

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM BUSINESS PLAN

MISSION

The Wildlife Diversity Program serves Idaho by ensuring that wildlife, fish, and plant populations are preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed to provide long-term, stable populations of native species for benefit by all residents and visitors.

VISION

Guided by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, the Wildlife Diversity Program shall work with Idaho residents and conservation partners to maintain natural, self-sustaining populations of all native wildlife, fish, and plants to ensure a rich outdoor heritage for all generations.

THE COMPASS

The Department’s strategic plan, *The Compass*, was approved by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission in 2005 and includes the following four overarching goals:

- Sustain Idaho’s fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend
- Meet the demand for fish and wildlife recreation
- Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management
- Enhance the capability of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public

CORE RESPONSIBILITY

Approximately 99% of Idaho’s native species of wildlife, fish, and plants are not hunted, fished, or trapped (Fig. 1). The Wildlife Diversity Program’s core responsibility is to implement those elements of *The Compass* that relate to these species (i.e., rare, public trust “nongame” and unprotected animals, and native plants).

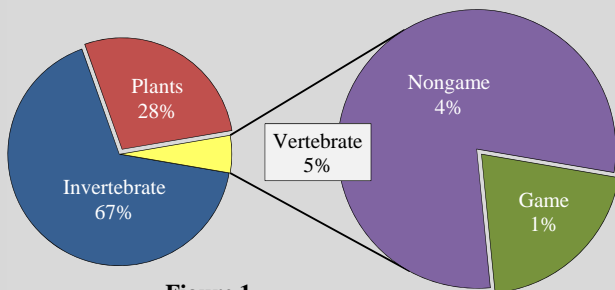


Figure 1.
Classification of Species in Idaho

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Idaho’s rich natural resources are facing threats from development, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change. By working with the public and other agencies, the Wildlife Diversity Program is responsible for the conservation of native species and their habitats for future generations. Through this work, the program also provides important non-consumptive (e.g., wildlife watching, photography), wildlife-related recreational opportunities in Idaho. With the demand for such opportunities increasing locally and nationally (Fig. 2), the Wildlife Diversity Program provides an essential service in this growing area of outdoor recreation.

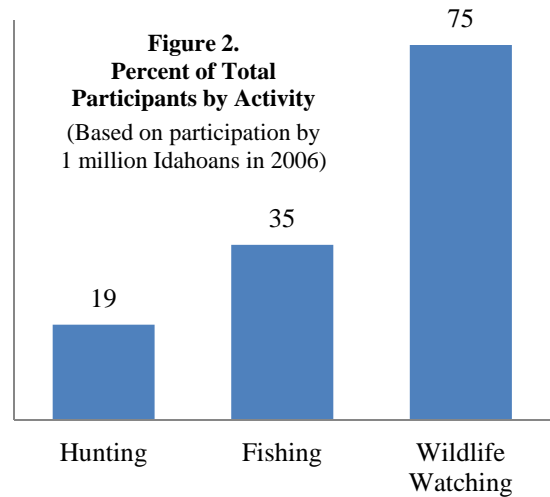


Figure 2.
Percent of Total
Participants by Activity
(Based on participation by
1 million Idahoans in 2006)

By focusing on Idaho’s rare plants and animals, the Wildlife Diversity Program also works to maintain state authority for management of these rich natural resources. As a result, these actions help prevent the need for species to become listed under the Endangered Species Act.

BUDGET & FUNDING

The Wildlife Diversity Program receives no funding from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Instead, program revenue comes primarily from the sale of specialty wildlife vehicle license plates (i.e., bluebird, elk, and cutthroat trout), and voluntary state income tax check-offs and other donations. Income from these sources is then used to receive matching federal funds through State Wildlife Grants and Challenge Cost Shares (Fig. 3).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

