding									
General Fund						\$405,053			\$405,053
License Acct.	\$1,158,094	\$1,058,678	\$2,847,833	\$3,338,111	\$2,501,341	\$889,205	\$1,003,296	\$900,681	\$13,697,239
Insurance Acct.		\$3,500							\$3,500
Non-Game					\$32,434				\$32,434
Waterfowl Stamp									\$0
Mountain Sheep									\$0
Snowmobile Fuel Tax	\$35,926					\$451,184	\$35,971		\$523,081
Coat Tax	\$76,406			\$30,430		\$593,655	\$2,952		\$703,443
Trust Earnings									\$0
Parks Misc.	\$66,183			\$52,893		\$307,391			\$426,467
Motorboat Fuel Tax	\$123,894			\$78,725		\$573,436	\$12,909		\$788,964
Motorboat Cert.	\$5,741			\$33,072			\$9,407		\$48,220
Snowmobile Reg.	\$5,124			\$17,960		\$13,030			\$36,114
Fishing Access						\$77,483			\$77,483
Warden Retirement				\$221,265					\$221,265
PR-DJ			\$871,546		\$2,163,448		\$75,090		\$3,110,084
LWCF						\$428,487			\$428,487
Overhead	\$209,617	\$301,921						\$182,028	\$693,566
Other Federal			\$103,161						\$103,161
Snowgroomer R/A						\$74,053			\$74,053
Print Shop R/A	\$161,786								\$161,786
Vehicle R/A	\$1,377,856								\$1,377,856
Warehouse R/A	\$200,846								\$200,846
Grounds Maint. R/A						\$153,996			\$153,996
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,421,473</b>	<b>\$1,364,099</b>	<b>\$3,822,540</b>	<b>\$3,772,456</b>	<b>\$4,697,223</b>	<b>\$3,966,973</b>	<b>\$1,139,625</b>	<b>\$1,082,709</b>	<b>\$23,267,098</b>
LCA/Budget Amend	\$4	\$44,502	\$1,150,141	\$87,382	\$710,914		\$40,240		\$2,033,183
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,421,477</b>	<b>\$1,408,601</b>	<b>\$4,972,681</b>	<b>\$3,859,838</b>	<b>\$5,408,137</b>	<b>\$3,966,973</b>	<b>\$1,179,865</b>	<b>\$1,082,709</b>	<b>\$25,300,281</b>

Operating Expenditures  
FY 1987

	Centralized Services	Field Services	Fisheries	Enforcement	Wildlife	Parks	Con. Educ.	Admin.	Total
FTE	47.43	32.15	100.54	88.18	93.51	97.64	22.05	13.46	494.96
Personal Services	\$1,004,571	\$931,817	\$2,643,723	\$2,755,458	\$2,620,835	\$1,997,612	\$662,860	\$501,589	\$13,118,465
Operations	\$1,556,628	\$354,078	\$1,014,555	\$616,888	\$1,874,561	\$999,544	\$400,130	\$174,862	\$6,991,246
Equipment	\$596,687	\$30,669	\$61,303	\$16,981	\$38,239	\$170,419	\$9,268	\$9,107	\$932,673
Other	\$2,002	\$2,002	\$26,057	\$218,582	\$9,809	\$176,800		\$101,213	\$536,465
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,159,888</b>	<b>\$1,318,566</b>	<b>\$3,745,638</b>	<b>\$3,607,909</b>	<b>\$4,543,444</b>	<b>\$3,344,375</b>	<b>\$1,072,258</b>	<b>\$786,771</b>	<b>\$21,578,849</b>
<b>Funding</b>									
License Acct.	\$1,158,278	\$969,804	\$2,711,184	\$3,158,897	\$2,300,377	\$785,021	\$963,625	\$603,797	\$12,650,983
Insurance Acct.									\$0
Non-Game					\$42,379				\$42,379
Waterfowl Stamp					\$58,122				\$58,122
Mountain Sheep					\$15,502				\$15,502
Snowmobile Fuel Tax	\$61,385					\$255,820	\$19,419		\$336,624
Coal Tax	\$80,592			\$32,774		\$1,004,444	\$1,490		\$1,119,300
Trust Earnings									\$0
Parks Misc.	\$61,488			\$53,771		\$296,942			\$412,201
Motorboat Fuel Tax	\$117,335			\$90,906		\$557,693	\$8,480		\$774,414
Motorboat Cert.	\$6,128			\$35,015			\$3,932		\$45,075
Snowmobile Reg.	\$4,899			\$17,964		\$13,310			\$36,173
Fishing Access						\$77,134			\$77,134
Warden Retirement				\$218,582					\$218,582
PR-DJ			\$919,022		\$2,127,064		\$75,312		\$3,121,398
LWCF						\$129,465			\$129,465
Overhead	\$167,159	\$348,762						\$182,974	\$698,895
Other Federal			\$115,432			\$4,124			\$119,556
Snowgroomer R/A						\$76,155			\$76,155
Print Shop R/A	\$163,805								\$163,805
Vehicle R/A	\$1,219,260								\$1,219,260
Warehouse R/A	\$119,559								\$119,559
Grounds Maint. R/A						\$144,267			\$144,267
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,159,888</b>	<b>\$1,318,566</b>	<b>\$3,745,638</b>	<b>\$3,607,909</b>	<b>\$4,543,444</b>	<b>\$3,344,375</b>	<b>\$1,072,258</b>	<b>\$786,771</b>	<b>\$21,578,849</b>
LCA/Budget Amend.		\$43,354	\$1,163,476	\$156,307	\$624,008		\$48,402	\$4,100	\$2,039,647
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,159,888</b>	<b>\$1,361,920</b>	<b>\$4,909,114</b>	<b>\$3,764,216</b>	<b>\$5,167,452</b>	<b>\$3,294,875</b>	<b>\$1,120,660</b>	<b>\$790,871</b>	<b>\$23,618,496</b>

# CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION

The Centralized Services Division is an administrative and support unit comprised of two bureaus. The Accounting and Finance Bureau is responsible for recording all the financial transactions of the Department. This bureau also acts as a liaison with federal and state auditors and other agencies who review the Department's accounting records. In addition, the bureau assists in preparing the biennial budget, manages the Department's warehouse and vehicle fleet, and provides carpentry and metal work services.

The License Bureau has two major functions -- administering the license drawings and distributing licenses to license agents.

The Department maintains over 400 license agents throughout the state. These agents sell approximately one million general hunting and fishing licenses per year. It is the bureau's responsibility to design the licenses, consign them to agents and properly account for the proceeds.

The License Bureau also administers the processing of all mail for the Helena Headquarters and the supply room, which maintains a stock of office supplies for Helena and regional personnel. In addition, the bureau provides computer programming support and printing services for all Department personnel.

The Centralized Services Division also incorporates the Word Processing Section, which provides typing services for all personnel, and the Federal Aid Coordination Unit, which is responsible for ensuring that department projects meet the eligibility criteria for receiving federal funds.

Many Montanans apply for special hunting licenses and permits. The License Bureau is assigned the responsibility of supervising the random selection of the applicants according to state laws and Montana Fish and Game Commission policies. In 1987, 91,505 special licenses and permits were issued through the special drawings. The table below summarizes the numbers of applicants and successful applicants over the past four years. Increased public interest in obtaining one of these limited licenses is evidenced by these figures.

DRAWING APPLICATIONS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Antelope	56,282	58,354	51,604	55,302
Deer A*	8,501	10,976	6,253	7,396
Deer B	44,389	50,386	37,266	34,470
Elk Permit	81,098	87,697	79,310	84,894
Deer Permit	9,923	0	0	8,312
Moose	16,109	18,562	17,572	20,371
Sheep	7,147	8,341	8,628	10,538
Goat	<u>4,685</u>	<u>5,227</u>	<u>5,182</u>	<u>5,888</u>
TOTAL	228,134	239,543	205,815	227,171

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Antelope	39,080	38,250	39,489	42,801
Deer A*	4,733	2,500	1,500	2,380
Deer B	40,757	38,509	21,722	17,294
Elk Permit	19,260	23,719	21,768	20,970
Deer Permit	400	0	0	6,547
Moose	645	616	672	687
Sheep	744	562	610	513
Goat	<u>351</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>313</u>
TOTAL	105,970	104,508	86,111	91,505



