

FISHERIES

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Fiscal Year 1987

P R I O R I T Y A C T I O N P L A N S

Priorities by Program

Priority Action Plans by Division

Planning Unit
August 1986



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Priorities by Program

Priority Action Plans by Division

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FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

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FISHERIES PROGRAM

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Assessing the Value & Quality of Fishing & Hunting in Montana <i>Brooks</i> | 8 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Beaverhead National Forest Fisheries Inventory <i>Wells</i> | 3 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Canyon Ferry/Holter/Hauser Fisheries Project <i>Leve</i> | 3, 4 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Habitat Protection <i>Boland/Peterson</i> | 8 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Lower Clark Fork Basin Fisheries Project <i>Berg</i> | 2 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Missouri River Basin Water Reservations <i>Peterson</i> | 3, 8 | _____ | _____ |
| ✓ Warm/Cool Water Fish Program Enhancement <i>McMullin</i> <i>Noelken</i> <i>Stewart</i> | 5, 6, 7 | _____ | _____ |



FISHERIES

This program administers funds to manage Montana's fishing resources which provide optimum sport fishing. This includes operation of hatcheries, fishing habitat improvement, and research.

The legislature approved 7.5 additional FTE and six new program requests for the Fisheries Division:

1. \$155,113 and .5 FTE for an angler preference survey that would assist the Department in planning regulations, habitat improvements, and other fisheries management activities.
2. \$169,028 and 3.0 FTE to evaluate the present fish population in the lower Clark Fork River.
3. \$101,888 and 2.0 FTE for additional help at the warm water fish hatchery at Miles City.
4. \$20,000 per year to purchase water from the Painted Rocks Reservoir to maintain flows and protect fish populations in the Bitterroot River.
5. \$51,345 to inventory fish populations in the Beaverhead National Forest.
6. \$101,493 and 2.0 FTE to evaluate the present condition of the fishery in the Toston to Cascade portion of the Missouri River.

Operating expenses were allowed to increase \$26,000 for emergency waterway repairs. This had previously been funded through the capital program.

The Department is granted additional funds to print a biennial booklet of fishing maps.

Equipment authorized are listed in Table 9 below.

Table 9
Fisheries Equipment

| | <u>Fiscal 1986</u> | <u>Fiscal 1987</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Research Boat Replacement | \$ 35,000 | |
| Heating System in Arlee Hatchery | | \$ 7,000 |
| Tractors | | 40,000 |
| Remodeling Fish Laboratory | | 4,000 |
| Big Timber Tanks, Incubators, Pumps | 6,400 | 2,200 |
| Hydro Acoustic Data System | 11,000 | |
| Fish Distribution Tank | 10,000 | |
| Boats, Motors, and Trailers | 13,450 | 21,500 |
| Other | 54,300 | 13,030 |
| TOTAL | \$130,150 | \$87,730 |



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Assessing the Value and Quality of Fishing and Hunting in Montana | |

Issue

Federal land and water management agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and BLM must use techniques that seek to compare commodity and non-commodity goods and services in making resource allocation and development decisions. This requires calculating net economic values for affected goods and services at the affected site. Unfortunately, estimates of the values for fishing, hunting and other recreation activities and the associated preservation values are both inadequate and misunderstood.

One of the most commonly used measures, user-days, fails to account for the diversity of site characteristics and user attitudes. In some cases, increasing use may be contrary to the management objective. There is a need for improved measures for the value of recreation sites or opportunities. If properly designed these values can be used to evaluate increased expenditures, illustrate benefits of various programs, in selecting between alternative management options and projecting demand.

Objectives

Develop economic values for sport fishing and hunting in Montana and assess factors contributing to the quality of trout fishing in streams and elk hunting for use in federal and state level planning.

Approach

1. Analyze the results of baseline surveys to quantify economic values for sport fishing in major waters or hydrologic units and hunting of selected game species by region or similar hunting units.
2. Determine resource and site specific net economic values for trout fishing in streams and elk hunting.
3. Assess preferences of stream, trout fishermen and elk hunters to determine major factors which define the quality of fishing and hunting opportunities.
4. Determine segmentation of stream, trout fishermen and elk hunters based on their experience, preferences, etc., and evaluate how various management alternatives might affect both the net values and use by each segment.

Performance Measures

1. Fisherman preference survey will be conducted in September 1986, and the elk preference survey in January 1987.
2. Technical reports will be prepared to describe the methods, design, implementation and results both of big game and fisheries baseline economic surveys.
3. General public summary report will be prepared on the aggregate values for selected sites and species groups, expenditures, and what the values mean and how and when to use them.
4. Report on the angler attitudes and preferences will be prepared. It will include a discussion of quality, diversities as they relate to the management objectives for trout fishing in streams and elk hunting, and the relationship of user types and preference to those values.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R3 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Beaverhead National Forest Fisheries Inventory | |

Issue

The Beaverhead National Forest contains the headwaters of the nationally important Madison, Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers. These tributary streams contain significant resident trout populations as well as providing an undetermined amount of spawning habitat for game fish migrating upstream from mainstem rivers.

The Beaverhead Forest does not have a fisheries biologist and time/money constraints prevent our fisheries people from devoting time to streams on the forest. Of particular concern is the population of stream-dwelling grayling in the upper Big Hole drainage, which represents the only stream-dwelling population in the U.S. south of Alaska. This project relates to the strategies - monitor fish populations to improve data base and participate in land and water use planning - in the "Salmonids in Streams and Salmonids in Lakes" elements.

Objectives

Develop a fisheries habitat management program for each ranger district on the Beaverhead National Forest.

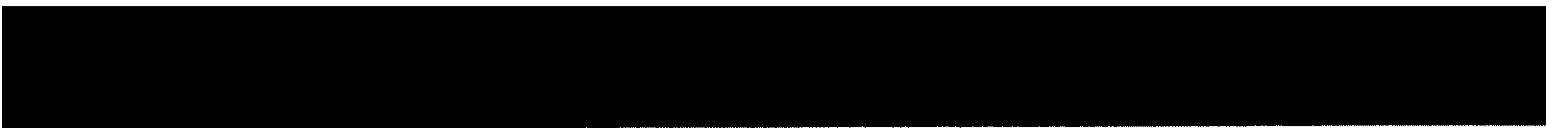
Approach

1. Quantify the fish population abundance in the Big Hole River tributaries.
2. Quantify fish habitat in these tributaries in an effort to identify limiting factors for these fish populations.
3. Propose measures to maintain or improve these fisheries.

Brad Shepard is the project biologist working under the supervision of Jerry Well and the Beaverhead National Forester.

Performance Measures

1. Develop and maintain a positive working relationship with district and supervisor's office personnel on the Beaverhead National Forest. (Evaluation by regional fish manager and forest personnel.)
2. Based on priority areas, outline a fisheries program for the Big Hole River area and begin field work necessary to provide baseline data. (Evaluation by regional fish manager.)
3. Completion of annual report to be reviewed by both agencies.







FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R3, 4 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Canyon Ferry/Holter/Hauser Fisheries Project | |

Issue

The purpose of this project is to gather the information on Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs needed to manage the fisheries. Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs are the most heavily fished reservoirs in the state. During the past six years, there have been proposals to convert each of the dams to a power peaking operation which would significantly impact the fish and wildlife resources of the area. In addition, there have been dramatic declines in the reservoir trout fishery in recent years. This may be associated with reservoir operation and variations in annual run-off.

Objectives

To assess the impacts of reservoir operations on fish population dynamics in Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs.

Approach

1. Mark Lere is the project biologist. He will develop a long-term fisheries study plan for the reservoirs.
2. The study plan will be developed cooperatively by the project biologists and fish managers in R3 and R4. The study plan will contain the following elements:
 - a) Evaluate impacts of existing reservoir operations on sport fisheries.
 - b) Evaluate the effect of timing on success of rainbow trout stocking.
 - c) Quantify the escapement of rainbow trout downstream from Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Performance Measures

1. Begin to develop an index to monitor abundance of fish populations in the reservoir. In the meantime, standard fall gill net sets will be used to monitor fish population abundance and determine the effects of various reservoir operations on the fishery.
2. Mark all rainbow trout to be planted in these three reservoirs.
3. Partial summer and winter creel census will be used to determine angler success and catch rates.

4. Region 4 responsibilities in the study area include:
 - a) Continue to monitor Hauser and Holter reservoir rainbow populations through fall gill net series.
 - b) Continue to monitor fish populations in the Missouri River below Holter Dam at established sites.
 - c) Participate in development, review and implementation of the long range study plan for the Missouri River and associated reservoirs from Toston Dam to Great Falls.
5. Region 3 responsibilities in the study area include:
 - a) Develop sampling methods and procedures to assess status of Canyon Ferry Reservoir fish populations and develop an index of abundance.
 - b) Continue to monitor fish populations in the Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry reservoir at established sites.
 - c) Participate in development, review and implementation of the long range study plan for the Missouri River and associated reservoirs from Toston Dam to Great Falls.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Habitat Protection | |

Issue

Fish habitat protection is listed as a top priority within the Fisheries Division. Fish habitat includes both that within the physical channel of the stream and the riparian area that borders it. Without adequate protection, these zones will be degraded and a valuable Montana resource, its nationally recognized fishery, will be degraded to unacceptable levels. The purpose of this project is to protect and enhance fish habitat.

This action is covered by strategy "enforce laws relating to channel alterations" in the element salmonids in streams. This strategy was ranked number two statewide for this element. Warm/cool water fish in streams also recognized habitat protection as a priority.

Objectives

Coordinate the review of plans to alter the existing state of streambeds or banks with appropriate state and federal agencies or private individuals or groups. Establish rules providing standards to designate lands and as procedures for protecting riparian or wetland habitats.

Approach

1. The habitat preservation coordinator, regional fisheries managers and fisheries biologists will work with conservation districts and individuals or groups in the administration of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (SB 310) to protect streambeds and banks and thereby protect fish habitat. A total of \$44,503 will be expended in coordination of NSLPA in FY 86.
2. The habitat preservation coordinator will administer a comprehensive stream management education program within and between agencies and for private landowners that promotes sound stream management practices. He will help develop and coordinate an interagency effort to develop a biannual publication entitled, "A Landowner's Guide to Managing Streams" which will address all aspects of best management practices for streams and streamside areas. He will develop and supervise a stream project evaluation program to evaluate short and long term effects of stream structures and an interagency computer filing system for filing stream permits that will increase the speed and efficiency of the permitting system.

3. The stream protection act manager, regional fisheries managers and fisheries biologists will work with state and federal agencies to the administration of the Stream Protection Act to protect streambeds and banks and thereby protect fish habitat. Funding for this segment totals \$56,477 for FY86.
4. Fisheries personnel will work to establish rules providing standards to designate lands as riparian habitat or wetlands. They will work with the environmental quality to coordinate activities in developing procedures for administration of a riparian land protection law. Sources of funding to provide landowner incentive to protect or re-establish riparian areas will be sought.

Habitat protection is an ongoing priority and will be continued in FY 87.

