Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area

Management Plan
2014

Southeast Region

Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area

2014 – 2023 Management Plan

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Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Southeast Region
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Prepared By:
Don Jenkins
Habitat Biologist, East District

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Executive Summary

The objective of this updated management plan (Plan) is to report progress since the last revision and to provide direction for future management of Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area (GSWMA). This revision was completed in 2014 with extensive public input. This plan is tiered off other Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) plans and policies summarized below.

- State Wildlife Action Plan (2005)
- Statewide management plans for:
    - waterfowl (1991)
    - upland game (1991)
    - mule deer (2010)
    - white-tailed deer (2005)
    - elk (2014)
    - moose (1991)
    - furbearer (1991)
- Statewide big game depredation management plan (1988)
- Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho (2006)
- Policy for Avian and Mammalian Predation Management (2000)

The Plan includes the vision and mission for GSWMA as well as background information. It also reports on the progress of goals identified in the 1999 plan as well as additional accomplishments (Appendix V), and addresses new or continuing issues. It supplements the Department's strategic plan (*The Compass*, Appendix I) and was developed with public involvement. An online survey was posted on the Department's website in 2012 to collect public input on the current management of the state's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Suggestions from the survey and other input were incorporated into the planning process wherever possible.

Performance targets were identified through the public input process and from perspectives of Department staff. Given the priorities for GSWMA, those performance targets or issues have been addressed within the Management Program section.

The Plan directs the Department to manage the vegetation and public use on GSWMA for the benefit of wildlife habitat and fish and wildlife-based public recreation. Some examples of strategies to be employed include habitat improvements (food plots and winter forage plantings), pest control (noxious weeds), providing quality access points for hunting and other wildlife-based recreation, providing public outreach and educational opportunity, and monitoring the effectiveness of all efforts through wildlife and public use surveys.

An effort has been made to broaden the scope of the Plan so the management of GSWMA takes into account the role and influence of the WMA on wildlife and habitat within the surrounding landscape, as well as the influence of the surrounding landscape on GSWMA. The extent of the landscape consideration is largely driven by the known or expected occurrence of high priority

and at-risk species, as well as land use patterns and topographical features in the area (see Management Program/GSWMA Landscape Conservation section). There will be an attempt to recognize and consider all forms of wildlife with particular focus on listed sensitive species known or expected to occur within the GSWMA landscape.

The Plan will serve as a guide for managers, partners, and the public in making and justifying management decisions that will serve the stated priorities and goals most efficiently. Particular performance targets and strategies are dependent on adequate funding, personnel and public support.

Introduction

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) manages 32 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) distributed throughout seven administrative Regions. Researchers from the University of Idaho and The Nature Conservancy evaluated the value of Idaho's WMAs to wildlife. They found the WMA network, created to support game species, "also conserves the full range of Idaho's wildlife and other ecological features" (Karl et al. 2005). Surveys and monitoring work conducted by Department biologists confirms their value to big game, nongame, and many at-risk species identified in Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan. In many cases, WMAs provide the principal habitat for at-risk species.

Wildlife Management Areas often abut other protected lands such as National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, Bureau of Reclamation lands, state endowment lands (Idaho Department of Lands), state and local parks, or private lands protected by conservation easement. Due to the wildlife-focused management, WMAs serve as highly productive core areas of the landscapes in which they exist. Management of these areas involves a combination of restoring and maintaining important natural habitats to contribute to landscape-level habitat function (such as mountain brush uplands and marsh wetlands), and creating enhanced habitat (such as food plots and managed wetlands) to increase the carrying capacity for selected wildlife species.

Wildlife Management Area management plans strive to direct management that upholds these values. They may also be bounded by legislative and/or funding mandates, Department species plans, the State Wildlife Action Plan, conservation partner objectives, national wildlife conservation strategies and plans (federal and non-government organizations), and especially the Department's own strategic plan, *The Compass* (Appendix I) . Priorities, performance targets, and strategies are then developed to be consistent with the above mentioned documents and to enhance conservation values inherent to the WMA.

Department Mission

All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping (Idaho Code Section 36-103).

Department Strategic Goals

The Department's 2005 Strategic Plan, *The Compass*, is the primary guiding document for all other Department plans and outlines four goals for the Department:

- Fish, Wildlife and Habitat: Sustain Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Fish and Wildlife Recreation: Meet the demand for fish and wildlife recreation.

- Working With Others: Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management.
- Management Support: Enhance the capacity of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public.

The 2014 WMA plans describe the management direction for each of the 32 WMAs the Department manages to help accomplish these goals. The specific *Compass* goals and objectives relevant to WMA management are included in Appendix I.

Statewide WMA Vision

Our WMAs are managed to provide and showcase important habitat for all wildlife and to offer high quality, wildlife-based public recreation.

Other Considerations

All regional WMA programs are funded through a combination of hunting and fishing license revenue, appropriations from federal excise taxes (firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, and fishing tackle), and funding provided by other partners to mitigate habitat loss or simply to contribute to the conservation effort. Hunters and anglers pay a large portion of the management costs. They and other users are rewarded with areas that are open to the public for hunting, trapping, fishing, and viewing. The habitat provided helps to attract and sustain wildlife populations for consumptive and non-consumptive use, including venues for outdoor education activities.

All strategies proposed in this plan are bound by the contractual agreements between cooperating agencies, the mission of MWMA, and all applicable Department species management plans and policies. Issues and strategies that are inconsistent with the mission were not considered. In addition, the implementation of all strategies will be subject to available funding, personnel, and safety considerations.

The Southeast Region

The Southeast Region, headquartered in Pocatello, manages five WMAs totaling 17,000 acres of land. This includes deeded properties, leases, and cooperative agreements. Management focus is to maintain highly functional wildlife habitat and provide wildlife-based recreation. These areas include:

- Blackfoot River WMA, located in Caribou County, is focused on the important Blackfoot River headwaters fishery, but also provides big game, upland game, and waterfowl habitat. It is also a popular fishing access point.
- Georgetown Summit WMA is an important winter range for deer and elk, but also provides year-round habitat for big game and several species of upland game. The Bear

River flows through the property, and the stream and riparian corridor is important for fisheries, furbearers, and waterfowl.
- Montpelier WMA, also located in Bear Lake County, serves mainly as an elk and mule deer winter range.
- Portneuf WMA in Bannock County is a key part of a mule deer winter range that wraps around the Portneuf Mountains from Inkom to Lava Hot Springs. It is also popular for a variety of outdoor public recreation including big game and upland game hunting.
- Sterling WMA in central Bingham County lies adjacent to American Falls Reservoir and is a mixture of sagebrush steppe and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of waterfowl and water birds. Upland game, particularly ring-necked pheasant, is also an important habitat management consideration. The area is well used for both upland game and waterfowl hunting.

Nearly all WMAs benefit a variety of nongame and sensitive species of plants and animals. Some examples of sensitive species for the Southeast Region include red glasswort, Idaho sedge, desert valvata, Idaho dunes tiger beetle, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, northern leopard frog, short-eared owl, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, lesser scaup, northern pintail, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlew, and Brewer's sparrow.

Georgetown Summit WMA

Georgetown Summit WMA (GSWMA) is administered through partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U. S. Forest Service (USFS), the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and private landowners. It is located in Bear Lake County 12 miles southeast of Soda Springs. Acquisition was initiated to preserve and enhance big game winter range. History of the WMA and current infrastructure is described in Appendices II and VIII. The priorities for GSWMA in order of importance include: 1) big game winter range, 2) upland game and other wildlife production, 3) public hunting, and 4) general wildlife appreciation. Georgetown Summit WMA funding comes from state hunting and fishing license sales and Pittman-Robertson funds (federal excise tax). This management plan is designed to provide broad guidance for the long-term management of GSWMA. It replaces an earlier management plan written in 1999.

Georgetown Summit WMA Vision

The GSWMA will be managed to benefit wildlife by providing diverse upland and riparian plant communities, and also to provide public access for wildlife-based recreation with emphasis on hunting opportunity.

Georgetown Summit WMA Mission

All wildlife resources of GSWMA will be protected and managed as mitigation for habitat losses, and to ensure sufficient quantities of high quality habitat for mule deer, upland game, and a wide variety of other game and nongame species. High quality wildlife-based recreational opportunities will be provided compatible with provisions for wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Modification of Plan

This plan provides broad, long-term management direction for GSWMA. It will be evaluated at least every five years to determine if adjustments are needed. The plan will be modified as needed to accommodate changing conditions and goals and to incorporate available advancements in management knowledge and techniques.

Area Description and Current Status

Georgetown Summit WMA is located in Bear Lake County 12 miles southeast of Soda Springs (Figure 1). The 4,353-acre GSWMA lies adjacent to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest on the lower slope of the Aspen Range and private lands associated with the Bear River Valley. The Department owns 1,763 acres, leases 1,830 acres from IDL, and for the past five years has leased 760 acres from a neighboring landowner. Approximately 3.5 miles of the Bear River meanders through the south edge of the WMA.

GSWMA lies within the Basin and Range geomorphic province on a westerly facing slope of the Aspen Range overlooking a long, narrow valley drained by the Bear River. The Bear River Range to the west parallels the Aspen Range on the eastern side of the valley. The WMA is bisected by U.S. Highway 30 (additional lane expansion planned), a 315 kV transmission line in the vicinity of Georgetown Summit and an active railroad line that parallels the Bear River. A portion of the historic Oregon Trail also passes through the WMA. The valley floor and higher slopes to the north, east and south of the WMA are developed for agriculture, grazing, and increasingly for rural residential development. The higher elevations directly north and east are managed as part of the West Side Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. In addition to the public access directly associated with WMA, GSWMA is a popular portal for gaining access to these USFS tracts. The brush-covered slopes and draws of the WMA provide both forage and security cover for mule deer, elk, moose, and other wildlife throughout the year. The generally western exposure provides superior winter habitat especially on more southern aspects. Sagebrush flats, former or current agricultural fields, and riparian habitat associated with the Bear River corridor offer habitat for furbearers, upland game, waterfowl, and a variety of nongame. Federal land ownership (BLM and USFS) to the northeast and southwest offers relatively secure wildlife habitat; however, that influence is mostly restricted to higher elevations. With the exception of the WMA, nearly all lower elevations adjacent to U.S. Highway 30 are impacted by agricultural development.

Elevation in the vicinity ranges from 5,800 feet on the Bear River to 7,000 feet on the ridgetops. Aspect is generally south to westerly. Soils are generally light clay with fine gravel texture, but vary greatly depending on slope and aspect. The climate of the area is moderated by predominantly moist, warm air masses moving inland from the North Pacific Ocean. Occasional Arctic air masses bring extreme winter cold. Climatic conditions are influenced locally by major mountain ranges which lie north to south across west-to-east airflows. Winter weather is cold, with mean daily temperature in January rarely exceeding 20°F, and minimums of -20°F are not unusual. Temperatures range from -40°F to 100°F. Annual precipitation is 12-15 inches, more than half of which falls in the winter as snow.

Lying within the Great Basin/Rocky Mountain vegetation transition zone, GSWMA vegetation is generally a complex of three dominant groups: 1) sagebrush-grasslands, 2) aspen and tall shrub deciduous forests, and 3) mixed mountain brush types (Kuck 1984). The majority of the WMA is represented by the two former groups, although vegetation in specific locations is dependent upon climatic factors as well as land use and management history. Portions of the Bear River

corridor within the WMA have been developed to dryland agriculture but also include wet meadow and willow/hawthorn-dominated woody vegetation. Noxious weeds are controlled by a variety of methods to comply with state law and protect wildlife habitat.

The Department owns or leases about 340 acres of arable land along the Bear River. Fifty acres of Department-owned land along with 90 acres of leased land are seeded to alfalfa. Two hundred acres of leased property was planted into a wildlife mix of grasses and forbs in 2009. In 2012, a share crop agreement with a new adjacent landowner was initiated to address weed control, crop management, and big game use. The agreement is of mutual benefit to both the Department and the landowner and most likely will be continued into the future. Acquisition of additional high wildlife value habitat adjacent to the WMA will be pursued as opportunities arise.

GSWMA is home to a variety of migratory and resident birds and mammals, but also provides habitat for a variety of plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, and reptiles (Appendices VI and VII). Other wildlife and particularly sensitive species will be considered and evaluated before vegetation manipulations are implemented.

GSWMA provides year-round habitat for elk, mule deer, and moose with winter and spring being the most important seasons of use. Most recent trend surveys indicate 225 deer, 95 elk, and 20 moose winter on winter range within five miles of GSMWA on the west slope of the Aspen Range and approximately 100 deer, 40 elk, and five moose winter on the GSWMA. Elk and moose calving have occurred on the area. The WMA is an important corridor between the Aspen Range on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest to the northeast, and the Bear River Range on the Cache National Forest to the southwest. With continued human population growth in Bear Lake and nearby Caribou counties, big game winter range is being lost to housing developments and infrastructure. As this trend continues, intact winter range becomes increasingly important. Winter forage for big game is provided through a variety of vegetation management approaches. Forage quantity and quality for big game and other wildlife is maintained or improved with prescribed burns, brush mowing, plantings, seedings, noxious weed control, and livestock exclusion. Winter security and thermal cover for wildlife is provided by protecting riparian areas and by limiting shrub treatments to those necessary to meet forage objectives. Any of these techniques may be applied when appropriate to achieve site-specific objectives, although vegetation management often requires no intervening action other than permitting natural ecological processes to occur. Evaluation will continue using established vegetation monitoring techniques.

Habitat security is also provided by restricting human activity, especially during critical periods. Motorized vehicles are restricted to established roads while non-motorized access is open except during extreme winter conditions. Public use is encouraged though facilities are limited to informational signage, primitive roads, and parking areas. The area is particularly popular for big game hunting and provides good opportunity for mule deer and elk hunting during archery, rifle, and muzzleloader seasons. There is limited opportunity for upland game (forest grouse) hunting. Access to the Bear River provides waterfowl hunting. Much of the property is well situated for wildlife viewing from improved roads.

There is minimal infrastructure on GSWMA, mostly limited to conventional barbed wire fencing. A small cabin and very old barn structure have both been removed in recent years. One significant structure is a farm bridge crossing the Bear River that was recently given a thorough inspection and deemed to be in need of upgrading.