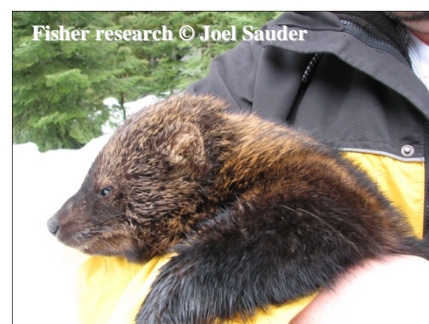
Develop & Implement Conservation Plans

- Revise and implement Idaho's SWAP
- Develop and implement an Idaho Comprehensive Plant Conservation Strategy
- Develop and implement single-species, multi-species, and/or habitat conservation plans
- Conduct surveys and inventories to determine distribution and status of native species
- Conduct studies to determine species habitat requirements and evaluate habitat condition



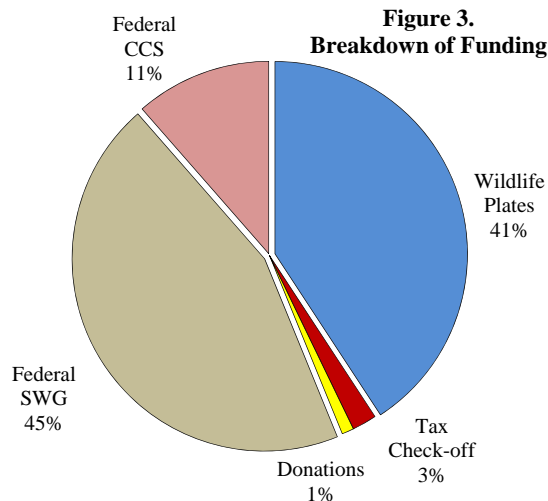
Strengthen Collaborative Relationships

- Facilitate the use of conservation strategies and plans by partners
- Contribute to development, availability, and application of data
- Work with the Governor's Office of Species Conservation to provide science-based technical input on species listing decisions, delisting proposals, and recovery plans
- Collaborate with others on multi-species issues, habitat conservation, and management of native species



Increase Public Awareness & Participation

- Promote watchable wildlife opportunities
- Recruit volunteers through the Idaho Master Naturalist Program
- Encourage public involvement and collaboration through citizen science
- Support conservation education efforts



PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Short-term Strategies

- Maximize leverage of matching federal funds with state / private revenue
- Develop new campaigns to stimulate sales of specialty wildlife vehicle license plates
- Promote income tax check-offs during tax season to reverse declining trends
- Raise profile by updating and enhancing program website and newsletters

Long-term Strategies

- Continue to update and revise Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)
- Develop products to maintain Congressional support for State Wildlife Grants
- Renew commitments and build support for the Idaho Teaming With Wildlife coalition
- Increase public involvement through volunteer programs
- Generate public support for new sources of alternative funding for wildlife conservation