Performance Measures

1. The numbers of NSLPA permits and the methods in handling the permitting procedure and violations will all be used in performance judgments. The performance measures will be summarized by the habitat preservation coordinator and renewed by management bureau chief and division administrator.
2. Continued review and processing of Notice of Hydraulic Projects as required by the Stream Protection Act will insure that this segment of stream habitat protection is being applied. The level of compliance with the Act by the Montana Department of Highways and other subdivisions of state government will be used as a measure of performance. An annual report will be prepared summarizing the activities. The Stream Protection act manager is responsible for this measure, as reviewed by management bureau chief and division administrator.
3. The habitat preservation coordinator will orient all fisheries biologists newly assigned to 310 duties within six months of their assignments. Biennial training sessions for all department personnel involved in 310 activities will be coordinated. He will work with other agencies to develop programs to promote better stream management techniques including help develop a biennial publication entitled "A Landowner's Guide to Managing Streams." He will develop and supervise a system to evaluate types, numbers and locations of streambed and bank projects to determine short and long term effects and then use this data to more accurately promote best management practices for streams and streamside areas.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|--|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R2 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Lower Clark Fork Basin Fisheries Project | |

Issue

Demand for fishing recreation on rivers in R2 continues to increase. However, existing problems in water quality and quantity apparently keep fish populations below their potential in the Clark Fork River. Problems are related to Champion and Missoula waste water discharges, dewatering of the Bitterroot River, toxic sediment pollution from behind Milltown Dam, a newly proposed silver mine near the Bull River, and increased placer mining. These developments require an increased knowledge on the part of the Department of the present condition of the fish population, their migrations and the determination of factors limiting their abundance and growth.

Objectives

To maintain or enhance the recreational potential of the sport fishing in the Clark Fork River by minimizing impacts of both existing and proposed developments.

Approach

1. Rod Berg will direct a project to document fish population characteristics in the Clark Fork River between Milltown Dam and the mouth of the Flathead River.
2. This project will include an assessment of tributary use by fish and main river fish population estimates.
3. The project will evaluate factors potentially limiting the brown and rainbow trout population in the mainstem by evaluating habitat conditions in the Clark Fork and assessing the carrying capacity by stocking juvenile fish in selected reaches of stream.

Performance Measures

1. Fall fish population estimates will be accomplished on three sections of the main river.
2. Trout habitat conditions will be measured on representative reaches within each study section.
3. Brown trout fry will be stocked in one section of the mainstem to assess carrying capacity for the Clark Fork River.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R3, 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Water Reservations - Missouri River Basin | |

Issue

The 1985 Legislature passed a bill establishing a water reservation process in the Missouri River basin in Montana. The deadline for submitting reservations is July 1, 1989. A special appropriations bill provided funding for the Missouri basin above Canyon Ferry Dam. The portion of the basin upstream from Canyon Ferry must be completed by June 30, 1987.

Objectives

To compile existing biological and stream profile data in a manner suitable for including in an instream flow reservation application, to obtain additional data where necessary, to compile existing recreational data, to perform an economic analysis of that data and utilize all appropriate data and reports to prepare an instream flow reservation application.

Approach

1. A biologist will be hired to coordinate data collection, gather necessary additional fisheries and stream profile data and assist in the preparation of the instream flow reservation.
2. Temporary fisheries fieldworkers will be hired to assist in the fisheries and stream profile field work.
3. Additional studies will be subcontracted to summarize existing and gather additional recreational, economic, hydrological and other information necessary for a complete instream flow reservation application.
4. An instream flow reservation application for the Missouri River basin will be prepared.

Performance Measures

Preparation of an instream flow reservation application for the Missouri River basin is due July 1, 1989. The upper Missouri portion will be completed by June 30, 1987, including survey of streams and hydrologic information and summarization of existing economic and recreation data. Meetings will be held periodically with DNRC throughout this period to ensure that the application is complete.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Fisheries | R5, 6, 7 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Warm/Cool Water Fisheries Program Enhancement | |

Issue

Montana has long been recognized as a leader in trout management and efforts to protect, enhance, and manage wild trout streams are nationally known. Public awareness increased in the early 1980's with the formation of Walleyes Unlimited of Montana. Formed with the immediate objective of an improved walleye fishery in Fort Peck Reservoir, their goal has been expanded to include all warm/cool water fishing in Montana. The warm/cool water fish management program has taken two directions: (1) expansion and improvement of production facilities at the Miles City Hatchery, and (2) implementation of management activities on reservoirs, ponds and streams. Production at the Miles City Hatchery currently exceeds past performance and with the expanded program, will be even greater. With increased production however, it is imperative that management activities be expanded as well.

This action is covered by several strategies under the elements cool/warm water fish in lakes and cool/warm water fish in streams. The strategy, "develop hatchery facility to provide a dependable supply of fish needed for recreational fisheries" ranked number one statewide under cool/warm water fish in lakes.

Objectives

To enhance, improve and/or create an acceptable recreational fishery for warm/cool water fish through the production and use of hatchery fish, surveys and inventories, habitat protection and development of fishery potential.

Approach

The objectives of this program will be met through the following approaches:

1. To expand the production of the Miles City Hatchery to meet the anticipated management needs as identified below:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Walleye Fry | 42,000,000 |
| Walleye Fingerling | 2,100,000 |
| Northern Pike Fry | 5,000,000 |
| Northern Pike Fingerling | 550,000 |
| Largemouth Bass | 500,000 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 500,000 |
| Crappie | 300,000 |
| Channel Catfish | 25,000 |
| Forage Fish | 10,000,000 |

Hatchery expansion plans are being completed and construction should start near the end of FY 86. Estimated costs of the

hatchery enhancement is \$4.9 million. Fisheries division administrator, hatchery bureau chief and the Miles City hatchery manager will assume the lead for this segment of this program. Construction of the improved and expanded hatchery will extend into FY 87 and likely 88 as well.

2. Develop a reliable instate source of walleye eggs. In order to meet the predicted needs for walleye, Montana must find a source that can be relied on to provide enough eggs. In the past, Montana has received most of our eggs from out-of-state sources. Beginning in 1984, the Intake walleye run was tapped for eggs. Success was higher in 1985 than 1984, but additional efforts are needed to insure eggs are available when the hatchery expansion is completed.

This segment of this program will be supervised by the regional fisheries managers from R 6 and 7. Total cost of this ongoing project are estimated to be \$20-30,000 per year.

3. Continue negotiations with the Corps of Engineers to provide adequate water levels in Fort Peck Reservoir. Recent responses from the Corps to our efforts to obtain water levels to benefit fish and wildlife in the reservoir have been discouraging. However, we have no alternative but to continue regular meetings with the Corps, identifying fisheries needs.

Region 6 fisheries manager and commercial fisheries project coordinator will continue to manage this effort. An ongoing project, these costs are a portion of the regional fisheries budget and the water resources budget in Helena.

4. Increase efforts on Bighorn Lake to evaluate walleye populations, identify limiting factors (forage, water level manipulation, fishing pressure) and explore alternative sport species. Bighorn Lake currently provides good walleye fishing but lack of information prevents it from being as good a fishery as the potential suggests. An increased effort to evaluate the current situation will provide insights to future management needs on the reservoir.

This approach will be managed by the R5 fisheries manager as part of the regional fisheries program. This is an ongoing project.

5. Develop warm/cool water fisheries in Morony and Bynum reservoirs by stocking walleye and forage fish. Demands for more walleye fishing in the Great Falls area prompted this objective. Walleye fry will be stocked in both waters for a minimum of three years and a forage base will be established as needed. Following the introductions, survival and success will be evaluated.

Region 4 fish manager will assume the responsibility for this project as identified in the regional fisheries program. Costs are a portion of the regional fisheries budget. This is an ongoing project.

6. Establish a northern pike population in Baker Lake through alternate plants of 5,000 fingerling northern pike. Baker Lake suffers periodic winterkill, but has great potential as a northern fishery. By stocking northern fingerlings, it is expected that a fishery will be established.

This program will be supervised by the fisheries manager of R7 as a part of the expanded warm/cool water fisheries program. Costs of this project are covered by the regional fisheries budget.

Performance Measures

Hatchery production performance will be measured through the annual fish production reports. The number of each species produced is summarized and will provide a measure of accomplishments. Hatchery bureau chief and Miles City hatchery manager will be responsible for this summary.

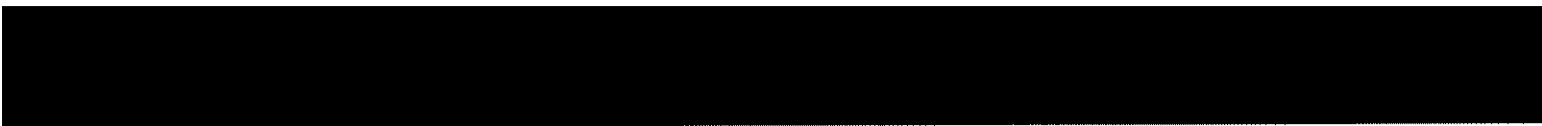
Annual progress reports will be prepared outlining the progress of approaches 2 through 6. These reports will be completed according to a standard format, showing achievements and projected work for the next year.

Reports will be prepared by the regional fisheries manager responsible for the project and reviewed by the management bureau chief and division administrator. All reports will be completed by June 30, 1986.



WILDLIFE PROGRAM

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat | 8 | — | — |
| Black Bear Management Plan | 8 | — | — |
| Black Bear Population Status Assessment in the Yaak and Beartooth Areas | 8 | — | — |
| Cabinet Mtns & Rocky Mtn Front Grizzlies | 1,4 | — | — |
| Bighorn Sheep Transplant Guidelines | 8 | — | — |
| Big Game Population Modeling | 1-7 | — | — |
| Hunter Preference and Value Survey | 8 | — | — |
| Implementation of Statewide Fur Program | 8 | — | — |
| Missouri River Breaks Elk Management | 6 | — | — |
| Information-Education on Lead Poisoning Nontoxic Shot | 8 | — | — |
| Landowner Cooperative Management Program | 3,4,5,8 | — | — |
| Northwest Power Act Wildlife Mitigation | 8 | — | — |
| Wetland Development and Enhancement | 8 | — | — |



WILDLIFE

The Wildlife Division is responsible for game management including operation and maintenance of wildlife management areas and survey, inventory, and research on the state's wildlife.

The legislature granted the Wildlife Program eight budget expansions which added 5.35 FTE as follows:

1. \$150,826 and .5 FTE for a hunter preference survey that will assist the Department in planning and management of hunting.
2. \$117,111 and 1.25 FTE for monitoring trends and providing biological evaluations of grizzly and black bear populations to determine and justify the allowable rate of harvest.
3. \$415,051 to refine predictive abilities of the Department in relation to deer, elk, and antelope. This will improve management and avoid peak and rash cycles in these game populations.
4. \$145,425 and 2.10 FTE for pilot programs to assist landowners who open their lands for hunting by helping the landowner assign hunters and patrol his lands.
5. \$64,348 and .5 FTE to study populations of furbearing animals to set quotas properly.
6. \$40,814 to evaluate the Department's weed management policy.
7. \$60,971 and 1.0 FTE to put a computer programmer in Bozeman wildlife research office.
8. \$90,200 to buy out federal equipment used on wildlife management areas.

An additional \$25,145 is added for relocation of employees bringing the total to nearly \$50,000 in the biennium for this purpose.

Equipment budged is listed in Table 11.

Table 11
Wildlife Equipment

| | <u>Fiscal 1986</u> | <u>Fiscal 1987</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Checking Station Trailer | \$ 20,500 | |
| Radio Transmitters | 28,868 | \$26,375 |
| Tractor and Attachments | 47,000 | 2,601 |
| Horses, Trailers, Saddles | 1,000 | 4,800 |
| Snowmobiles | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Motorcycles | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Boats | | 600 |
| Other | 3,292 | 3,292 |
| Modifieds | <u>132,600</u> | <u>33,150</u> |
| TOTALS | \$243,260 | \$78,618 |



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat

Acquiring wildlife habitat through acquisition, conservation easement, or trade in a cost effective manner to meet the objectives outlined in the Department's goals.