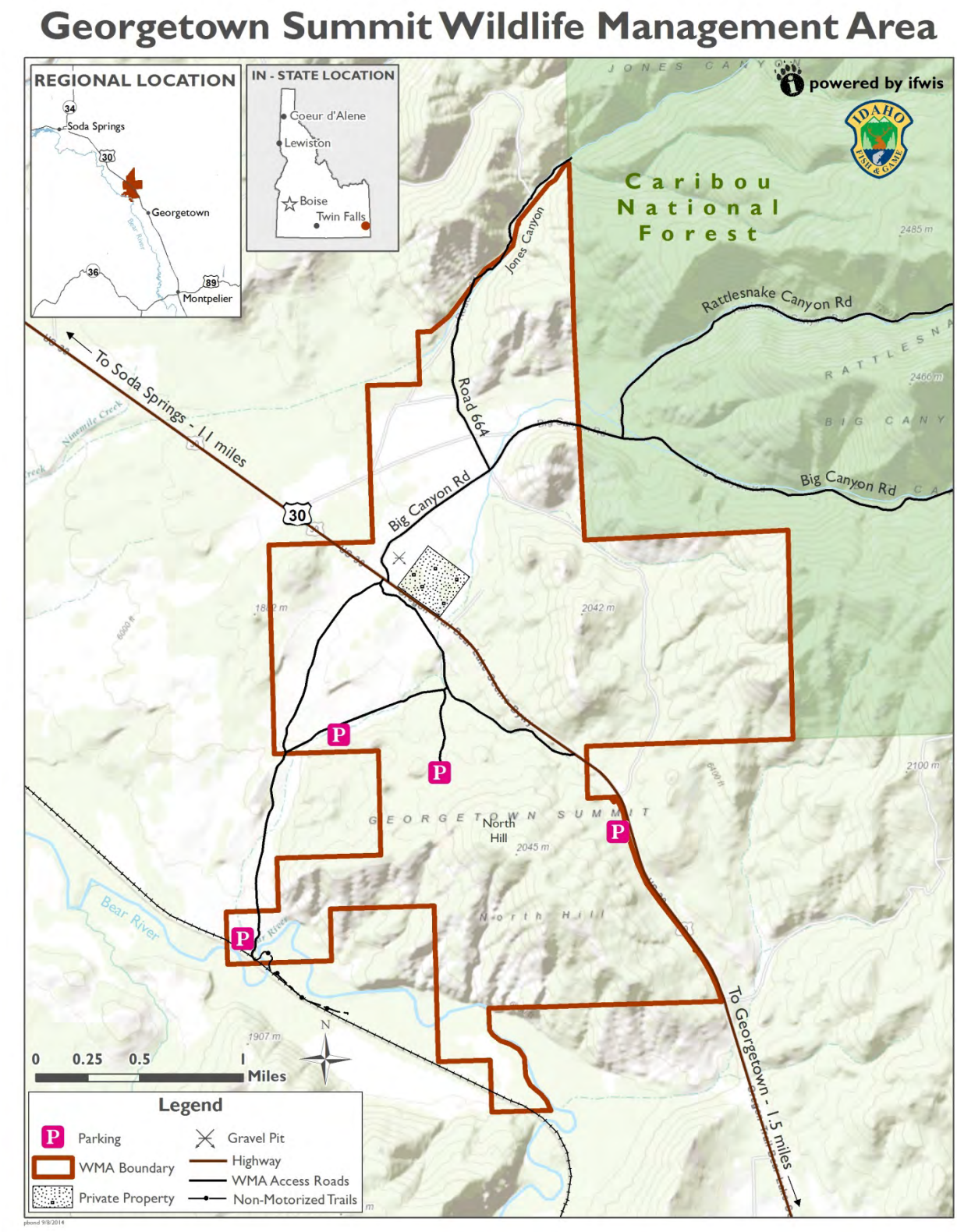

Figure 1. Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area.

Management Issues

The list of issues addressed in this plan was generated from public input and from within the Department as described below. Similar issues are grouped into one of two categories: Wildlife Management, and Public Use and Relations Management. The identified issues in turn generated performance targets or issues, which were grouped by management directions within one of the four GSWMA priorities (Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range, Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production, Public Hunting, and General Wildlife Appreciation). The Performance Targets are all tied to a *Compass* (strategic plan) objective (Appendix I). Seventy-three performance targets were identified. Again, an effort has been made to broaden the scope of the plan so the management of GSWMA takes into account the role and influence of the WMA on wildlife and habitat within the surrounding landscape, as well as the influence of the surrounding landscape on GSWMA. The landscape delineation is largely driven by the known or expected occurrence of high priority and at-risk species potentially impacted by GSWMA, but also considers topographical features and land use patterns.

Throughout 2012 (Feb-Dec), an online survey form was available on the Department website and known interested parties were contacted via mailed postcards. Hard copies were also made available at the regional office or mailed out upon request. The survey allowed participants to answer questions and provide feedback on WMA management statewide and the management of specific WMAs.

In addition to sampling type of use and demographics, this tool was meant to collect input from the public on the current management of WMAs and suggestions for improvement. The survey (Appendix IV) included three leading questions meant to garner specific input: #6 –"What could IDFG do to improve your visit to this WMA?", #7 – "Do you have any specific suggestions or comments about the management of this WMA?", and #10 – "Do you have any specific suggestions or comments on how to improve these [statewide] goals or current management of IDFG WMAs?"

From 24 survey responses pertaining to GSWMA, 21 comments or suggestions were received related to the questions mentioned above. Occasional unsolicited comments were also gathered from WMA "user sign-in stations" or through word of mouth. Most of the comments came from users who identified hunting/scouting as their primary use of the WMA. Other uses included being outside/hiking, dog training/walking, wildlife viewing/bird watching, ATV riding, and photography. In 2012, users provided 19 entries registering visits at the four voluntary sign-in stations. From that data, we know that hunting and fishing are the most popular activities on the GSWMA. In 2014, draft copies of all WMA plans were made available and comments solicited. Thirteen responses were provided concerning the GSWMA plan. Respondents agreed with the plan as written with few new issues raised. One respondent suggested continued monitoring of road kill, but felt strongly that additional action was needed to reduce losses. Another respondent suggested that use of lead-free ammunition should be considered and that steps should be taken to assure trapping activity does not conflict with other priorities. A third respondent felt

Management Unit 76 (includes GSWMA east of Hwy 30) was oversubscribed by archery hunters.

Neighbors to the GSWMA and management partners also have provided input through written correspondence and word of mouth. All input/issues from the public were reviewed and any suggesting changes or improvement are listed below (similar comments have been paraphrased and/or combined).

Issues Identified by the Public

Wildlife Management

- Better agreements and relations with neighbors (cooperative farming agreements should benefit wildlife)
- Better communication and relations with neighbors and other organizations/agencies to improve habitat and public access
- Control predators
- Consider requiring lead-free ammunition on WMAs
- Monitor and reduce roadkill losses

Public Use and Relations

- Improve road maintenance
- Provide better maps
- Mark boundaries more clearly
- Stock pheasant and/or additional upland game species
- Provide more motorized access including winter snowmobile access
- Further restrict motorized access especially during hunting seasons
- Provide more access for camping
- Charge fee for non-license holders and consider other fund raising tools
- Reduce archery hunting opportunity particularly for non-residents
- Better agreements with neighbors
- Control predator numbers
- Improve signage regarding available access (property boundaries/cooperatives) and to prevent trespass
- Take measures to assure trapping activity does not conflict with other priorities
- Improve information stations (general rules/habitat and wildlife identification/available facilities-ranked opportunities) so literature is always available and protected from weather
- Improve relations with other organizations/agencies to optimize public benefits including additional access

Issues Identified by the Department

Wildlife Management

- Extend WMA management considerations onto the surrounding landscape which influences or is influenced by the WMA
- Complete contemporary surveys for all wildlife and plants including aquatic and terrestrial species
- Anticipate equipment/infrastructure needs and budget accordingly

Public Use and Relations

- Accurately assess and summarize year-round public use with an approved systematic and randomized sampling scheme
- Anticipate equipment/infrastructure needs and budget accordingly
- Maintain boundary markers on all boundaries spaced at no more than 660 feet
- Work to prevent wildlife damage to neighbors and assist with resolution to problems
- Assure rules/regulations particular to the GSWMA (e.g., camping, open fires) are consistent with statewide use policy, are well posted on site and are addressed in printed/electronic format

Georgetown Summit WMA Management Program

The Department is responsible for the conservation, protection, perpetuation, and management of all wildlife, fish, and plants in Idaho. Wildlife Management Areas enable the Department to directly affect habitat to maximize suitability for species in key areas and are an integral component in the Department's approach to fulfill its mandate in Idaho Code. Management to restore and maintain important natural habitats and create hyper-productive habitats that enhance carrying capacity for selected wildlife species remain key strategies on GSWMA. However, the most pervasive threats to WMA ecological integrity, such as noxious weeds, rural residential/commercial development, increased water diversion, and conflicting land uses on public lands, typically come from outside the WMA's boundary. Therefore, WMA managers must recognize and create opportunities to collaborate with adjacent landowners, expanding our collective conservation efforts for WMA-dependent wildlife.

An effective way to enable a broader influence over the future of GSWMA is through the use of Conservation Targets to guide management. Conservation Targets can be either a focal species or a habitat-type that benefits numerous species. According to Noss et al. (1999), focal species are those used by resource managers to determine the appropriate size and configuration of conservation areas. Conservation of species within landscapes used for other enterprises such as forestry, recreation, agriculture, grazing, and commercial development requires managers to determine the composition, quantity, and configuration of landscape elements required to meet the needs of the species present (Lambeck 1997). Since it is impractical to identify key landscape elements for all species dependent on GSWMA, a carefully selected suite of Conservation Targets can help provide for the conservation needs of many species. Additionally, identifying landscape-scale Conservation Targets across ownership boundaries helps address wildlife-related issues on the WMA and creates a platform for conservation partnerships on the surrounding landscape.

The following five-step process was used to create the GSWMA management program described in this plan. Each of these steps is described in detail on the ensuing pages.

1) Summary of Management Priorities
2) Focal Species Assessment
3) Selection of Conservation Targets
4) Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets
5) Creation of Management Program Table

Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape Conservation

The GSWMA includes IDL lands and lies directly adjacent to or in close proximity to additional BLM, USFS, and IDL lands. All of these jurisdictions as well as adjacent private lands include

wildlife habitat that serves as core area for the overall landscape. An important role for GSWMA is to protect, enhance, or restore habitat functions for all wildlife within the associated landscape.

Wildlife Management Areas enable the Department to directly affect habitat to maximize suitability for species in key areas and are an integral component in the Department's approach to fulfill its mandate in Idaho Code. Management to maintain important natural habitat and create enhanced habitat for selected species is a key strategy. However, many threats to species associated with GSWMA occur beyond the WMA boundary. Opportunities to cooperate and collaborate with adjacent land managers should be recognized and pursued whenever possible. Both wildlife and public benefits related to healthy wildlife populations will be augmented.

To promote a broader influence over wildlife habitat needs and associated public use, focal species and their particular needs have been identified and will be considered in all actions within GSWMA or wherever the Department has opportunity to influence other land management within the landscape. In order to delineate and describe the landscape associated with GSWMA, topography, land use patterns, wildlife-based recreation use patterns, and species occupancy have been considered.

When considering species occupancy, we have focused on species that are of high importance given the priorities of GSWMA, or those given special status due to depressed or unknown population status. Special status species are those designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need according to the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2005) or, for plants, special status ranking assigned by the Idaho Conservation Data Center, or those given special status designation by either the BLM, USFS, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Combining the factors of topography, land use, and known species occupancy, we have designated a landscape, or area of influence, logically associated with GSWMA management concerns and priorities (Figure 2). The designated landscape represents approximately a nine mile buffer about the GSWMA boundary, including topography similar to or influencing the habitat within the GSWMA boundary as well as associated land use such as agricultural land, native forest and rangeland, riparian areas, and the variety of land ownership associated with the WMA. The GSWMA landscape includes an area thought to be used by mule deer, elk, and moose transitioning or wintering on the WMA and takes into account the occurrence records of sensitive plant and animal species in the vicinity.

The focal species or groups of species have been used to designate several Conservation Targets for GSWMA priorities in the Management Program table below (pages 35-40). Management Directions, and subsequently Performance Targets, Strategies, and Outcome Metrics are related to a given scope of application being either within just the GSWMA boundary, within the surrounding GSWMA landscape, or both within the landscape and the GSWMA boundary.

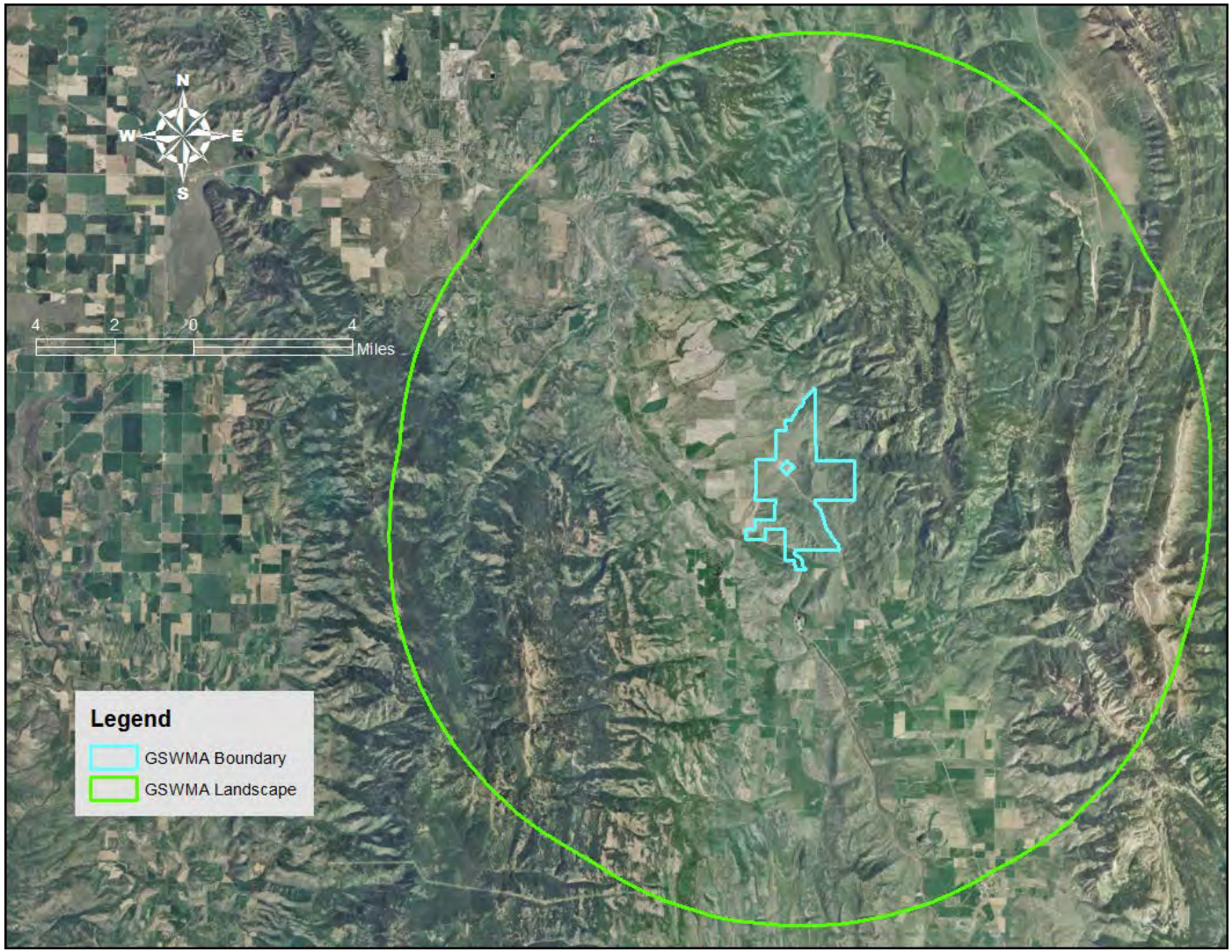

Figure 2. Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape.

