# Montour
# Wildlife Management Area

## Management Plan
## 2014

Southwest Region

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## 2014 – 2023 Management Plan
**December 2014**

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Southwest Region
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***Tundra Swans*** Photo by Matthew Neal

# Executive Summary

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) manages 32 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Due to the wildlife-focused management, WMAs often serve as highly productive core areas of the landscapes in which they exist. Management of WMAs involves a combination of restoring and maintaining important natural habitats (shrub-steppe, riparian) to contribute to landscape-level habitat function, and creating hyper-productive habitats (food plots, impounded wetlands) to enhance the carrying capacity for selected wildlife species.

This document provides direction in the form of goals, objectives, and strategies for the management of the Montour WMA (MWMA), which are consistent with the Department Strategic Plan, *The Compass*. The MWMA encompasses 1,350 acres along the Payette River in southwest Idaho. Wildlife habitats include riparian shrublands and woodlands, mesic meadows, and wetlands, including five constructed ponds. It is primarily managed for waterfowl and upland game production, hunter access, and other outdoor-orientated recreation.

The current management direction of MWMA was initiated after a series of public meetings and user surveys. Issues pertaining to MWMA were identified by the public and the Department and grouped into three categories:  habitat management, wildlife management, and public use management.

We followed a six step process to create the MWMA management program described in this plan. This process included 1) summary of management priorities; 2) focal species assessment; 3) selection of conservation targets; 4) coverage assessment of selected conservation targets; 5) spatial delineation of selected focal species/habitat landscapes; and 6) creation of program management table.

Based on the review of management issues, WMA biologists and regional staff identified four management priorities for MWMA. These are waterfowl habitat, upland game bird habitat, special status species habitat, and wildlife-based recreation and education.

Next, we conducted a focal species assessment to evaluate which species or conservation targets may serve to guide management of the WMA. Species evaluated included game, nongame, and special status species. Conservation targets could include single species, groups or guilds of species, or habitat types that represent a group or guild of species. Waterfowl, upland game birds, and riparian habitats were selected to best represent management priorities on the MWMA. The coverage assessment of the conservation targets demonstrated that of the 34 focal species or groups evaluated, 23 would benefit from management actions for waterfowl; 11 species would benefit from management actions for upland game birds; and 15 would benefit from management actions for riparian habitat. We also evaluated how the selected conservation targets and associated management actions fit into the larger landscape beyond the MWMA border.

The final step was the creation of the Program Management Table for MWMA. It outlines the management direction, performance targets, strategies, and outcome metrics that MWMA staff will use to manage for the conservation targets and associated management priorities at both the MWMA and landscape scale.

This plan will serve as a guide for current and future managers to direct efforts and resources for maximum wildlife benefit, public enjoyment, and efficient operation. As new information and technology becomes available, and as more property is acquired, strategies may be modified to most effectively reach the goals and objectives in this plan. All goals, objectives, 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). 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 on WMAs confirms their value to big game, nongame, and many at-risk species identified in Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). In many cases, WMAs provide the principal habitat for at-risk species in the region.

Wildlife Management Areas often abut other protected lands such as federal lands or private lands protected by conservation easement. Due to the wildlife-focused management, WMAs often 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 (shrub-steppe, riparian) to contribute to landscape-level habitat function, and creating hyper-productive habitats (food plots, impounded wetlands) to enhance the carrying capacity for selected wildlife species.

Wildlife Management Area management plans focus on upholding resource conservation and preservation values for maximum wildlife benefit, public enjoyment, and efficient operation. They may also be bounded by legislative mandates, Department species plans, the SWAP, national wildlife conservation strategies and plans (federal and non-government organizations) and especially the Department's own strategic plan, *The Compass*. Goals, objectives and strategies have been developed to be as consistent as possible with all these documents and to capture the broader conservation already provided by WMAs and to ensure that these values are protected and enhanced.

## Regional Summary

The Department's Southwest Region includes six WMAs containing approximately 95,000 acres of land with a primary management focus of maintaining highly functional wildlife habitat, as well as providing wildlife-based recreation. Andrus WMA, at the upper end of Hells Canyon in Washington and Adams counties, is an important wintering area for deer and elk. Boise River WMA, in Ada, Boise, and Elmore counties, provides critical winter range for mule deer and elk near Idaho's largest human population centers. The other four Southwest Region WMAs comprise wetland, riparian, and upland habitats managed with an emphasis on upland game and waterfowl production and hunting. These include Fort Boise WMA at the confluence of the Boise and Snake rivers in Canyon County; Payette River and Montour WMAs along the Payette River in Payette and Gem counties; and C.J. Strike WMA on the Bruneau and Snake rivers near C.J. Strike Reservoir in Owyhee and Elmore counties.

Each WMA is managed as part of a larger habitat district, which may also include other lands owned or operated by the Department for wildlife habitat or public access. Management of lands for wildlife habitat could not succeed without the cooperation and collaboration of many partners, with the Department as either a licensed tenant or a neighbor. Examples include Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Power Corporation, and other private landowners.

Personnel and operating funds for regional wildlife habitat programs are provided through a combination of hunting licenses and fees, federal aid from excise taxes under the Pittman-Robertson Act, and to some degree by BPA and BOR as mitigation for habitat losses resulting from construction of various dams in the region. Hunters fund a large portion of management costs, and they are rewarded with habitat management areas that sustain many of the region's big game herds and provide consistent waterfowl and upland game bird production and hunting opportunities. Non-hunters, who value the varied resources provided by WMAs, also benefit from the broad ranging conservation values associated with Department lands.

This management plan is designed to provide broad guidance for the long-term management of Montour Wildlife Management Area (MWMA). It replaces an earlier management plan written in 2003. This updated plan was completed during 2012 and 2013 with extensive public input. This plan is tiered off other 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)

## 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.

## Montour WMA Vision

Management of the MWMA will continue to provide beneficial habitat for the production of wildlife, quality hunting opportunities, and other compatible wildlife-based recreation for current and future generations. Montour WMA will also provide myriad opportunities for the non-hunting public to enjoy Idaho's wildlife diversity.

## Modification of Plan

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

## Other Considerations

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.

# Area Description and Current Status

Montour WMA is located along the Payette River in the Montour Valley in Gem County, nine miles east of Horseshoe Bend and Highway 55 and one mile South of Highway 52 (Figure 1). The public uses the WMA for a variety of recreational activities including hiking, bird watching, camping, dog training, bird hunting, fishing, and float craft river access.

A large portion of the approximately 1,350-acre WMA is within the Montour Valley floodplain (Appendix II). This valley area is subject to inundation by high Payette River flows, which can be exacerbated by ice jams. After completion of the Black Canyon Dam in 1924, sediment began filling the main streambed at the upper end of the Black Canyon Reservoir. Over a span of years, this sediment deposition began to contribute to the flooding in Montour Valley. After a 1973 study of potential solutions for the flooding problem and court actions, approximately 1,100 acres within the projected 100-year flood plain were purchased by BOR. An additional 250 acres of upland habitat was added to the western edge of the WMA in 2004. The purchased valley lands were originally designated the Montour Flood Project. In 1981, BOR proposed the implementation of the Montour Land Management Plan, which was "developed to guide the improvement and operation of the Montour lands primarily for fish and wildlife purposes." The Montour Land Management Plan, also titled the Montour Wildlife/Recreation Area Plan, was implemented in 1984. Governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), BOR and the Department have cooperatively managed the Montour area lands since 1983.

In 2004, BOR, the Department, and other interested parties cooperatively prepared the Black Canyon Reservoir and Montour WMA Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BOR 2004). The RMP is BOR's framework which will govern the management of the MWMA for the next 15 years. Subsequently, the 1983 MOU between BOR and the Department was updated as a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in December 2004. The MOA provides for continued cooperation in managing the MWMA within the scope of the RMP. The MOA will serve in five-year terms which define specific and collective WMA responsibilities, and provide an understanding regarding BOR and Department management roles.

In general, BOR, with overall management responsibility, is responsible for coordinating upland and waterfowl habitat developments as specified in the 2004 RMP while consulting with the Department on all matters pertaining to fish and wildlife. The Department is responsible for providing BOR with information and technical assistance during implementation of the fish and wildlife activities provided for in the plan, enforcing State of Idaho fish and game laws, and enforcing wildlife-related closures at MWMA. The Department may also initiate and implement enhancement activities outlined in the plan with the approval of BOR.

## Climate

Cold winters and hot, dry summers characterize the semiarid climate of the MWMA. The average high temperature of 91 degrees Fahrenheit (F) occurs in July and dips to an average low

temperature of 19 degrees F in January. The average precipitation is approximately 13 inches per year. Average monthly precipitation ranges from a high of 1.8 inches in November to a low of 0.2 inches in July. More than 75% of the precipitation falls between October and May. Irrigation is required in the Montour area because of the low precipitation rate during the growing season. The frost-free growing season averages 127 days.

## Topography and Geology

The topography of the Montour area is generally flat, with elevations ranging from a low point of 2,499 feet above mean sea level to a high point of 2,550 feet. Most slopes within the valley are less than 5%. In Black Canyon, the gradient continues to be shallow, ranging from 2,520 feet at the downstream edge of Montour Valley to 2,440 feet at the base of the dam Regan Butte, located at the downstream end of the Montour Valley where Black Canyon and the reservoir begin, reaches a height of 3,340 feet.

The Payette River flows generally westward in an arc along the northern side of Montour Valley, an intermontane basin. The flat floor of Montour Valley is underlain with recent-age river-deposited alluvium to depths of several hundred feet. In most places on the valley floor, silty and sandy soils from about five to 10 feet deep cover the sand and gravelly alluvial materials.

Closely bordering the northern and southern sides of the valley are low terraces composed of older alluvial deposits of silt, sand, and gravel. The gray to brown colored hills and ridges to the east and in some scattered places to the south and southwest of the valley are composed of granite from the Idaho batholith, which was formed during the late Cretaceous period approximately 65 to 85 million years ago. High mountain peaks and ridges to the northeast and southwest of the valley rise more than 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These high ridges and peaks consist of basalt flows that overlay the granitic rocks. The basalt flows dip gently westward and are part of the Columbia River basalt flows, which erupted across most of eastern Washington and Oregon and parts of western Idaho between 14 and 17 million years ago.

## Soils

The predominant soil series in the study area are Bakeoven and Lickskillet extremely rocky soils, Gem stony clay loam, and Haw loam in the steep slope uplands, with Black Canyon silty clay loam and Moulton fine sandy loam on the flatter slopes adjacent to the River (NRCS 1965).