Issue

Critical wildlife habitat for a number of species is currently in ownership outside of Department control. The future of these populations is dependent upon the availability of the lands for wildlife purposes if populations are to be maintained or enhanced to meet the goals and objectives of the Department and public demand.

Objective

Increase, preserve and enhance wildlife habitat in a manner consistent with the objectives outlined in the Department's plan.

Approach

A committee will develop criteria for selecting proposed acquisition, easements or trade lands that provide critical habitat for wildlife.

Performance Measures

1. Development of land acquisition criteria.
2. Approval of a land management policy.
3. Percent of critical habitat gained.
4. Proposed recreation days maintained/gained as a result of the action.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Black Bear Management Plan

Issue

Although black bear have been an under-utilized species in Montana, recent harvest information suggests some populations in the state may be receiving increased hunting pressure. To prevent over-utilization of the resource in some areas of the state, more detailed population information needs to be gathered and evaluated. Following the evaluation, a management plan to guide the harvest strategies in the future should be developed. The implementation of the management plan will assure the future of black bear hunting in Montana.

Objective

Develop a statewide management plan to coordinate the Department's harvest strategies for black bear in the future.

Approach

Beginning in 1984, a voluntary regulation was implemented to request black bear hunters to turn in the premolar from harvested black bear for aging purposes. This regulation was made mandatory for a three-year period beginning in the spring of 1985.

The information collected during this three-year period, together with past harvest information and pertinent research data, will be utilized to draft a statewide black bear management plan. The plan will be initially drafted by the Wildlife Division Bear Committee and reviewed by division staff. The final plan will be coordinated with support divisions through the Wildlife Program Committee.

Performance Measures

Management plan completed and appropriate season recommendations prepared by spring of 1989.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUEBlack Bear Population Status Assessment
in the Yaak and Beartooth AreasIssue

The increasing trend in black bear hunting noted in the analysis of harvest survey information in 1984, caused the Department to initiate the development of a statewide black bear management plan. An integral part of the plan will be the various habitats in Montana. The Yaak and Beartooth areas of Montana represent two distinct black bear habitats from which detailed black bear population status and trend information is needed.

Objectives

To assess the population characteristics of black bear in two distinct habitats of Montana with respect to the effects of various mortality rates on overall population levels.

Approach

Initiate student masters projects in the Yaak river drainage and Beartooth Mountains of Montana. Bears will be captured, marked and monitored to determine movements, habitat use and mortality information. This information, together with harvest data from the hunter survey and tooth analysis of hunter killed bears, will provide the basis for the statewide black bear management plan.

Performance Measures

1. The capture, marking and monitoring of black bear in the Yaak and Beartooth areas of Montana.
2. The analysis of harvest and age structure information and development of harvest strategies for black bear in the Yaak and Beartooth areas.
3. The incorporation of the findings of the above analysis in item (2) into the statewide black bear management plan by the spring of 1989.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R1, 4 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Cabinet Mountains and Rocky Mountain Front Grizzlies | |

Issue

Fund continuation of grizzly research and development of management guidelines in the Cabinet Mountains and Rocky Mountain Front. Both studies are projected to continue for one more year in the field with a six-month data analysis phase in FY 88. the Cabinet Mountains Study may continue beyond FY 87 with field work to prepare for future augmentation efforts in FY 88 and 89.

Objective

Cabinet Mountains Grizzly Study - To determine habitat use, distribution and movement of grizzly bears in relation to the Forest Service cumulative effects analysis and the impacts of mining activities. To evaluate black bear ecology in the Cabinet Wilderness area. To provide basic information on black bear females in preparation for augmentation efforts in FY 88 and 89.

Rocky Mountain East Front Study - To review and analyze previously accumulated data on grizzly bears; to further delineate and define essential habitat and important use areas; to determine impacts associated with oil and gas exploration and other human activities and to make recommendations to protect and maintain grizzly populations and habitat.

Approach

Grizzly bear studies will be conducted on both project areas defined by current study plans and contracted agreements. The Cabinet Mountains project is cooperatively funded by U.S. Borax, USFWS and the Department. The Rocky Mountain Front project is cooperatively funded by USFS, BLM, USFWS and the Department.

Performance Measures

Cabinet Mountains Grizzly Bear Study

1. A minimum of 50 man-days expended on bear trapping
2. A minimum of 25 man-days to monitor radio-collared bears
3. A minimum of 25 man-days conducting vegetation surveys
4. A minimum of 3 coordination meetings with mining companies, USFS and USFWS.

Rocky Mountain East Front Grizzly Bear Study

1. A minimum of 60 man-days to monitor radio-collared bears
2. A minimum of 40 man-days to analyze data
3. A minimum of 10 man-days in interagency coordination





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Bighorn Sheep Transplant Guidelines | |

Issue

During the 1985 Legislature, a bill was passed which provided controls on transplanting wildlife within the state. The new law requires public involvement and formal plans to be developed before game species are transplanted.

Objectives

To develop consistent procedures for transplanting bighorn sheep in Montana in compliance with statute 87-5-700.

Approach

The Wildlife Division Sheep Committee will draft transplant guidelines and criteria for prioritizing future transplant proposals. These draft guidelines will be reviewed by the Wildlife Division staff and coordinated with support divisions through the Wildlife Program Committee. The final guidelines will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission for approval.

Performance Measures

The adoption of sheep transplant guidelines by the Montana Fish and Game Commission by March 1987.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R1-7 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Big Game Population Modeling | |

Issue

This project emphasizes obtaining statewide seasonal data on selected mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and antelope populations that will permit intensive monitoring of population levels and trends. Ultimately these data, utilized in a population model that is currently being developed, should provide managers with the capability to predict population levels and trends, and assist in preventing big game densities that result in crop damage.

Objective

To develop population models for deer, elk and antelope.

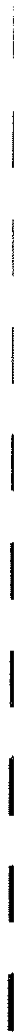
Approach

Mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and antelope will be counted, sex and age ratios and recruitment will be determined, and distribution will be delineated for selected populations. Samples of 20-30 animals will be fitted with radio transmitters annually, and their movements and activities will be monitored at least seasonally. Most surveys will involve the use of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Each of the regional wildlife managers and the research bureau chief will be responsible for assuring the surveys are conducted and results reported.

Performance Measures

1. Surveys conducted, weather and ground conditions permitting, within specified time periods.
2. Semi-annual progress reports to division administrators by January 31, 1987.
3. Annual progress report and biennial evaluation to division administrator by July 4, 1987.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Hunter Preference and Value Survey | |

Issue

The Department has limited information required to evaluate hunter opportunity and values when making management decisions. Federal land management agencies use economic factors in evaluating the impacts of resource allocation decisions. A survey of hunters is needed to determine wildlife economic values comparable to other market commodities.

Objectives

To determine the value of Montana's game resources and the preference of sportsmen for recreational opportunity and the cost of providing these opportunities to the wildlife program.z

To provide a planning base for meeting demands on hunting opportunity in the future.

Approach

A hunter survey will be conducted through the use of questionnaires designed to determine the value of wildlife and the preference of hunters for various types of hunting experiences. The results of the survey will be analyzed and utilized in responding to federal land manager requests for economic values and in Department harvest strategy recommendations.

Performance Measures

1. The survey of a sample of hunters in 1986, and the determination of the value of various game species in Montana.
2. The survey of a sample of hunters in 1987, and the determination of their preference for various hunting opportunities.

Note: This project is expected to continue into the FY 88-89 biennium.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Implementation of Statewide Fur Program

Issue

The relationship of dispersal and harvest to overall population levels of bobcat in eastern Montana is unknown and is thought to have had a major influence on bobcat population fluctuations in the past. A recent study was initiated in 1984, to determine bobcat reproduction and survival parameters in eastern Montana habitat. A follow-up study is necessary to assess the relationship of dispersal and harvest.

Beaver populations in western Montana habitat typically fluctuate dramatically due to the efficiency of trapping techniques currently utilized by Montana trappers. Season closures have resulted in population increases and before more liberal regulations are imposed, various harvest strategies need development.

The status, distribution and habitat use of otter in northwest Montana is unknown. To develop appropriate harvest strategies, this information is required.

Fisher in western Montana are scattered and low in number. Habitat appears to be present but fisher have failed to naturally expand into these areas.

Objectives

1. Determine the reproduction and survival parameters of a bobcat population in a representative habitat of eastern Montana with emphasis on the relationship of dispersal and harvest to overall population levels.
2. Determine productivity and allowable harvest rates for beaver in western Montana habitats including an evaluation of beaver transplants and alternative harvest strategies.
3. Determine the population status, distribution and habitat use of otter in a representative habitat of northwestern Montana.
4. Transplant fisher into unoccupied habitat in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in R1.

Approach

Initiate 3 student master's projects in FY 86 to accomplish the first three objectives listed. Contact Minnesota to arrange for the introduction of fisher from Minnesota to the Cabinet Wilderness.

1. Completion of the three student projects in FY 88.
2. Transplant of fisher from Minnesota into an area of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Wildlife

R6

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Missouri River Breaks Elk Management

Issue

The Missouri River Breaks elk population occurs in nine hunting districts and three administrative regions. This population occurs in open habitats and is vulnerable to over-harvest. The demand for elk hunting greatly exceeds the opportunity for this recreational resource. Accordingly, hunting is restricted by the use of permits, archery-only season or both. As the demand for this resource continues to increase, there is need to implement a long-term plan that ensures both appropriate management of the elk population and an equitable distribution of the creation resource.

Objective

Design and implement an elk management plan for the Missouri River Breaks complex that deals with the complex as a single unit.

Approach

Information regarding hunter demand and management strategies will be collected from various user groups, Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and Department personnel in R4, 6, 7. A management plan will be formulated from this information and hunting season recommendations will be prepared for public review and Commission approval. Hunter issue and harvest will be monitored by the Big Game Hunter Questionnaire.

Performance Measures

Management plan completed and season recommendations prepared by January 1987.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUEInformation-Education on Lead Poisoning
and Nontoxic Shot (Steel)Issue

The successful implementation of a nontoxic shot regulation for waterfowl hunting requires the use of public education directed to the need and the method for reducing plumbism losses. Programs need to be funded for development of information and education programs, contracting for technical expertise outside the Department, conducting seminars and training of Department personnel for giving shooting clinics to the public.

Objectives

To inform and educate the public on the need for nontoxic shot regulations, the ballistics and performance of steel shot so that the implementation program of nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting statewide can be initiated to reduce plumbism in waterfowl and bald eagles.

Approach

Review literature and write news releases on latest development in steel shot. Schedule steel shot seminars and shooting clinics whenever consultants are available to provide expertise.

Performance Measures

1. News releases on latest proposed steel shot zones.
2. News releases on steel shot performance and developments.
3. Conduct steel shot seminars and clinics around the state whenever possible.
4. Department staff meeting to review and recommend I & E efforts.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R3, 4, 5, 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Landowner Cooperative Management Program | |

Issue

Private land in some areas receives high recreational use by sportsmen. Continued use of these private lands to this degree is only feasible through cooperative programs between the Department and the private landowners.

Objectives

To assist landowners in handling large numbers of hunters on small or confined habitats. To provide a hunting management program for private landowners to direct and disperse hunters during late season elk hunts.

Approach

Hunting management programs will be initiated with landowners in specific areas in an effort to control and direct intensive hunter use. Programs are designed to provide hunter direction or assign hunters to specific areas, and provide patrolling of private lands cooperating in the program. Efforts will be centered around Freezout Lake WMA, Big Lake WMA and R3.