Summary of Management Priorities

Georgetown Summit WMA, like many other WMAs, was created for a specific purpose and therefore has inherent management priorities incorporated in the cooperating agency agreements and land ownerships that formed the WMA. Georgetown Summit WMA is an important winter range for deer and elk, and also provides year-round habitat for big game and several species of upland game.

Legal mandates associated with the 2001 appropriation of federal funding for the State Wildlife Grants program also guide the Department's management priorities. The U.S. Congress appropriated federal funds through the State Wildlife Grants program to help meet the need for conservation of all fish and wildlife. Along with this new funding came the responsibility of each state to develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) referred to above. The Department coordinated this effort in compliance with its legal mandate to protect and manage all of the state's fish and wildlife resources (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2005). The CWCS is currently under revision and is now referred to as the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP serves to coordinate the efforts of all partners working toward conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats across the state. The SWAP does not distinguish between game and nongame species in its assessment of conservation need and is Idaho's seminal document identifying species at-risk. Therefore, at-risk species identified in the SWAP, both game and nongame, are a management priority for the Department.

In addition to the biological goals of preserving, protecting, and perpetuating all fish and wildlife in Idaho, the Department also has a statewide goal of protecting and improving wildlife-based recreation and education. The Department's strategic plan, *The Compass*, outlines multiple strategies designed to maintain or improve both consumptive (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing) and non-consumptive (e.g., wildlife watching) wildlife-based recreation opportunities across the state.

Taking the biological and funding resources of GSWMA into consideration, in concert with these foundational priorities of the WMA and statewide Department priorities, the Department developed the following list of broad-scale GSWMA Management Priorities.

Georgetown Summit WMA Management Priorities (listed in order of importance):

1. Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range
2. Upland Game and Other Wildlife* Production
3. Public Hunting
4. General Wildlife Appreciation

* "Other Wildlife" to include all wild species – plant and animal

The priorities for GSWMA were developed based on the potential of the habitat, and typical or potential wildlife-based use.

Because GSWMA is generally low to middle elevation with a westerly aspect, the area is well suited to provide quality winter range for elk and other big game. Protection of large blocks of native brush and riparian habitat associated with seeps and the Bear River will benefit several species of upland game, furbearers, waterfowl, and numerous nongame species that are known to occur on or very near GSWMA. The proximity of GSWMA to Montpelier, Soda Springs, U.S. Highway 30 and trails maintained by the USFS makes it well suited for providing public access for hunting and other wildlife-based recreation. Because many other species occur on GSWMA and the WMA is very accessible for non-consumptive use, promoting opportunity for all wildlife appreciation through habitat management and public access provisions is an appropriate fourth priority.

Focal Species Assessment

This section of the Plan is an assessment of conservation priority species that will identify Conservation Targets to guide management within the GSWMA Landscape. Table 1 evaluates taxa that are either flagship species (Groves 2003) and/or at-risk species identified by the Idaho SWAP and designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), the Idaho Conservation Data Center, or key federal agencies.

Flagship species are popular, charismatic species that serve as symbols and catalysts to motivate conservation awareness, support, and action (Heywood 1995). Flagship species often represent a landscape or ecosystem (e.g., east Idaho highlands), a threat (e.g., habitat loss), organization (e.g., state government or conservation group) or geographic region (e.g., protected area, Department Region or state; Veríssimo et al. 2009). Elk, mule deer, and moose are an example of a group that fit the criteria as both focal and flagship species. Therefore, elk, mule deer, and moose are an important flagship species group/guild considered in the GSWMA assessment.

A principal limitation of the flagship species concept is that by focusing limited management resources on culturally and economically important species, more vulnerable species may receive less or no attention (Simberloff 1998). To overcome this limitation we are also considering a variety of at-risk species (Groves 2003); yielding a more comprehensive assessment that includes culturally and economically important species (e.g., waterfowl and upland game birds) along with formally designated conservation priorities (e.g., bald eagle). Categories of at-risk species considered in this assessment are: 1) species designated as Idaho SGCN or, for plants, special status ranking assigned by the Idaho Conservation Data Center; 2) species designated as Sensitive by Region 4 (Intermountain Region) of the USFS; 3) species designated as Sensitive by the Idaho State Office of the BLM; and 4) species listed or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act by the USFWS.

Although the Idaho SWAP SGCN includes most of the special status species identified by land management agencies in Idaho, some species not listed as SGCN are considered priorities by other agencies. The area surrounding GSWMA is comprised of multiple land ownerships including BLM, IDL, USFS, and private lands. The BLM, IDL, and USFS in particular are key partners in this landscape as their management actions can directly influence ecological function on GSWMA.

United States Forest Service Sensitive Species are animal species identified by the Intermountain Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution. The Forest Service Manual (FSM 2670.22) directs the development of sensitive species lists. This designation applies only on USFS–administered lands.

Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species are designated by State Directors in cooperation with the State fish and wildlife agency (BLM manual 6840). The Idaho State BLM Office updated these designations in 2003. The sensitive species designation is normally used for species that occur on BLM public lands and for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management.

Information on species status, occurrence (within WMA boundary and within Landscape boundary), beneficial management/conservation actions, and threats were derived through consultation with Department Regional Habitat, Fisheries, and Wildlife staff; occurrence records in the Department's Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System database; consultation with various BLM and USFS species lists; and species summaries provided in the Idaho SWAP.

Southeast Regional Habitat staff, with assistance from other regional staff, estimated the suitability of assessed species as a focal species based on descriptions in Groves (2003) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2005). Potentially suitable focal species may include species with one or more of the following five characteristics:

- *Species with high conservation need*
- *Species or habitats that are representative of a broader group of species sharing the same or similar conservation needs*
- *Species with a high level of current program effort*
- *Species with potential to stimulate partnerships*
- *Species with a high likelihood that factors affecting status can realistically be addressed* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2005)

Game species considered for focal species designation include elk, moose, mule deer, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, Greater Sage-Grouse, sandhill crane, Bonneville cutthroat trout, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Nongame species considered for focal species designation include Myotis guild, bald eagle, boreal owl, Brewer's sparrow, flammulated owl, great gray owl, long-billed curlew, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, Transitional waterbird guild (common loon, trumpeter swan, northern pintail, lesser scaup, hooded merganser, Clark's grebe, red-necked grebe, American white pelican, great egret, snowy egret, cattle egret, black–crowned night heron, white-faced ibis, Wilson's phalarope, California gull, Franklin's gull, Caspian tern, Forster's tern, black-necked stilt, black tern), common garter snake, northern leopard frog, western toad, northern leatherside chub, bluehead sucker, California floater, western pearlshell, mountain marshsnail, Bear Lake springsnail, and Idaho sedge.

Table 1. Status of conservation priority species on Georgetown Summit WMA, including potential suitability as a focal species for management.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
Mammals					
Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)	Flagship	The southwest face of the Aspen Range and GSWMA serves as winter range for Mule deer from game management units 76 and possibly 75.	Rural residential/commercial development in the Bear and upper Blackfoot River watersheds; habitat fragmentation from conflicting land uses on adjacent public and private lands; loss of aspen habitat. Conflicts with agricultural producers and potential for increased conflicts with loss of CRP contracts.	Protect and expand existing winter range; support management that increases aspen on the landscape; (Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group); work collaboratively with BLM and USFS to maintain thriving mule deer herds on the landscape. Provide technical assistance to private landowners to expand tolerance and available habitat on private lands; provide technical assistance to county planning and zoning staffs to minimize loss or degradation of habitat.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Mule deer are one of the foundational priorities for the creation of GSWMA. Mule deer are a culturally and economically important wildlife species in eastern Idaho and are a species with a good potential for developing conservation partnerships.
Elk (*Cervus elaphus*)	Flagship	The southwest face of the Aspen Range and GSWMA is crucial winter range for elk from game management units76 and possibly 75.	Conflicts with agricultural producers including the potential for brucellosis transmission and depredations. Potential for increased conflicts with loss of CRP contracts. Rural residential/commercial development in the Bear and upper Blackfoot River watersheds; habitat fragmentation from conflicting land uses on adjacent public and private lands; loss of aspen habitat.	Protect, expand, and improve existing winter range; work collaboratively with BLM and USFS to maintain adequate elk security cover; provide technical assistance to private landowners to reduce the likelihood of brucellosis transmission, expand tolerance and available habitat on private lands; provide technical assistance to county planning and zoning staffs to minimize loss or degradation of habitat.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Elk are a foundational priority for the creation of GSWMA. Elk are a culturally and economically important wildlife species in eastern Idaho and are a species with a good potential for developing conservation partnerships.
Moose (*Alces alces*)	Flagship	Moose occur in unknown numbers throughout the GSWMA landscape. In general, moose are common within this landscape.	Loss and degradation of riparian habitat; rural residential/commercial development in the Bear and upper Blackfoot River watersheds; regional disease concerns; depredation conflicts with private landowners, illegal harvest.	Support management that increases high quality riparian habitat on the landscape; provide technical assistance to county planning and zoning staffs to minimize loss or degradation of habitat; provide technical assistance to private landowners to expand tolerance and available habitat on private lands; contribute to Department regional disease monitoring efforts in the GSWMA landscape.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Moose are a relatively abundant animal in the GSWMA landscape and are dependent on habitats that are representative of a broader group of species sharing the same or similar conservation needs.
Myotis Guild	SGCN, BLM Type 3-5	California myotis, fringed myotis, western small-footed myotis, Yuma myotis	Individuals are long-lived and exhibit low reproductive potential. Roost sites tend to be colonial, and may be limiting in some areas; aggregations are susceptible to disturbance and intentional persecution. High prey densities are often associated with wetlands and other highly productive habitat. Habitat use rates and, at the population level, survival and recruitment rates likely track aerial insect prey availability. Accessible surface water also likely affects local distribution and abundance. Local populations potentially affected by wind turbine installations	Minimize broad-spectrum insect control activities that reduce prey base. Where possible, document natural roosting habitat such as cliffs. Create day-and night-roosting habitat through installation of bat boxes. Deploy escapement devices on troughs and water tanks, and develop natural and artificial pooled water sources. Track with ongoing efforts of the East Idaho Bat Working Group to identify opportunities to mitigate bat mortalities from wind energy development.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Unknown scope of occurrence and composition of guild on GSWMA would require preliminary work to determine the extent of occurrence.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
			situated in flyways or near high-use areas, such as wetlands or roosts.		
Birds					
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)	Flagship, SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	Sharp-tailed grouse common on GSWMA. Only documented Sharp-tailed grouse lek in Bear Lake Co. is within ¼ mile of GSWMA.	Population declines are related to habitat loss and degradation. Breeding habitats are dominated by relatively dense herbaceous (grass and forbs) cover and shrubs. Broods depend on areas with abundant forbs and insects, often with high shrub diversity. Sharp–tailed grouse often rely on riparian areas or deciduous hardwood shrub stands during winter, although agricultural fields may be used in milder conditions.	Identify, protect and maintain key breeding and wintering habitats, avoid disturbance to breeding complexes (lands within 9.2 km radius of occupied leks), monitor breeding populations. Work with adjacent private landowners to encourage deferred haying operations.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Meets all criteria for focal species designation. Sharp-tailed grouse have large home ranges, are capable of extensive movements, and use a mosaic of habitats within GSWMA and vicinity.
Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive, USFWS ESA Candidate	Greater Sage-grouse are occasionally observed within the GSWMA landscape. There are historic leks within the GSWMA landscape.	Loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat are the major threats to the Greater Sage–grouse in Idaho. Habitat degradation factors include alteration of historical fire regimes, conversion of sagebrush habitat, water developments, use of herbicides and pesticides, invasive species, urbanization, energy development, mineral extraction, and recreation.	In conjunction with BLM, USFS, and East Idaho Uplands Local Sage-grouse Working Group identify, protect, and maintain existing sagebrush seasonal habitats particularly breeding and winter habitats. Where possible, restore damaged and lost sage-steppe habitat. Manage projects to significantly reduce fragmentation of existing sagebrush habitats and to reduce human disturbance.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Greater Sage-grouse have a high conservation need and are representative of a group of species sharing similar conservation needs. They have a high level of current Department program effort and are a species with potential to stimulate partnerships. They currently do not occur within the GSWMA boundary but important habitat lies nearby and within the GSWMA landscape.
Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Brewer's sparrow is a common breeder in sagebrush habitat within GSWMA landscape.	Shrub-steppe obligate species, closely associated with big sagebrush. Habitat destruction and degradation in sage steppe are the primary threats to Brewer's sparrow populations.	Conservation actions should focus on preserving areas of intact, unfragmented shrub-steppe habitat.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Brewer's sparrow is a sagebrush obligate and representative of sagebrush-dependent species sharing similar conservation needs.
Three-toed Woodpecker	SGCN, USFS Sensitive	Three-toed woodpecker habitat exists on the GSWMA landscape within old growth coniferous forests. However, nesting is not documented.	Logging, mining and other activities that remove old growth coniferous forests can have negative effects on the birds.	Actions that result in old growth coniferous forests with large snags and a well-developed understory will likely benefit this species. Supporting forest management that strives to maintain old growth coniferous forests is beneficial.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-5	Habitat on the WMA is suitable to support low density nesting but breeding status is unknown. Long-billed curlews have recently been observed on GSWMA.	The greatest threat to Long-billed curlew in Idaho is loss of habitat. Conversion of grasslands to croplands, residential development, and increasing recreational use have all resulted in losses of suitable habitat in Idaho.	Identify curlew nesting and brood-rearing areas on GSWMA and vicinity. Protect nesting areas from fragmentation and human disturbance from approximately mid-April to mid-June.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)	SGCN	Sandhill cranes in GSWMA and vicinity are part of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP). GSWMA provides potential breeding habitat for Sandhill crane.	Greatest threat to RMP cranes is loss of migration-staging habitat. However, loss and degradation of wetland/riparian breeding habitat is also an issue.	Protect and restore wetland/riparian habitat for breeding Sandhill cranes. Document breeding locations on the WMA, including nesting brooding locations.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Occurrence context on GSWMA does not reflect main threats to the population. Also, limited occurrence on GSWMA limits potential management feedback.
Transitional Waterbird Guild	SGCN	The Bear River provides transitional habitat for many Idaho waterbird SGCNs including common loon, trumpeter swan, northern pintail, lesser	Threats to most Idaho waterbirds are not related to the use of transitional habitat but are related to maintenance of nesting breeding habitat (e.g., Caspian tern,	Better characterize the importance of GSWMA to the transitional waterbird guild by quantifying occurrence/use during ice free periods on the Bear River.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Presence of waterbird guild species is primarily limited to transitional use of the Bear River.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
		scaup, hooded merganser, Clark's grebe, red-necked grebe, American white pelican, great egret, snowy egret, cattle egret, black–crowned night heron, White-faced Ibis, Wilson's phalarope, California gull, Franklin's gull, Caspian tern, Forster's tern, black-necked stilt, black tern	trumpeter swan) and wintering habitat (northern pintail).		
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-1, USFS Sensitive	Bald eagles are commonly observed along the Bear River within GSWMA. Georgetown Summit WMA likely provides important wintering habitat for both resident and nonresident eagles.	Perhaps the greatest threat to Bald eagles in Idaho is disturbance during the nesting period from activities such as forestry, human recreation, and construction projects. Shooting, poisoning, and electrocution are also significant threats in the Southeast Region, Idaho.	Population recovery goals have been met in the Southeast Region, Idaho. Nest monitoring should continue. Disturbance around nest sites should be minimized or avoided altogether, especially during late–winter/early–spring when eagles are initiating territory establishment and breeding activities.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Occurrence context on GSWMA does reflect one of the main threats to Bald eagles in Idaho. However, limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence on GSWMA limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale. There is no known breeding in the GSWMA landscape.
Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)	BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	Has been observed within the GSWMA landscape.	Goshawks are considered sensitive to large-scale changes to forested habitats associated with timber harvesting, livestock grazing, fire suppression and drought (Reynolds et al. 1992).	Work with CTNF biologists to update local status of nesting goshawks in the GSWMA landscape. Maintain forested habitat on the margins of GSWMA in a variety of vegetation structure stages to provide quality habitat for goshawk prey species and that enhance foraging opportunities for goshawk (See Reynolds et al. 1992 for specific recommendations).	***Unsuitable as a focal species*.** Limited information on use of GSWMA by northern goshawks limits the potential value of management feedback.
Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-5, USFS Sensitive	Boreal owls have been observed within the GSWMA landscape	Forest practices that remove large-diameter Douglas-fir, creates extensive even-age stands, and removes snags reduces multiscale habitat parameters required by this species. Fire suppression favors undesirable high-density vegetation conditions that reduces foraging and nesting habitat.	Supporting forest management that strives to maintain fire as a (prescribed or natural) mechanism for forest succession is beneficial.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Flammulated Owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	There are no documented occurrences within the GSWMA landscape; however, there are recent occurrences within four miles in similar habitat.	Forest practices that remove large-diameter Douglas-fir, creates extensive even-age stands, and removes snags reduces multiscale habitat parameters required by this species. Fire suppression favors undesirable high-density vegetation conditions that reduces foraging and nesting habitat.	Supporting forest management that strives to maintain fire as a (prescribed or natural) mechanism for forest succession is beneficial.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)	BLM Type-5, USFS Sensitive	Great gray owls have been observed within the GSWMA landscape and suitable habitat exists within the montane forests of the GSWMA landscape.	Habitat loss and fragmentation through timber harvest and development are the primary threats facing Great gray owl populations. Other threats include fire suppression leading to forested-stand density increases and conifer encroachment into meadows.	Retain beneficial habitat features at the landscape-level; particularly open areas for foraging adjacent to stands of mature or old-growth trees for nesting and roosting. When implementing forest management, limit timber harvest unit sizes; utilize variable harvest patch sizes or timber harvests with irregular borders to increase forest edge area; retain forested corridors	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
				between cutting units; retain forested stands around nest sites or potential nest sites; and retain hunting perches (large trees, large snags, or artificial platforms) in harvest patches. Protect and maintain existing nest sites; minimize disturbance around nest sites during the breeding season (Williams 2012).	
Reptiles					
Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)	BLM Type-3	Likely occurs on GSWMA but context of occurrence is poorly documented.	Threats to common garter snakes are most likely related to loss and degradation of riparian and wetland habitats and hibernacula.	Management that protects, restores or improves riparian and other wet habitats and enhances prey species availability (i.e., earthworms, insects, amphibians, and small mammals) will benefit Common garter snake. Identifying and protecting hibernacula will also benefit Common garter snake.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on utilization of GSWMA habitats limits the potential value of management feedback.
Amphibians					
Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2	Several documented occurrences on GSWMA and vicinity. Current population status is unknown.	Loss and degradation of wetland and riparian habitat is the most prevalent threat to populations. Introduced competitors and predators can cause amphibian population declines and losses. Disease is also a concern, particularly the chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.	Wetland protection and/or restoration of degraded sites are beneficial.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Species is important indicator of riparian and wetland systems in southeast Idaho, which is the stronghold for this species in Idaho. Continued persistence in the drainage would help guide priorities for riparian and wetland conservation. If this species is found to have been extirpated from the drainage, it would be an appropriate lynchpin for riparian restoration and indicator of success in longer term.
Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*)	BLM Type-3, USFWS Eastern Population Petitioned ESA,	Current distribution and status in watershed is poorly documented.	Habitat alteration and fragmentation isolates breeding populations and increases the effects of widespread threats such as changes in water quality, timber harvest, livestock grazing, fire, and toxic chemicals. Disease is also a concern, particularly the chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.	Managing disease, cataloging and monitoring population status, delineating important habitat, protecting delineated habitat, and identifying and protecting current breeding sites from habitat degradation (Keinath and McGee 2005).	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Fish					
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Occurs throughout the Bear River watershed including the section within GSWMA.	Reduction in historically occupied range, habitat loss or degradation, fragmentation of current habitat, and isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with Rainbow trout.	Maintain population distribution and trend monitoring program; conduct watershed habitat assessment; pursue reestablishment of metapopulation connectivity guided by the habitat assessment.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Bonneville cutthroat trout require well–oxygenated water; clean, well–sorted gravels, with minimal fine sediments for successful spawning; and complex instream and riparian habitat. Therefore their thriving presence is one indicator of a highly functional system. However, their fragmented occurrence in the Bear River