Sediment is accumulating in the upper third of Black Canyon Reservoir from upstream sources along the Payette River. Erosion and mass wasting following extensive fires in the drainage have contributed to sediment in the reservoir.

Soil depth varies across the WMA, but most soils are shallow above bedrock or sand/gravel horizons. Depth to loose or stratified sand and gravel ranges from 36 to 55 inches, mostly in those soils arising from alluvium along the river. For those shallow soils underlain by basaltic bedrock, the depth of soil ranges from as shallow as four inches to as deep as 36 inches. A few

soil series have a hardpan at 35 to 50 inches composed of weakly cemented lime and silica. Soils vary from deep, fine sandy loams (low landscape positions) to extremely rocky, shallow soils (steeper upland positions). Subsurface material ranges from loose sand and gravel to clay loam, with sand as the predominant subsurface material. Scattered areas of high water table and salinity-affected soils can be found along the Payette River. Most soils shows negligible erosion; however, a few soil series have a slight to moderate risk of water erosion, although this problem is not widespread. Shrink-swell potential is low for the majority of soils in the WMA study area but moderate in some soils.

The water table depth was calculated from measurements taken at eight groundwater wells throughout the MWMA. Analysis of collected data revealed an average water table depth that currently varies from 11.7 feet at the northeast corner of the site to 3.2 feet at the western edge. Since the May 1984 Montour Wildlife/Recreation Management Plan was completed, the average depth to groundwater has decreased.

## Habitat Types at Montour WMA

The MWMA is located on the floodplain of the Payette River and has always been subject to flooding during years of high spring runoff. The Montour area was settled and farmed prior to construction of Black Canyon Dam. Construction of the dam resulted in a gradual rise in elevation of yearly and major floods which exacerbated flooding problems and raised the ground water level under the area.

The lowlands in MWMA are a complex of cottonwood-willow river bottoms, wetlands and ponds, and agricultural fields adjacent to the Payette River that cover 1,105 acres. Vegetation and plant communities within MWMA (Appendix VI) have been modified from the original native composition by farming, irrigation projects, recreation, livestock grazing, and other human uses, as well as the rising groundwater levels resulting from the reservoir. Habitat types within the WMA include the following.

## Cottonwood-willow River Bottoms

Cottonwood-willow river bottoms are found throughout the MWMA, but primarily along the Payette River. The MWMA segment has some of the best quality riparian habitat found above the Black Canyon Dam on the Payette River. This narrow band of vegetation provides excellent wildlife habitat and a wide variety of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Cottonwood, maple, water birch, locust, bulrush, and sedges are found along the river. Wildlife areas along the river have been altered by channelizing, construction of dikes, bank repair and tree removal, and agricultural and grazing impacts; however, there is still abundant cover and food for small groups of mule deer, river otters, bobcats, and other small mammals. The Payette River provides open water for wintering waterfowl during the colder periods when all nearby still waterways are frozen.

## Wetlands and Ponds

The primary intent of the natural and created wetlands and ponds within the WMA is to provide food, cover, nesting, and resting habitat areas for waterfowl. Additionally, these habitat features also benefit other game and nongame species. The MWMA will continue to be managed in compliance with its established intent, with management priorities focused on wildlife and habitat values as they relate to both game and nongame species.

The shallow groundwater within the WMA supports wetland plants in many areas. These include native species such as black cottonwood, sandbar willow, peachleaf willow, smooth scouring rush, and cloaked bulrush, but large areas have been invaded by reed canarygrass. Cattails, bulrush, and sedges occupy wetlands and other wet areas such as ditches. Noxious weeds, especially purple loosestrife, are a problem in some areas of the WMA.

The Department, in cooperation with BOR, has constructed five waterfowl production ponds within MWMA totaling 47.7 acres. About 60% of the water in these ponds is less than three feet deep. These shallow waters and associated emergent vegetation provide nesting habitat as well as insect production which provide a high-protein food source for young birds. The remaining 40% of the water is between three and five feet deep, which prevents establishment of cattail or bulrush. Open water provides loafing areas protected from predators and foraging opportunities for diving ducks. The ponds are frequently drained in winter to control non-native carp, which are detrimental to wetland productivity. Emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation found in the ponds include bulrush, cattail, rushes, sedges, pondweed, and smartweed. The rare plant, shining flatsedge, is known to occur on the MWMA (Jankovsky-Jones 2001).

## Upland

In many areas, especially along roadways, upland areas have been invaded by cheatgrass and rush skeletonweed. Grass/legume plantings, particularly tall wheatgrass and alfalfa, have been established to provide undisturbed residual nesting cover for birds. These upland plantings also reduce noxious weed problems by out-competing weeds and invasive plants. Vegetation in the campground area is composed of non-native lawn grasses and shade trees. Trees such as silver maple, black locust, and catalpa are typical.

## Fish and Wildlife

The Payette River flows along the northern and western boundary of the WMA. Montour WMA provides access to the river for fishing and boating. On August 1, MWMA ponds open to fishing and other recreational activities. The ponds support a variety of game fish including black crappie, bluegill, catfish, and smallmouth and largemouth bass. The Payette River within the WMA has rainbow trout, whitefish, smallmouth bass, and catfish.

The high diversity of habitat in the valley is reflected in the myriad of wildlife species that inhabit the WMA (Appendix VII). In addition to waterfowl and shorebirds, the riparian and

wetland areas provide important habitat for a diversity of songbirds, small mammals, upland game, and furbearers. The riparian and upland areas provide habitat for a year-round population of mule deer and although infrequent, a few whitetail deer are known to occur along the river corridor.

Canada goose, mallard, wood duck, gadwall, northern pintail, American widgeon, green-winged and cinnamon teal, common goldeneye, lesser scaup, and redhead are the primary waterfowl species. To enhance the nesting success of Canada geese, platforms have been constructed adjacent to the Payette River and in some of the pond areas within the WMA. Wood duck nest boxes have been installed throughout the riparian zone bordering the Payette River. Other waterbirds using this area during the breeding season include Virginia rail, American coot, snowy egret, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, and American white pelican. Common shorebirds that may use the area during migration include long-billed curlew, semipalmated plover, spotted sandpiper, greater and lesser yellowlegs, long-billed dowitcher, western sandpiper, and Wilson's snipe. Sandhill cranes are common spring migrants. The MWMA supports a nesting colony of great blue herons. The heronry is in cottonwood trees near the southern WMA boundary. The WMA ponds are managed primarily for waterfowl. To protect waterfowl during their nesting period, these ponds are closed to all uses until the end of July.

The primary upland game birds are ring-necked pheasant, California quail, and gray partridge. Cattail patches bordering ponds and low wetland areas provide escape and important winter thermal cover for ring-necked pheasants, as well as habitat for red-winged blackbirds, song sparrows, mourning doves, and a number of other bird species and small mammals. The dense riparian vegetation provides excellent escape, foraging, and roosting habitat for California quail. Raptors include the northern harrier, American kestrel, and the red-tailed hawk which uses the many tall trees within the WMA for nesting. There is one bald eagle nest on the MWMA and bald eagles are common winter residents. Great horned owl and western screech owl are both common nesters at the MWMA. Great-horned owls will use abandoned hawk nests and western screech owls are cavity nesters that can often be found inhabiting wood duck nest boxes. There are many neo-tropical migrant birds which utilize the diversity of habitat types within the WMA, for at least some portion of their life cycle.

Mule deer occupy the valley year-round and the MWMA is an important wintering area for a local population of approximately 75 deer. A small population of about 10 whitetail deer is also known to inhabit the Montour Valley. Beaver and muskrat are often seen in the pond areas along the western extent of the WMA. Porcupine and raccoon are regular inhabitants of the riparian zone bordering the Payette River and ditches within the WMA. The principal predators are red fox and coyote. Common small rodents include the meadow vole, long-tailed vole, masked shrew, deer mouse, western jumping mouse, western harvest mouse, and cottontail rabbits. Several species of bats are also known to occur at the WMA. The little brown bat, other species of the Myotis genus, and the big brown bat are common.

## Permits and Leases

In coordination with the Department, BOR has provided a letter of authorization for allowing dog trial permits within the MWMA (Appendix VIII). Dog trials are only allowed after the nesting season, between August and September, and prior to pheasant releases. Dog trials are consistent with WMA management goals and objectives.

There are currently no agricultural leases on the WMA, although there is one existing grazing lease. The grazing lease is on the uplands at the western edge of the WMA. All other agricultural and grazing leases have expired and no new lease agreements will be issued in the near future.