Performance Measures

Obtain the following:

1. Square miles or ranches included in program
2. Numbers of hunters utilizing the area
3. Acceptance and satisfaction of participating landowners
4. Number of days patrolling those lands.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Wildlife | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Northwest Power Act Wildlife Mitigation | |

Issue

The Department has continuing opportunities and responsibilities to implement wildlife mitigation in response to the Northwest Power Planning Council's fish and wildlife program. Projects at Hungry Horse and Libby will be implemented upon final approval of the proposed mitigation plans and as specific proposals are approved and funded by Bonneville Power Administration.

Objective

1. To continue the Canada goose operational impact analysis and mitigation planning in cooperation with the CSK tribes on Flathead Lake.
2. To continue the bighorn sheep habitat and travel corridor improvement project at Libby.
3. To secure approval to implement a white-tailed deer project and a mule deer project at Libby; and an elk/mule deer and a riparian habitat protection project at Hungry Horse. These projects are defined by the mitigation plan.

Approach

The Canada goose and bighorn sheep projects will continue as defined by contracts with BPA and by negotiated work plans. The Department will continue to dialogue with parties that are affected by the mitigation plans and will support the plans during the Northwest Power Planning Council's process to amend the fish and wildlife program. Project proposals will be drafted and submitted to BPA.

Performance Measures

1. An annual progress report will document that the Canada goose project has proceeded according to the work plans.
2. An annual progress report will document that the bighorn sheep project has proceeded according to the work plan.
3. Upon approval of the mitigation plans, four proposals will be submitted to BPA.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Wildlife

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Wetland Development and Enhancement

Issue

Proceeds from the state waterfowl stamp will be available for habitat work within the state. Procedures for selecting candidate projects and review by the advisory board are needed before initiating actual project activities. Active habitat programs are necessary to reach population goals outlined in the planning process.

Objective

To implement a wetland habitat development enhancement program directed at achieving the strategic plan objectives of 5 million ducks in the fall flight.

Approach

Project proposal guidelines will be developed so projects can be evaluated on their cost/benefit ratio and need. The advisory board will be selected and initial meetings held to discuss format for project selection. Actual project selection and implementation will follow Department rules and regulations.

Performance Measures

1. Project proposal guidelines adopted
2. Advisory board selected
3. Projects implemented.



PARKS PROGRAM

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Centralized Equipment Purchasing | 8 | — | — |
| Improve Fee Collection at System Sites | 1,5,8 | — | — |
| Improve Park System Site Maintenance | 1,5,8 | — | — |
| Landscape Architect/Capitol Complex Map | 8 | — | — |
| Redirect Personal Services to Operations | 1-8 | — | — |
| Upgrade Signing at Park System Sites | 8 | — | — |
| Weed Control | 1-8 | — | — |



PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation is responsible for operation and maintenance of the state park system and its parks, recreation areas, monuments, recreational waterways, trails, and fishing access sites. It administers the federal Land and Water Conservation Funds and snowmobile recreation programs and provides grounds maintenance for the capitol complex.

Nineteen program expansions were approved for parks and recreation adding a total of 13.11 FTE. These modifications are grouped into three general categories: (1) operation, maintenance and development of parks; (2) snowmobile programs, and (3) recommendations of the Legislative Auditor.

The Department received approval of 14 program expansions for operation, maintenance, and development of parks. These are listed in Table 12.

Table 12
Projects for Operation, Maintenance and Development of Parks

| | FTE FY87 | C FY 86 | O S T FY 87 |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Landscaping | 1.00 | \$ 29,125 | \$ 28,113 |
| Fishing Access R3 | .25 | 3,640 | 3,643 |
| Park Manager R6 | .50 | 21,469 | 19,829 |
| Coal Tax Parks O. & M. | 2.11 | 53,547 | 45,921 |
| Recreation Sites R2,5,7 | 2.30 | 40,861 | 38,042 |
| Recreation Fee Collections | 2.72 | 42,860 | 38,776 |
| Land Based Parks | 2.26 | 60,003 | 50,012 |
| Lone Pine Park | 1.00 | 14,893 | 14,610 |
| Weed Control | | 10,608 | 10,608 |
| Bannack Interpreter | .15 | 2,561 | 2,500 |
| Sommers Rest Area | .39 | 17,544 | 7,546 |
| Newlan Creek | .10 | 2,690 | 1,867 |
| Capitol Complex Mapping | .33 | 6,240 | 5,307 |
| Anaconda Stack | | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| TOTAL | 13.11 | \$308,541 | \$269,274 |

The appropriation allows \$407,690 of snowmobile fuel tax funds to be transferred to establish a proprietary fund for snow grooming equipment replacement. Appropriated is \$200,000 from the newly established account for purchase of snow groomers.

The modifications are approved as a result of recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. The first is the expending of \$52,000 to appraise cabin sites on Canyon Ferry and Painted Rocks Reservoirs to establish appropriate lease rates.

The second is \$81,636 for 2.72 FTE to increase fee collections from users of state parts.



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

1

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Centralize Equipment Purchasing | |

Issue

This is directly related to properly maintaining sites and is a major Parks Program priority addressed on page 64 of the Department Strategic Plan.

Objective

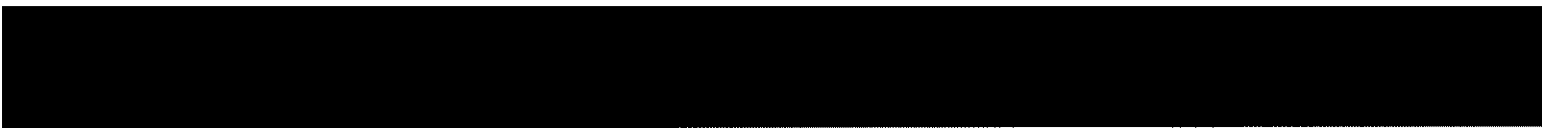
The objective is to better utilize our limited time and resources by centralizing the equipment purchasing process. This administrative burden will be transferred to the operations bureau chief and purchasing agent in Helena. Regional managers would only be required to determine specifications and priorities.

Approach

The 1985 Legislature approved a biennial equipment line item budget for purchasing specific items which was divided among appropriate budgets in Fy 86. This made it difficult to coordinate multiple item purchases between regions. For fiscal 87, the \$97,890 equipment budget will be consolidated in project 6802. Equipment priorities, by region, will be listed and purchased.

Performance Measures

Progress reports will indicate whether equipment was purchased as listed, according to priority, within estimates and within the time allowed.







FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R1, 5, 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Improve Fee Collections at System Sites (Continuation of FY 86 Plan) | |

Issue

The major reason for requests to increase fee collection at Department sites is increased revenue, thus expenditure authority, in other than the general fund and so that the Parks Division better "pays its own way." In addition, a review of past fee collection processes and the manpower available to accomplish them has shown that prime collection times have not been able to be adequately utilized. There is also the related issue of equity. With undermanned fee collection sites, the "paying public" has often witnessed the use and enjoyment of the same site by the "non-paying public." As well, a few sites with identical services and facilities have been subject to fee collections on an inconsistent basis. Fee collections are addressed on page 67 of the Department Strategic Plan.

Objective

The objective is to accomplish increased division revenue through camping and day-use fee collections. A secondary objective is to return more revenue than the increased collection effort will cost.

Approach

As a result of the EPP request process, the 1985 Legislature allocated 2.72 FTE to the division for fee collections beginning in FY 1986. This FTE is allocated to regions with camping and day-use areas and to projects where fee collection procedures have been underfunded or undermanned. The two primary areas for allocation are Canyon Ferry State Recreation Area (total of 24 sites) and project 6841 and 6542 at 1.00 FTE and to R1 (four sites with need for increased collections exhibited in project 6141). The FTE was added to existing position numbers at Grade 5 levels in a few cases, but in most, new position and position numbers were created with the primary or single responsibility given as fee collection. Effort under this new FTE will be tracked by regional managers through SBAS and as printed out on the project budget sheets; the division is also experimenting with several tracking devices. The budget office (OBPP) is also requiring a tracking procedure through the payroll section of the Centralized Services Division. FY 86 results indicate that much more use of a self-pay system could be accomplished with the proper incentives and disincentives. This will be testing during the summer of 1987 with the increased use of "iron rangers" and increased emphasis on accurate reporting.

Performance Measures

Because a statistically valid percentage increase in fee collections cannot be determined, the performance measure will be the data generated from the tracking system(s) which exhibits the increased effort made at fee collections and a comparison of fees collected at sites served by the new FTE between FY85-86 Parks seasons. This information will be compiled and described in a year-end report.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R1, 5, 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Improve Park System Site Maintenance (Continuation of FY 86 Plan) | |

Issue

While several issues are embodied in an improved site maintenance program, the most important is the ongoing concern for the lack of public ability to use certain park sites. This has been due to several factors:

1. Insufficient funding to properly maintain the sites or even to "open" them with appropriate services
2. Serious vandalism at several sites, which could not be mitigated with previous funds available
3. Maintenance at low levels so as to make some sites unattractive to public use.

As importantly, Parks natural resources have been eroded for lack of sufficient manpower and funding to properly maintain sites. This issue is a major division priority as addressed in the Department Strategic Plan on page 64.

Issue

1. To increase visible maintenance efforts to deter vandalism, thus increase visitation through attractiveness of site
2. To increase level of user satisfaction through properly maintained sites and facilities at such sites
3. To protect natural and cultural resources and the Department's investment in these at identified sites.

Approach

A total of 7.17 FTE have been identified from legislatively approved EPP projects (2.51 redirected - see Hyyppa memo of 3/15/85) to accomplish improved maintenance. In addition, operations funding to support this FTE, as identified in the original EPP requests, has been further identified in specific project budgets for this purpose. Although not specifically identified in EPP, virtually all of the equipment requests granted for FY 1987 will go to the improvement of Department site maintenance, e.g., mowing equipment. Every operation except Canyon Ferry and every region except R6 shares in the new funding to accomplish the objectives and each will be required through the tracking process to exhibit improvement in system site maintenance. Allocated FTE and operations funds have been detailed on project budget printouts.

Example: Region 5
Cooney Reservoir, Project #6543
New FTE = .30
New Operations funding = \$11,000

Efforts will be tracked by regional parks managers through SBAS and experimental division reporting devices. In addition, the budget office (OBPP) is requiring the use of a tracking system devised by that office and administered through the payroll unit of the Centralized Services Division.

For FY 87 every region was given the opportunity to better balance their program and focus on priority work by shifting dollars between personal services and operations and from site to site based on site assessment priorities.

Performance Measures

While effectiveness of effort is difficult to measure quantitatively, performance will be measured by:

1. FTE and operating funds expended to improve maintenance
2. Reported levels of user satisfaction
3. Judgments of Parks and other regional officials as to increased levels of care and attractiveness
4. Level of vandalism compared with past years.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Parks

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUELandscape Architect/Capitol Complex Map
(Continuation of FY 86 Plan)Issue

The workload of the Design and Construction Bureau has increased to the point that, without additional staff, high priority and necessary design and review work could not be completed. As well, no complete map of the infrastructure of the Capitol complex exists. Such a map is essential both to the D & C Bureau's operation of the grounds maintenance program and to other agencies' physical care of the buildings in the Capitol complex. This issue is discussed on page 87 of the Department Strategic Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives are to increase the level of design support for the development of Capitol complex facilities, to assist in the development of the Long Range Building Program, and to coordinate the Cultural Resources Program. In addition, a primary objective is to ensure the production of a complete and accurate map of the Capitol complex infrastructure by the end of the 87 biennium.