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
					watershed limits potential feedback to managers.
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Occurs throughout the Blackfoot River watershed including tributaries within the GSWMA landscape.	Reduction in historically occupied range, habitat loss or degradation, fragmentation of current habitat, and isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with Rainbow trout (IDFG 2005).	Maintain population distribution and trend monitoring program; conduct watershed habitat assessment; pursue reestablishment of metapopulation connectivity guided by the habitat assessment.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Northern Leatherside Chub (*Lepidomeda copei*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Historically observed within the GSWMA landscape, but current population status is unknown.	Habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss from water development (e.g., diversions and dams), stream alterations (e. g., channelization, barriers, etc.), and grazing are significant threats to Northern leatherside chub populations. Channelization decreases depth, increases water velocity and removes instream structure, reducing the quantity and quality of habitat.	Surveys should be conducted to determine if additional viable populations remain in Idaho. Water management decisions should consider the maintenance and improvement of flows in streams. Work with federal land managers and private landowners to improve instream and riparian habitats. Management of non–native fishes need to consider impacts on native species.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Occurrence context on GSWMA landscape does not reflect the main threats. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*)	SGCN	Occurs throughout the Bear River watershed including the section within GSWMA.	There is a lack of information on distribution and population status. Barriers created by dams, diversion structures and road crossings can result in habitat loss and reduce genetic exchange between populations. Non–native fish may have an impact on populations.	Develop monitoring programs to provide information on populations, distribution, and trends. Coordinate with agencies and private landowners to improve instream and riparian habitat conditions, including fish passage. Management of non–native fish species need to consider impacts on native nongame species.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Occurrence context on GSWMA landscape does not reflect the main threats. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Gastropods					
Bear Lake Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis pilsbryana*)	SGCN	Occurrences documented within the GSWMA landscape.	Alteration of springs through capping, excavation, and diversion is an important threat to populations. Habitat degradation arising from livestock use is also a threat.	Research to gain a better understanding of the current population numbers, trends, ecology, and the status of habitat is needed.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Mountain Marshsnail (*Stagnicola montanensis*)	SGCN	Occurrences documented within the GSWMA landscape.	Habitat loss is an important threat. Habitat degradation arising from livestock use of springs and small streams is pervasive throughout the range of the species.	Surveys are needed to determine the current status and distribution of populations in the state. These data are necessary to identify site-specific conservation priorities and needs.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Bivalves					
California Floater (*Anodonta californiensis*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Historically observed within the GSWMA landscape, but current population status is unknown.	Populations are sensitive to changes in water quality; livestock, agricultural runoff, housing or industrial development, and mining are potential causes of degraded water quality. Small dam construction and extensive diversions may also impact aquatic habitats. The loss of appropriate host fish populations is also a threat.	Research is necessary to determine current distribution, population sizes, and population trends throughout the state. Efforts are also needed to evaluate and prioritize site-level threats and conservation needs.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Western Pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcate*)	SGCN	This freshwater mussel has been documented within the Beat River watershed and within the GSWMA	Populations are sensitive to changes in water quality; livestock, agricultural runoff, housing or industrial development, and	Research is necessary to determine current distribution, population sizes, and population trends throughout the state.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the GSWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Georgetown Summit WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Georgetown Summit WMA
		landscape.	mining are potential causes of degraded water quality. Small dam construction and extensive diversions may also impact aquatic habitats. The loss of appropriate host fish populations is also a threat.	Efforts are also needed to evaluate and prioritize site-level threats and conservation needs.	management feedback.
Plants					
Idaho Sedge (*Carex idahoa*)	State rank S-2, BLM Type-2	Occurrences documented within the GSWMA landscape.	Populations may be affected by heavy grazing. Other risks are competition from exotic species, hydrologic alterations, agricultural development and road construction/maintenance.	Updated population data and related site information are needed. Impacts of herbivory and other disturbance should be monitored	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Unknown scope of occurrence and composition on GSWMA would require preliminary work to determine the extent of occurrence. Reduced populations would be an indicator for increased wetland protection and restoration effort.

Selection of Conservation Targets

The biodiversity of GSWMA is represented by numerous vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and ecological communities. It is impractical to evaluate and plan for the conservation of all these elements. Therefore, Conservation Targets, a sub-set of species and communities, were selected to represent the biodiversity of GSWMA for management and conservation; while still reflecting the management priorities of GSWMA.

The Conservation Targets for the Plan were selected from species ranked as potentially suitable focal species in Table 1. A final consideration in the selection of Conservation Targets was the best professional judgment of the Southeast Regional Habitat Manager and East District Habitat Biologist. Effective Conservation Targets cannot be selected based solely on species assessments. They must reflect regional threats, priorities, existing conservation partnerships, public use, other social considerations and the limitations of GSWMA personnel and funding.

The Conservation Targets selected to guide management on GSWMA (corresponding GSWMA Priority in parentheses) are:

1. Elk and Mule Deer (Elk Winter Range)
2. Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production)
3. Brewer's Sparrow (Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production)
4. Northern Leopard Frog (Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production)

Elk and Mule Deer

Elk and mule deer were selected as a Conservation Target to represent Elk Winter Range on GSWMA because:

- Elk and mule deer are flagship species and are the primary foundational priority for the creation of GSWMA.
- Mule deer and elk rely on a broad array of habitat components including aspen forest, riparian habitat, live streams, mountain shrub, grasslands, and sagebrush to thrive within the GSWMA landscape. Therefore, efforts to sustain deer and elk herds by conserving these varied habitat components will benefit a wide range of other species.

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse was selected as a Conservation Target to represent Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production on GSWMA because:

- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse fulfill all criteria for suitability as a focal species.
- The only documented lek location in Bear Lake County is within one half mile of GSWMA.
- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse have large home ranges and use a mosaic of habitats within GSWMA and vicinity such as grassland, sage-steppe, mountain shrub, and

riparian. Therefore, efforts to sustain sharp-tailed grouse by conserving these varied habitat components will benefit a wide range of other species.
- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse use of grasslands is particularly valuable as a surrogate for other grasslands-dependent flagship and special status species.

Brewer's Sparrow

Brewer's sparrow was selected as a Conservation Target to represent Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production on GSWMA because:

- Upland habitat types associated with Brewer's sparrow benefit several species evaluated in Table 1 not fully covered by other Conservation Targets. Efforts to sustain Brewer's sparrow by conserving associated habitat components will also benefit a wide range of other species including sensitive species.
- Upland habitat associated with sensitive species can be mapped and monitored on GSWMA and the adjacent landscape.

Northern Leopard Frog

Northern leopard frog was selected as a Conservation Target to represent Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production on GSWMA because:

- Wetland habitat types associated with northern leopard frog benefit nearly all species evaluated in Table 1 as well as most other wildlife. Wetland and riparian protection and restoration is a primary recommended beneficial management and conservation action for most species evaluated.
- Wetland and riparian habitat extent is easily mapped and monitored on GSWMA and the adjacent landscape.
- Given the high species value of wetland and riparian habitat—particularly of priority species such as mule deer, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, Bonneville cutthroat trout, etc.—wetland and riparian restoration partnerships are very achievable.

Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets

We define an effective Conservation Target as one providing meaningful conservation benefits for multiple species that share similar habitat requirements or life history traits. They are useful for directing limited management resources and maximizing conservation effort. One measure of effectiveness is to assess the number of species that a Conservation Target benefits (or covers) within the management landscape.

Regional Habitat and other staff worked together to complete the coverage assessment table (Table 2). We evaluated each of the Conservation Targets to determine which species from Table 1 would benefit from management activities focused on that target. Evaluations are based on knowledge of species habitat requirements, occurrence within the management landscape, and the scope of current and planned management actions. The assessment considered only those

habitat features or needs relevant to the species as it occurs on the management landscape. Our results indicate that the selected Conservation Targets on GSWMA provide substantial, but variable habitat benefits for an array of assessed species.