SUMMARY OF LICENSES AND LICENSE FEES -- 1982 - 1986

License Name	1982	Cost	1983	Cost	1984	Cost	1985	Cost	1986	Cost
Res Antelope	28,111	5.00	36,860	5.00	37,314	5.00	33,869	6.00	36,711	6.00
Res Antelope, 2nd	0		0		7,278	3.00	8,620	3.00	14,463	3.00
Res Bird	46,061	4.00	50,903	4.00	44,716	4.00	37,627	4.00	34,324	4.00
Res Black Bear	7,223	8.00	6,018	8.00	5,392	8.00	5,617	8.00	5,849	8.00
Res Buffalo	0		0		0		40	200.00	20	200.00
Res Conservation	272,585	2.00	272,714	2.00	270,813	2.00	265,342	2.00	259,878	2.00
Res Deer A	131,051	8.00	129,594	9.00	122,309	9.00	111,698	9.00	108,087	9.00
Res Deer A - S, Y & D	0		0		21,764	4.50	21,339	4.50	20,766	4.50
Res Deer B	18,787	5.00	36,549	5.00	79,667	6.00	63,123	6.00	42,456	6.00
Res Dis. Conservation	0		0		800	2.00	1,178	2.00	1,575	2.00
Res Elk	70,669	9.00	64,699	10.00	62,001	10.00	63,862	10.00	62,048	10.00
Res Elk - S, Y + D	0		0		10,263	5.00	10,931	5.00	10,861	5.00
Res Fishing	171,119	7.00	167,912	7.00	160,344	8.00	160,414	8.00	158,971	9.00
Res Goat	325	15.00	316	15.00	334	50.00	333	50.00	332	50.00
Res Grizzly	626	25.00	484	25.00	470	50.00	288	50.00	113	50.00
Res Moose	571	25.00	570	25.00	627	50.00	597	50.00	652	50.00
Res Mt Lion	1,027	5.00	1,021	5.00	984	10.00	1,045	10.00	916	10.00
Res Mt Sheep	963	25.00	1,214	25.00	797	50.00	631	50.00	668	50.00
Res Paddlefish	4,834	3.00	4,636	3.00	5,052	3.00	3,593	3.00	2,661	3.00
Res Sportsman	14,038	35.00	19,623	35.00	24,065	35.00	24,613	35.00	24,308	36.00
Nres Antelope	2,009	100.00	2,935	100.00	5,126	100.00	6,077	100.00	6,475	100.00
Nres Antelope, 2nd	0		0		469	50.00	751	50.00	1,466	50.00
Nres Bird	3,297	30.00	5,095	30.00	5,884	30.00	4,616	30.00	4,173	30.00
Nres Black Bear	655	100.00	815	100.00	899	100.00	1,081	100.00	1,116	100.00
Nres Buffalo	0		0		0		0	1000.00	0	1000.00
Nres Conservation	119,013	2.00	121,114	2.00	121,082	2.00	127,598	2.00	117,886	2.00
Nres Deer A	2,111	100.00	3,136	100.00	5,076	100.00	2,500	100.00	1,500	100.00
Nres Deer B	2,339	50.00	5,372	50.00	12,672	50.00	12,000	50.00	5,221	50.00
Nres Deer B, 2nd	0		0		12,485	25.00	6,465	25.00	1,015	25.00
Nres Elk Combo	17,000	275.00	17,000	275.00	17,000	300.00	17,000	300.00	17,000	350.00
Nres Fish, 2-day	178,605	4.00	176,745	4.00	140,218	6.00	144,872	6.00	129,532	8.00
Nres Fish, Season	12,766	30.00	11,791	30.00	15,558	30.00	16,686	30.00	18,564	35.00
Nres Goat	13	175.00	14	175.00	17	300.00	19	300.00	18	300.00
Nres Grizzly	83	175.00	113	175.00	53	300.00	19	300.00	7	300.00
Nres Moose	6	175.00	11	175.00	18	300.00	19	300.00	20	300.00
Nres Mt Lion	93	100.00	132	100.00	80	300.00	92	300.00	92	300.00
Nres Mt Sheep	210	175.00	257	175.00	147	300.00	108	300.00	131	300.00
Nres Paddlefish	0		0		0		0		1,035	10.00
Archery	17,233	6.00	18,688	6.00	19,921	6.00	21,753	6.00	21,436	6.00
Drawing Fee	173,969	2.00	222,772	2.00	225,017	2.00	235,902	2.00	203,639	2.00
Turkey	6,558	3.00	7,245	3.00	7,944	3.00	6,503	3.00	5,813	3.00
Waterfowl Stamp	0		0		0		0		19,748	5.00



# CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION

The Department's activities continue to generate considerable interest and news. The Conservation Education Division, through its Helena office and seven regional information officers, is the public relations arm of the Department. Primary areas of responsibility include disseminating public information, producing audio visual materials, producing publications, brochures and news releases, conducting youth education programs, providing reception services for the Helena office, producing all hunting and fishing regulations and maps, and coordinating the Department's Hunter Education, Snowmobiling and Boating Education and Safety Programs. This Division publishes the Department's magazine, Montana Outdoors, maintains a film lending library, produces 16 mm color films and produces television and radio public service announcements. During the summer, the Division maintains an Animal Shelter for injured and/or orphaned animals.

Montana Outdoors, the Department's bi-monthly magazine, maintains a paid subscription of about 35,000. In addition, 3,000 copies of each issue are distributed through other means, such as newsstands. In 1986 and 1987, the magazine continued to produce an annual photo issue.

Through the Film Center, black and white photographs and other photographic materials were produced on a variety of Department topics. In addition, slide duplication and distribution were provided. Through our film catalog, we estimate that the 120 different film titles maintained in our film library were booked in excess of 1,800 times a year. Approximately 83,700 people per year viewed these films or those housed in regional offices. The Department's newest documentary film, "The Last Parable," was released during 1987.

News releases were sent to an average of 320 recipients per week from the Helena headquarters. In total, 580 news releases were printed in Helena and our regional offices for the two-year period. These releases were used by newspapers and radio and television stations, and many were distributed via the Associated Press (AP) wire. Outdoor writers also used many of our releases in national outdoor sports magazines.

A weekly feature item entitled "Montana Outdoors Newspaper Column" was produced and sent to newspapers, radio stations, sportsmen's clubs, outdoor writers and other interested persons.

Information Desk personnel in Helena processed an estimated 38,000 telephone calls and mailed out answers to 5,000 requests for information. In addition, personnel greeted about 8,000 visitors to our headquarters office in Helena and sold about \$197,000 in licenses during the two-year period.

During 1986 and 1987, 110 radio public service announcements were provided to 45 radio stations and Department personnel provided 650 interviews to radio stations statewide. Twenty-eight public service announcements were sent to 15 television stations in Montana. Additionally, Helena personnel and regional information officers appeared approximately 440 times on Montana television stations to disseminate FWP information.