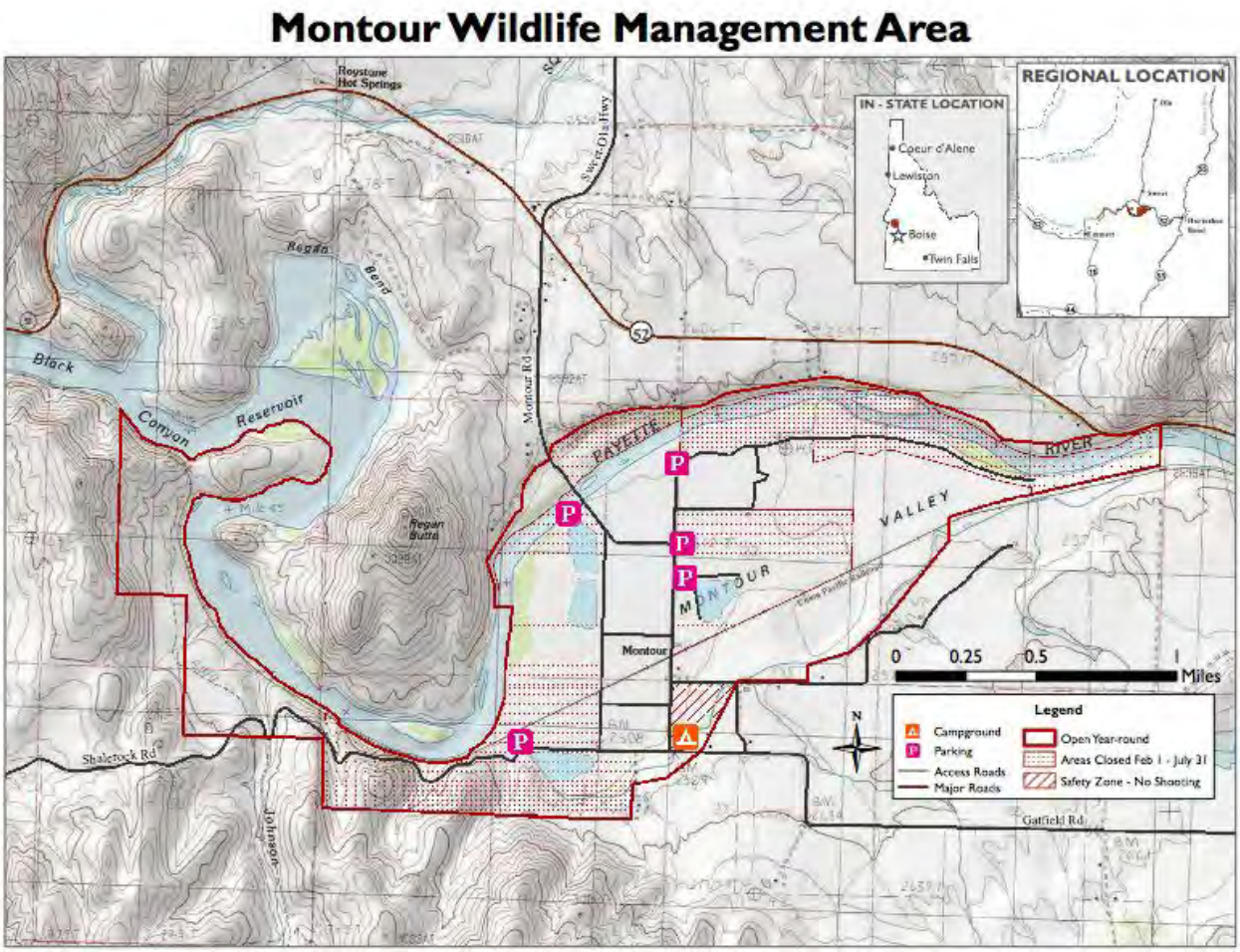


Figure 1. Montour Wildlife Management Area.

# Management Issues

A list of management issues was developed after extensive public input as described in Appendix IV. In general, two groups provided input, WMA users and neighboring landowners. Department policy direction and WMA staff management experience also helped shape the list of current issues (Appendix IV).

Montour WMA is cooperatively managed by the Department and BOR through an MOU between the two agencies. Issues identified were grouped, based on similarity, into three general categories, Habitat Management, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, and Public Use Management. Each issue is summarized and some potential management options discussed.

One issue common to many WMAs is the limited funding for operating and personnel to meet all of the public expectations and continuing infrastructure needs. Montour WMA is no exception. With one biologist to manage the two WMAs in the Payette River Habitat District, distribution of time and work effort between WMAs presents a prioritization challenge. Annually, BOR contributes to the operating budget to maintain the MWMA, but no fixed budget is designated specifically to its management.

## Habitat Management

1. **Noxious weeds are a problem on the MWMA.**

   Discussion: The MWMA has infestations of several noxious weeds and other invasive species that will be controlled or removed as funding allows. The BOR provides financial support to Gem County Weed Control through an annual assistance agreement for the chemical treatment of invasive and noxious weeds. The highest priority for weed control is to prevent the establishment of new species. Small infestations of weeds such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and whitetop have been successfully controlled or eradicated. Roadsides and pond dikes are annually sprayed during the spring with a broadleaf herbicide (e.g., 2, 4-D amine) for the control of Canada thistle, poison hemlock, and other invasive and noxious weeds. The five major MWMA ponds are treated as needed with aquatic herbicides (e.g., diquat dibromide, elemental copper) for control of Eurasian watermilfoil and algae. Occasionally, the Department conducts small (5-10 acres) prescribed burns during spring to remove dead cover and allow for the optimization of herbicide application. Burned and herbicide-treated areas are often planted with perennial grasses to compete with weeds and allow for the continued application of a broadleaf herbicide.

2. **Wetland management and creation is an on-going task.**

   Discussion: Constructed wetlands on MWMA are generally maintenance free. Outflow systems have been constructed to be beaver-proof to reduce the problem of being plugged and to prevent flooding the wetlands or damaging the dikes. Water-level management is important to maintaining the optimum proportion of 60% emergent vegetation and 40% open

water. Weed treatment is particularly challenging near wetlands because herbicide use is either severely restricted near water or prohibited for some herbicides. Trespassing into wildlife production areas during nesting season is an additional problem, even with sign posting.

3. **Habitat improvements are needed on MWMA.**

   Discussion: Other habitat improvements are needed on MWMA, including maintenance of upland nesting habitat. Most other current habitat management issues arise from loitering, vandalism, and undesignated campfires, as well as using the area as dumping grounds. Ongoing removal of barbed wire fencing through the use of volunteers has improved hunting and safety for dogs, humans, and wildlife. In addition, pole fencing at parking areas has reduced some off road vehicle use, while being wildlife friendly and more aesthetically pleasing than the traditional barbed wire, though at a greater cost.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Management

1. **Improve Canada goose production.**

   Discussion: The MWMA and surrounding area has a substantial population of Canada geese that nest on island and mainland areas from the WMA downstream to Black Canyon Reservoir. Annual goose productivity is directly affected by the spring flows in the Payette River during the nesting period. High water causes flooding of established ground nests, while low water flow has the potential to increase predation. Montour WMA staff and Department volunteers maintain 18 nest platforms annually prior to the nesting season. These elevated platforms help minimize nest losses to flooding and predation. In addition, five ponds provide secure nesting and brooding habitat for Canada geese. Nesting areas on the MWMA are closed to access to reduce human disturbance to waterfowl and broods from February 1 to July 31. Although there are no closures on the Payette River, Department staff work to educate the public to minimize disturbance to nesting geese and other waterfowl. Additionally, dog training is only permitted from August 1 to September 30. The Department will continue to improve both nesting cover and other habitats.

2. **Improve waterfowl and upland game bird production.**

   Discussion: Montour WMA staff work to improve waterfowl and upland game bird productivity by providing secure nesting cover. Developing and maintaining residual nesting cover is an extremely important management practice to promote game bird production. Montour WMA staff plant and maintain blocks of vigorous grass/legume vegetation to provide protection from predators. Quality cover attracts nesting hens to the MWMA, keeping them away from adjacent agricultural alfalfa fields, where nest mortality likely approaches 100%. Elimination of cattle grazing on the MWMA has also increased cover available during the nesting season.

Shallow production ponds with nesting islands and nest boxes/platforms help to increase waterfowl production on the MWMA. The Department volunteers help maintain wood duck nesting boxes, which also benefit other cavity-nesting birds. To minimize disturbance, nesting areas on the MWMA are closed to humans and dogs from February 1 to July 31.

Quality cover also provides protection in other seasons. Cattail patches provide excellent thermal cover in winter for pheasants. Planting trees and shrubs throughout the MWMA will also increase habitat for some species. Efforts to improve both residual and permanent nesting cover and other types of habitat continue in concert with conservation and preservation values.

3. **Allow more fishing opportunities.**

Discussion: One of the primary goals of the MWMA is waterfowl production, and most sportsmen support this priority. In order to meet this goal, all ponds are closed to fishing from February 1 through July 31 to prevent nest disturbance. Furthermore, waterfowl ponds are occasionally drained to maintain quality habitat and control carp. Some anglers have expressed their displeasure of these practices. In addition, information collected during field checks indicated some anglers felt handicapped facilities were needed in addition to allowing disabled anglers to drive to the ponds.

## Public Use Management

1. **Overcrowding and over-use is a problem.**

Discussion: The MWMA, which is close to major metropolitan areas, often experiences extremely heavy use by both consumptive and non-consumptive users. An increasing number of visitors are using the MWMA simply to enjoy the outdoors, run, bicycle, or exercise their dogs, which are activities not considered to be wildlife-based recreation. Human activities, including excessive amounts of some recreational activities, can adversely impact the ability of the MWMA to provide high-quality wildlife habitat. Pole fencing at parking areas has reduced some off road vehicle use. Loitering, vandalism, littering, and undesignated campfires negatively impacts all users of the WMA.

Pheasant and waterfowl hunting are the two main attractions to the MWMA. Game farm pheasants are released at the MWMA. These stockings are popular with hunters, who support most of the cost of this program through the purchase of WMA pheasant permits. This program provides some of the only late-season pheasant hunting in the area, due to the low numbers of wild birds, and lack of access and/or habitat on private land. This situation creates a shortage of hunting areas, overcrowding on the MWMA, and an additional concern by sportsmen about the quality of their hunting experience. The number of users on a daily basis during the hunting season can and does create safety issues, and hunter conflicts may also lead to unsportsmanlike behavior.

Waterfowl hunters' use of the constructed ponds indicates a high demand for this type of waterfowl hunting experience. Waterfowl hunters contacted in the field believe additional ponds would be helpful to disperse hunters into a larger area and provide a higher-quality hunt. Most duck and goose hunters were in favor of the locked gate system, which provides limited access. If sportsmen are willing to walk to the more remote areas of the WMA, they would have fewer hunters around them.

The number of hunters using the MWMA has increased significantly in recent years. To minimize conflicts and increase safety, upland bird hunters cannot hunt before 10 a.m., while waterfowl hunters can start hunting one half hour before sunrise, as dictated in the federal migratory bird regulations. Some sportsmen would like the Department to preserve and enhance the quality of user experience by restricting participant numbers. Other sportsmen request that the Department continue in the current manner. Future options to minimize conflicts could include a limited entry and charge program or a locked gate system. Public input will be sought to assist the Department in the formulation a course of action. Many hunters realize user crowding exists on the MWMA during the hunting season and have recommended acquiring additional lands adjacent to the management area to help solve this problem.

**2. Continue to provide public hunting and maintain hunting quality.**

Discussion: The MWMA provides good hunting opportunities for geese and other waterfowl and upland game birds including California quail, wild pheasants, and stocked farm-raised pheasants. Although spring turkey hunting is allowed, opportunities are limited due to seasonal nesting closures on the MWMA to protect nesting waterfowl and game birds. Deer hunting is also popular on the WMA, but limited due to its small acreage.

The MWMA lies in a waterfowl wintering area and provides a duck and goose hunting season lasting 100 plus days. At present, there are no hunter number restrictions on the MWMA. Hunter numbers are especially high on certain days of the season, i.e., opening day, holidays, and weekends. Construction of ponds has helped to relieve congestion problems, but each year the number of hunters using the MWMA grows.

The hunt for quail and wild pheasants becomes very difficult after the first couple of weekends. The intense hunting pressure moves the birds that are not harvested off of the MWMA or into dense cover. The pheasant stocking program allows hunters to harvest pheasants after most of the wild birds become unavailable.

In general, the hunting public supports supplementing wild pheasant populations on the MWMA with game farm pheasants. Hunter comments also support WMA pheasant permit fees to pay for the program. However, permit fees do not cover the total cost of the program. The pheasant stocking program on WMAs near metropolitan areas are subject to sometimes extremely heavy use. The number of users on a daily basis during the hunting season can and does create safety issues, hunter conflicts, and at times, leads to unsportsmanlike behavior.