We also evaluated which species or guilds would receive little or no tangible benefit from management actions for specific Conservation Targets; these are designated “conservation needs.” We identified conservation needs for several species or guilds and determined that further data will be useful to inform the next WMA planning process. A prudent management strategy is to consider a landscape where these species may be prioritized for management in the future. Broad strategies for addressing these management needs are identified in the following Management Program Table (pages 35-40), but typically include collection of additional baseline data.

Table 2. Analysis of Conservation Target coverage and identification of conservation needs.

	Conservation Targets[a]				
Species Assessed in Table 1	**Mule Deer/Elk**	**Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse**	**Brewer's Sparrow**	**Northern Leopard Frog**	**Conservation Need**
Elk	X	P	P	P	
Mule Deer	X	P	P	P	
Moose	X	P	P	P	
Idaho Pocket Gopher		P	P		
Myotis Guild				P	Yes
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	P	X			
Greater Sage-grouse	P	X	X	P	
Brewer's Sparrow			X		
Lewis's Woodpecker	P			P	Yes
Three-toed Woodpecker	P			P	Yes
Long-Billed Curlew		X		P	
Sandhill Crane				X	
Transitional Waterbird Guild				P	Yes
Bald Eagle			P	P	Yes
Swainson's Hawk		P		P	
Northern Goshawk	P				
Boreal Owl	P			P	
Burrowing Owl	P	P			
Flammulated Owl	P	P			Yes
Great Gray Owl	P				Yes
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout				X	
Common Garter Snake				X	
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout				X	
Northern Leopard Frog				X	
Western Toad				X	
Desert Valvata	P		P		
California Floater	P		P		
Bear Lake Springsnail	P		P		
Mountain Marshsnail	P		P		
Idaho sedge	P			X	

[a] Entries marked with "X" indicate that the majority or all habitat needs for an assessed species within the management landscape are being met by management actions benefitting the Conservation Target. Entries marked with "P" indicate only a portion of the species habitat needs are being met by management actions for the Conservation Target. Conservation needs exist where target-specific management actions provide little or no tangible habitat benefit for an assessed species. Blank cells under conservation targets may indicate a conservation need or where dissimilar habitat needs preclude conservation benefits.

Georgetown Summit WMA Management Program Table

The following table outlines the Management Directions, Performance Targets, Strategies, and Outcome Metrics GSWMA staff will use to manage for the Conservation Targets selected (page 31) to represent each GSWMA Priority (page 22) at both the GSWMA and Conservation Target-specific landscape scale. The Compass Objective column links the Management Directions in this table to the objectives of the Department's strategic plan, *The Compass* (Appendix I).

WMA Priority: Elk Winter Range					
Conservation Target: Elk and Mule Deer					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Elk, and other big game winter forage and security	Create an accurate vegetation map of GSWMA by 2023	With support from other programs, ground truth and further refine ReGap mapping	Vegetation map completed	A, B, C, E, F, H
		Maintain 3,800 acres of vegetation for adequate security and thermal cover	Mow, burn, and control grazing to maintain diverse, well balanced and productive plant communities	Acres maintained	
		Monitor 3,800 acres and treat 150 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations	Acres treated	
		Annually maintain approximately 140 acres alfalfa or legumes and 200 acres of grasses and legumes distributed on arable acres of the GSWMA	Through contracts or with Department personnel maintain alfalfa/legume and grass plantings for transition range	Acres maintained	
			Monitor wildlife use		
		Annually maintain eight miles of boundary fences	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Replace 1.5 miles of south boundary fence by 2015	Work with neighboring landowners to have boundaries surveyed and wildlife friendly fence constructed	Miles of fence built/replaced	
		Remove trespass cattle from GSWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
		Monitor six established vegetation transects by 2016, and then every five years	Supported by other programs, collect and analyze vegetation data from established transects	Data collected and analyzed	
		Big game mortality due to collisions adjacent to GSWMA reduced	Supported by other programs, roadkill history reviewed for U.S. Hwy 30 and Union Pacific railroad and current conditions adjacent to GSWMA monitored	Big game mortality due to collisions adjacent to GSWMA reduced	
			Supported by other programs, roadkill concentrations identified and addressed through collaboration with highway and railroad authorities		
GSWMA and Landscape	Elk, and other big game winter forage and security	Winter disturbance reduced	Compliance with motorized travel rules enforced and human entry to GSWMA restricted under severe winter conditions	Disturbance monitored and addressed	
			Winter/spring recreation monitored and evaluated for potential conflicts		
			Predator activity monitored and predator control initiated if warranted		
		Monitor for disease, toxins and malnutrition	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, brucellosis, chronic wasting disease and toxins	Animals affected	
			Monitor weather conditions, elk and other big game body condition		
GSWMA and Landscape	Population monitoring	Monitor wintering big game herd numbers	Supported by Wildlife Bureau, survey wintering big game numbers on GSWMA and GSWMA landscape as funding allows	Survey completed	A, B, C, E, F, H

WMA Priority: Elk Winter Range					
Conservation Target: Elk and Mule Deer					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
Landscape	Elk and other big game migration corridors	Create map depicting connectivity between summer and winter range by 2023	Collaborate with private landowners and government agencies to identify important migration corridors	Map completed	
		Identify and map current or potential migration impediments by 2023	Supported by other programs, roadkill history reviewed and current conditions adjacent to GSWMA monitored	Map completed	
			Collaborate with private landowners and government agencies to identify impediments		
	Protect and promote additional Elk and other big game habitat	Provide long term protection to 2,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	
		Improve 5,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance (BLM, NRCS, USFS.) encourage and facilitate improvement of transition or winter range		
WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Breeding, nesting and brood rearing habitat	Maintain 3,000 acres of high quality breeding, nesting and brood rearing habitat	Maintain display areas for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse through mowing, burning or herbicides. Maintain openings in proximity to quality nesting cover	Acres treated	B, C, F, G, H
			Through mowing, burning, trespass grazing control, herbicides and biological controls, maintain quality nesting cover		
		Monitor 3,800 acres and treat 150 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations		
		Maintain 200 acres of legume and grass seedings dispersed and adjacent to quality nesting cover	With Department personnel or through cooperative farming agreements, maintain sufficient plantings		
		Maintain eight miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Replace 1.5 miles of south boundary fence by 2015	Work with neighboring landowners to have boundaries surveyed and wildlife friendly fence constructed	Miles of fence built/replaced	
		Remove trespass cattle from GSWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
	Roosting cover, storm cover, and winter forage	Maintain 1,500 acres of woody vegetation for roosting, storm cover, and native fruit bearing shrubs	Through mowing, burning, fire suppression, trespass grazing control, herbicides and biological controls maintain a mosaic of dense stands of low and medium height mountain brush, native fruit bearing shrubs, and conifer providing roosting, storm cover, and foraging for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and other upland game	Acres maintained	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA and Landscape	Other game production	Provide long term protection to 5,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 5,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance, encourage and facilitate improvement of mountain brush and shrub-steppe with functioning understory component, through plantings and control of wildfire, trespass grazing and invasive plants		
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples from suspect mortalities for possible West Nile virus, chronic wasting disease and toxins	Samples collected	
		Improve three miles of degraded riparian habitat by 2023	Support other programs to improve beaver habitat and address depredations	Stream miles improved	
			Support other programs to improve Bonneville cutthroat trout and other fish habitat with emphasis on Bear River		
			Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance, encourage and facilitate improvement of riparian areas from excessive and trespass grazing with maintained fencing or improved pasture management		
Landscape	Protect and promote additional sharp-tailed grouse habitat	Work with private landowners and land management agencies to incorporate seasonal sharp-tailed grouse habitat needs into their land use planning for at least five projects by 2023	With Department MDI coordinator implement cooperative projects that benefit both mule deer and sharp-tailed grouse	Projects Incorporating Habitat Needs Completed	B, C, F, G, H
			Work with Department Farm Bill Coordinator to prioritize, identify, and implement CRP-SAFE projects		
			Prioritize HIP projects within the GSWMA landscape for sharp-tailed grouse		
			Utilize data on sharp-tailed grouse lek locations, movements, and seasonal habitat utilization to inform proposed public land projects		
		Provide long term protection to 2,000 acres of habitat by 2023 (as above)	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	
	Population monitoring	Track lek attendance and search for other leks on GSWMA landscape	Support other programs to monitor lek attendance on GSWMA landscape	Leks located and monitored	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples from suspect mortalities for possible West Nile virus and toxins	Samples collected	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Brewer's Sparrow					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Sensitive species and nongame upland habitat	Complete updated species list and mapped breeding habitats by 2018 with emphasis on sensitive gastropods, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals (Appendices VI and VII)	Supported by other programs conduct surveys of migratory and breeding species	Surveys conducted/lists recorded	B, C, F, G, H
		Monitor 3,800 acres and treat 150 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations	Acres treated	
		Protect and enhance 4,200 acres of nesting/brood rearing, foraging and storm cover habitat	Balance other wildlife management needs and recreational use with habitat requirements for sensitive and nongame species	Acres protected	
			Assist promotion of local awareness of existing species and habitat needs		

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Brewer's Sparrow					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Sensitive species and nongame upland habitat	Maintain eight miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	B, C, F, G, H
		Replace 1.5 miles of south boundary fence by 2015	Work with neighboring landowners to have boundaries surveyed and wildlife friendly fence constructed	Miles of fence built/replaced	
		Remove trespass cattle from GSWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
Landscape	Sensitive species and nongame upland habitat	Provide long term protection to 2,000 acres of habitat by 2023 (as above)	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 5,000 acres of habitat by 2023 (as above)	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance (BLM, NRCS, USFS.) encourage and facilitate off-site protection and restoration of sensitive species and nongame habitat		
	Sensitive species and nongame population monitoring	Survey nongame and sensitive species by 2018, and then every ten years	Supported by other programs, identified populations monitored	Surveys completed	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, white-nose syndrome (bats) and other diseases or toxins	Samples collected	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Northern Leopard Frog					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Sensitive species and nongame wetland and riparian habitat	Complete updated species list and mapped breeding habitats by 2018 with emphasis on sensitive bivalves, gastropods, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (Appendices VI and VII)	Supported by other programs conduct surveys of migratory, wintering and breeding species	Surveys conducted/lists recorded	B, C, F, G, H
		Monitor 3,800 acres and treat 150 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations	Acres treated	
		Protect and enhance 150 acres of nesting/brood rearing, foraging and storm cover habitat	Balance other wildlife management needs and recreational use with habitat requirements for sensitive and nongame species	Acres protected	
			Assist promotion of local awareness of existing species and habitat needs		
		Maintain eight miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Replace 1.5 miles of south boundary fence by 2015	Work with neighboring landowners to have boundaries surveyed and wildlife friendly fence constructed	Miles of fence built/replaced	
		Remove trespass cattle from GSWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Northern Leopard Frog					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
Landscape	Sensitive species and nongame wetland and riparian habitat	Provide long term protection to 2,000 acres of habitat by 2023 (as above)	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 5,000 acres of habitat by 2023 (as above)	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance (BLM, NRCS, USFS.) encourage and facilitate off-site protection and restoration of sensitive species and nongame habitat	Acres improved	
	Sensitive species and nongame population monitoring	Survey nongame and sensitive species by 2018, and then every ten years	Supported by other programs, identified populations monitored	Surveys completed and recorded	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, chytrid fungus (*Chytridiomycosis*-amphibians) and other diseases and toxins	Samples collected	
WMA Priority: Public Hunting					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Information aids	Maintain four on site information centers	Information centers maintained with posted information and stocked with maps and informational brochures including GSWMA brochure and use restrictions	Information centers maintained	A, E, F, G
		Provide off site information	Maps and brochures updated and available web based and at local vendors	Information updated and available	
			Newsletters updated at least annually and available web based and at local vendors		
		Provide directional signage, entrance sign, and boundaries marked every 660 feet	Routes, entrances, boundaries and facilities marked with maintained signage	Signs maintained	
	Facilities and hunting areas	Maintain four parking areas and 6.5 miles of seasonal motorized travel routes	Parking areas and motorized trails mowed, graded, graveled as needed	Parking areas and trails maintained	
		Provide 4,300 acres of accessible cover	Access to mountain brush, shrub-steppe and alfalfa fields	Acres provided	
Landscape	Off-site access	Provide additional public access	Cooperate with adjacent land managers to facilitate public access	Additional acres available	A, E, F, G
			Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise		
WMA Priority: General Wildlife Appreciation					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Information aids	Provide four on site information centers	Information centers posted with information including interpretive displays and stocked with maps and informational brochures including GSWMA brochure and use restrictions	Information centers maintained	A, E, F, G
		Provide off site information	Maps, brochures and interpretive information updated and available web based	Information updated and available	
			Species lists, local history and geology available web based		
			Newsletters updated at least annually and available web based and at local vendors		
		Provide directional signage, entrance sign, and boundaries marked every 660 feet	Routes, entrances, boundaries and facilities marked with maintained signage	Signs maintained	

WMA Priority: General Wildlife Appreciation					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
GSWMA	Facilities and viewing areas	Provide four parking areas and seasonally 6.5 miles of motorized travel routes	Parking areas, motorized trails maintained	Parking areas and roads maintained	A, E, F, G
	Public fishing	Provide one fishing access on the Bear River	Arrange fishing access to the Bear River through agreement with neighboring landowner	River access provided	
			Provide parking area near Bear River and float boat launch		
	Public trapping	Accommodate trapping opportunity for two trappers	Provide WMA restrictions (consideration for other use) and require trapping report for GSWMA use	Trapping reports	
	Miscellaneous use	Survey year-round public use by 2018, and then every 10 years	With systematic sampling scheme assess year-round public use and user satisfaction	Use surveyed and reported	
			Solicit input through newsletters, surveys, public meetings and personal contact		
		Patrol once per month	Limit motorized access or other activity that could negatively impact habitat or legitimate use	Violations detected	
	Education	Promote educational opportunities	Educational tours hosted on request,; all facilities available for youth hunts or educational functions	Requests accommodated	
	Neighbor relations	Control noxious weeds and other pests over 4,300 acres	Supported by Bear Lake County and weed cooperatives, monitor and control noxious weeds through approved and current methods	Acres controlled	G, J, K
		Prevent inadvertent trespass by GSWMA users	All facilities and boundaries clearly marked	Boundaries marked	
		Manage four easements	Farming, railroad, and power line access easements accommodated without negative impact to the GSWMA mission	Easements managed	
	Infrastructure and equipment	Maintain bridge for occasional use by neighbor	Anticipate needs and budget accordingly	Infrastructure maintained	M
			Schedule routine maintenance		
Landscape	Off-site access	Provide additional public access	Cooperate with adjacent land managers to facilitate public access	Additional acres available	A, E, F, G
			Supported by other programs promote Access Yes and periodically report on Access Yes properties offered within GSWMA landscape Cooperate with adjacent land managers to facilitate public access		
			Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise		
	Neighbor relations	Track and minimize depredations	Support other programs to annually track depredations occurring within the GSWMA landscape with particular focus on Elk and Mule deer	Depredations tracked	G, J, K

Monitoring

Monitoring and reporting are critical for tracking accomplishment of performance targets identified in the GSWMA Management Program Table. Monitoring can be separated into three categories: compliance monitoring, biological monitoring, and public use monitoring.