Through our youth education programs and the services of our regional information officers, 420 programs, 70 banquet speeches, 9 summer camps and one-hour programs in 155 schools were given. These information efforts reached approximately 56,000 people. Work continued on Project WILD, an interdisciplinary effort aimed at environmental education for youth. Project WILD is sponsored by the Department in conjunction with the Office of Public Instruction. Seven major teacher workshops were conducted during the two years and approximately 1,200 teachers have been certified to participate in the Project WILD program to date.

Publications continued to be a big part of the Division effort. Several new informational pamphlets were produced and included the following: Fishing for Largemouth Bass in Southeastern Montana; Ethics and the Hunter: Your Responsibilities as a Sportsman; and Steel Shot: The Nontoxic Alternative for Waterfowl Hunters.

The Hunter Education Program certified approximately 12,000 Montana youth between the ages of 12 and 18 during the two-year period. The Boating and Snowmobiling education programs also provided information to the public on the safety aspects of these two recreational pastimes.



# ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Division goal is to achieve an acceptable level of compliance with Fish, Wildlife and Parks laws and regulations. This includes enforcing the laws of this state and the rules of the Department with reference to the protection and preservation of game, furbearing animals, fish and game birds, and other wildlife species, and enforcement of laws and regulations relative to Department owned or administered lands or waters, boat safety, hunter safety and snowmobile safety.

Other duties include administration of special purpose licenses including those for private fish ponds, taxidermists, fur dealers, landowner trappers, falconers, game farms, fur farms, bird farms, zoos, shooting preserves and approximately 400 license agents. The Division investigates wildlife damage complaints (fur, waterfowl and big game) and provides assistance to landowners in alleviating damage from wildlife. It also assists in the protection, conservation and propagation of fish, game, furbearing animals, game and nongame birds and other wildlife species. This includes additional time spent tagging fur bearers, plugging sheep heads, trophy measuring mountain goat and mountain sheep horns, collecting deer, elk and moose jaws and black bear teeth. In 1987, the Division's outfitter certification and licensing duties were transferred to the Department of Commerce.

Certain accomplishment areas were as follows:

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Citations Issued	3,521	3,543	4,267	4,575	5,683	5,353	4,539	4,652
Fish Creel Checks	49,797	44,637	49,308	59,752	64,260	67,180	64,747	61,523
Game Bag Checks	37,914	37,068	48,810	56,398	58,328	54,584	48,848	50,644
Annual Mi. Drvn.	1,754,259	1,237,215*	1,364,289	1,535,379	1,600,055	1,599,723	1,484,760	1,515,679

\*Extreme travel restrictions due to budget restraints.

The Division has again utilized saturation patrols in certain high use and problem areas. High visibility and public relations are associated with this program.

Starting in 1985, fish and game wardens were limited to a 40 hour work week as the result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision. Wardens had to prioritize and adjust their work schedules in order not to work in excess of 40 hours in one work week. Compensatory time off is no longer allowed for wardens; the Department must now pay over-time at the time-and-one-half rate to meet emergency situations.

In addition, the Division continued a physical fitness program for wardens. Personnel are administering medical health screening and physical fitness plans.

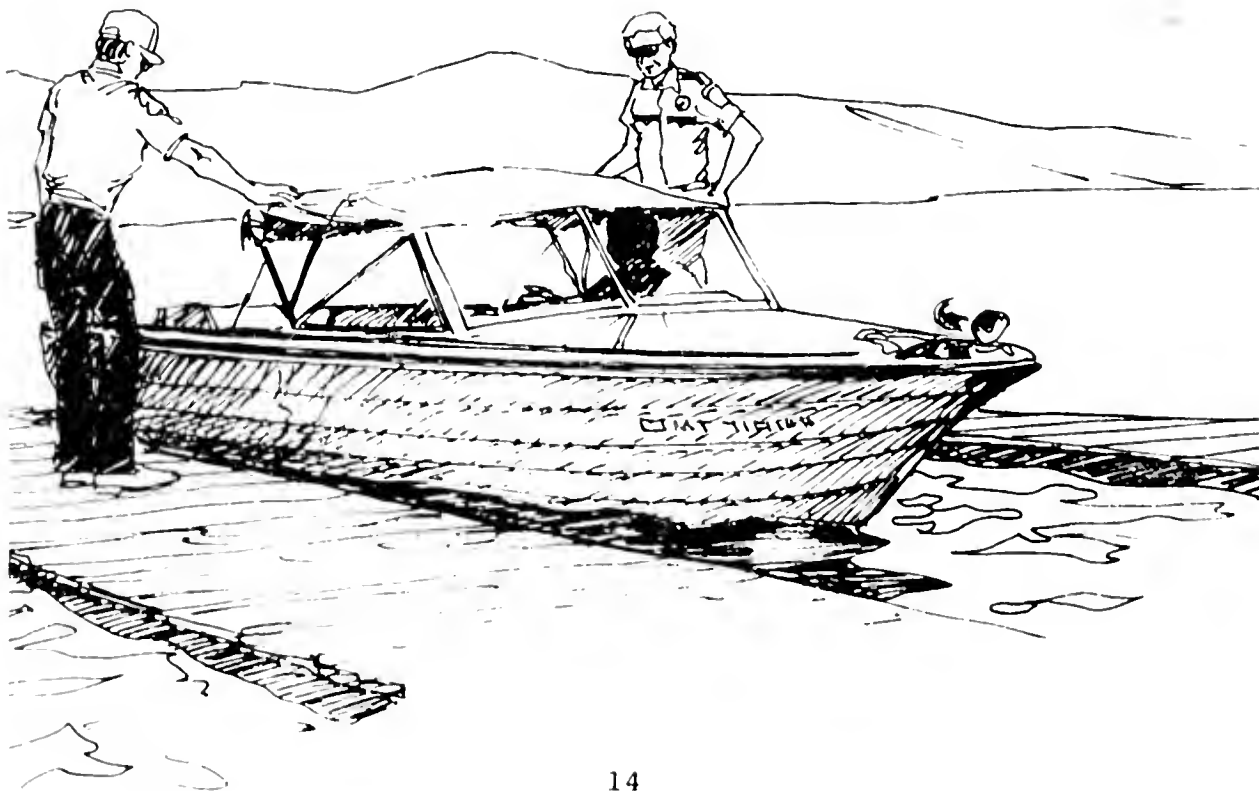
During the 1986 and 1987 fiscal years, personnel maintained record keeping systems as a result of 1985 legislation -- HB 611 (tattooing wild animals), HB 581 (aviculturist permits) and a statute requiring registration of grizzly parts.