Approach

The approved EPP package for FY 86-87 included \$29,125 and 1.00 FTE for the accomplishment of the objectives. The 1.00 FTE will be split in FY 87 between projects 6891 at .15 and .85 in 6902 and will be utilized in the preparation of between 15 and 25 master site plans in the Capitol complex and on other Department sites, at least 10 preliminary environmental reviews, an unknown number of contract documents and review drawings and other engineering and approval work in the execution of Capitol complex design and construction. Operations funding in the infrastructure mapping program will begin the biennium-long effort in terms of providing for Kelsch plotting and base data development on contract with the Highway Department and others. Tracking of this effort will be accomplished by review of SBAS documentation and D & C Bureau judgments.

Performance Measures

Results will be measured by the number of documents produced against the number required to complete appropriate projects and by accomplishments within time frames established for project completion. Actual numbers of required documents and projects and production will be reported at fiscal year's end.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|--|------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R1-8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Redirect Personal Services to Operations | |

Issue

This is also directly related to properly maintaining sites which is a major Parks Program priority addressed on page 64 of the Department Strategic Plan

Objective

The objective is to better use existing budget authority and adequately provide for the additional Park operations expenses that become necessary as we focus on improving our site maintenance capabilities. We need to redirect funding from personal services more toward operations where appropriate.

Approach

Regional Park managers identified in appropriate FY 87 projects budget requests which FTE's will be redirected and the dollar amount of these FTE's to be added to selected operations expenditure categories. A total of 3.38 FTE's will be redirected within regional parks budgets to fund increased operations costs.

Performance Measures

Progress reports will indicate what operations expenses were paid for using redirected FTE's and any further personal services/operations adjustments needed in FY 88 to achieve project objectives.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Upgrade Signing at Park System Sites (Continuation of FY 86 Plan) | |

Issue

Legislative Auditors and others have commented to the Department that a number of owned sites (primarily fishing or sportsman access sites recently acquired and not developed) have no identification or are without posting of rules and regulations for use. Such signing is important for several reasons, among them to exhibit the recreational opportunity presented by the Department. This issue is addressed in several places on the Department Strategic Plan, notably page 69.

Objectives

The primary objective is to identify Department sites presently without identification. Secondary objectives are to:

1. Encourage public use through identification
2. Ensure such signing is attractive and longlasting.

This is an on-going statewide need to install, replace and generally upgrade our signing efforts. Standards, procedures and priorities will also be reviewed and revised.

Approach

Increased signing will be accomplished with current level budget allocated to project 6903. The funding level for FY 86 was \$18,000. A similar allocation has been made to continue the project in FY 87. Sign construction will be accomplished either by the Parks Division Sign Shop or by contract with other state agencies or private firms. Sign erection will be accomplished either by division personnel or by contract with private firms. Since the project does not have an FTE component, a tracking system has not been devised beyond review of expenditures as exhibited on SBAS print outs.

The above funding is only a part of this priority which includes a shift in emphasis in sign production from the division sign shop to private vendors for more standard applications. Quality control will be monitored.

Performance Measures

Effectiveness of effort will be measured by the number of sites which receive new (first-time) signing in FY 87 and judgments by division staff as to efficiency of effort under existing budgetary and time constraints. The information will be reported in July of 1987.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Parks | R1-8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Weed Control (Continuation of FY 86 Plan) | |

Issue

Noxious and other weeds should be controlled on Department lands for several reasons.

1. The Department Strategic Plan indicates need for increase in public, legislative and landowner acceptance of land acquisition and control. Weed control is necessary to maintain the "good neighbor" policy.
2. Capability of Department controlled lands to sustain wildlife and to remain usable for recreation is dependent to an extent upon weed control.
3. Weed control is a statewide priority for several departments of State Government and the private sector. Weed control is addressed in the Parks Division component of the Department Strategic Plan on pages 67, 69 and 73.

Issue

The objective is to lessen the number of acres affected by weeds and weed reproduction. While these objectives will be ongoing because eradication will probably never fully occur, the 1987 fiscal effort is aimed at reducing by another one percent the number of Department controlled acres which are weed dominated and to contain the spread of weeds so no further acreage becomes weed dominated.

Approach

Weed control will be accomplished using both current level budgets and EPP budget of approximately \$10,000 split between R1 and R7 in projects 6141 at \$5,304 and 6711 at \$1,104, 6712 at \$400, 6731 at \$1,300, 6742 at \$1,000 and 6741 at \$1,500. Present personnel will be used whenever necessary but contracting with local weed management boards will be used whenever possible and cost effective. The primary method of weed control will be chemical; secondary methods (biological and mechanical) are also expected to be used. Mechanical methods have shown results, especially when in use for several years. Weed control will be tracked by regional parks managers through SBAS and Department developed experimental reporting devices. Weed control sub-element number (1) will be added to each project in the Parks Division.

Performance Measures

Until better measures are developed, performance will be measured by number of acres, number of sites treated, dollars spent on treatment, and visual inspection of Department staff. This information will be compiled and included in the Department's

ADMINISTRATION

This funds the director's office, staff and the Fish and Game Commission. It also includes the resource assessment unit and planning unit.

The legislature allowed program expansions of \$130,000 to carry out the Department's responsibilities in relation to stream access and \$62,000 to pay the federal government for project expenditures not covered by federal cost sharing.

The program budget is increased \$6,000 per year to allow for increased out-of-state travel.

An expansion of data processing capabilities is accomplished with appropriation of \$155,600. This provides:

1. \$75,000 for a contract with the Natural Heritage program at the State Library for a geographic information system
2. \$56,000 for computers for four regional offices
3. \$8,000 to provide a communications network between regional offices and Helena
4. \$13,000 for word processing equipment in the Helena office
5. \$3,600 for a terminal providing access to SBAS.



CENTRALIZED SERVICES

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Department Planning | 8 | — | — |
| Federal Aid Coordinator | 8 | — | — |
| Property Management | 8 | — | — |



CENTRALIZED SERVICES

This program funds administrative services for the Department and manages the vehicle fleet, equipment supply warehouses. It also manages the license drawings. Funding is provided by a mixture of license fees, gasoline taxes, coal tax trust revenues, and federal funds. The print shop, warehouse, and vehicle fleet are operated as proprietary funds with revenue coming from the programs within the Department.

Two FTE are added, one to assist with special license drawings, another to act as a purchasing manager for the Department.

Operating expenses include \$627,369 in the biennium for commissions to license agents. This is a payment of 30 cents for each hunting or fishing license sold. The appropriation allows an additional \$530,000 for operation and maintenance of vehicles used in support of new activities added by the legislature and through legislative contract authority.

The vehicle pool which is maintained in this program, has authorized funds to purchase 92 new cars and trucks. The purchasing requirements are based upon an 85,000 mile replacement cycle. Eight of the vehicles being replaced will not reach the mileage limit due to special circumstances requiring placement.

The Department has appropriated \$100,000 to write-off loans from the license account to print shop and warehouse proprietary accounts.



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Centralized Services | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Department Planning | |

Issue

The Department is in the third year of a comprehensive planning effort. Centralized Services' contribution has been designing a cost accounting system that follows the strategic plan. Pilot project in R5 will require changing the existing cost accounting system to better fit our manager's needs. If the pilot project works, Central Services will assist divisions in expanding statewide for FY 88.

Objectives

1. Review and comment on the pilot project in R5
2. Assist Fisheries, Wildlife and Law Enforcement in designing a cost accounting structure that fits SBAS. Revise the SBAS code book by 6/30/86.
3. Provide support and assistance to the director's office and divisions on expanding the R5 pilot if appropriate.
4. Continue the current coding structure in SBAS for FY 87.
5. Prepare summary cost reports for cost data of FY 85 and 86.

Approach

Obtain direction from the divisions as to the appropriate coding structure in the R5 pilot project. Becky Poore has been appointed as the liaison person between the Department planners and divisions regarding our planning efforts.

Performance Measures

1. Cost system input the SBAS for FY 87 according to our program structure.
2. Cost code summarized into SBAS according to the program structure.
3. Project detail reconcile to division appropriations to assure all costs are accounted for.
4. Once received from the director's office, timely review of proposed changes to the cost system for FY 88.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Centralized Services | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Federal Aid Coordinator | |

Issue

The federal aid coordinator was transferred into Centralized Services. The position will continue as previously defined but expanded to include other federal funds.

Objective

1. Review all project activities to assure compliance with the federal aid manual. Review all land transactions advising divisions in advance of all appropriate regulations.
2. Provide assistance to Law Enforcement and Con Ed for the expanded Coast Guard program. Emphasis needed on completing grant applications and program compliance.

Approach

A position description will be prepared in line with the federal aid manual. Input will be obtained from the divisions as to their expectations of the federal aid coordinator. A person will be hired fulltime to work on federal aid activities.

Performance Measures

1. Complete transfer of the federal aid function to Centralized Services by June 30, 1987.
2. Eligibility maintained for participation in the PR and DJ programs.
3. Provide assistance to Law Enforcement and Con Ed as requested.



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FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Centralized Services | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Property Management | |

Issue

Acquisition, operation, and maintenance of equipment is a significant expense of the Department. Each of these areas requires management's attention to ensure the Department is achieving maximum utilization of its equipment.

Objectives

1. Review requisitions for major equipment purchases, and provide assistance as necessary to ensure the Department procures the needed items at the best available price.
2. Provide the director's office and division administrators with the regional and division priority list, including assessments of the condition and utilization of equipment.
3. Assist division administrators with preparing their FY 88-89 biennial equipment budget requests.

Approach

The purchasing agent in Centralized Services will be the lead person on the project. A work plan will be developed and submitted to the director's office for approval.

Performance Measures

1. Timely review, follow-up, and submission to the Department of Administration all equipment requisitions by the purchasing agent.
2. Provide management with accurate, timely, and informative property reports from the property accountability management system.
3. Provide management with property reports by region and division, including condition and utilization assessments by October 1, 1986.
4. Assist division administrators in preparing a timely complete, and defensible FY 88-89 biennium equipment budget request according to OBPP instructions.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Hunter Education | 8 | — | — |
| Montana Outdoors Promotion | 8 | — | — |
| Regulations Production | 8 | — | — |
| Video Tape Production | 5,8 | — | — |



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

This program funds public relations functions of the Department, Montana Outdoors magazine, and beginning this biennium, hunter and boating safety programs. These latter programs are transferred from the Law Enforcement Program.

The legislature approved four program expansions adding 1.25 FTE.

1. \$69,376 and .5 FTE for video taping and hunter education
2. \$24,000 for promotional activities to increase subscription to Montana Outdoors
3. \$25,541 and .5 FTE to produce hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. This work had previously been obtained through contract.
4. \$8,094 for .25 FTE administrative aide to assist the division secretary with clerical tasks.

Over \$40,000 is added for printing costs of Montana outdoors and Project WILD. Approximately \$27,000 is added for films and film production to expand the availability of wildlife films.

Equipment authorized for this program is listed in Table 14.

Table 14
Conservation Education Equipment

| | <u>Fiscal 1986</u> | <u>Fiscal 1987</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Typewriters | \$ 832 | \$ 898 |
| Study Skins | 4,545 | 1,000 |
| Video Players Recorders | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Films, Projectors and Related Equip. | 11,692 | 10,206 |
| Other | 2,645 | |
| Modifieds | <u>35,000</u> | <u> </u> |
| TOTALS | \$57,214 | \$14,604 |



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Conservation Education | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Hunter Education | |

Issue

Each year we certify approximately 6,000 young sportsmen as safe hunters. These youngsters then head to the field and comprise a part of our hunting population. We need to provide more assistance and better information to instructors so that they in turn can do a better job of teaching our youngsters.