In Table 3, future monitoring needs associated with performance targets and strategies identified in the GSWMA Management Program Table are summarized. The goal is to measure success or effectiveness of strategies that are implemented to reach performance targets.

Each WMA will produce a five-year report on implementation of this WMA plan in 2019, including a summary of accomplishments and progress towards meeting performance targets. At that time, staff will determine whether modifications to the plan are appropriate for meeting performance targets or to accommodate changing conditions or opportunities.

Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring documents the completion of regular management tasks that are essential to WMA operations. These include but are not limited to:

- Maintaining WMA facilities
- Providing technical assistance to local agency staff and private landowners
- Maintaining public access sites

Compliance monitoring will be reported annually at work plan meetings between regional and headquarters staff.

Biological Monitoring

Wildlife Management Areas across the state have a range of established biological monitoring programs and needs. Additional monitoring needs may have been identified during development of the GSWMA Management Program Table. Biological monitoring includes wildlife, vegetation, and habitat monitoring. It may also include assessing the effectiveness of management and restoration activities. Monitoring may occur at multiple spatial and temporal scales depending on objectives. Past biological monitoring has included:

Big Game Winter Population Surveys

Winter aerial surveys are periodically conducted for deer and elk within GSWMA landscape as part of analysis unit surveys. Surveys are conducted by the regional Wildlife Populations section.

Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Surveys

Lek surveys have been conducted within the GSWMA landscape. Surveys are typically conducted by the regional Wildlife Bureau staff but are supported by BLM, USFS, and occasionally private consultants.

Vegetation Monitoring

Vegetation monitoring was initiated in 1993 with the establishment of six transects in mountain brush and shrub-steppe habitat. Time constraints have limited follow up surveys since 2006.

In 2010, the Department initiated a statewide, long-term habitat monitoring program for all WMAs. The goal of the program is to collect quantitative and comparable baseline data to monitor habitat change on all WMAs due to management actions or other causes. The baseline data collected will be specific to each WMA, based on the habitat types present and unique management issues. Baseline data typically includes:

- Distribution and extent of cover types, including mapping of vegetation cover types
- Vegetation structure, composition, and condition
- Presence or abundance of noxious weeds and other invasive plants
- Riparian and wetland condition and function assessment
- Photo points

To date, this program has collected baseline data on five WMAs, with surveys of all 32 WMAs expected to be completed by 2019. This is a long-term program and will be repeated starting in 2020.

Public Use Monitoring

Public use surveys are conducted to evaluate use patterns, public satisfaction, and identify issues of concern. Hunter check stations or creel surveys conducted by other programs may also gauge user satisfaction.

Georgetown Summit WMA User Surveys

User information has been gathered on the GSWMA using volunteer sign-in boxes since 2002 augmented with field contacts each year. The sign-in boxes will be continued. Additional techniques such as traffic counters may also be employed in the future. A year-round systematic random survey will also be a high priority.

Table 3. Monitoring for Georgetown Summit WMA, 2014-2023.

Performance Target	Survey Type	Survey Frequency
Monitor six established vegetation transects every five years	Vegetation structure and diversity	Every five years
Treat 150 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Monitor and map during treatments	Annually
Monitor wintering big game herd numbers	Supported by Wildlife Bureau survey wintering big game numbers on GSWMA and GSWMA landscape	As Wildlife Bureau priority allows
Identified breeding populations monitored (nongame and sensitive species)	Presence/absence of breeding activity	Every 10 years
Survey year-round public use and user satisfaction	Systematic sampling through on site and web-based surveys	Every 10 years beginning in 2018

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Appendices

I. THE COMPASS – THE DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2006, the Department completed a strategic plan—*The Compass*—based on public input and legislative mandates. It continues to guide the Department in 2014 and is the primary guiding document for all other Department plans developed since 2006. The following table presents the goals, objectives, and strategies from *The Compass* that are most relevant to WMA management. *Compass* objectives are lettered on the left side for reference in the Management Program Table.

The Compass
GOAL—Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat
A. Objective – Maintain or improve game populations to meet the demand for hunting, fishing, and trapping.
B. Objective – Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants.
C. Objective – Increase the capacity of habitat to support fish and wildlife.
D. Objective – Eliminate the impacts of fish and wildlife diseases on fish and wildlife populations, livestock, and humans.
GOAL—Fish and Wildlife Recreation
E. Objective – Maintain a diversity of fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities.
F. Objective – Sustain fish and wildlife recreation on public lands.
G. Objective – Maintain broad public support for fish and wildlife recreation and management.
H. Objective – Increase opportunities for wildlife viewing and appreciation.
I. Objective – Increase the variety and distribution of access to private land for fish and wildlife recreation.
GOAL—Working With Others
J. Objective – Improve citizen involvement in the decision-making process.
K. Objective – Increase public knowledge and understanding of Idaho's fish and wildlife.
GOAL—Management Support
L. Objective – Attract and retain a diverse and professional workforce.
M. Objective – Provide equipment and facilities for excellent customer service and management effectiveness.
N. Objective – Improve funding to meet legal mandates and public expectations.

II. HISTORY

In 1991, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) purchased 1,656 acres in partnership with the Department to protect this property for elk and deer habitat. The RMEF sold 749 acres to the Department and leased the remaining 907 acres to the Department for 20 years. With the acquisition of the property, the Department acquired a 50% interest in the Georgetown Grazing Association. The grazing association maintained grazing rights at that time on 1,670 acres of adjacent state-owned land administered by IDL. The grazing association eventually dissolved and the IDL lease was combined with a separate adjacent grazing lease. The Department now leases 1,830 acres from IDL as a Miscellaneous Lease. In 1998, 24 acres was acquired from a neighbor; and in 2007, an additional 84 acres bordering the Bear River was acquired from the same neighbor. In 2008, the Department entered into a five-year lease with a different neighbor on 760 acres bordering the west boundary of the GSWMA. The lease is currently being renewed. In 2012, the acreage that had been originally leased from RMEF was purchased (Appendix VIII). The WMA property lies in two parcels separated by U.S. Highway 30. The north parcel is adjoined on the north and east by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The area on Georgetown Summit has long been a winter range for big game. Approximately 200 elk and 50 mule deer winter in the immediate vicinity of the WMA. For many years, elk caused depredation problems on stored crops for an adjacent rancher. In recent years, the Department has cooperated with neighbors to address occasional problems with standing crops. Current farming agreements involve land use trades benefitting wildlife use and neighboring farming operations.

Georgetown Summit WMA is managed along with three other WMAs by the Regional Wildlife Biologist assigned to the East Habitat. The habitat management program is focused primarily on vegetation management in order to carry out the mission of enhancing elk and mule deer winter range, sharp-tailed grouse habitat and providing quality habitat for other wildlife and fish.

At the time of acquisition, a cabin was located on the north portion of the WMA in the Jones Creek drainage. This site also had a small, corrugated metal shed and other outbuildings. A developed spring provided water for the cabin and stock watering troughs just downstream. The water development now supplies a stock pond serving as a wildlife water source. A wooden barn and corral were located on a parcel near the Bear River. None of the structures proved to be of use to Department operations and were in fact safety liabilities. All have been removed in recent years.

A number of fence lines were present on the area when acquired, though many did not coincide with property boundaries. Most were in poor repair. Existing fences have been improved, relocated or in some cases removed. In 1997 approximately two miles of additional fence was constructed between GSWMA and the private lands to the south. In 2003 fences bordering U.S. Highway 30 were replaced by Idaho Department of Transportation during a road widening project. Approximately one mile of fencing along the south boundary of the WMA is scheduled to be replaced in 2014.

An abandoned radio tower pad exists on North Hill with a trail and power line leading up to it. There are several other dirt/gravel roads on GSWMA, some of which provide access to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Big Canyon and Jones Canyon. A dirt track also provides access along a transmission line right-of-way which crosses the northern parcel.

Vegetation treatments to date have included aerial fertilization, sponsored by RMEF, and an 80-acre prescribed burn conducted with the cooperation of Caribou-Targhee National Forest and IDL. Other vegetation treatments will also be considered. Aspen management may occur to stimulate new growth of aspen as well the associated shrub species and understory. Cooperative farming agreements with a neighboring landowner from 1991 through 2007 were marginally successful in providing forage and cover for wildlife, but failed to preclude depredation claims. In 2012 an agreement with a new landowner was initiated to address weed control, vegetation management, and big game use. The new arrangement is proving to be more successful in benefitting the neighboring farming operation and wildlife habitat concerns.

Control of livestock trespass on the GSWMA has been necessary to manage forage effectively. The majority of the GSWMA has not been grazed by livestock since 1992, with the exception of a brief period of sheep grazing on 300 acres in 1997, and a more recent use trade on a portion of leased property to facilitate better management of riparian habitat along the Bear River.

Each year approximately 150 acres are monitored and treated for noxious weeds. Canada thistle, musk thistle, dyer's woad, houndstongue, black henbane, and leafy spurge are treated through chemical, mechanical, and biological control.

III. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES

Federal funds, including those derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and USFWS Federal Aid Program, have been used in part to acquire and manage GSWMA lands. Certain activities are prohibited from funding with Federal Aid funds, and all provisions of Federal Aid funding will be followed.

Other federal and state laws also affect management of the GSWMA. The Department has responsibility under provisions of the Endangered Species Act to ensure that management actions protect threatened and endangered species, and responsibility under the Clean Water Act to ensure that water quality standards and guidelines are in place on GSWMA lands and waters. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department must ensure that historic properties are protected on the GSWMA.

The Idaho Noxious Weed Law under Idaho Code 22-2405 requires all landowners to eradicate noxious weeds on their lands, except in special management zones. The counties are required to enforce the law and the State of Idaho is required to ensure the counties do so.

Consistent with Idaho Codes 38-101 and 38-111, and through a cooperative agreement with the Idaho Department of Lands, the Department is required to pay a fee for fire protection on all forest and some rangeland acreage it owns, and for residences in forest areas. Fees are submitted annually based on the number of qualified acres and residences owned by the Department.

The Department is required by Idaho Code 63-602A to pay a fee-in-lieu of taxes (FILT) for lands that are owned by the Department and meet certain code requirements. These fees are submitted annually to affected counties based on the number of qualifying acres and agricultural tax rates.

IV. VISITOR USE DATA AND USER SURVEY

Voluntary sign-in stations to assess public use have been maintained on GSWMA since 2002. Visitors are asked to register their visit using sign-in boxes provided at all parking areas. Annual use is estimated at the GSWMA as it is likely not all visitors register. Since 2002, 369 visitors have registered their visit. The following table indicates documented types of use compiled mostly from the voluntary sign-in stations.

Georgetown Summit WMA user visits based on voluntary registration (2001-2012).

Entries	Visitors	Hunting	Viewing	Other
215	369	326	20	20

Access Facilities

All lands are available for wildlife-based recreation with some restrictions regarding motorized traffic (see below).

Four parking areas are provided on GSWMA and are available during the summer/fall months. All parking areas are posted with pertinent information and are equipped with the voluntary sign-in stations referenced above. “Information centers” and are stocked with maps and brochures including pertinent harvest regulations. Gated parking areas are equipped with “horse stiles” intended to facilitate foot and horse travel when motorized vehicles are restricted.

Educational Use

Use of the property for outdoor education and workshops by schools and other organizations is encouraged. Tours of the GSWMA are provided by appointment, but most organized educational opportunity to date has been limited to volunteer efforts with plantings and other habitat projects.

Restrictions and Special Use

The GSWMA is open to public travel use with the following restrictions:

- Motorized vehicles must remain on established, open roads/parking areas
- Open fires and firewood cutting are not permitted
- All animal feed, straw or mulch must be certified weed-free

All rules pertaining to public use of Department controlled lands are in effect (IDAPA 13.01.03, posted at maintained parking areas), and users must also comply with pertinent Idaho hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations (available at all license vendors and GSWMA information centers). Special use provisions can be authorized by permit issued from the Pocatello regional office.

2012 USER SURVEY

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has 32 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) covering 350,000 acres. In 2012, the Department will begin updating the long-term management plans for each WMA. This survey will help us know more about the public uses and opinions about these important wildlife habitats.

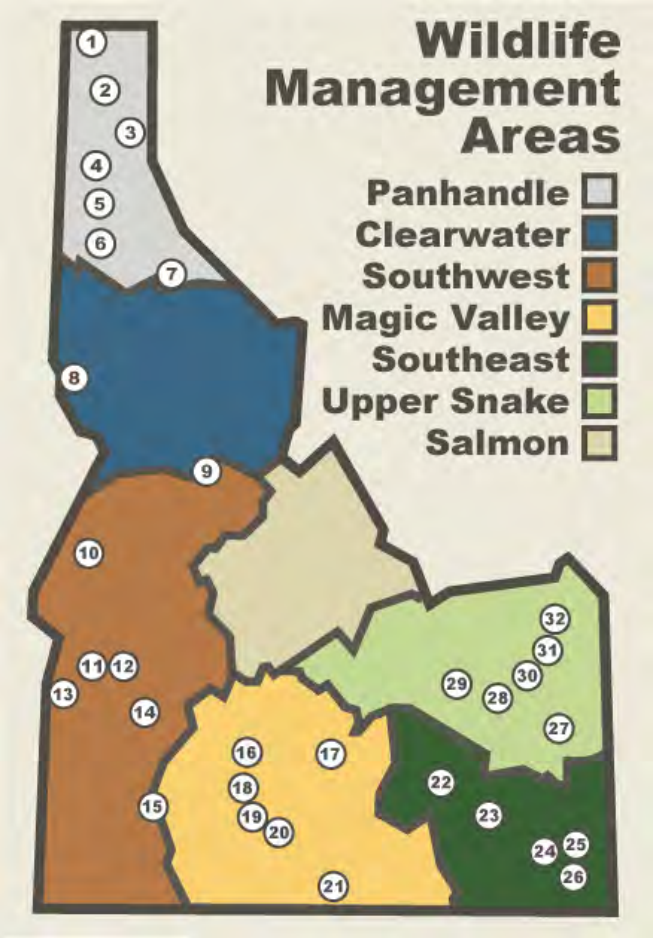
If you have any questions about the management of the WMA contact the regional office associated with that WMA.