Hunting quality is an issue of concern to public and professionals alike. The Department will seek public input to assist in the formulation of a course of action. Increasing the land base would help spread out hunters and the Department will continue to explore opportunities to increase access or to purchase additional property, as funding allows. However, increasing the WMA lands is a limited solution. Ultimately, many hunters utilize the WMA because of lack of access to nearby private lands. The opportunity to hunt is appreciated even if hunt quality is slightly reduced.

**3. Education and non-consumptive use is also important.**

Discussion: Wildlife viewing has become very important on the MWMA because of its close proximity to metropolitan areas. A significant number of visits to the MWMA are non-consumptive trips by the public to enjoy nature and view wildlife. As the population of southwest Idaho increases, this desire to get away from the urban environments is expected to increase. With some restrictions on time and area of use, most of the diverse user groups can enjoy the atmosphere of the area with limited or no impact. However, not all WMA users are respectful of our wild places, resulting in littering and vandalism.

The MWMA area is valuable for education. This may be one of the greatest assets, in the long term, for the Department. Tours are conducted for various school and other interested groups but formal interpretive facilities are limited. The preservation and proper management of wetlands and uplands educates visitors about habitat management and development. People who have purchased rural land may then be encouraged to develop their land for wildlife.

Children who have limited exposure to wildlife are introduced to nature at WMAs. In addition, hunting skills and ethics can be taught to the next generation of hunters by the Department in cooperation with organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. The educational mission of the area has potential and can best be expanded by utilizing the internet and linking interactively to the school system.

# Montour WMA Management Program

The Department is responsible for the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and management of all wildlife, fish, and plants in Idaho. Wildlife Management Areas allow the Department to directly affect habitat to maximize suitability for species in key areas. Management to restore and maintain important natural habitats, and create hyper-productive habitats to enhance carrying capacity for selected wildlife species remains a key strategy on the MWMA. However, the most pervasive threats to WMA ecological integrity, such as noxious weeds, rural residential/commercial development, water level management, and conflicting land uses on adjacent public lands come from outside the WMA boundaries. Therefore, WMA managers must recognize and create opportunities to participate in collaborative conservation and management programs with adjacent landowners, enabling broader influence to maintain the ecological functions that sustain WMA-dependent wildlife.

We propose that an effective way to enable a broader influence over the future of MWMA is through the use of Conservation Targets to guide management. Conservation Targets could 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 MWMA, 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 MWMA and creates a platform for conservation partnerships on the surrounding landscape.

The following six-step process was used to create the MWMA 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) Spatial Delineation of Selected Focal Species/Habitat Landscapes
6) Creation of Management Program Table

## Summary of Management Priorities

Upon review of the management issues discussed in the previous section, we have identified four management priorities for the MWMA over the life of this plan. In addition, these priorities are

consistent with the 2004 Black Canyon Reservoir and Montour WMA Resource Management Plan (BOR 2004).

**Montour WMA Management Priorities:**

1. Upland game bird habitat
2. Waterfowl habitat
3. Special status species habitat
4. Wildlife-based recreation and education

## Focal Species Assessment

In order to identify Conservation Targets that will guide the management of the MWMA, an assessment of various fish and wildlife species that utilize the property was conducted. Table 1 shows the evaluation of these taxa and separates them into either flagship species and/or at risk species (Groves 2003). These taxa are also categorized as flagship or at-risk by federal land management agencies as well as the Department in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (IDFG 2005).

Flagship species are popular, charismatic species that serve as symbols and catalysts to motivate conservation awareness, support, and action (Heywood 1995). These species often represent a landscape or ecosystem (e.g., Boise River watershed or foothills ecotone), a threat (e.g., habitat loss or climate change), organization (e.g., state government or non-government organization), or geographic region (e.g., protected area, Department Region or state; Veríssimo et al. 2009). For example, mule deer are a species that fit the criteria as both a flagship and focal species because they promote conservation actions and can be used to determine the appropriate size and configuration of a conservation area. In addition, mule deer are a culturally and economically important species in Idaho and represent a founding priority for the establishment of the MWMA. Therefore, species such as this are considered in the 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 explicitly considering a wide variety of at-risk species (Groves 2003); yielding a more comprehensive assessment that includes culturally and economically important species (e.g., mule deer and elk) along with formally designated conservation priorities (e.g., bald eagle). Categories of at-risk vertebrate species considered in this assessment are: 1) species designated as Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); 2) species designated as Sensitive by Region 4 (Intermountain Region) of the USFS; and 3) species designated as Sensitive by the Idaho State Office of the BLM.

The list of Idaho SGCN was developed as part of the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. This strategy is currently referred to as the SWAP. This plan serves to

coordinate the efforts of all partners working toward conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats across the state and serves as Idaho's seminal document identifying species at-risk.

Although most of the special status species identified by land management agencies in Idaho are included in the Idaho SWAP SGCN, those not listed may be considered priority species by other agencies. For instance, the Boise River watershed is a mosaic of land ownerships including private, USFS, BLM, and the Department. The BLM and USFS play a key role in the management of this landscape since their actions directly influence ecological functions on the MWMA. To maximize coordination, communication, and partnership opportunity, we include both USFS and BLM Sensitive Species in our biodiversity assessment.

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.

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) is a partnership comprised of federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, universities, policymakers, corporations, foundations, and private landowners. These partners reflect a broad diversity of values, landscapes, and land-use patterns in the Intermountain West. The IWJV also maintains a list of priority species and currently has identified 40 priority species from which to base conservation planning.

Information on species status, occurrence, beneficial management/conservation actions, and threats were derived through consultation with Department staff, occurrence records in the Department's Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System database, consultation with BLM and USFS species lists, and species summaries provided in the Idaho SWAP.

Suitability of assessed species as a focal species was estimated by Southwest Regional Habitat and Diversity staff based on descriptions in Groves (2003) and USFWS (2005). Potentially suitable focal species may possess 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* (USFWS 2005)

Table 1. Status of Conservation Priority Species on the Montour WMA including their potential suitability as focal species for management.

| Species | Status Designation(s) | Occurrence Context in Montour WMA Landscape | Threats | Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions | Suitability as a Focal Species for Montour WMA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Western Pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*) | SGCN | Occurs in high-gradient rivers and streams, including upper Payette River drainage, but occurrence on WMA unknown. | Decline of fish populations serving as hosts for parasitic larvae; changes in flow management and/or water quality could affect habitat suitability. | Promote natural flow regime, maintain water quality. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Western Ridged Mussel (*Gonidea angulata*) | SGCN | Occurs in medium to large rivers, including sites in the Snake River Basin; reported from Weiser and Snake River, but occurrence on WMA unknown. | Decline of fish populations serving as hosts for parasitic larvae; changes in flow management and/or water quality could affect habitat suitability. | Promote natural flow regime, maintain water quality. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Jackson Lake Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis robusta*) | SGCN; former ESA Endangered but delisted following taxonomic change | Occurrence in mainstem Snake River but unknown in Payette River. | Unknown. | Promote natural flow regime, maintain water quality. Surveys needed in Payette drainage. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Sheathed Slug (*Zacoleus idahoensis*) | SGCN | Forest species that occurs in central Idaho. Historically recorded near Weiser, which would represent the southern-most record of occurrence. Status on MWMA unknown. | May be affected by activities that degrade soil and surface conditions by reducing organic material, surface cover, or soil moisture. | Promote retention of coarse woody debris and other surface structure and organic soil development. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Thinlip Tightcoil (*Pristiloma idahoense*) | SGCN | Forest species that occurs in central Idaho. Historically recorded near Weiser, which would represent the southern-most record of occurrence. Status on WMA unknown. | May be affected by activities that degrade soil and surface conditions by reducing organic material, surface cover, or soil moisture. | Promote retention of coarse woody debris and other surface structure and organic soil development. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Alpine Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela plutonica*) | SGCN | Occurs in areas adjacent to WMA, but habitat requirements are not documented. | Likely to be locally affected by insecticide applications intended for pest management. | Avoid broadscale insecticide applications in occupied habitat. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*) | SGCN | Historical occurrence in the Payette River, but current status in the Payette drainage unknown. Largely extirpated from southwest Idaho. Habitat includes: flooded marsh and meadow habitat; pockets of shallow open water, off-channel pools, and undercut banks. | Competition with and predation by introduced bullfrogs and introduced fish (e.g., smallmouth bass) may be a limiting factor in the lower Payette drainage. Disease may also be a threat. | Maintain shallow off-channel ponds and flooded riparian wetland habitats. Manage habitat to discourage invasion by bullfrogs. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Historical distribution in the project area. |
| Woodhouse's Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*) | SGCN | Occurs in the Boise and Weiser river drainages. Suitable habitat may occur on the WMA, but status in vicinity is undocumented. Breeding sites are perennial or permanent standing water. Moist upland sites protected from freezing—e.g., woody debris piles—are used during hibernation. | Predation of eggs or tadpoles by bullfrogs and introduced fish (e.g., smallmouth bass) may be locally important. Loss of coarse woody debris and other structure for overwintering may be locally important. | Maintain shallow marshland and riparian wetland habitats. Maintain coarse woody debris and other surface structure. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Occurrence on WMA possible but unknown. |
| Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) | SGCN | Nest in mixed-species colonies on riparian trees and shrubs, often on islands; occasionally in emergent vegetation (e.g., bulrush/cattail marsh; Trost and Gerstell 1994). Occurs along the Payette River year-round. | Disturbance of nesting islands. Loss of riparian woodland habitat through reduced cottonwood regeneration and tree thinning can reduce habitat suitability. May accumulate pesticides, affecting eggs and chicks. | Maintain river flows to facilitate cottonwood regeneration and maturation. Avoid disturbance to islands. Reduce pesticide applications and runoff pathways. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* Breeding and foraging habitat is well-represented on the WMA, and breeding colonies occur in the vicinity. |