Objectives

Our objective will be to improve the quality of instruction provided to our youngsters by providing improved course content and materials and also by providing additional assistance. We will implement a modified incentive program for instructors.

Approach

We will purchase additional training manuals and training aids. We will purchase revised awards as needed. Information officers will provide assistance at the regional level with the Hunter Education Program.

Performance Measures

Results will be measured by the number of manuals purchased, training aids that are purchased and the quality of our awards program. We will monitor and record the use of our training aids to include the number of times aids were used and numbers of students that are reached. Meetings attended, presentations given, workshops participated in and other assistance provided will all be recorded on regional information officer's monthly report forms

DIVISION

Conservation Education

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUEMontana OutdoorsIssue

Promotional efforts are acknowledged by experts in the magazine industry as the best method of maintain and/or increasing magazine circulation. Increased circulation will allow us to inform more Montanans about wildlife management and conservation and about the recreational opportunities available through Montana's state park system. By explaining Department programs and policies through Montana Outdoors, we are providing people with a better base of knowledge from which to voice their opinions in future management direction.

Objective

Our objective is to at least maintain magazine circulation and revenue through carefully designed promotional strategies.

Approach

Promotional strategies will be planned to obtain the highest return rate at the lowest cost. Materials (envelopes, letters, brochures, etc.) will be designed to be utilized in various mailings at appropriate times.

Performance Measures

Criteria for measuring results will be the number of subscribers enlisted as a result of the promotional efforts and the revenue generated. We expect to obtain about 1,500 new subscribers.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Conservation Education | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Regulations Production | |

Issue

In-house production of our regulations will continue to take place. We're pleased that noticeable improvements have resulted in the Department's fishing regulations and we are striving for improvement and consistency in all other regulations.

Objective

Our objective will be to produce regulations that the recreating public can understand and quickly interpret. A more consistent look will be a goal also. As a part of this, we will attempt to improve our big game, upland game bird, waterfowl, black bear, buffalo and trapping regulations this year. We also need to do a better job of tracking distribution of regulations to minimize waste.

Approach

Working with an internal committee, we will coordinate selection of a consultant to assist us in revising our big game regulations. We will also work with a consultant to revise our remaining regulations. We will coordinate all regulations production and distribution within the agency.

Performance Measures

Feedback received from Department personnel, the public and errors in our special drawings will be the measuring tools to determine accuracy and acceptability of new regulations and formats. Production of big game regulations with a new format for the fall of 1987, will be expected. Bird, waterfowl, black bear and trapping regulations with a new and consistent format will likewise be expected for 1987.

Maintenance of logs identifying how many regulations are provided to the regions and then ultimate distribution locations will be required. The effectiveness of this system will be evaluated and suggestions for improvement for future years will be provided by December 1986.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Conservation Education | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Video Tape | |

Issue

The Department has a need to increase information and educational efforts regarding present and future programs. Expanding use of video tape is an excellent way to accomplish this, both internally and externally.

Objective

Our objective will be to improve and expand video tape production that will result in increased internal and external understanding of Department related issues and efforts.

Approach

We will continue to produce televised public service announcements, work with our youth education coordinator to produce programs usable in schools, hunter education and boating safety courses, and gather footage for television stations as well as for future in-house uses. We will continue to evaluate new video productions which will include brief documentaries and in-house training. Using dollars made available from the last legislature, we will purchase video equipment for Region 5.

Performance Measures

Criteria for measuring will, in part, be determined by the number and types of programs we produce. We will produce a minimum of two video programs to be used in conjunction with project WILD, one televised public service announcement per month and at least two 10-15 minute documentaries on specific in-house projects.

In R5 we will monitor time and operations dollars expended specifically on video. A television news feature will be produced weekly in conjunction with a local station. The R5 information officer will assist the Helena video unit in producing in-house documentaries by filming activities in R5 6 and 7.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Boating Safety LCA | 1-8 | — | — |
| Forty-Hour Work Week | 8 | — | — |
| Landowner Outfitter and Outfitter Standards | 1-8 | — | — |
| Outfitter Administration | 1-8 | — | — |
| Physical Fitness | 8 | — | — |
| Records Computerized | 8 | — | — |
| Saturation Patrols | 1-7 | — | — |
| Stream Access and Trespass | 1-8 | — | — |
| "Tip-Mont" Program | 1-8 | — | — |
| Warden Training | 1-8 | — | — |



LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Program is responsible for enforcing fish and game laws and regulations, administering special purpose licenses, assisting landowners, alleviating wildlife damage, and training conservation officers.

The legislature approved three budget modifications adding 1.0 FTE for the program. First, a warden was added for the Colstrip area. This position had been authorized last session contingent upon the Coal Board's granting funds to pay for it. The funds were not granted and the position went unfilled. This session, the position was funded from general licenses revenues.

Secondly, \$27,040 per year was added to the appropriation to increase warden travel from a current average of 18,000 miles to 20,000 miles per year.

Finally, \$22,458 was provided for "operation game thief" a cooperative effort with the federal government to catch organized game thieves.

Operating funds of \$9,938 were added to establish a physical fitness program for wardens. The elimination of mandatory retirement makes such a program desirable. Twenty thousand dollars per year is allowed for relocation of employees. Operating expenses were reduced over \$11,000 as boating and snowmobile safety programs were consolidated in the Conservation Education Program. Gasoline usage was increased to allow for additional patrolling of waterways.

Equipment authorized is listed in Table 10.

Table 10
Law Enforcement Equipment

| | <u>Fiscal 1986</u> | <u>Fiscal 1987</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sirens, Light Bars | \$21,170 | |
| Motorcycles | 3,879 | \$ 1,700 |
| Boats | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Snowmobiles | 29,000 | 29,000 |
| Horses, Saddles, Horse Trailers | 4,650 | 7,150 |
| Camper Trailer | 3,576 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>2,050</u> | <u>1,550</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$72,825</u> | \$47,900 |



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Enforcement | R 1-8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Boating Safety LCA | |

Issue

To enable the Enforcement and Conservation Education Divisions to spend \$230,250 to administer and enhance the state's recreational boating and water safety programs.

Objective

Develop programs in the following areas"

1. Accident investigations
2. Search and Rescue
3. Marine events
4. Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance
5. Law enforcement training for water related work
6. General boating law enforcement
7. Provide boating and water related education programs.

Approach

These funds will be used to continue the following programs started with the grant funds last year.

1. Enhance enforcement patrols throughout the waters of the state to achieve compliance to boating laws, rules or regulations.
2. Provide personal services from Coast Guard funds to place five probationary employees, three warden trainees, and two graduates of the Coast Guard School, on boating safety and education activity at least part-time during the months of July, August, and September. We would continue the program in May and June of 1987, with any unallocated funds. The emphasis during that period would be boating and water related safety and education.
3. Use funds allocated in our original program narrative for overtime pay for wardens (\$55,555), as operations expense to enhance and supplement our state boating program.
4. Contribute an amount of \$17,000 to the Registrar's Bureau in Deer Lodge to computerize boating records. At the present time, record checks on boat ownership can only be done manually. Also, computerization of records on stolen boats from Montana and other states would be initiated.
5. Provide \$25,168 in additional operations and travel funds for existing state game wardens. This will enhance patrol efforts and increase field "one-on-one" courtesy boat safety checks to inform and educate the boating recreationists of proper equipment, laws, and accident prevention methods, especially on the most popular lakes and floating rivers.

6. Initiate new public education programs in the state through schools, colleges and summer camps.
7. Release boating information through the media relative to law, safety and accident statistics. Purchase films, videos, slide programs, produce handouts and brochures, and update the Montana Better Boating handbook.
8. Continue registration of all vessels using motors or engines for main or auxiliary power.
9. Assist county search and rescue units, and sheriff's offices with manpower and equipment, provide funding and training where a need is identified.
10. Conduct statewide educational programs on safe boat handling through a Montana Better Boating program, prepare a portable display, and purchase a video player for projection to a large screen.
11. Conduct statewide water seminars on PFD's and other water devices. Fourteen have been conducted to date and 20 more are planned. Total estimated cost for boating education enhancement is \$30,400.
12. Replace Canyon Ferry patrol boat - cost estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. Replace two older boats both estimated to be \$7,000 each. Acquire two kayaks for river floating, educational programs and patrol.
13. Additional water safety training will be directed to the users of canoes and float boats.

The re-establishment of the boat safety program is a necessary service to the State of Montana. The original Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, provided money for Montana to have an effective water safety program that reduced boating fatalities from a high of 16 to 2 in 1978. Without the additional funding, the state reduced the water safety program, and the fatalities again reached 16 in 1981. This new program will markedly impact water fatalities with an annual reduction of deaths.

Performance Measures

The criteria by which the effectiveness of the additional services will be evaluated are:

1. Expansion of the statewide education program tied to the Coast Guard auxiliary, Red Cross and schools into ten more communities.
2. Provide enforcement capability to concentrate efforts statewide, particularly in heavy use and accident prone areas. This is to be followed up by analyzing annual statistics for those areas.
3. Development of a comprehensive enforcement program for major waters on heavy use holidays, resulting in a five percent increase in boat registration.
4. Concentration on accident statistics to reduce fatalities on the water by 20 percent.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Enforcement

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Forty-Hour Work Week

Issue

Analyze the 40-hour work week of wardens to ensure those hours are spent in the best interest of the Department.

Because of the 40-hour work week for game wardens, some prioritization of work has occurred. The amount of comp time earned by wardens in the previous year was in excess of 12,000 hours. This translates into 5.76 FTE. The first half of FY 86 saw a significant drop in certain key work areas. The number of citations were down from the previous year. In addition, the number of hunters and fishermen checked, and landowner contacts were all down significantly from previous years.

Objectives

1. An enforcement work plan will be developed during FY 87 to ensure that all effort expended within the 40-hour work week is prioritized in the best overall interest of the wildlife and recreation resource.
 - a) Start prioritizing the most important violations.
 - b) Monitor and analyze poaching cases to determine the level of this type of illegal activity.
 - c) Ensure that the number of citations, creel checks, game bag checks, and landowner contacts fall within the desired range as indicated on each warden's performance appraisal.
 - d) Redirect effort if the employee is not responding to high priority activities.

Approach

1. Establish a desired level of performance in all work areas on a priority basis for each region.
2. Review performance accomplishments at 6-month intervals.
3. Instruct wardens to record the numbers and types of rejected calls due to 40-hour limitation.

Performance Measures

1. Warden captains will submit a monthly report of accomplishments on citations, creel checks, game bag checks, landowner contacts. Compare with previous years.
2. Monitor TIP MONT and toll-free report line for complaints.
3. Record the number and type of incidents rejected.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Enforcement | R 1-8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Landowner Outfitters and Outfitter Standards | |

Issue

To determine the number of landowner outfitters, and reduce the number of client complaints.

Objective

1983 legislation exempted landowner outfitters from licensing requirements. The outfitter council recommended legislation creating a landowner-outfitter license and mandatory liability insurance, submission of harvest data to the Department, and to be responsible for the health, welfare and safety of their clients. The Department has not proposed this to date.

The Department needs to know the number of landowner-outfitters for the following reasons:

1. Impact on season settings by possible reduced general public access because of lease or fee hunting. Recommended harvest levels may not be reached.
2. Number of hunters saturating an area due to commercial outfitting, requires more enforcement planning.

Approach

1. Determine number of landowner/outfitters through warden and hunter contacts and advertisement.
2. Continue cooperation with outfitter council to promote client-outfitter agreements to reduce complaints.
3. Reduce expensive investigation of complaints by working with other state and/or federal agencies.