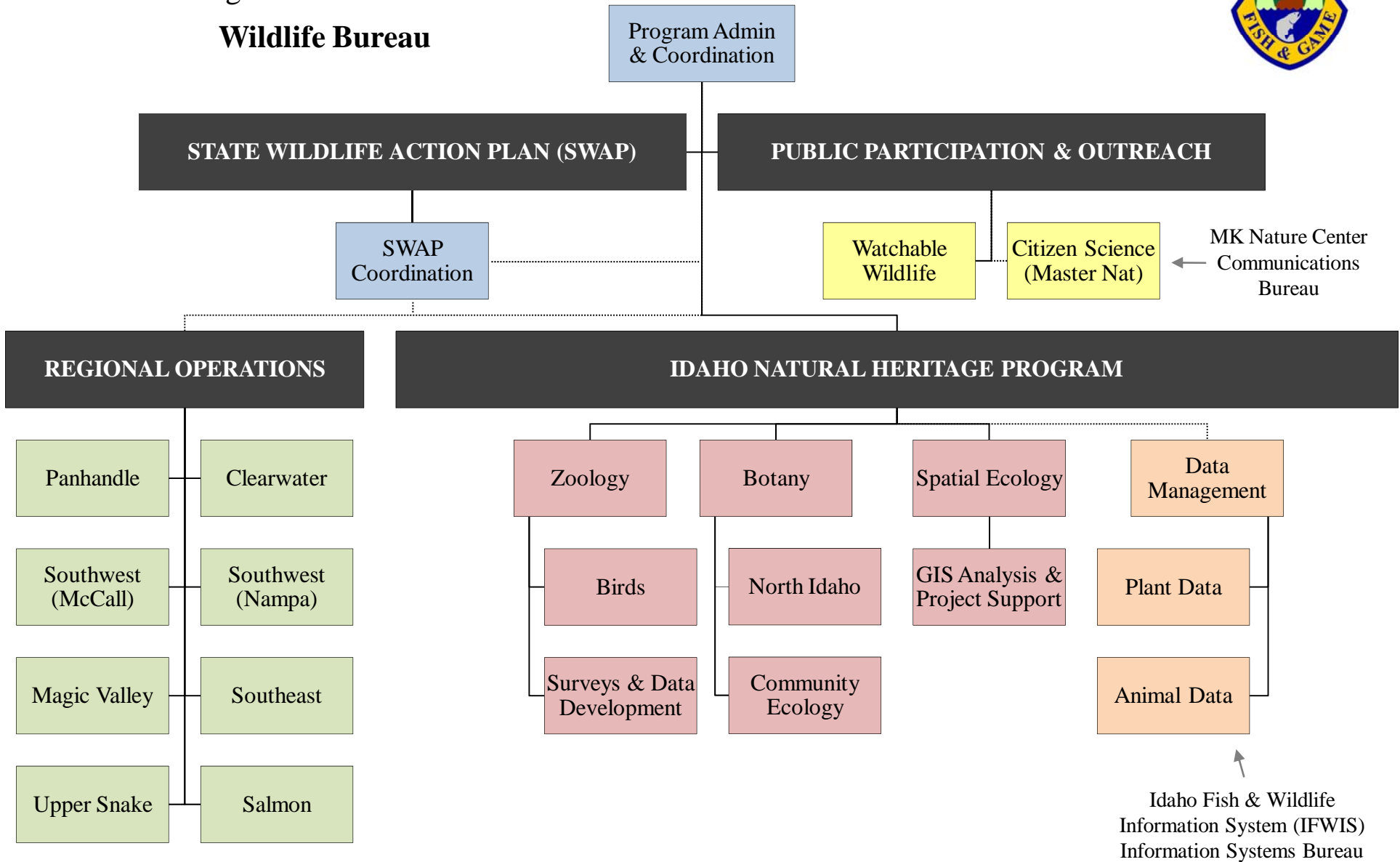
INTEGRATION & STAFFING

Wildlife Diversity incorporates the state's Natural Heritage Program and is fully integrated structurally and functionally with the Department's game, sportfish, and enforcement programs. Of 21 staff, 19 are classified as full-time permanent employees (FTE). Nine FTE biologists are distributed among the Department's seven administrative regions with all remaining staff (12) at headquarters with statewide responsibilities. More than 100 citizen scientist volunteers assist on projects through the six chapters of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.

Idaho Wildlife Diversity Program

Organizational Chart

Wildlife Bureau



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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Program Administration

Establish and maintain program budgets ▪ Manage nongame trust fund account balance ▪ Inform regional work planning ▪ Raise program profile and market services to maintain program revenue ▪ Demonstrate the importance of State Wildlife Grants to maintain Congressional support ▪ Generate opportunities for integration across other Department programs ▪ Seek alternative sources of funding

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State Wildlife Action Plan Coordination

Provide leadership for all aspects of SWAP development, planning, and implementation ▪ Set revision schedule and monitor progress ▪ Serve as technical lead and liaison for ongoing updates and revisions ▪ Oversee species and habitat prioritization ▪ Coordinate integrated planning with Department staff and external partners ▪ Increase internal implementation ▪ Develop new and expand existing external partnerships ▪ Develop opportunities to collect, manage, maintain, and synthesize data for SWAP species