Division personnel developed and presented comprehensive water safety programs to several public and private sector groups.

Emphasis has been placed on training and professional development with annual division seminars and regional zone training. Programs for warden-in-service training are ongoing. Workload criteria has been developed for each warden district with subsequent performance standards to evaluate program effectiveness. The Division continues to provide conservation officer training to other Department employees and participates in implementation of regional conservation officer programs.

A special investigations unit, formed on a trial basis during the biennium, addresses problem violations where uniformed officers are least effective. The funding and personnel for this effort were redirected from within the Enforcement Division.

The initial special investigations effort has proven effective and the Division plans to maintain the unit in its present form until it can be funded and staffed as a separate unit within the Department.



# FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The Field Services Division is responsible for several functions with its primary emphasis being the liaison between the Directors' Office and the Regional Supervisors and their clerical staff. The primary responsibility of the regions is to assure program implementation and budget compliance. The Field Services Division also includes the Department's Personnel Section, Landowner-Sportsman Relations Program, Data Processing Program, Aircraft Unit, Lands Section, Design and Construction Bureau and Sign Shop. This Division is staffed with a total of 49 FTEs located within the Helena headquarters, throughout the Department's seven administrative regions and in Whitehall, Montana.

The responsibility of the Personnel staff includes developing and maintaining a personnel manual, hiring procedures, Department policies, grievance procedures, personnel records, performance appraisals, training, etc.

The Lands Section, which was recently transferred to the Division from the Parks Division, is responsible for the acquisition and disposal of real estate and real property through conveyances of deeds, easements and leases. It is also responsible for the management of all permanent land records.

The Design and Construction Bureau, which was also transferred from the Parks Division, provides technical landscape architectural and engineering services to the Department in the design of facilities and the implementation of high quality construction. During Fiscal Year 1986, 30 projects were under construction. Additionally, the Sign Shop in Whitehall provides a wide variety of special purpose signs for Department use.

Another Division responsibility is the Department's game damage program. Responsibilities include budget control, supply requisition and allocation, policy determination and program direction.

The Department's Aircraft Unit includes three pilots, three fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters. Two of the pilots are based in Helena and one is based in Billings. These pilots are responsible for Department personnel transportation, mountain lake fish planting, enforcement patrols and wildlife surveys.

Another responsibility of the Field Services Division is the Cooperative Landowner-Sportsman Relations Program. The purpose of this program is to properly recognize the role of private land and the private landowner in the production and utilization of Montana's wildlife resources and to attempt to maintain current levels of wildlife production and hunter access to these private lands.

A final responsibility of the Field Services Division is to implement a Department data processing system in the Helena and regional offices that includes installation of micro computers, training and support.

# FISHERIES DIVISION

## River Management Plans

Management plans for the Bighorn, Smith and Blackfoot rivers were initiated during the fiscal year 1986-87 biennium. Final editions of these plans are expected to be issued, after public review, in late 1987 and early 1988. Additional management plans, emphasizing public involvement, will be written during the next biennium. These plans are being prepared for rivers where complex biological or social management issues exist or problems are anticipated.

## Hatchery Construction and Fish Stocking

A program of renovating Montana's aging hatchery facilities began in the fiscal year 1984-85 biennium. This program continued through the 1986-87 biennium as renovation of hatchery facilities continued at five fishery stations. Construction started at the Washoe Park Trout Hatchery and was over 98 percent complete at the end of Fiscal Year 1987. Bids were awarded to reconstruct the Miles City Hatchery and construction was underway on April 15, 1987. The Miles City construction is scheduled for completion on April 1, 1988. Construction began June 15, 1987, on eight new raceways at the Big Springs Trout Hatchery in Lewistown. Construction is scheduled for completion on September 30, 1987. A new interpretive center and self-guided tour was installed at the Giant Springs Hatchery. This completed the renovation work at Great Falls. The Big Timber Hatchery was reconstructed and all work is expected to be complete by December 31, 1987.