| Species | Status Designation(s) | Occurrence Context in Montour WMA Landscape | Threats | Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions | Suitability as a Focal Species for Montour WMA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) | SGCN | Breeding occurs in the vicinity of the WMA. Colonies are in trees, often mixed with other species, such as black-crowned night heron. | Disturbance of nesting islands. Loss of riparian woodland habitat through reduced cottonwood regeneration and tree thinning can reduce habitat suitability. May accumulate pesticides, affecting eggs and chicks. | Maintain river flows to facilitate cottonwood regeneration and maturation. Avoid disturbance to islands. Reduce pesticide applications and runoff pathways. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* Breeding and foraging habitat is well-represented on the WMA, and breeding colonies occur in the vicinity. |
| Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) | SGCN | Breeding occurs in mixed-species colonies in large trees, often at the highest point in the colony, over water, or on islands (IDFG 2005). Observed foraging in the vicinity of MWMA. | Disturbance of nesting islands. Loss of riparian woodland habitat through reduced cottonwood regeneration and tree thinning can reduce habitat suitability. May accumulate pesticides, affecting eggs and chicks. | Maintain river flows to facilitate cottonwood regeneration and maturation. Avoid disturbance to islands and creating bridges to otherwise isolated islands. Reduce pesticide applications and runoff pathways. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* Breeding and foraging habitat is well-represented on the WMA, and breeding colonies occur in the vicinity. |
| American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) | SGCN | Generally associated with wetlands containing bulrush, cattails, and sedges, although individuals spend most of their time, and place their nests, in more open areas that have no vegetation or very sparse vegetation (Robinson et al. 1997). Occurs in the vicinity of the WMA and may breed there. | Loss and degradation of wetland habitat, including vegetation succession. Disturbance during nesting is a prevalent threat to populations. Threats may potentially include contamination of foraging wetlands from agricultural runoff. | Maintaining early-succession shallow ponds. Minimizing access to breeding areas during the nesting period. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* Occurrence on or near WMA includes use of foraging habitat and may include breeding. |
| Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) | SGCN | Breeding sites are in wetlands. Forages in shallow-water wetland habitat, including off-channel wetlands. | Contamination of foraging wetlands from agricultural runoff. Disturbance of nesting sites. | Maintain water levels and water quality, and minimize disturbance at nesting sites. | *Potentially suitable as focal species.* |
| American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) | SGCN | Currently occupied colonial nesting sites are in eastern Idaho. Large rivers, reservoirs, and lakes are used as foraging habitat. In western Idaho, foraging birds may include individuals from the eastern breeding colonies or nonbreeders. White pelicans forage on inland marshes, lakes, or rivers. During spring and fall migration, birds stop at aquatic foraging and loafing areas similar to those used during breeding season. | This species is piscivorous and sometimes is in conflict with sportsmen as a result of perceived or real predation on sportfish. Disturbance to vulnerable nesting sites on islands is a primary conservation issue. Habitat loss due to either flooding or draining areas can destroy breeding sites and foraging areas (Evans and Knopf 1993). | Protect and maintain wetland habitats and water levels. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Wide-ranging species that may irregularly visit the WMA. |
| California Gull (*Larus californicus*) | SGCN | Breeding occurs on barren or sparsely vegetated islands in natural lakes, reservoirs, or rivers (Winkler 1996). Breeding site documented on island on Snake River, south of Weiser, but no breeding has been documented elsewhere in vicinity of WMA. | Low water levels. Disturbance to vulnerable nesting sites on islands from boat recreation and island visitation. | Maintenance of water levels that separate nesting islands from dry land. Minimize disturbance to nesting colonies. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Habitat unsuitable for nesting. |
| Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) | SGCN | Breeding documented in southern Idaho, but not in vicinity of WMA. Generally nest on open, fairly flat islands or islets of lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Forages over lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and sloughs and preys almost exclusively on fish. | Low water levels and human disturbance at nesting areas; illegal shooting. | Maintain water levels and minimize disturbance at nesting sites. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Habitat unsuitable for nesting. |

| Species | Status Designation(s) | Occurrence Context in Montour WMA Landscape | Threats | Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions | Suitability as a Focal Species for Montour WMA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) | SGCN | Associated with shallow freshwater marshes with emergent vegetation. Occurs in the vicinity of the MWMA but breeding habitat not expected on the MWMA. | Loss of marsh habitat due to extraction of ground water (Shuford 1999) and surface water maintenance. | Manage water levels to benefit marsh-nesting birds. Restore or create suitable marsh habitat in historical nesting areas. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Emergent nesting habitat not suitable. |
| Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) | SGCN | Breeding occurs in large areas with fairly open emergent vegetation (particularly bulrush/cattail marshes in Idaho) and deep water (Herziger and Ivey 2003). Occurrence on the WMA unknown. | Fluctuating water levels; exotic plant species and overgrowth of marsh plants can create habitat too dense for nesting (Burger and Gochfeld 1994); presence of substantial carp populations (Herziger and Ivey 2003). | Maintaining suitable water levels (Burger and Gochfeld 1994); maintaining vegetation open enough for nest construction (Ivey and Herziger 2005). | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Transient species utilizing WMA on a temporary basis. |
| White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) | SGCN | Colonial breeders, with nesting documented at two locations in southwest Idaho. In Idaho colonies are found in hardstem bulrush/cattail marshes. Forages for aquatic and moist soil invertebrates in shallowly flooded wetlands and irrigated croplands. Alfalfa, barley, and native hay meadows are important foraging areas. | Drought and/or diversion of water away from existing marsh/wetland habitat have resulted in temporary or permanent abandonment of traditional nesting sites (IDFG 2005); pesticide exposure risk (Ivey et al. 2005). Loss of foraging habitat after conversion from flood irrigation to center pivot irrigation practices. | Acquiring water rights for existing wetland sites used by ibis (Ivey and Herziger 2005); providing suitable water levels during the nesting period; minimization of human disturbance (Oakleaf et al. 1996). Providing incentives for retaining traditional flood irrigation. | *Unsuitable as a focal species. Limited information on distribution in the project area.* |
| Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) | SGCN | Nesting occurs on freshwater lakes or marshes with extensive open water (Storer and Nuechterlein 1992). | Water level fluctuations (Trost and Gerstell 1994) are a threat to nesting success; in particular, reservoir water levels during the nesting period are important. Disturbance and nest damage from waking powerboats during nesting may also affect some populations. | Monitoring water quality and reducing drastic water level fluctuation during the breeding season (Ivey and Herziger 2005). | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) | SGCN | Nesting occurs in the southern and southeastern parts of Idaho (Trost and Gerstell 1994). Nests on large water bodies on floating mats of vegetation. | Water level fluctuations (Trost and Gerstell 1994) are a threat to nesting success; in particular, reservoir water levels during the nesting period are important. Disturbance and nest damage from waking powerboats during nesting may also affect some populations. | Avoid water level fluctuation during breeding season (Ivey and Herziger 2005); close access to breeding areas and impose restrictions on watercraft during the nesting period. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Waterfowl (ducks, geese) | Flagship | WMA wetlands and the Payette River provide important habitat for a diversity of breeding and wintering waterfowl. | Disturbance during nesting periods, lack of appropriate nesting cover, and loss of habitat from invasive plants are primary threats. | Manage habitat to provide foraging and nesting habitat. Manage water to provide ponds and flooded meadow habitat. Manage vegetation to reduce prevalence of undesirable plant species. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* WMA has been managed for waterfowl habitat since acquisition. |
| Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) | SGCN | Year–round resident in the Panhandle and Upper Snake regions of Idaho. Additional birds spend winter throughout the southern part of the state. Eats primarily aquatic insects, fish, and crustaceans. | Threats occur primarily on the breeding range. In wintering areas in Idaho, issues include river channelization, deforestation, and agricultural practices that reduce the size of forested floodplains and increase sediment loading in streams. | Restore and/or preserve water quality and natural hydrology. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Irregular winter occurrence in the project area. |
| Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) | SGCN | Year-round resident along the Snake River Plain (Stephens and Sturts 1997, Austin et al. 1998). Possibly breeds on WMA. | Loss of wetlands due to drainage or development. Degradation of wetlands from pollution and loss of invertebrate prey. | Restoration of wetlands; management of water quality. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Migratory/transient species utilizing MWMA on a temporary basis. |

| Species | Status Designation(s) | Occurrence Context in Montour WMA Landscape | Threats | Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions | Suitability as a Focal Species for Montour WMA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) | | Spring migrants use agricultural habitat adjacent to the WMA and may occasionally use habitat on the WMA for foraging during migration, which may represent important spring migrant stop-over habitat. | Disturbance on roosting sites and foraging habitat. Access to abundant food sources in foraging habitat may limit habitat quality. | Apply agricultural and habitat management practices that increase food availability. Identify roost habitat and manage disturbance to those areas. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Use of WMA appears to be limited. |
| Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) | SGCN | 3000-5000 nesting pairs estimated in southern Idaho. Uses upland habitat adjacent to the WMA; nests in grassland and disturbed shrubland habitat. | Housing development; disturbance from recreation to nests. Loss of foraging habitat and reduced availability of invertebrate prey. Nesting failure possibly related to disturbance exposing nests to avian predators. | Manage disturbance to nesting habitat. Minimize applications of insecticides in foraging habitat. Use enforcement patrols to minimize illegal shooting. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Habitat unsuitable for nesting on WMA. |
| Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) | SGCN | Nesting occurs in isolated wetlands throughout Idaho. | Loss of high-quality fresh water habitat; collisions with power transmission lines over wetlands (Malcom 1982); selenium leaching from agricultural fields and pesticides (Dechant et al. 2003). | Maintain water levels and minimize disturbance at nesting sites. Manage water quality | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) | Candidate for ESA listing; USFS Sensitive; BLM Sensitive; SGCN | Historically a rare summer visitor and breeder in the Snake River Valley. Occurs in dense riparian tree stands, often composed of willow and/or cottonwood having dense understory vegetation. | Loss of riparian breeding habitat from agricultural development and river flow modification and management. | Develop and maintain large stands of cottonwood and willow having low levels of disturbance and human and livestock trailing. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Unlikely to occur at WMA. |
| Upland game birds | Flagship | WMA has resident populations of upland game birds, including California Quail, Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Wild Turkey. | Habitat loss and destruction. | Preservation and enhancement of nesting cover; increases in insect biodiversity and amount of insects present for chicks. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* MWMA has been managed for upland bird habitat since acquisition. |
| Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*) | SGCN | Occurs in west–central Idaho, with remnant populations in the Riggins area. Populations in southwestern Idaho are in jeopardy of extirpation, but have the potential to grow quickly. Breed and winter in shrub–dominated riparian areas of hawthorn, willow, and chokecherry. | Habitat loss and degradation from forest succession, reservoir construction, fire, weed invasion, and human developments are all important factors in some areas (Gutiérrez and Delehanty 1999). Interspecific competition with introduced California quail and chukar also is hypothesized to be a factor. | Protect and maintain habitats through better management of riparian and forest habitats. Investigate the mechanisms for recent declines. Use reintroductions to expand range into restored habitats. | *Unsuitable as a focal species***.** Unlikely to occur at WMA. |
| Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) | SGCN | Associated with riparian cottonwoods, which birds use for foraging perches and nest sites. One nest occurs in the vicinity of the WMA. | Loss of productivity resulting from disturbance during nesting. Loss of riparian cottonwood stands through failed cottonwood regeneration. Shooting, poisoning, and electrocution also source of mortality. | Minimize disturbance around nest sites. Promote river flows that maintain riparian cottonwood stand regeneration and maturation. | *Potentially suitable as a focal species.* One documented nest on MWMA; wintering eagles are common on the Payette River. |
| Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) | SGCN | Occurs in upland sites adjacent to the WMA. Nests in shrub-steppe and juniper woodland habitat. Relies on ground squirrels, rabbits, and other diurnal small mammals as prey. | Agricultural development and conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses. Mortality from wind turbines is a concern in some areas. | Maintain prey populations (ground squirrels, etc.). Avoid wind turbine installations or mitigate with operational curtailment at critical periods. Avoid disturbance to nesting birds. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia* ) | SGCN | Breed in open grassland, shrubland habitat. Nests are in natural burrows excavated by American badgers (*Taxidea taxus*). Forages in short-grass, mowed or overgrazed pastures, etc. Preys on large | Loss of nesting habitat through urbanization and agricultural conversion is a serious threat throughout Idaho; pesticides are a potentially significant threat to this species as it often nests close to agricultural fields; | Manage American badger populations since burrowing owls rely on pre-existing burrows for nesting. Minimize pesticide spraying and use of rodenticides in occupied habitat. | *Unsuitable as a focal species*. Limited information on distribution in the project area. |