1. Have you visited any of the WMAs in Idaho during 2011?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. During 2011 which WMAs have you visited and how many days did you spend at each? Please count partial days as one day. (An estimate is fine)

Days	WMAs
_____	1 Boundary Creek WMA
_____	2 McArthur Lake WMA
_____	3 Pend Oreille WMA
_____	4 Farragut WMA
_____	5 Coeur d' Alene WMA
_____	6 St. Maries WMA
_____	7 Snow Peak WMA
_____	8 Craig Mountain WMA
_____	9 Red River WMA
_____	10 Andrus (formerly Brownlee) WMA
_____	11 Payette River WMA
_____	12 Montour WMA
_____	13 Fort Boise WMA
_____	14 Boise River WMA
_____	15 C. J. Strike WMA
_____	16 Camas Prairie/Centennial Marsh WMA
_____	17 Carey Lake WMA
_____	18 Billingsley Creek WMA
_____	19 Hagerman WMA
_____	20 Niagara Springs WMA
_____	21 Big Cottonwood WMA
_____	22 Sterling WMA
_____	23 Portneuf WMA
_____	24 Blackfoot River WMA
_____	25 Georgetown Summit WMA
_____	26 Montpelier WMA
_____	27 Tex Creek WMA
_____	28 Market Lake WMA
_____	29 Mud Lake WMA
_____	30 Deer Parks WMA
_____	31 Cartier Slough WMA
_____	32 Sand Creek WMA
_____	32 Sand Creek – Chester Segment WMA



Please answer the following questions for <u>each WMA</u> that you visited during 2011.

If you did not spend time at any WMAs, please skip to Question 8.

IF you visited more than 4 WMAs during 2011 please answer for the 5 WMAs that you spent the **most** days at.

_____WMA (please write the WMA you spent time at)

3. What were the three most important activities at **this** WMA? Please number 1 – 3 with 1 being the **most** important.

_____	ATV Riding	_____	Horseback Riding
_____	Being outside	_____	Hunting/Scouting
_____	Biking	_____	Photography
_____	Birding	_____	Picnicking
_____	Camping	_____	Running
_____	Canoe/Kayak/Boat	_____	Snowmobiling
_____	Dog training	_____	Swimming
_____	Dog Walking	_____	Trapping
_____	Fishing	_____	Wildlife Viewing
_____	Hiking	_____	Other (please describe) _____

4. How satisfied were you with your visit to this WMA?

Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral/No Opinion	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. How likely is it that you will visit this WMA again?

Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral/No Opinion	Likely	Very Likely
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. What could IDFG do to improve your visits to this WMA?

_____

_____

7. Do you have any specific suggestions or comments about the management of this WMA?

8. Where do you get most of your information about WMAs?

_____	Fish & Game office
_____	Fish & Game website
_____	Newspaper
_____	Radio
_____	Signage

_____ Social media (such as Facebook or Twitter)

_____ Television

_____ Word of mouth

_____ Other internet site, please list: _____

_____ Other, please tell us how you get information about IDFG WMAs:

_____

_____

IDFG manages Idaho WMAs to achieve these goals:

- Provide high quality habitat
- Provide high quality wildlife-based public recreation (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.)
- Educate users about wildlife and the habitats they use
- Maintain positive working relations with neighbors

9. Do you agree with these goals?

Strongly Disagree	**Somewhat Disagree**	**Neutral/No Opinion**	**Somewhat Agree**	**Strongly Agree**
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. Do you have specific suggestions or comments on how to improve these goals or current management of IDFG WMAs?:

_____

_____

11. To the best of your knowledge, what is the primary source of funding for operation and maintenance of IDFG WMAs?

_____ State taxes

_____ Federal taxes

_____ Idaho Fish & Game license sales

_____ I don't know

_____ Other, please describe _____

Historically, hunters and anglers have been Fish and Game's primary constituents. They have provided most of our agency funding through the sale of licenses and tags and through a FEDERAL tax on firearms, ammunition, and fishing supplies. No State taxes are used to operate WMAs.

Fish and Game is experiencing increasing demands on its lands and services by a growing constituency who are neither hunters nor anglers. This includes use of Fish and Game land for outdoor recreation other than hunting and fishing.

12. One option to better fund operation of these WMAs is to require WMA users 18 or older who do not possess a fishing, hunting or trapping license to purchase conservation permit to use Fish & Game WMAs.

    To what extent do you disagree or agree with this option?

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral/No Opinion	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. If a conservation permit is required for WMA users who do not possess a hunting, fishing or trapping license how much should it cost?

    _____ $ 5 - $10
    _____ $ 11 - $15
    _____ $ 16 - $20
    _____ $ 21 - $30
    _____ Do not support requiring a permit.

14. If WMA users were required to purchase either a hunting, fishing, or trapping license OR a conservation permit to use WMAs, how likely are you to continue to use WMAs?

Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral/No Opinion	Likely	Very Likely
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

15. Do you have other specific suggestions or comments on a potential WMA conservation permit?

    _____
    _____

16. Do you have other specific suggestions or comments on how to fund management of WMAs?

    _____
    _____

Are you an Idaho resident? (If no, please go to Question 19.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

17. If you are an Idaho resident, what county do you live in? _____

18. If you are not an Idaho resident, what City and State do you live in?

    City: _____ State: _____

19. In 2011, did you purchase an Idaho fishing, hunting or trapping license?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not in 2011, but I have before

If you would like to be informed about WMA management in the future, including availability of new draft management plans during the summer of 2012, please provide us your contact information:

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City, ST: _____

Zip code: _____

V. 1999-2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the GSWMA plan was revised in 1999, the following accomplishments have occurred.

Goal: Provide secure winter habitat for big game, upland game and nongame wildlife.

Objective: Provide winter forage for elk and mule deer.

Accomplishments:

- Forage was protected from trespass or excessive grazing by livestock with boundary fencing and/or closely monitored grazing agreements. Farming agreements from 1992 through 2006 were marginally successful in protecting riparian areas and providing wildlife forage. Three quarters of a mile of new fence was constructed and four miles of boundary fences are maintained annually.
- Three hundred acres of wildlife mix were planted in 2009 on the Walker lease.
- Emergency big game feeding was not conducted on GSWMA.
- Vegetation transects were evaluated annually until 2006 but fell off due to time and funding constraints.
- Cooperative agreement was reached with adjacent landowner to exclude cattle grazing from important mountain brush habitat, leave standing alfalfa for winter forage, and conduct weed maintenance in exchange for a portion of the harvested alfalfa.
- Chemically treated over 150 acres of noxious weeds annually.
- Proved up on water right that belongs to the Walker lease property.

Objective: Provide winter security for wildlife by restricting access and managing vegetation.

Accomplishments:

- Motorized travel was restricted to maintained roads to prevent harassment of wintering big game.
- Boundaries were clearly marked and roads gated to prevent closed-season entry by motorized vehicles.
- Maps of the area and information signs were placed at three parking areas explaining the purpose and location of restrictions.
- All gates and information signs were maintained.
- Tall brush and timber was maintained for security and thermal cover by excluding riparian areas and aspen/shrub communities from fire or herbicide treatment.
- In cooperation with Idaho Department of Transportation, elk and deer crossing signs were placed at key points on U.S. Highway 30 to warn motorists of the danger of animals on the roadway.
- Big game winter use was monitored in conjunction with regional big game aerial surveys.
- In cooperation with Idaho Department of Transportation, impacts of U.S. Highway 30 improvements were evaluated as part of a mortality monitoring program.

Goal: Provide good breeding habitat for small game and nongame wildlife species.

Objective: Provide for upland game bird production.

Accomplishments:

- Preserved natural perennial and ephemeral springs and seeps along with associated vegetation.
- Protected grouse nesting cover by controlling trespass grazing.
- Chemically treated over 150 acres of noxious weeds annually.
- Three hundred acres of wildlife mix were planted in 2009 on the Walker lease.
- Removed old cabin, old barn, associated outbuildings, and refuse.
- In 2012 a cooperative agreement was reached with adjacent landowner to exclude cattle grazing from important mountain brush habitat, leave standing alfalfa for winter forage, and conduct weed maintenance in exchange for a portion of the harvested alfalfa.
- A water right associated with the Walker lease property was exercised in 2011.

Objective: Maintain or increase populations of nongame wildlife species.

Accomplishments:

- Maintained and improved the diversity of vegetation types by planting 300 acres of wildlife mix in 2009 on the Walker lease.
- In 2012 a cooperative agreement was reached with adjacent landowner to exclude cattle grazing from important mountain brush habitat, leave standing alfalfa for winter forage, and conduct weed maintenance in exchange for a portion of the harvested alfalfa.
- Preserved natural perennial and ephemeral springs and seeps and associated vegetation.
- Proved up on water right that belongs to the Walker lease property.
- Evaluated needs for nongame wildlife and provided developments as necessary.
- Considered non-target and sensitive species before habitat manipulation practices were put into effect.

Goal: Manage access to provide quality opportunities for hunting, trapping, and wildlife appreciation.

Objective: Manage type and timing of use.

Accomplishments:

- Maintained security cover for game animals during the hunting season by limiting motorized vehicles to open and maintained roads and providing three parking areas at selected access points.
- Relocated one parking area near the Bear River for access to the river.

- Removed old cabin, old barn, associated outbuildings, and refuse.
- Bridge inspection and repair cost estimate.
- Horse access allowed, but no facilities are provided, other than parking.
- Access maps available at parking areas and vehicular access points.
- Primitive camping allowed, but no facilities are provided.
- Non-motorized public access, such as cross-country skiing, is allowed. Signs were placed at access sites addressing wintering big game. In the event of a severe winter (as defined in the regional winter feeding advisory guidelines), the GSWMA may be closed to ANY human entry to reduce the stress to wintering wildlife.
- Collected user survey forms throughout the year and compiled results annually.

Goal: Establish all boundaries, monitor easements, and address other common concerns.

Objective: Clearly marked boundaries.

Accomplishments:

- Surveyed all boundaries that are not established.
- Placed and replaced boundary markers on GSWMA.
- Maintained boundary fences including fence constructed in 1997 between GSWMA and private property to the south – total of four miles of fence annually.

Goal: Work to control noxious weeds (mandated by state law) which cause poor neighbor relations and may be a threat to native vegetation on GSWMA.

Objective: Control Dyers woad and thistle on GSWMA.

Accomplishments:

- Identified noxious weed problem areas and mapped them. Houndstongue, leafy spurge and black henbane are also found on the WMA and are being treated.
- Seasonal temporary employees and permanent staff applied chemical herbicides to over 150 acres annually using a truck sprayer, four-wheelers, and backpack sprayers. Dyers woad was also dug by hand.
- Biological insect control was used for Canada and musk thistle.
- Insect release sites were recorded and inspected the areas to monitor effectiveness.
- Logs documenting details of chemical and biological weed treatments were maintained.
- Worked with Bear Lake County weed supervisor to identify and help control noxious weeds by participating in training and remaining apprised of new weed control problems.
- Spraying began as early as possible in the spring and continued throughout the growing season as time and funding allowed.

Goal: Improve and protect wildlife habitat by acquiring land or easements.

Objective: Purchase land adjacent to GSWMA.

Accomplishments:

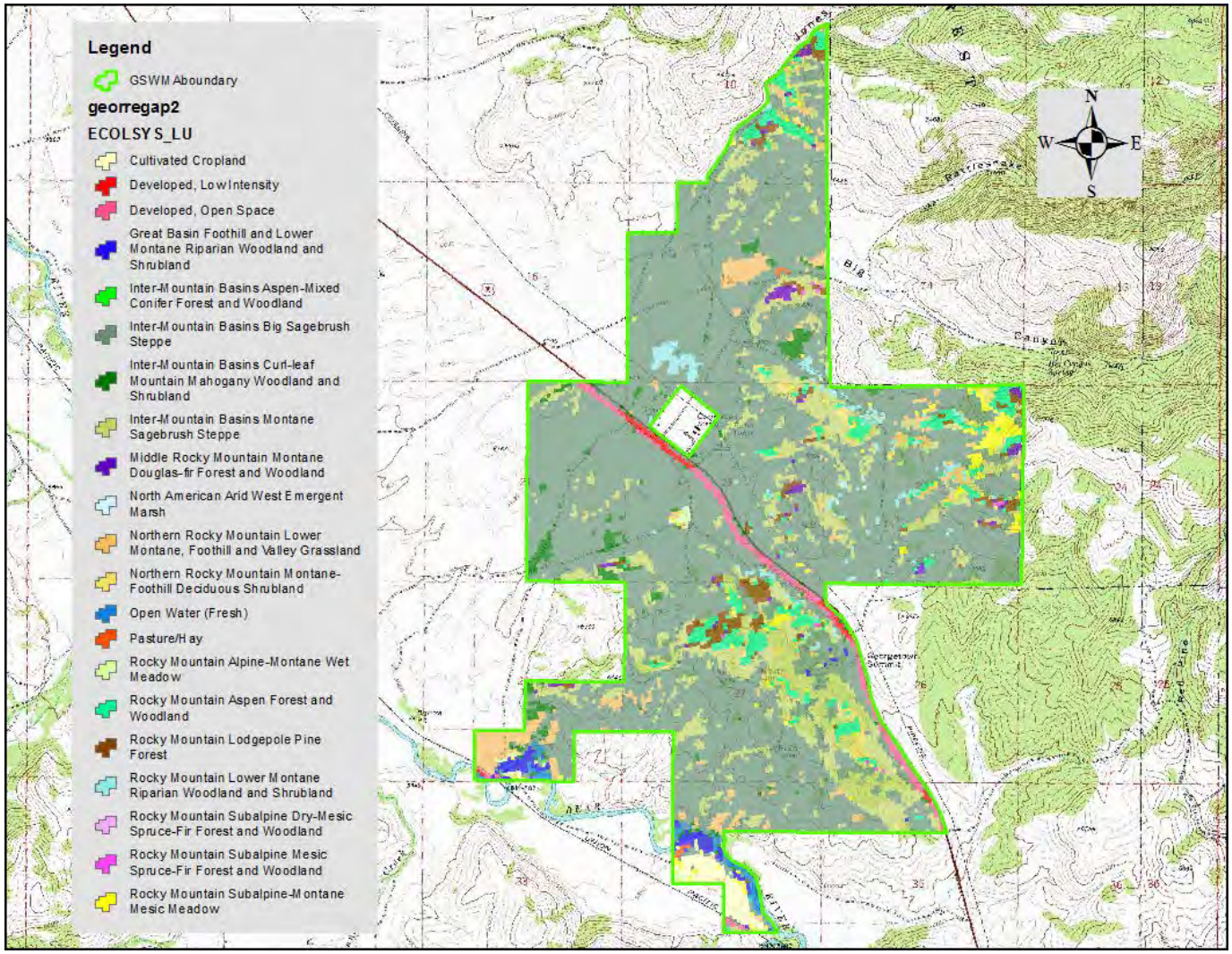
- Land offered for sale that fell within guidelines was identified. In 2007, 84 acres were acquired bordering the Bear River. In 2012, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation holdings (907 acres) were acquired.
- In 2012 a cooperative agreement was reached with adjacent landowner to exclude cattle grazing from important mountain brush habitat, leave standing alfalfa for winter forage, and conduct weed maintenance in exchange for a portion of the harvested alfalfa.
- The 760 acres of land currently leased is currently being considered for fee title acquisition.
- Completed Change of Ownership for water right claim 11-4071.
- Neighbors and other agencies were made aware that the Department is interested in land purchases from willing sellers that fit Department policies.
- Identified land that may be acquired through trades with other individuals and/or agencies. A BLM parcel adjacent to the 2007 acquisition (80 acres) is being pursued through Recreation and Public Purposes Act application process.
- Identified land that is not for sale but is deemed to have important wildlife values and approached owners with easement options.