The Department's fish stocking program for fiscal years 1986-87 included both cold and warm/cool water species.

Numbers of fish stocked were:

FY 86	34,715,085
FY 87	<u>43,360,688</u>
Total	78,075,773

Fish were stocked in nine major Montana waters as follows:

<u>Lake or Reservoir</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canyon Ferry Res.	Rainbow	937,394	1,124,650	2,062,050
Clark Canyon Res.	Rainbow	208,109	336,927	545,183
Flathead Lake	Kokanee	180,000	350,000	530,000
Fort Peck Lake	Cisco	10,050,000	13,999,986	24,049,986
Fort Peck Lake	Chinook	15,150	50,423	65,573
Fort Peck Lake	Walleye	11,625,507	5,200,000	16,825,507
Georgetown Lake	Rainbow	256,462	189,586	446,048
Hauser Res.	Rainbow	232,468	212,595	445,063

Hebgen Lake	Rainbow & Yellowstone Cutthroat	24,613	338,535	363,148
Holter Res.	Rainbow	310,631	325,089	635,720
Kookanusa	Westslope Cutthroat	656,846	495,356	1,152,202

### Reservoir Operations/Drought Actions

The winter of 1986-87 was mild and extremely dry. The normal spring rains did not materialize and runoff into Canyon Ferry Reservoir near Helena was only 37 percent of normal. The Department's Canyon Ferry advisory committee held an emergency meeting in May to assess the drought situation and develop a contingency flow recommendation. As a result, flows were reduced below recommended minimums to conserve storage for later in the season. A similar advisory committee is being formed for Tiber Reservoir. The dry spring conditions and subsequent irrigation demand resulted in complete dewatering of a portion of the Ruby River and a substantial fish kill before flows could be augmented from Ruby Reservoir. To protect the Department's instream flow rights during the drought, lists of water users with junior water rights were compiled and updated and initial notification letters were prepared. A reporting system was set up to monitor streamflows on selected waters.

### Instream Flow Projects

The purpose of the projects is to obtain instream flows in Montana streams for protection of fisheries, wildlife, and recreation. Two projects were active: (1) The Upper Clark Fork River Basin water reservation application was completed and submitted to DNRC on December 1, 1985. DNRC held public scoping meetings in late March 1987 and began the process of preparing the required Environmental Impact Statement, which should be completed by March 1988. Following that, contested case hearings will be held and the Board of Natural Resources may make a decision by late 1988. (2) The Missouri River water reservation application is due at DNRC by the legislated deadline of July 1, 1989. Most of the field work was completed in the basin above Canyon Ferry Reservoir during the period. Field work began, and is continuing, in the lower Missouri basin, and drafting of some sections of the application began in the latter portion of the report period.

### Fishing Access Site Acquisitions

The Department purchased 21 FASs totalling 800 acres (including purchased and leased land) in Fiscal Year 1986 for a total purchase/annual lease cost of \$478,405. In Fiscal Year 1987, 23 FASs totalling 985 acres (including purchased and leased lands)

were purchased for a total purchase/annual lease cost of \$363,917.

### Economic Values/Preference Study

Surveys were initiated during the biennium to determine the economic value of fishing in Montana and assess the preferences for trout by stream fishermen. A report on the economic value of fishing was nearing completion in late 1987. A draft report on the trout stream angler preference survey was released in the fall of 1987.

A lake and reservoir preference survey is scheduled for January 1988, as well as a warm water use survey for summer 1988, to estimate net economic values for Montana's warm water fish species.





# PARKS DIVISION

The Montana State Legislature created authority for the State Park System in 1939 when it defined its purpose of "...conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment...." The Parks Division now manages 335 park, boating, and fishing access sites which host over 4 million visitors annually. It also administers the state's Snowmobile Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grants-in-aid program for local and state outdoor recreation projects.

## Visitation

Visitation to Montana's state park and fishing access sites during calendar year 1986 increased over the previous year by an estimated 5 percent. The following table outlines visitation rates over the last five years.

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>% Change from Previous Year</u>
1982	4,146,400	+17%
1983	4,469,700	+ 8%
1984	4,550,100	+ 1%
1985	4,610,200	+ 1%
1986	4,824,500	+ 5%

## Division Activities

Land Section. A table summarizing Department land acquisition and control for FY 1986-87 follows:

<u>Type of Area</u>	<u>Number of Sites as of 7/1/86</u>	<u>Number of Sites as of 6/30/87</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
State Parks	11	11	15,369.53
State Monuments	20	24	6,510.52
State Recreation Areas	79	81	9,911.22
Fishing Access Sites	<u>232</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>20,469.76</u>
*Total	342	364	52,261.03

\*These figures do not include a state recreation road, a state recreation trail (in the Sluice Boxes State Monument area) and five state recreational waterways.

In fiscal years 1986 and 1987, Land Section activity accounted for the addition of nearly 2,000 acres to the Fishing Access Site Program. A few sites were developed to accommodate public use.

During the biennium, the Lands Section effectively dealt with the Department's numerous land transactions and burgeoning land files, reporting quarterly to the Director's Office, the Fish and

Game Commission, and others with a document detailing activity on well over 100 projects.