Performance Measures

1. Consolidate landowner-outfitter information after 1/1/87.
2. Suggest to landowner-outfitters ways to improve outfitter-client agreements in order to reduce complaints.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Enforcement

R 1-8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Outfitter Administration

1971 legislation revised the outfitter law. An employee was designated to administer the program and an Outfitter Council was created. Field responsibilities were increased and industry growth created an additional workload and expenditures.

Issue

Legislative authority was granted to agencies to assess license fees commensurate with cost in 1983. In 1983, the fee was raised to \$100 for an outfitter license, and to \$25 for a guide license. Estimates of administrative costs were conservative and need for a data base to justify further increase was apparent. The Outfitter Council is allowed per diem, mileage and allowance while attending official meetings. This expenditure has been provided for in the enforcement budget. Our conservative estimate of all expenditures in 1983, was approximately \$140,000. The fee increase was established with the industry and currently the Department derives approximately \$94,000 annually from the sale of outfitter and guide licenses.

Outfitting costs will be tracked for one more year to ensure appropriate charges are accurately coded to this project. Projection of costs for FY 86 are \$106,000.

Objectives

To determine actual cost of administering and monitoring the outfitter law and establishing license fees commensurate with cost, and if appropriate, propose legislation to increase license fees.

Approach

Effective July 1, 1986, all expenditures on administration and field activities will be coded to an assigned project number:

| | | | |
|----|---------|----|---------|
| R1 | 4116-01 | R5 | 4516-01 |
| R2 | 4216-01 | R6 | 4616-01 |
| R3 | 4316-01 | R7 | 4716-01 |
| R4 | 4416-01 | R8 | 4816-01 |

January 1st and July 1st, an accounting of all personal services and operations charged to the regional outfitter projects will be submitted to the division administrator.







FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Enforcement

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Physical Fitness

Issues

1. Cardiovascular disease is the major cause of death in males and second leading cause of death in females in the U.S.
2. Positive lifestyles differentiate between those who get the disease and those who don't.
3. Enforcement personnel are at greater risk than the general population
4. Stress factors may reduce life spans by up to 12 years.
5. Law enforcement personnel generally are in poor physical condition.

Objectives

1. Enforcement personnel will be encouraged to maintain a degree of fitness necessary to ensure:
 - a) The health, appearance and life span of the employee.
 - b) The health and safety of co-workers who depend on other's physical abilities in emergency situations.
 - c) The health, safety and welfare of any citizen whose life may be endangered during a critical situation.
3. Reduce state liability for employees unable to perform strenuous job tasks.
4. Require physical standards for new employees.

Approach

1. The division will continue to work with the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to develop job related physical standards and fitness levels for each officer.
2. Two physical fitness specialists have been trained at MLEA by the Aerobics Institute. Additional personnel will be considered for training based upon interest and ability as well as need and availability of training.
3. Blood screening will be performed annually for all officers. Those employees with blood chemistry outside normal profiles will be referred for medical evaluation and clearance.
4. Fitness assessments consisting of blood pressure, resting heart rate, recovering heart rate and percent of body fat will be administered for each employee. Those with no contraindication will be given individual fitness goals. Those with contraindicators will be referred for further medical evaluation or treatment.

5. An amount of \$5,000 has been redirected into project 4867 for FY 87. Bob Bird will be project manager.
6. Employees will complete nutritional and health risk approvals to determine their individual risk factors in cooperation with the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Individuals will receive a computer printout listing major risk factors and recommended lifestyle changes.

Performance Measures

1. Employees will be required to participate in the fitness assessments every six months and blood screening annually. Participation in the individual fitness program will be voluntary. Results will be compared with previous scores. Regional scores will be recorded and comparisons made on that basis as well.
2. Fitness levels will be published by region to take advantage of peer pressure and competition.
3. Point values will be assigned to the various levels of fitness and performances, i.e., excellent - 5; very good - 4; good - 3; fair - 2; poor - 1. Officers reaching high or maximum points will be recognized statewide and will be eligible for possible incentive awards.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Enforcement | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Records computerization | |

Issue

Develop a program to computerize records to better serve the public and field personnel. Improve record keeping to track activities and determine if objectives are being met.

Objective

Develop programs to computerize the following records:

1. Expand arrest records to include time, location etc.
2. Monthly warden accomplishment reports
3. Warden training records to guard against vicarious liability
4. Clothing allowance
5. Outfitter certification file, inspection, testing, activity and licensing.
6. Game farm, fur farm, fish pond, taxidermists, avicultural permit, tattoos, grizzly parts and falconry.
7. TIP-MONT calls to include code number, time, etc.
8. Provide regional printout of duplicate license buyers
9. Disabled-hunter file
10. Bighorn sheep, mountain lion, grizzly trophies
11. Assist Bozeman lab with information to run income tax checks to verify residency.

Approach

Provide \$2,500 in funding to Centralized Services for basic computer units as needed. Total cost estimated to be approximately \$5,000 total. Contribute approximately \$3,500 to Bozeman lab for residence checks.

Performance Measures

1. Submit complete quarterly reports on progress
2. Compile statistics on time saved by computerization
3. Survey regions on efficiency of Helena office.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Enforcement

R 1-7

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Saturation Patrols

Issue

To concentrate manpower strategically in user impacted recreational areas, on bodies of water and in identified fish, wildlife and park areas of concern.

Objectives

To increase compliance with the laws and regulations in chronic and historic problem areas. Prevent abuses of the resource. Apprehend violators of those laws intended to protect the fish, wildlife and parks resources.

Approach

These patrols are designed to increase visibility and to maximize contacts with a strict enforcement effort.

Performance Measures

1. A 1985 saturation patrol on Flathead Lake demonstrated an increased compliance rate as compared to previous years.
2. Valley County has experienced an increase in boat licensing and tax revenues collected with a strict boat registration enforcement program.
3. During 1985, Region 6 experienced a savings in travel and the beneficial effect of checking a maximum number of hunters by concentrating enforcement efforts using saturation type check stations.



2

3



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Enforcement

R1-8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Stream Access and Trespass

Issue

Many of Montana's 13,685 miles of streams are bordered by private land with a potential for conflict.

Objective

1. Increase enforcement on waterways having a history of conflict
2. Strive to limit conflict between landowners and recreationists
3. Increase education and information
4. Evaluate enforcement needs on impacted rivers (Smith River)
5. Consider legislative action or regulation changes to control recreational use.

Approach

1. Earmark funds for enforcement of designated waterways
2. High visibility enforcement
3. Increased contact with landowners and recreationists
4. Document landowner and user concerns.

Performance

1. Monitor complaints
2. Monitor numbers of citations
3. Monitor concerns of landowners and recreationists
4. Distribute informational material to landowners and recreationists.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Enforcement | R 1-8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | TIP-MONT Program | |

Issue

To increase the use of the TIP-MONT phone in reporting violations.

Objectives

The Crimestoppers' "TIP-MONT" program is within the Operations Bureau coordinated by Elmer Davis. Objectives are as follows:

1. Maintain and promote a statewide fish and wildlife crimestoppers' program
2. Ensure confidentiality of informers
3. Consider and act on crimestoppers' board recommendations.

Approach

Provide programs that increase public awareness of "TIP-MONT." Publish first year accomplishments. Supply timely news releases on interesting cases.

Performance Measures

1. \$3,000 in rewards recommended by crimestopper's board
2. Specifically monitor the illegal taking of moose in R1 and R3 to measure TIP-MONT's effectiveness
3. Solicit reports of moose poaching in R1 and 3.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION Enforcement R 1-8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE Warden Training

Issue

Improperly or poorly trained officers in our current society subject the Department to civil and criminal liability in both state and federal courts. Training has been a low priority in several regions. This program will provide statewide direction and accountability currently lacking in this division. This project encompasses all three programs, Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Objectives

1. To fund formal training, primarily for field wardens. Budget \$60 per officer after deducting cost of mandatory programs defined by statute.
2. Schedule recommended training to increase knowledge, efficiency and production to lower Department liability.

Approach

1. Schedule training for report writing, time management, communications, first aid, interview and interrogation techniques, and physical fitness leadership. Legal school, First Line Supervision and basic MLEA scheduled in compliance with ARM and MCA.
2. The Department of Administration Professional Development Center and the Montana Law Enforcement Academy will be relied upon for expertise.
3. A redirection of \$10,000 in statewide project 4866 has been established to fund this training project and to track expenditures. R. H. Bird is project manager.

Performance Measures

1. Training records will be established and maintained for each field employee. Records will be reviewed at 6-month intervals for compliance with ARM and Department policy. Regional supervisors will be notified and a remedial period specified when employees fail to qualify or lose certification.
2. Inservice training for FY 87 includes:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Basic MLEA | 8 people | Feb-Jun | \$3,744 |
| First Line Supervisor | 2 | April | 90 |
| Legal Training | 2 | April | 90 |
| Interview & Interrogation | 4 | Oct. | 1,200 |
| Advanced Driver Training | 4 | June | 400 |
| First Responder First Aid | 10 | on-going | |
| Effective Communication | 10 | | |
| Report Writing | 10 | | |



FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM

| | Responsible <u>Region</u> | Mid <u>FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Cooperative Landowner-Sportsmen Program | 8 | — | — |
| Data Processing Computers | 8 | — | — |
| Game Damage | 8 | — | — |
| Personnel Section | 8 | — | — |



FIELD SERVICES

Field services is responsible for coordinating and supervising field activities of the seven regional headquarters, personnel functions, aircraft operations, landowner relations, and game damage control activities.

Two FTE are added to this program; one to expend game damage activities, another, a systems analyst to: (1) rewrite and modify current data processing systems, (2) update and monitor the agency data processing plan, and (3) assist field offices with recently purchased equipment.

In order to provide additional insurance coverage on departmental personnel who are passengers in aircraft, \$24,000 per year is provided. The Department is appropriated \$20,000 per year for a pilot project providing reimbursement to landowners for livestock shot by hunters. A commercial insurance company will be employed to provide this coverage. The Department is given \$25,000 authority to expend insurance proceeds from damage to state buildings.

The agency is appropriated \$75,000 per year to expand game damage control activities. This includes the evaluation of the effectiveness of various techniques of game damage control.

The legislature approved a request for \$2,000 to hold meetings with landowners to maintain a dialogue on matters of mutual concern.

In January, a Department helicopter was damaged. The Department is using funds that had been requested for a major overhaul on the damaged craft to purchase another. That and other equipment purchases provided for are listed in Table 8 below.

Table 8
Field Services Equipment

| | <u>Fiscal 1986</u> | <u>Fiscal 1987</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Big Game Trapping Equipment | \$ 6,600 | \$5,100 |
| Navigational Radios | 9,000 | |
| Snowplow | 1,500 | |
| Helicopter | 62,496 | |
| Copy Machines (2) | 7,600 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>13,442</u> | <u>4,230</u> |
| TOTAL | \$100,638 | \$9,330 |



FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Field Services

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Cooperative Landowner-Sportsman Program

Issue

The goal of this program would be to establish an effective liaison with sportsmen and landowners in an attempt to maintain the productive capability of private land to provide food, water, cover and space for wildlife, and to encourage landowners to continue to provide the associated recreational opportunities to the public.