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Regional Operations

Implement conservation actions identified in Idaho’s SWAP at a regional scale ▪ Develop collaborative partnerships internally and externally ▪ Provide local support for on-the-ground delivery of conservation actions by partners ▪ Develop broad, multi-species survey and inventory programs, especially for species lacking essential information pertaining to status ▪ Facilitate program integration with other regional Department staff, projects, and activities

Zoology

Determine the composition of Idaho’s vertebrate and invertebrate faunas ▪ Support consideration of native animals in resource management planning efforts ▪ Implement conservation actions to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need ▪ Contribute to species classification, ranking, and status review ▪ Develop survey protocols, analytical methods, and identification tools

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Botany

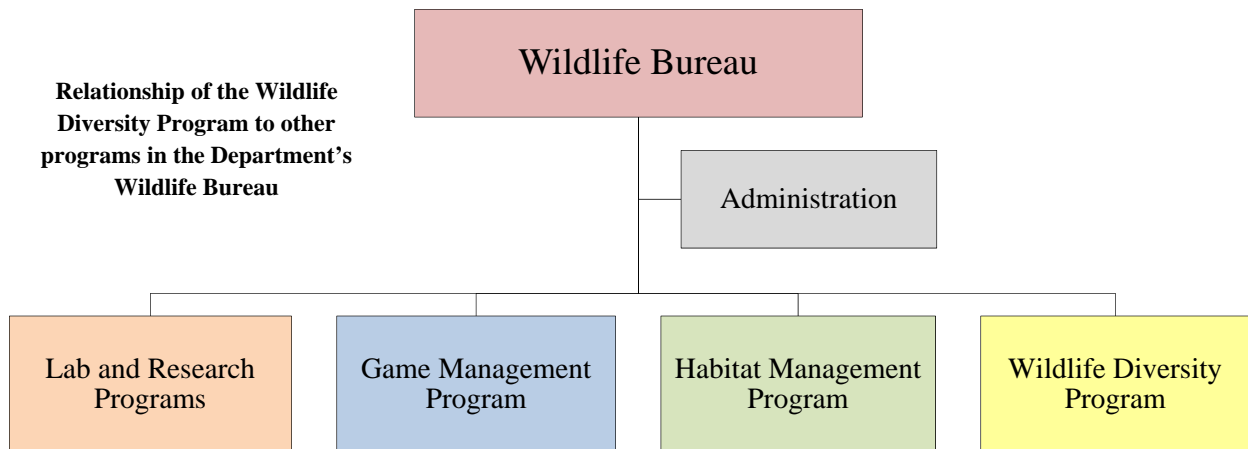
Collect, analyze, maintain, and disseminate information to inform management and conservation of Idaho’s plant diversity ▪ Collaborate with conservation partners (federal, state, and private) to develop cooperative projects of mutual benefit ▪ Develop and implement an Idaho Plant Conservation Strategy

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Spatial Ecology

Study the effects of environmental impacts on wildlife populations and habitat ▪ Improve understanding of the consequences of habitat loss and fragmentation on wildlife ▪ Apply geospatial technologies to land use planning efforts ▪ Contribute to projects assessing and modeling population and community dynamics, distributions, and habitats

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Public Participation & Outreach

Develop outreach products to raise public awareness of at-risk species and SWAP planning efforts ▪ Facilitate broad public participation in SWAP implementation efforts through citizen science and Master Naturalist programs ▪ Promote watchable wildlife opportunities to the public ▪ Support conservation education efforts



MANDATORY STATUTORY DIRECTION

Title 36. Fish and Game
Chapter 1. Fish and Game Commission

Idaho Code 36–103.
Wildlife Property of State – Preservation

(a) Wildlife Policy. **All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed.** It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Title 36. Fish and Game
Chapter 1. Fish and Game Commission

Idaho Code 36–111.
Fish and Game Set-Aside Account

... (d) Those amounts designated by individuals in accordance with section 63–3067A(3)(a), Idaho Code, and from fees paid under the provisions of section 49–417, Idaho Code.