Design and Construction Bureau. Activities during the biennium reflected the emphasis on development of fishing access sites, a statewide signing program to identify previously unsigned sites, and numerous other projects critical to the physical functioning of the entire department. During this time, 62 major projects were initiated, 38 were completed and the Bureau had at least 30 major projects, in addition to routine tasks, in an active status at all times.

Operations. The Bureau concentrated on basic Division responsibilities during the biennium, unfortunately reducing services at some sites and redirecting funds to better meet priority objectives in light of a funding shortfall briefly described below.

Planning and Project Administration. The Bureau continued its work toward publication of the 1988 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan document to support continued funding of the federal Land and Water Conservation program in Montana. In the second half of fiscal year 1987, the Bureau began to define, develop and implement a planned management system, one consistent with both the Division's and the Department's legislatively derived mission and goals.

### Funding

Operations and maintenance funding for the Parks Division comes from several sources, although General Fund support was withdrawn by the Legislature beginning in 1986. Interest from the Coal Tax Trust fund has provided over \$4.5 million since 1977 for the acquisition of Park System property, but, beginning in 1986, all trust interest receipts were channeled to operations and maintenance activities to make up for the loss of general fund monies. Due to legislated budget reductions, only 95 percent of the general fund loss could be made up by this substitution. The Division consequently recommended that no further real property be acquired or developed by the Department until the existing park system sites can be operated and maintained adequately. The coal tax source as well as parks earned revenue, described below, can be used in support of any Division activity or program, but all other funding sources are earmarked, i.e., their use is restricted to specific sites or activities.

Motorboat fuel tax revenue is used for the operation and development of sites on or adjacent to waterways where boating takes place. License revenues from sportsmen are used to maintain fishing access sites and other sportsmen's access areas. Snowmobile registration fees and fuel tax revenues are used for snowmobile trail maintenance. Earned revenue reflects

camping fees, day use fees, Lewis and Clark Caverns tour fees, cabin site lease permits, and concession contracts. Other revenue includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and donations.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program that provides grants to states and their political subdivisions to assist with acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Montana's LWCF apportionment expenditures totalled \$437,489 in fiscal 1986 and \$311,052 in fiscal 1987. Approximately 58 percent of this allocation was used by local governments for acquisition, development, and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities, with the remainder earmarked for Parks Division site improvements around the state.

Approximately \$244,317 in fiscal year 1986 and \$295,786 during fiscal year 1987 was expended on operations, maintenance, repairs, development and administration of Montana's Snowmobile Program. In the second half of 1987, the Division and the local snowmobile clubs began to work together toward decentralization of the program.

In summary, the fiscal year 1986-87 biennium was one of divergence for the Parks Division, i.e., as visitation and program needs rose substantially, financial and human resources declined. In one sense, the biennium was characterized by the cliché, but nonetheless true statement, of the Division "doing more with less."



# WILDLIFE DIVISION

The management of the wildlife resources of Montana requires extensive information about wildlife and their habitats as well as the expertise to understand and utilize that information. The goal of the Wildlife Division is to protect, enhance and regulate the wise use of Montana's wildlife resource for public benefit now and in the future. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Wildlife Division to collect and analyze necessary information and to recommend and carry out a sound wildlife and wildlife habitat management program.

Information that is gathered provides the biological basis for game, waterfowl and furbearer season recommendations presented to the Montana Fish and Game Commission each year. The information also is utilized in developing cooperative programs with public and private landowners as well as private industry to manage, protect and enhance wildlife habitat. This includes implementing guidelines to allow for development while protecting Montana's wildlife heritage. The Division also operates and maintains the Department's wildlife management areas, which now total 292,926 acres. Of these, 189,289 acres are deeded, 97,907 acres are leased and 5,730 acres are managed with conservation easements.

During the past several years, Montana's various wildlife species have been assigned a priority rank. As might be expected, deer, elk and antelope were ranked as the species needing the most attention. Harvest goals, populations levels and identification of problems associated with the major herds of these animals in each administrative region have been described. Other species that have increased in priority and associated effort are the grizzly bear, the black bear, nongame waterfowl and furbearers.

The "allowable rate of harvest" for these herds is being determined through population modeling. This harvest rate is to be coordinated with the population's highs and lows. Simply stated, liberal hunting seasons need to occur when these herds are increasing and restrictive seasons should occur when they are decreasing. The challenge is to anticipate increases, peaks, decreases and valleys before they occur. The Wildlife Division has made considerable progress in determining the factors causing and indicating these events in populations of certain species.