Objectives

In addition to developing landowner recognition and education programs, five special items will receive attention:

1. A coordination meeting between the Fish and Game Commission and a hand-picked cross-section group of landowners and sportsmen for the purpose of program direction, including subcommittee assignments of specific issues if required.
2. Implement a landowner insurance program for accidentally shot livestock to be implemented in block management areas and assess feasibility for statewide implementation.
3. Expand our block management program into several different geographic areas and habitat types of the state.
4. Establish local landowner-sportsman committees to address local issues.
5. Participate in a cost-sharing program with landowners under the Conservation Reserve Program to enhance habitat on qualifying lands.
6. Provide a detailed summary of FY 86 program.

Approach

1. Meeting of Ad Hoc Committee will be held in September to solicit recommendations prior to the legislative session.
2. The Livestock Insurance Program will complete sign-up in August for block management areas.
3. Cross-coordination will continue with field personnel in establishing new block management areas.
4. Local landowner-sportsman committees will be established on a volunteer basis in cooperation with organized recreationist groups. FWP will serve as a facilitator of the committees.
5. Using guidelines now being drafted, efforts will be made to provide a funding base and program to cost share seeding costs in conjunction with the Conservation Reserve Program of the 1985 Farm Bill.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Field Services

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Data Processing (Micro) Computers

Issue

We are in the process of acquiring microcomputers and installing them at regional and Helena offices.

Objectives

To increase our efficiency and consistency in our statewide approach to data processing, with emphasis on four primary efforts:

1. Set up a regional training program
2. Acquire and install appropriate equipment
3. Update the Department's data processing plans
4. Evaluate the Department's use of data processing equipment.

Approach

Requisition the equipment, assemble, test and install according to the Department's plan. Create and schedule a training program as required. Update the Department's long-range data processing plan and document the status of our microcomputer installation. Evaluate the use of Department equipment and make recommendations for placement of new equipment

Performance Measures

An adopted Department data processing plan would be an indication that this priority has been successfully completed. A documented training program for regional computer users would be an indication that this item has been successfully completed. Equipment successfully installed in the regional and Helena offices would be an indication that this item has been successfully completed. An evaluation of the use and recommendations for placement of new equipment will satisfy this requirement.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|----------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Field Services | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Game Damage | |

Issue

Attempt to set hunting seasons in a way that prevents game damage problems before they arise and continue to resolve game damage problems as they are reported.

Objectives

In addition to routine and on-going game damage problems, and their resolution, time will be spent conducting a materials needs assessment, continuing with a modest research program, and investigating the possibility of "self-help" brochures for landowners.

Approach

A needs assessment should be done immediately so that materials can be ordered and distributed and on hand prior to when game damage problems begin. A modest research program will be developed to investigate prevention techniques for damage to beehives caused by bears. Contracted services will be used to develop ideas and formats for self-help brochures.

The needs assessment should be conducted and finished no later than August 1, and a research program should be developed and implemented sometime in the fall. Any self-help brochures should be available by fiscal year-end.

Performance Measures

A completed needs assessment and materials requisition will indicate successful completion of this priority. The development and implementation of a research program will indicate successful completion of this priority. A completed self-help brochure will indicate successful completion of this priority.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|----|
| <u>DIVISION</u> | Field Services | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Personnel Section | |

Issue

Provide support to other division personnel as necessary, for all items related to personnel matters.

Objectives

In addition to accomplishing all on-going personnel functions as efficiently as possible, the personnel section will concentrate in the coming year on three primary activities:

1. Interpret the results of the training needs assessment and make recommendations for a Department training program.
2. Design and assemble a new-employee information packet.
3. Review the implementation of the Department vehicle policy and make any necessary changes.

Approach

As time permits from on-going regular functions, these items will be addressed with the following tentative time schedule:

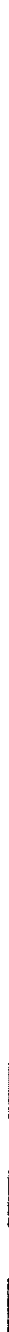
1. Make recommendations for a Department training program September 15, 1986.
2. New employee information packet October 15, 1986.
3. Solicit comments and suggestions regarding the implementation of the Department's vehicle policy. Evaluate the comments and make suggestions for changes by September 1, 1986.

Performance Measures

Completed recommendation for a Department training program, new employee information packet and vehicle policy will indicate successful accomplishment of these three items.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT UNIT

| | <u>Responsible Region</u> | <u>Mid FY 87</u> | <u>Final</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Forest Planning | 8 | — | — |
| International Joint Commission Reference North Fork of Flathead River | 8 | — | — |
| Limits of Acceptable Change | 8 | — | — |
| National Farm Bill Legislation | 8 | — | — |
| Riparian Habitat | 8 | — | — |
| Superfund Lawsuit | 8 | — | — |
| Wilderness Allocation | 8 | — | — |



FY PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Resource Assessment

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Forest Planning

R8

Issue

There are ten national forest within the State of Montana. The final forest plans are now being released. The Department has invested considerable time and energy in preparing commentaries on the draft forest plan. It is now imperative that follow-through occur. That follow-through is expected to involve first, an evaluation relative to the impact of our original comments, and, secondly, provide information on requests as the appeals process proceeds.

Objectives

Our objectives in the forest planning process are to achieve an appropriate level of consideration for fish, wildlife and recreation values on these public lands.

Approach

The Department has participated in this process for some time now. Initially, our comments were made a part of the official state record on this issue as the draft forest plans were being reviewed. Now as final plans are being issued, we must:

1. Continue to monitor the effectiveness of our original comments
2. Continue to raise issues that are in the best interest of fish and wildlife resources.

Performance Measures

On some of the earlier plans that have been issued, it looks as though considerable progress has been achieved between the draft plan and the final plans we have seen. This performance is measured by noting the degree to which our earlier recommendations have been complied with. It is anticipated that this process will continue.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Resource Assessment | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | International Joint Commission Reference North Fork of the Flathead River | |

Issue

The Province of British Columbia has granted Stage II approval for a coal mine in the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage. The mine has a potential to impact that river and the various values our state and country has placed on that river. Due to a treaty that exists between the U.S. and Canada, the International Joint Commission has the authority to address international water quality problems. The International Joint Commission has in turn appointed an investigative board to look into the facts of the matter and we currently serve as the U.S. Co-Chair on that board.

Objective

The objective is to resolve the problem that exists between the U.S. and British Columbia over the location and potential impact this mine might have on values south of our common border.

Approach

The approach to resolution of this conflict is well established by the International Joint Commission procedures. It involves bilateral technical committees and investigative boards to accumulate the facts of the matter. Their report is then in turn, used by the International Joint Commission to attempt to negotiate an equitable solution.

Performance Measures

The ultimate fate of this project and the amount of contaminants that may or may not show up in the North Fork of the Flathead River will be the measure of how well this project achieved its objectives.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

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| <u>DIVISION</u> | Resource Assessment | R8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE</u> | Limits of Acceptable Change | |

Issue

Limits of acceptable change is a Forest Service program designed to direct the management of wilderness areas. There are substantial acreages in Montana classified within the national wilderness system. A substantial wildlife resource exists in those areas. The initial planning associated with this program revealed that there was a need for a fish and wildlife plan to accompany the limits of acceptable change program. We have been cast as the lead agency to develop that plan. It is an opportunity to not only retain our position of dominance in managing resident wildlife, but to also develop a sensitive management philosophy toward wildlife management in the wilderness areas.

This year's objective for this effort will involve assembling the biological data for the Bob Marshall ecosystem and to develop a preliminary management philosophy for wilderness fish and wildlife management programs.

Approach

This work will be done by assembling existing biological information that supports the limits of the wildlife ecosystem we are dealing with and which establishes trends of our existing fish and wildlife management programs. At the same time, working with individuals both within and external to this Department, an effort will be made to articulate a wilderness wildlife management philosophy.

Performance Measures

Completion of draft documents by the end of the year would be an adequate performance measure for this particular project.

FY PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Resource Assessment

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

National Farm Bill Legislation R8

Issue

The farm legislation passed by Congress contained a potential to achieve numerous benefits for fish and wildlife resources. In consultation with the SCS and ASCS, appropriate criteria for establishing and restoring wildlife habitat are being developed. Participation in the Conservation Reserve Program the first year by the agricultural community has been disappointing. the potential for substantial benefit, however, remains and our participation in this effort is still warranted.

Objective:

Our objective is to achieve wildlife benefits utilizing the resources of the new Farm Bill.

Approach

The Department has and will continue to propose a method of sharing costs for the establishment of wildlife habitat on Conservation Reserve Program acres. This program will be implemented and monitored during fiscal year 1987.

Performance Measures

The performance measures could be the amount of total acres eventually going into this program along with the adequacy of the provisions of this program to establish and retain effective wildlife habitat.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Resource Assessment

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Riparian Habitat

Issue

Numerous approaches to the preservation of riparian habitat types have been attempted. To date, little progress has been made. It is our intent to remain actively involved in efforts designed to extend appropriate protection to riparian areas. Emphasis this year will be on participation in the riparian habitat cooperative established by the University of Montana. This will involve joint data-gathering efforts and participation in workshops.

Objective

Riparian areas, frequently the most productive and diverse habitat components, are often the most abused habitat types. The objective is to begin a systematic method of reversing this reality.

Approach

Emphasis this year will continue on participating in the cooperative riparian habitat efforts that have been generated in several sectors. Of particular interest will be the group functioning out of the University of Montana. Participation in data gathering, workshops and other cooperative efforts is anticipated.

Performance Measures

The riparian problems have been well articulated. A good performance measure would be to produce evidence that some focus on this problem is being achieved.

FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Resource Assessment

R8

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Superfund Law Suit

Issue

The State of Montana filed a lawsuit against the Anaconda Company under provisions of the Superfund Act. This law suit has been dormant since the papers were initially filed with the court. Since that time, legal counsel for the Anaconda Company has indicated that perhaps discussion of a settlement was in order. Before an equitable bargaining agreement with the Anaconda Company can occur, the state must demonstrate its willingness and ability to pursue this litigation.

Objectives

The objective of this project will be to prepare the state's representation of its \$50 million lawsuit against the Anaconda Company.

Approach

A proposal has been made by the Department to the Governor's office that the Department basically take over the leadership role in this litigation. If the Governor's office approves, Resource Assessment anticipates playing a role in developing the strategy, particularly as it relates to preparing and presenting technical argument in the support of the state's contention that a substantial amount of damage has been done by past mining practices. An initial overture will be made to the Anaconda Company for a settlement. If a negotiated settlement does not occur, then this project, basically the preparation for litigation, will commence.

Performance Measures

This project can be measured against the amount of money or other concessions eventually granted to the state in retribution for damage done.





FY 87 PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

DIVISION

Resource Assessment

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Wilderness Allocation

Issue

The Department has maintained a responsible position in the debate over the allocation of the last roadless and wild lands in Montana. We have been active in the RARE I and RARE II reviews. The State of Montana has subsequently taken a very strong position in favor of further classification of wild lands in Montana as wilderness. The primary criteria used in developing the state's position has been the need to protect wild land recreation opportunities, particularly those associated with fish and wildlife resources.

Objective

To participate in the development and passage of the Montana Wilderness Act in the U.S. Congress.

Approach

Final resolution of this issue will come with congressional debate over an expected Montana Wilderness Bill. As this climax to the wilderness debate is reached, it is imperative that our Department remain active, involved and focused particularly in support of the state's recommendation. As with forest planning the importance of follow through on good recommendations cannot be overstated. The rate at which this issue evolves will be dictated by the Montana Congressional delegation. Even though an actual bill may not surface for another year, there is considerable communication that must go on between our Department, the citizens that are participating in this debate and the Congressional delegation and their staffs which are working on this measure.

Performance Measures

Our performance conceivably could be measured by the degree of compliance with the state's existing wilderness recommendation and the amount of wildlife habitat achieving some form of protection as a result of these wilderness discussion.