Moneys from these sources shall be used for a nongame management and protection program under the direction of the fish and game commission.

Title 63. Revenue and Taxation
Chapter 30. Income Tax

Idaho Code 63–3067A.
Designation by Individuals – Trust Accounts¹

... (1) Every individual who:

(a) Has a refund due and payable for overpayment of taxes under this act **may designate** all or any portion thereof to be

¹ Once a voluntary donation is designated to the fish and game set-aside account, it shall be used for nongame management and protection according to 36–111, Idaho Code.

deposited in a trust account specified in subsection (3) of this section; or

(b) Has an income tax liability **may**, in addition to his tax obligation, **include a donation to be deposited in a trust account** specified in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) A designation under subsection (1) of this section may be made in any taxable year in such manner and form as prescribed by the state tax commission. The manner and form so prescribed shall be a conspicuous portion of the principal form provided for the purpose of individual taxation.

(3) **The trust accounts authorized to receive moneys designated under subsection (1) of this section are:**

(a) The fish and game set-aside account created by section 36–111, Idaho Code.

Title 36. Fish and Game
Chapter 24. Species Conservation

Idaho Code 36–2404.
State Delisting Management Plan Requirements

... (1) The delisting advisory team shall develop a state management plan for a species in response to all notification of intent to delist the species by the secretary of interior or secretary of commerce or sooner if deemed appropriate. The state management plan shall provide for the management and conservation of the species once it is delisted, and contain sufficient safeguards to protect the health, safety, private property and economic well-being of the citizens of the state of Idaho.

(2) The department of fish and game shall provide the delisting advisory teams, the informational, technical or other needs and requirements of those teams in the performance of their duties.

(3) In developing state delisting management plans, the delisting advisory team shall consult with the appropriate state agencies, commissions and boards.

The appropriate state agency for wildlife biological and species management issues, and for plant life biological and species management issues is the department of fish and game.

*Title 49. Motor Vehicles
Chapter 4. Motor Vehicle Registration*

**Idaho Code 49–417.
Idaho Wildlife Special Plates**

... (2) In addition to the regular operating fee, the applicant shall be charged a fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for the initial issuance of the plates, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) upon each succeeding annual registration. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the initial fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the renewal fee shall be deposited in the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administration of this special license plate program.

Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of each initial fee and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each renewal fee shall be deposited by the state treasurer in the fish and game set-aside account pursuant to section 36–111, Idaho Code, for use in the nongame wildlife program.

This fee shall be treated as a contribution to the nongame wildlife program, and shall not be considered a motor vehicle registration fee as described in section 17, article VII, of the constitution of the state of Idaho.



*Title 67. State Government and State Affairs
Chapter 8. Executive and Administrative Officers
– Governor and Lieutenant Governor*

**Idaho Code 67–818.
Coordination of Policy and Programs Related to
Threatened Species and Endangered Species in
Idaho**

... (3) State policy and management plans developed pursuant to this section shall be developed in accordance with the following subsections:

(a) State policy on rare and declining, petitioned, candidate, threatened, and endangered species and state management plans shall be developed in consultation with the appropriate state agencies. The appropriate state agency for wildlife and plant management issues is the department of fish and game.

*Title 18. Crimes and Punishments
Chapter 39. Highways and Bridges*

**Idaho Code 18–3913.
Wild Flowers Protected – Amended List – Duty
of Department of Fish and Game**

... (a) **In order to further protect native wild flowers and shrubs from needless destruction and waste, the department of fish and game may, after investigation and public hearings and in accordance with the provisions of this act, establish and amend a list of wild flowers and shrubs in addition to those listed in section 18–3911(3), Idaho Code. The provisions of this act will then apply to such “established” or “amended” list.**

(b) In determining additions to the list of wild flowers set forth herein, **the department of fish and game may take into consideration:**

(1) The laws and regulations of the United States and other states.

(2) The effect on the scenic beauty of public roads and public land.

(3) **The necessity to preserve and protect native plants whenever it appears that they might possibly become extinct.**