| Species | Status Designation(s) | Occurrence Context in Montour WMA Landscape | Threats | Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions | Suitability as a Focal Species for Montour WMA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | insects and small vertebrates, particularly rodents (e.g., mice, voles, pocket gophers). | indiscriminant killing of badgers may limit nesting burrows. | | |
| Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) | SGCN | Common migrant and locally abundant winter resident, but a rare breeder (Craig and Craig 1989). Nesting habitat in Idaho has been shrub-steppe dominated by sagebrush, and nests are in abandoned nests, often those constructed by corvids. Uncommon at WMA. | Loss of nesting habitat and decreased prey abundance due to habitat modification; West Nile virus and avian influenza may affect productivity (IDFG 2005). | Develop habitat management programs to benefit prey populations, which would include most passerines | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) | SGCN | Distribution poorly documented in Payette river valley. Nests are often constructed in trees bordering open landscapes. | Wind farm development (Erickson et al. 2001); conversion of native grasslands to croplands and urban development (England et al. 1997). | Maintain and restore native grasslands; protection of migration corridors and important stopover habitat (IDFG 2005). | *Unsuitable as a focal species*. |
| Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) | SGCN | Distribution and abundance is highly correlated with roost habitat, which includes mines and caves. More than 90% of their diet consists of Lepidopterans. | Disturbance and destruction of roost sites through mine closures, renewed mining, recreational caving. Loss of invertebrate populations from broad-scale pesticides intended to control pests. | Work with land managers to preserve roost habitat during mine reclamation projects. Take measures to protect roosts from disturbance, including cave gating. Manage pesticide applications to avoid foraging habitat. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Limited information on distribution in the project area. |
| Piute Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mollis*) | SGCN | Endemic subspecies occurs between Snake River and Payette River. Occurs in shrub-steppe habitat with big sagebrush, shadscale, black greasewood, and winterfat. | Habitat conversion to tilled croplands, loss of plant diversity to invasive plants, and rodent control through poisoning and recreational shooting. | Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* WMA does not contain suitable habitat. |
| Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus endemicus*) | SGCN, ESA Candidate | Endemic subspecies occurs north of the Payette River in grassland and shrubland habitats and deep soil. | Conversion of habitat to cultivated agriculture; habitat loss to nonnative annual plant invasion. In some areas, pest control activities may reduce local population density. | Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Most of WMA is south of the Payette River and does not contain suitable habitat. |
| Townsend's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys townsendii*) | SGCN | Occurs in lower elevation river valleys in the Snake, Boise, and Payette river drainages. Occurrence on the WMA is unknown. | Habitat loss; cultivation, and activities that reduce plant biomass, such as habitat conversion, livestock grazing, and wildfires (IDFG 2005). Persecuted as a crop pest. | Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts. | *Unsuitable as a focal species.* Limited information on distribution in the project area. |

## Selection of Conservation Targets

The biodiversity of the MWMA 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 MWMA for management and conservation, while still reflecting the management priorities of the WMA.

Conservation Targets for the MWMA Management Plan were selected from species ranked as potentially suitable focal species in Table 1. Invertebrates and plants are not included in this assessment due to practical considerations including lack of data and funding. Conservation Targets may also include habitats that effectively represent suites of the flagship and special status species evaluated in Table 1, regardless of their potential suitability as a focal species. A final consideration in the selection of Conservation Targets was the best professional judgment of the Southwest Regional Habitat Manager and the MWMA staff. Effective Conservation Targets cannot be selected based solely on species assessments. They must reflect regional threats, priorities, existing conservation partnerships, and the limitations of WMA personnel and funding.

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

1. Upland Game Birds (Upland Game Bird Habitat)
2. Waterfowl (Waterfowl Habitat)
3. Riparian Habitat (Special Status Species Habitat).

### Upland Game Birds

Upland game birds, particularly ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, and California quail, rely on the undisturbed nesting habitat on the MWMA. These areas are particularly important in the Montour Valley, where nest losses to agricultural practices are high. Similarly, “clean farming” and the associated loss of hedgerows and cover along roadsides and ditches, has resulted in a decline in ring-necked pheasants statewide. The MWMA is one of the few places where these birds continue to survive. Montour WMA habitats also provide hiding and roosting cover in all seasons.

### Waterfowl

Waterfowl remain the primary focus of management on the MWMA. Constructed ponds and wetlands, waterfowl nesting structures, and associated upland nesting cover on MWMA are important for regional waterfowl production. Local production provides hunting opportunity during the first weeks of waterfowl season, before the bulk of migrating waterfowl appear in the Montour Valley.

**Riparian Habitat**

Maintaining, improving, and protecting riparian habitat on the WMA will benefit a variety of species. In the face of expanding human influences in the Montour Valley, the MWMA needs to maintain quality riparian areas into the future. Riparian habitat is used by several SGCNs in Table 1 for some or part of their annual life cycle. In arid landscapes such as southwest Idaho, migrating birds rely on riparian areas to rest and refuel. Several species of neo-tropical migrant songbirds nest in riparian habitats. Furthermore, these habitats contribute to the overall wildlife diversity of MWMA, and increase opportunities for wildlife viewers.

## 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 Diversity 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. For instance, we emphasized the importance of resting and foraging habitat needs for waterfowl and waterbirds, knowing that most breeding activity for these species occurs elsewhere. Our results indicate that the selected Conservation Targets on MWMA provide substantial, but variable habitat benefits for an array of assessed species. We found that of the 34 focal species or groups evaluated, 23 would benefit from management actions for waterfowl, 11 species would benefit from management actions for upland game birds, and 15 would benefit from management actions for riparian habitat.

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. Recent studies suggest the conservation needs of some of these species (e.g., Myotis guild) are increasing dramatically. 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 38-41), 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** | **Waterfowl** | **Upland Game Birds** | **Riparian Habitat** | **Conservation Need** |
| Invertebrates | | | | Yes |
| Northern Leopard Frog | X | | X | |
| Woodhouse's Toad | X | | X | |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | X | | X | |
| Snowy Egret | X | | X | |
| Great Egret | X | | X | |
| American Avocet | X | | | |
| Black-necked Stilt | X | | | |
| American White Pelican | P | | | |
| California Gull | P | | | |
| Caspian Tern | P | | | |
| Black Tern | P | | | |
| Franklin's Gull | P | | | |
| White-faced Ibis | P | | | |
| Clark's Grebe | P | | P | |
| Western Grebe | P | | P | |
| Waterfowl | X | | X | |
| Hooded Merganser | X | | X | |
| Lesser Scaup | P | | P | |
| Sandhill Crane | P | | | |
| Long-billed Curlew | P | P | | |
| Wilson's Phalarope | X | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | P | |
| Upland Game Birds | | X | P | |
| Mountain Quail | | P | | Yes |
| Bald Eagle | P | | P | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | | P | | |
| Burrowing Owl | | P | | |
| Merlin | | P | P | |
| Swainson's Hawk | | P | | |
| Townsend's Big-eared Bat | P | P | P | |
| Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel | | P | | |
| Piute Ground Squirrel | | P | | |
| Townsend's Pocket Gopher | | P | | |

[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.

## Spatial Delineation of Selected Focal Species/Habitat Landscapes

Each focal species/habitat has an area of influence associated with it. This approach recognizes that while MWMA is very important to wildlife, it is still just part of a larger landscape that determines the health of wildlife populations in the area. As part of a larger landscape, WMAs influence, but do not control, most wildlife populations. Looking across our fences at the total landscape is imperative to achieving conservation in the long-term. This section of the plan is dedicated to understanding how the WMA fits into the larger landscape—the role it currently plays, future roles it may play, and how influences outside the WMA can dramatically influence, for good or bad, the relative value of the WMA to conservation.

The MWMA habitat biologist works in the Payette Conservation District, which also includes the Payette River WMA (Figure 2). These WMAs are within the Payette Hydrologic Unit (HUC). The Payette HUC is the lower reach of the Payette River, which enters the Snake River near the town of Payette at the Idaho/Oregon border.

The juxtaposition and composition of habitats outside the Montour and Payette River WMA's influence the wildlife community within the WMA boundaries. Waterfowl and several special status species are migratory and may only use the WMAs and the Payette landscape for a brief period of time each year. The landscape characteristics, including agricultural lands, which make this area an important waterfowl wintering area and migration corridor, should be maintained. In contrast, upland game birds are local residents and are impacted by habitat changes on a smaller scale. Management actions and large-scale habitat loss and disturbance occurring within this larger landscape impact habitat and wildlife on the WMAs. The Payette Conservation District biologist provides technical assistance to land management agencies and private landowners to benefit wildlife species and habitat. These activities are included in the MWMA Program Management Table (pages 38-41).