VI. VEGETATION

Cover Types

Northwest GAP Analysis Project Land Cover, version 2.0 spatial data (U.S. Geological Survey, Gap Analysis Program, Moscow, Idaho; http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov) was used to estimate the ecological system type composition of GSWMA.

Ecological System	Acres	Percentage
Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Steppe	2,856	67%
Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe	582	14%
Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill and Valley Grassland	160	4%
Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland	142	3%
Inter-Mountain Basins Curl-leaf Mountain-Mahogany Woodland and Shrubland	84	2%
Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest	73	2%
Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	60	1%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Mesic Meadow	59	1%
Developed, Open Space	57	1%
Cultivated Cropland	44	1%
Northern Rocky Mountain Montane-Foothill Deciduous Shrubland	34	<1%
Great Basin Foothill and Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	32	<1%
Middle Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland	28	<1%
Open Water (Fresh)	22	<1%
Developed Low Intensity	16	<1%
Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow	13	<1%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland	4	<1%
Pasture/Hay	3	<1%
North American Arid West Emergent Marsh	<1	<1%
Inter-Mountain Basins Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland	<1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland	<1	<1%



Ecological system type composition of GSWMA.

Surveys

No recent vegetation surveys have been conducted. Transects set up on Georgetown Summit, Montpelier, and Portneuf WMAs were last surveyed in 2006. The listing of plant species below is based on previous plans, known plantings, and records of occurrence according to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System. There is a need for more current surveys to assess occurrence and abundance of a number of groups.

Plant Species List

Common and special status plant species: additional information available at www.idfg.idaho.gov. Status Designation: Idaho Conservation Data Center -sensitive = 1; Federal listing = 2, -e(endangered), -t(threatened), -c(candidate); USFS ranking = 3, -e(endangered), -t(threatened), -s(sensitive); BLM ranking = 4, -1(Type 1), -2(Type 2), -3(Type 3), -4(Type 4), -5(Type 5). Occurrence: Record within GSWMA managed lands = 1, Record within the GSWMA landscape =2.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Trees			
Sub-alpine Fir	*Abies lasiocarpa*		2
Mountain Maple	*Acer glabrum*		1
Bigtooth Maple	*Acer grandidentatum*		1
Utah Juniper	*Juniperus osteosperma*		1
Rocky Mountain Juniper	*Juniperus scopularum*		1
Engelmann Spruce	*Picea engelmannii*		2
Lodge Pole Pine	*Pinus contorta*		2
Quaking Aspen	*Populus tremuloides*		1
Douglas-fir	*Pseudotsuga menzesi*		1
Shrubs			
Mountain Alder	*Alnus incana*		2
Utah Serviceberry	*Amelanchior utahensis*		1
Big Sagebrush	*Artemesia tridentata*		1
Three-tipped Sage	*Artemesia tripartita*		1
Oregon Grape	*Berberis repens*		1
Water Birch	*Betula occidentalis*		2
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany	*Cercocarpus ledifolius*		1
Rubber Rabbitbrush	*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*		1
Douglas Rabbitbrush	*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*		1
Red osier Dogwood	*Cornus stolonifera*		1
Black Hawthorn	*Crataegus douglasii*		1
Mountain-lover	*Pachistima myrsinites*		1
Chokecherry	*Prunus virginiana*		1
Bitterbrush	*Purshia tridentata*		1
Currant	*Ribes* spp.		1
Woods' Rose	*Rosa woodsii*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Shrubs (cont.)			
Willow	*Salix* spp.		1
Mountain Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*		1
Forbs			
Western Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*		1
Wild Onion	*Allium* spp.		1
Silver Sagebrush	*Artemesia cana*		1
Aster	*Aster* spp.		1
Milkvetch	*Astrgulus* spp.		1
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	*Balsamorhiza sagittata*		1
Western Sticktight	*Bidens vulgata*		2
Sego Lily	*Calochortus eurycarpus*		2
Small Stalk Falseflax	*Camelina microcarpa*		1
Hoary Cress	*Cardaria draba*		1
Canada Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*		1
Musk Thistle	*Cirsium nutans*		1
Bushy Birds Beak	*Cordylanthus ramosus*		1
Hawksbeard	*Crepis acuminata*		1
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*		1
Fireweed	*Epilobium angustifolium*		1
Daisy Fleabane	*Erigeron strigosus*		2
Buckwheat	*Erigonum* spp.		1
Leafy Spurge	*Euphorbia esula*		1
Sticky Geranium	*Geranium richardsonii*		2
Curlycup Gumweed	*Grindelia squarrosa*		1
Little Sunflower	*Helianthella quinquenervis*		2
Hairy Goldaster	*Heterotheca villosa*		2
Black Henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*		1
Dyers Woad	*Isatis tinctoria*		1
Kochia	*Kochia scoparia*		1
Prickly Lettuce	*Lactuca serriola*		1
Field Cress	*Lepidium campestre*		1
Clasping Pepperweed	*Lepidium perfoliatum*		2
Yellow Toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*		1
Blue Flax	*Linum perenne*		1
Western Stoneseed	*Lithospermum ruderale*		2
Large-fruited Desert Parsley	*Lomatium macrocarpum*		2
Lupine	*Lupinus* spp.		1
Yellow Sweetclover	*Melilotus officianalis*		1
Penstemon	*Penstemon* spp.		1
Smartweed	*Polygonum* spp.		2
Cinquefoil	*Potentilla* spp.		1
Russian Thistle	*Salsola iberica*		1
Lance-leaved Stonecrop	*Sedum lanceolatum*		2
Prairie Goldenrod	*Soladago missouriensis*		

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Forbs (cont.)			
Scarlet Globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*		1
Dandelion	*Taraxicum officinale*		1
Western Salsify	*Tragopogon dubius*		1
Huckleberry	*Vaccinium parvifolium*		2
Grouse Whortleberry	*Vaccinium scoparium*		2
Violet	*Viola* spp.		1
Graminoids			
Cheatgrass	*Bromus tectorum*		1
Pine Reedgrass	*Calamagrostis rubescens*		1
Elk Sedge	*Carex geyeri*		1
Idaho Sedge	*Carex idahoa*	1, 4-2	2
Nebraska Sedge	*Carex nebrascensis*		1
Idaho Fescue	*Festuca idahoensis*		1
Basin Wildrye	*Leymus cinereus*		1
Oniongrass	*Melica bulbosa*		1
Indian Ricegrass	*Oryzopsis hymenoides*		1
Western Wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*		1
Bulbous Bluegrass	*Poa bulbosa*		1
Nevada Bluegrass	*Poa nevadense*		1
Kentucky Bluegrass	*Poa pratensis*		1
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	*Pseudoroegneria spicata*		1
Common Cattail	*Typha latifolia*		1
Primitive Plants			
Common Horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*		1
Clubmoss	*Lycopodium* spp.		1

VII. WILDLIFE AND FISH SPECIES LIST

Surveys

Several wildlife management surveys are undertaken regularly. Species occurrence and abundance surveys have been less thorough. The listing below is based on previous plans, incidental observations, and records of occurrence according to the Idaho Conservation Data Center. There is a need for more current surveys to assess occurrence and abundance of a number of groups.

Animal Species List

Common and special status species (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) and special status species only of invertebrates: additional information available at www.idfg.idaho.gov. Status Designation: Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need = 1; Federal listing = 2, -e(endangered), -t(threatened), -c(candidate); USFS ranking = 3, -e(endangered), -t(threatened), -s(sensitive); BLM ranking = 4, -1(Type 1), -2(Type 2), -3(Type 3), -4(Type 4), -5(Type 5). Occurrence: Record within GSWMA managed lands = 1, Record within the GSWMA landscape =2.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Mammals			
Moose	*Alces alces*		1
Coyote	*Canis latrans*		1
Beaver	*Castor canadensis*		1
Elk	*Cervus elaphus*		1
Porcupine	*Erethizon dorsatum*		1
Chipmunk	*Eutamius* spp.		1
Sagebrush Vole	*Lagurus curtatus*		2
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*		1
River Otter	*Lontra canadensis*		1
Bobcat	*Lynx rufus*		1
Yellow-bellied Marmot	*Marmota flaviventris*		1
Striped Skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*		1
Mountain Vole	*Microtus montanus*		2
Weasel	*Mustela* spp.		1
Mink	*Mustela vison*		1
California Myotis	*Myotis Californicus*	4-4	2
Bushy-tailed Wood Rat	*Neotoma cinerea*		1
Mule deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*		1
Deer Mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*		1
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*		1
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus lateralis*		2
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus richardsonii*		1
Cottontail Rabbit	*Sylvilagus nutallii*		1
American Badger	*Taxidea taxus*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Mammals (cont.)			
Idaho Pocket Gopher	*Thomomys idahoensis*	1	2
Northern Pocket Gopher	*Thomomys talpoides*		2
Black Bear	*Ursus americanus*		2
Birds			
Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus*	3-1, 4-5	2
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*		1
Northern Pintail	*Anus acuta*		2
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*		1
Black-chinned Hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*		2
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*		1
Ruffed Grouse	*Bonasa umbellus*		1
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*		2
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*		1
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*		1
Swainson's Hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	4-5	1
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*		1
Greater Sage-grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	1, 2-c, 3-s, 4-2	1
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*		1
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*		1
Western Wood Pewee	*Contopus sordidulus*		1
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*		1
Common Raven-	*Corvus corax*		1
Dusky Grouse	*Dendragapus obscurus*		1
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*		2
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*		1
Brewer's Blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*		2
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*		1
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*		1
Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis*		1
Cassin's Finch	*Haemorhous cassinii*		2
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*		2
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	3-1, 4-1	1
Evening Grosbeak	*Hesperiphona vespertina*		2
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*		1
Northern Shrike	*Lanius excubitor*		2
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	4-3	2
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*		2
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*		1
Long-billed Curlew	*Numenius americanus*	4-5	1
Sage Thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*		1
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*		2
Lazuli Bunting	*Passerina amoena*		1
Gray Partridge	*Perdix perdix*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Birds (cont.)			
Wilson's Phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*	4-4	2
Black-billed Magpie	*Pica hudsonia*		1
Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides dorsalis*	3-1	2
Green-tailed Towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*		1
Rufous-sided Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*		2
White-faced Ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	4-4	2
Black-capped Chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*		1
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*		2
Flammulated Owl	*Psiloscops flammeolus*	3-1, 4-3	2
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*		1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*		2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*		2
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*		2
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*		1
Brewer's Sparrow	*Spizella breweri*	4-3	1
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*		2
Great Gray Owl	*Strix nebulosa*	1	2
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*		1
Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*		2
American Robin	*Turdus migatorius*		1
Sharp-tailed Grouse	*Tympanuchus phasianellus*	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*		2
Western Kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*		1
Reptiles			
Rubber Boa	*Charina bottae*		2
Great Basin Rattlesnake	*Crotalus viridis*		2
Gopher Snake	*Pituophis catenifer*		1
Sagebrush Lizard	*Sceloporus graciosus*		1
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	*Thamnophis elegans*		2
Common Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis*		1
Amphibians			
Tiger Salamander	*Ambystoma tigrinum*	1	1
Western Toad	*Anaxyrus boreas*	1	2
Northern Leopard Frog	*Rana pipiens*	1, 4-2	1
Fish			
Utah Sucker	*Catostomus ardens*		1
Bluehead Sucker	*Catostomus discobolus*		2
Mountain Sucker	*Catostomus platyrhynchus*		1
Mottled Sculpin	*Cottus bairdi*		2
Channel Catfish	*Ictalurus punctatus*		1
Northern Leatherside Chub	*Lepidomeda copei*	1	2
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*	1, 3-s, 4-2	2
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah*	1	1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Fish (cont.)			
Mountain Whitefish	*Prosopium williamsoni*		1
Longnose Dace	*Rhinichthys cataractae*		1
Speckled Dace	*Rhinichthys osculus*		1
Redside Shiner	*Richardsonius balteatus*		1
Rainbow Trout	*Salmo gairdneri*		1
Brown Trout	*Salmo trutta*		1
Bivalves			
California Floater	*Anodonta californiensis*	4-3	2
Gastropods			
Bear Lake Springsnail	*Pyrgulopsis pilsbryana*	1	2
Mountain Marshsnail	*Stagnicola montanensis*	1	2

VIII. LAND ACQUISITIONS, AGREEMENTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Land Acquisitions – Fee Title			
Year	**Funds Used**	**Acres**	**Acquired From**
1991	HB530	748.68	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
1998	RMEF/Monsanto Corp. Gift	23.5	Lola McCammon Estate
2007	IDFG/R. Mtn. Power	83.66	Bruce McCammon and Raeda Wallentine
2012	HB530	906.7	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
	Subtotal	1,762.54	
Cooperative Land Agreements			
Year	**Length**	**Acres**	**Leased From**
2008	5 years	760	Janet Walker (renewal in process)
2013	20 years	1,830	Idaho Department of Lands
	Subtotal	2,590	
	GSWMA Total	**4,352.54**	

Water Rights			
Number	**Source**	**Point of Diversion**	**Quantity**
11-4071	Jones Canyon Spring	T 10S, R 43E, Sect. 10	0.08 cfs

Infrastructure
4 – Parking Areas/Information Centers
6.5 – Roads/Trails (Miles) including USFS Roads 129 and 097
19.5 – Fences (Miles)

GEORGETOWN SUMMIT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

Approval

Submitted by:

Don Jenkins, Habitat Biologist

Reviewed by:

Paul Wackenhut, Regional Habitat Manager

Mark Gamblin, Regional Supervisor

Sal Palazzolo, Bureau of Wildlife

Tom Hemker, State Habitat Manager

Approved by:

Virgil Moore, Director