MONTANA BIG GAME HARVEST, 1968-1986

		MONTANA BIG GAME HARVEST, 1968-1986					GOAT		MOOSE	SHEEP	
		ANTELOPE	BLACK BEAR	DEER	ELK	LIMITED	UNLIMITED	LIMITED		UNLIMITED	
1968	No. Hunters	16,150	8,290	125,711	77,962	598	200	643	75	172	
	Harvest	11,500	1,700	99,250	16,700	263	29	457	55	13	
	Percent Success	71	24	79	21	44	14	71	74	7	
1969	No. Hunters	19,871	8,787	128,177	73,848	537	213	645	77	279	
	Harvest	14,543	1,700	102,800	12,100	267	66	457	50	17	
	Percent Success	73	20	80	16	49	31	71	65	7	
1970	No. Hunters	23,697	7,204	136,903	77,819	573	223	670	59	447	
	Harvest	18,023	1,079	110,988	13,988	303	51	518	43	31	
	Percent Success	76	15	80	18	23	86	73	7		
1971	No. Hunters	24,802	5,105	141,243	72,337	546	Discontinued	651	72	574	
	Harvest	18,403	1,185	116,716	11,785	234		427	50	54	
	Percent Success	74	23	83	16	43		66	70	9	
1972	No. Hunters	27,762	3,382	152,545	75,951	556		766	76	754	
	Harvest	19,710	928	112,996	10,867	280		597	57	35	
	Percent Success	71	27	74	15	50		78	75	5	
1973	No. Hunters	28,062	5,019	167,359	87,746	571		780	98	776	
	Harvest	19,303	1,347	137,441	17,498	306		532	80	54	
	Percent Success	69	27	82	20	54		68	82	7	
1974	No. Hunters	27,163	5,705	154,110	89,369	508		763	121	631	
	Harvest	18,810	1,527	103,656	10,930	237		498	89	10	
	Percent Success	69	27	67	12	47		65	74	2	
1975	No. Hunters	25,022	6,201	148,109	91,956	500		698	124	534	
	Harvest	17,298	1,252	77,496	15,750	302		376	100	20	
	Percent Success	69	20	52	17	60		54	81	4	
1976	No. Hunters	23,273	10,187	112,783	74,190	410		587	90	438	
	Harvest	16,292	1,637	43,291	7,860	230		401	81	24	
	Percent Success	70	16	38	11	56		68	90	5	
1977	No. Hunters	24,214	10,187	120,798	79,628						
	Harvest	18,528	1,637	54,143	13,342						
	Percent Success	77	16	45	17						
1978	No. Hunters	18,393	5,262	125,054	86,636	509		569	133	510	
	Harvest	13,471	909	53,933	12,017	238		406	113	23	
	Percent Success	73	17	43	14	58		71	85	4	
1979	No. Hunters	14,170	10,666	139,895	89,367	392		568	121	651	
	Harvest	10,039	795	64,134	11,692	234		421	109	34	
	Percent Success	71	7	46	13	60		74	91	5	
1980	No. Hunters	16,104	18,135	151,918	89,822	339	Discontinued	525	181	303	
	Harvest	12,016	1,870	85,164	14,841	230		389	166	15	
	Percent Success	75	10	56	17	68		74	91	5	
1981	No. Hunters	18,973	13,262	153,710	88,153	336		508	180	384	
	Harvest	14,954	1,450	88,797	12,868	208		408	164	14	
	Percent Success	79	11	58	15	61.9		80	91	4	
1982	No. Hunters	22,767	10,642	160,077	90,103	308		567	220	449	
	Harvest	20,830	1,277	100,340	14,009	170		497	202	18	
	Percent Success	92	13	62	16	55		88	92	4	
1983	No. Hunters	27,485	13,062+	200,484	95,811	290		567	351	324	
	Harvest	26,438	1,820	137,534	15,013	189		481	317	19	
	Percent Success	96	14	69	16	65		85	90	6	
1984	No. Hunters	32,047	11,354	237,036	86,443	315		619	297	295	
	Harvest	28,588	1,373	169,649	18,478	215		554	261	21	
	Percent Success	89	12	72	21	68		89	87	7	
1985	No. Hunters	32,651	13,944	190,935	89,182	300		593	225	258	
	Harvest	27,195	1,611	117,430	17,635	202		512	188	12	
	Percent Success	83	12	62	20	67		86	84	5	
1986	No. Hunters	35,528	10,103	147,895	93,436	312		658	236	341	
	Harvest	36,470	1,230	105,347	19,157	226		591	202	18	
	Percent Success	79	12	60	21	72		90	86	5	

+of 43,222 persons licensed to hunt black bear 5,112 of them hunted in the spring and 7,950 of them hunted in the fall.

ARCHERY HUNTING, 1969 - 1986

Year	Deer		Elk		Antelope	
	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest
1969	1,738	259	934	58	97	0
1970	3,438	440	1,780	29	215	34
1971	4,066	593	2,208	57	235	7
1972	4,794	511	2,966	77	426	23
1973	7,162	712	4,927	112	489	22
1974	7,965	663	5,636	81	489	25
1975	7,972	805	5,344	175	508	85
1976	6,000	485	4,927	198	474	60
1977	7,143	825	6,338	269	498	90
1978	7,849	865	7,238	354	347	50
1979	12,096	850	7,265	363	240	7
1980	15,081	1,398	9,060	444	366	34
1981	14,725	1,512	9,263	408	470	106
1982	16,082	1,821	9,655	504	466	57
1983	15,154*	2,237	9,970	578	631	127
1984	17,780	2,553	11,053	783	839	164
1985	18,136	2,009	12,083	597	696	108
1986	17,081	1,851	12,679	738	713	133

\*of 18,481 archery licenses sold 82 percent or 15,154 of the holders actually went hunting. It is assumed that all these people at least hunted deer.