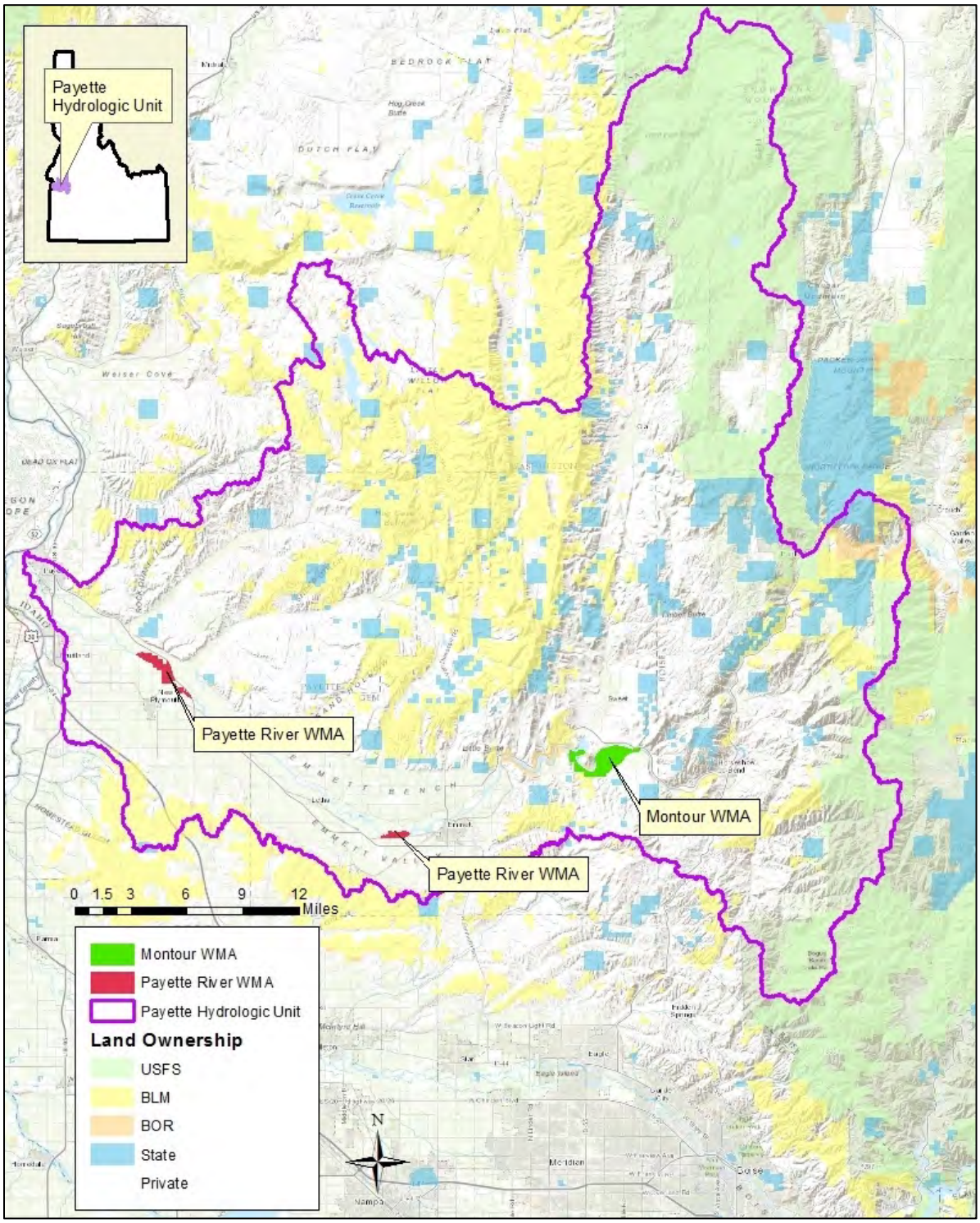


Figure 2. Montour and Payette River WMAs and land ownership within the Payette Hydrologic Unit.

# Montour WMA Management Program Table

The following table outlines the Management Directions, Performance Targets, Strategies, and Outcome Metrics MWMA staff will use to manage for the Conservation Targets selected (page 33) to represent each MWMA Priority (page 25) at both the MWMA 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: Upland Game Bird Habitat** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Conservation Target: Upland Game Birds*** | | | | | |
| **Scope** | **Management Direction** | **Performance Target** | **Strategy** | **Metric** | **Compass Objective (Appendix I)** |
| MWMA | Increase upland game bird production and capacity of habitat to support wildlife. | Support waterfowl and/or upland bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 500 acres of permanent herbaceous cover over the next 10 years. | Monitor and manage residual nesting cover so as to optimize the vigor, bio-diversity, and density of vegetation. | Acres of quality nesting cover habitat | 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 34 |
| | | | Utilize native plant materials whenever possible. | | |
| | | Protect nesting upland game birds from human disturbance by continuing a nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31 annually. | Continue to use nesting area closures from February 1 to July 31. | Violations detected | |
| | | | Maintain and upgrade closure signage as needed to minimize trespass. | | |
| | | Treat known infestations of noxious weeds on upland sites annually. | Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. | Acres of noxious weed infestations | |
| | | Annually, survey and treat any new species of weeds. | Regularly survey for new noxious weed species and respond immediately with appropriate control. | Number of new noxious weed species established | |
| | | | Work with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to maintain awareness for potential for new invaders. | | |
| | | Maintain at least 150 acres of wetland thickets to provide winter thermal cover for pheasants and other species. | Manage and time water levels to maintain cattail, bulrush and willow wetland thickets year-round. | Acres of wetland thickets | |
| MWMA Landscape | Increase upland game bird production and capacity of habitat to support wildlife throughout the MWMA landscape. | Work with local landowners and Cooperative Weed Management Areas to minimize expansion of invasive plants and noxious weeds along the Payette River. | MWMA manager represents the Department on Cooperative Weed Management Areas. | Reduction in acres of noxious weed infestations in the MWMA landscape | 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 34 |
| | | Work with local landowners to improve pheasant habitat on 100 acres over the next 10 years. | Provide technical assistance to landowners to improve pheasant habitat on their property. | Number of acres of pheasant habitat improved in the MWMA landscape | |

| **WMA Priority: Waterfowl Habitat** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Conservation Target: Waterfowl*** | | | | | |
| **Scope** | **Management Direction** | **Performance Target** | **Strategy** | **Metric** | **Compass Objective (Appendix I)** |
| MWMA | Provide high quality and secure waterfowl breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat | Annually maintain all artificial waterfowl nesting sites on MWMA to increase nest success. | Annually maintain waterfowl nesting structures, including goose nesting platforms and wood duck boxes using the volunteer program | Structures maintained | 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 34 |
| | | | Survey use of goose nesting platforms annually and estimate nest success. | | |
| | | Maintain 60% emergent cover/40% open water on all ponds to benefit breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing waterfowl habitat. | Maintain water levels during nesting season to reduce flooding of nests. | Ratio of emergent vegetation to open water on ponds | |
| | | | Manipulate water levels in the non-breeding season to maintain 60% emergent cover/40% open water | | |
| | | | Manipulate water levels or drain ponds as needed to control carp | | |
| | | | Consider manipulating/managing one pond per year to be in an early successional stage to benefit migrating shorebirds. | | |
| | | Protect nesting waterfowl from human disturbance on all WMA ponds by continuing a nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31 annually. | Continue to use nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31. | Violations detected | |
| | | Support waterfowl and/or upland bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 50 acres of permanent herbaceous cover annually. | Monitor and manage residual nesting cover so as to optimize the vigor, bio-diversity, and density of vegetation. | Acres of quality nesting cover | |
| | | | Utilize native plant materials whenever possible. | | |
| | | Treat at least 5% of mesic meadow nesting habitat annually to reduce cover of noxious weeds and other invasive plants. | Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. | Acres of mesic meadows improved | |
| | | | Continue to explore techniques to control reed canarygrass. | | |
| | | | Explore techniques to convert mesic meadows with a high proportion of invasive plants and noxious weeds to meadows dominated by native vegetation. | | |
| | | Treat at least 20 acres of known infestations of noxious weeds annually and treat 75% of known noxious weed infestations by 2020. | Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. | Acres of noxious weed infestations on MWMA | |
| | | | Regularly survey areas for new noxious weed species and respond immediately with appropriate control | | |
| | | | Work with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to maintain awareness for potential for new invaders. | | |
| | | Add at least one new waterfowl pond by 2023 | Develop ponds to increase waterfowl production and migratory habitat on MWMA. | Number of new ponds | |

| **WMA Priority: Special Status Species Habitat** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Conservation Target: Riparian Habitat*** | | | | | |
| **Scope** | **Management Direction** | **Performance Target** | **Strategy** | **Metric** | **Compass Objective (Appendix I)** |
| MWMA | Provide functioning riparian woodland and shrubland habitat in good to excellent condition to benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species. | Maintain current ratio of native to non-native woody riparian composition, not to exceed >50% composition of non-native tree and shrub species. | Aggressively control expansion of false indigo. | Ratio of native to non-native riparian vegetation | 6, 7, 8, 12 |
| | | | Plan appropriate restoration projects as needed to maintain native component. | | |
| | | | Plant willows and other native species to replace non-native vegetation. | | |
| | | Maintain and protect existing black cottonwood stands. | Maintain bank stability along the Payette River to protect black cottonwood stands. | Acres of black cottonwood | |
| | | | Regularly survey for presence of black cottonwood production/seedlings | | |
| | | Protect existing bald eagle nest site from disturbance. | Utilize nesting area closure on MWMA from February 1 to July 31 to minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles and other species. | Bald eagle nest success | |
| | | | Educate river users, including jet boaters, about the importance of not disturbing nesting or wintering bald eagles. | | |
| | | Identify SGCN that utilize MWMA by 2018 | Create GIS layer of SGCN observations on or near MWMA. | Inventory completed | |
| | | | Identify most frequent/prevalent SGCN on MWMA; work with Department Diversity Program to identify habitat needs. | | |
| | | | Support Department Diversity Program by conducting surveys for and reporting observations of SGCN. | | |
| MWMA landscape | Provide functioning riparian woodland and shrubland habitat in good to excellent condition to benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species in the MWMA landscape. | Work with local landowners and Cooperative Weed Management Areas to minimize expansion of invasive plants and noxious weeds along the Payette River. | MWMA manager represents the Department on Cooperative Weed Management Areas. | Acres of noxious weed infestations in the MWMA landscape | 14, 15 |
| **WMA Priority: Wildlife-based Recreation and Education** | | | | | |
| **Scope** | **Management Direction** | **Performance Target** | **Strategy** | **Metric** | **Compass Objective (Appendix I)** |
| MWMA | Provide opportunities to hunt and trap on the MWMA that are compatible with wildlife management goals. | Continue to stock at least 1,400 farm-raised pheasants annually on the MWMA. | Continue pheasant stocking program on the MWMA. | Number of stocked pheasants | 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24 |
| | | | Maintain hunting cover for game bird hunters. | | |
| | | Develop at least one new waterfowl pond to provide additional hunting sites by 2023. | Plan new pond sites to distribute hunting pressure uniformly and alleviate overcrowding. | New ponds completed | |
| | | Conduct user survey by 2020 to gauge hunter support for options to distribute hunters and minimize conflicts, while also maintaining hunt quality and opportunity. | Consider options to distribute hunters and minimize conflicts, including a locked gate system, restricting hunter numbers, or other permitting. | Survey completed and results evaluated | |
| | | | Adjust public use in response to wildlife management goals, sportsmen needs and perceptions. | | |
| | Provide opportunities to fish on the MWMA that are compatible with wildlife management goals. | Provide 500 days of fishing opportunity on MWMA ponds from August 1 through January 31. | Provide fishing opportunity during periods not conflicting with nesting or brooding waterfowl. | Angler days | |
| | | Add handicap-accessible facilities to two ponds by 2023. | Add handicap facilities or allow disabled fisherman to drive to ponds. | Handicap-accessible areas | |

| WMA Priority: Wildlife-based Recreation and Education | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Scope** | **Management Direction** | **Performance Target** | **Strategy** | **Metric** | **Compass Objective (Appendix I)** |
| MWMA | Provide quality wildlife oriented public recreation and education compatible with management goals and in concert with good public relations. | Provide 500 user days for non-consumptive and educational opportunity compatible with primary goal of WMA. | Provide environmental education to groups (scout troops, school classes, bird watchers and sportsmen). | User days | 4, 6, 9, 11, 18, 19, 22, 14, 32 |
| | | | Partner with local schools, teachers, and others to provide outdoor classroom experiences on the MWMA. | | |
| | | | Monitor and manage public use to insure maintenance of wildlife and their habitats. | | |
| | | | Provide dog training or field trail opportunities during non-conflicting periods with nesting or brooding wildlife. | | |
| | | | Provide foot-use only areas. | | |
| | | | Update web site regularly. | | |
| | | Install two new kiosks at access sites by 2018. | Install new kiosks at MWMA to provide information about wildlife and habitat. | New kiosks | |
| | | | Maintain kiosks twice monthly to ensure posters, signs, and maps are in good condition. | | |
| | | Develop outdoor interpretive activities on the MWMA, including at least one interpretive hike annually. | Work with outdoor user groups (e.g., bird watchers) to organize interpretive hikes. | Number of interpretive hikes | |
| | Involve citizens and organizations in management activities on the MWMA. | Develop partnerships to complete 5 projects during the next 10 years. | Partner with public and private entities and individuals such as schools, conservation organizations, federal and local agencies, and volunteers to identify and complete projects | Projects completed | 6, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22, 29, 32 |

# Monitoring

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

## 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 and access sites
- Maintaining infrastructure at ponds and wetlands
- 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 MWMA 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.

Historically, Canada goose nesting surveys and aerial pair counts were conducted from Emmett downstream to the mouth of the Payette River. These surveys were discontinued once baseline data had been collected. A reduction in flying hours as well as limited manpower decreased additional surveys. Future monitoring projects will include waterfowl brood transects, goose platform and ground nest surveys, wood duck box inventories, and pheasant brood counts. Volunteers may help with these labor-intensive projects.

Montour WMA staff and local Cooperative Weed Management Areas regularly conduct noxious weed inventories. Noxious weed occurrences are currently being mapped and cooperative management efforts are under way.

Future monitoring needs associated with performance targets and strategies identified in the MWMA Management Program Table are summarized in Table 3. The goal is to measure success or effectiveness of strategies that are implemented to reach performance targets. A detailed

monitoring plan including specific techniques will be completed for the WMA by December 31, 2014.

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 its 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

Wildlife Management Areas use public surveys and monitoring tools (e.g., traffic counters) to evaluate public satisfaction and use patterns as well as identify issues of concern. In some areas, hunter check stations monitor hunter success and satisfaction. These survey data help managers determine whether they are meeting the goals for the WMA.

The most recent public input survey was an on-line survey in 2012. These results are summarized in Appendix IV. A public use survey is planned for the MWMA by 2015.

## Reporting

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. During the five-year review, WMA staff will determine whether modifications to the plan are needed to meet performance targets, to accommodate changing conditions and priorities, or to incorporate advancements in management knowledge and techniques.

Table 3. Biological monitoring for Montour WMA, 2014–2023.

| **WMA Priority 1: Waterfowl Habitat** | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Conservation Target: Waterfowl*** | | |
| **Performance Target** | **Survey Type** | **Survey Frequency** |
| Annually maintain all artificial waterfowl nesting sites to increase nest success. | Visual survey of goose nesting platforms after hatching to determine use and nest success | Annually each spring |
| | Visual survey of wood duck nesting boxes after hatching to determine use and nest success | Annually each spring |
| | Waterfowl brood surveys | Annually each summer |
| Support waterfowl and upland game bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 20 acres of permanent herbaceous cover annually. | Waterfowl brood surveys | Annually each summer |
| **WMA Priority 2: Upland Game Bird Habitat** | | |
| ***Conservation Target: Upland game birds*** | | |
| **Performance Target** | **Survey Type** | **Survey Frequency** |
| Support waterfowl and upland game bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 20 acres of permanent herbaceous cover annually. | Pheasant brood routes | Annually, in late summer |
| **WMA Priority 3: Special Status Species Habitat** | | |
| ***Conservation Target: Riparian habitat*** | | |
| **Performance Target** | **Survey Type** | **Survey Frequency** |
| Maintain current ratio of native to non-native riparian composition, not to exceed >50% composition of non-native tree and shrub species. | Department rapid riparian assessment method | Every three years |
| Identify SGCN that utilize MWMA | Presence/absence; density | As needed by Department Diversity Staff |

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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** | |
| **Desired Outcomes** | |
| • There is no net loss of habitat. | |
| • The Department is highly regarded as a comprehensive source of objective, scientifically-based information on fish, wildlife, and plants in Idaho. | |
| **A.** Objective – Maintain or improve game populations to meet the demand for hunting, fishing, and trapping. | |
| **Strategies** | |
| **1.** | Set harvest rules and regulations to achieve long-term sustainability of populations and habitat. |
| **2.** | Alleviate wildlife damage to agriculture. |
| **3.** | Manage predation to achieve a balance between game and predator populations. |
| **4.** | Regularly inventory, analyze, and report on game populations and habitats. |
| **5.** | Collaborate with tribes, private landowners, and agencies to manage populations and harvest for long-term sustainability. |
| **B.** Objective – Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants. | |
| **Strategies** | |
| **6.** | Inventory, monitor, and assess the status of native fish, wildlife, and plants and the habitats upon which they depend. |
| **7.** | Identify species with the greatest need for conservation action. |
| **8.** | Restore native species where they have declined or disappeared. |
| **9.** | Assist public and private landowners in the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of native fish, wildlife, and plants. |
| **10.** | Collaborate with interested and affected parties to implement plans to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve native fish, wildlife, and plants |
| **C.** Objective – Increase the capacity of habitat to support fish and wildlife. | |
| **Strategies** | |
| **11.** | Develop measurable and achievable management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat. |
| **12.** | Assess and prioritize habitats for protection, restoration, or enhancement. |
| **13.** | Acquire interest in property where Department management can provide exceptional benefits to fish and wildlife and associated recreation. |
| **14.** | Work in cooperation with other agencies and local governments to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. |
| **15.** | Develop partnerships with landowners, land management agencies, and others to restore, enhance, and conserve fish and wildlife habitats. |

| *The Compass* |
|---|
| **GOAL—Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat** |
| **D.** Objective – Eliminate the impacts of fish and wildlife diseases on fish and wildlife populations, livestock, and humans. |
| **Strategies** |
| **16.** Monitor fish and wildlife populations for disease. |
| **17.** Reduce or eliminate high concentrations of wildlife that pose significant disease risk. |
| **GOAL—Fish and Wildlife Recreation** |
| **Desired Outcomes** |
| • Recreational opportunities are abundant and well distributed around the state, while conflicts between recreationists are few and far between. |
| **E.** Objective – Maintain a diversity of fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities. |
| **Strategies** |
| **18.** Provide opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities, and families. |
| **F.** Objective – Sustain fish and wildlife recreation on public lands. |
| **Strategies** |
| **19.** Protect the public's right to use public waters for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing. |
| **20.** Obtain public access across private lands to public lands. |
| **21.** In partnership with land management agencies, provide information on fish and wildlife recreational opportunities and access on public land. |
| **22.** Provide fish- and wildlife-based recreation on lands owned or managed by the Department. |
| **G.** Objective – Maintain broad public support for fish and wildlife recreation and management. |
| **Strategies** |
| **23.** Support mentoring programs for new hunters and anglers. |
| **24.** Promote hunting, fishing, and trapping as legitimate uses of fish and wildlife and compatible with the conservation of all wildlife. |
| **H.** Objective – Increase opportunities for wildlife viewing and appreciation. |
| **Strategies** |
| **25.** Provide wildlife viewing opportunities on lands managed or owned by the Department. |
| **26.** Assess participation, demand, and satisfaction with wildlife-viewing and appreciation opportunities. Adjust management to achieve objectives. |
| **I.** Objective – Increase the variety and distribution of access to private land for fish and wildlife recreation. |
| **Strategies** |
| **27.** Collaborate with landowners and commercial operators to provide public recreation opportunities on private lands. |

| *The Compass* |
|---|
| **GOAL—Working With Others** |
| **Desired Outcomes** |
| • Fish and wildlife management is based on sound science and is responsive to the needs and expectations of Idaho citizens. |
| **J.** Objective – Improve citizen involvement in the decision-making process. |
| **Strategies** |
| **28.** Ensure that interested and affected parties are notified of opportunities to participate in decisions and that all voices are heard. |
| **29.** Provide quality and timely response to input from citizens and include rationale for decisions. |
| **K.** Objective – Increase public knowledge and understanding of Idaho's fish and wildlife. |
| **Strategies** |
| **30.** Provide user-friendly regulations and information. |
| **31.** Promote the use of Department facilities for fish and wildlife educational opportunities. |
| **GOAL—Management Support** |
| **Desired Outcomes** |
| • Facilities, equipment, and information systems are safe, reliable, and cost effective. |
| **L.** Objective – Attract and retain a diverse and professional workforce. |
| **Strategies** |
| **32.** Recruit and train volunteers to assist Department employees. |
| **M.** Objective – Provide equipment and facilities for excellent customer service and management effectiveness. |
| **Strategies** |
| **33.** Maintain and upgrade facilities and equipment. |
| **34.** Provide a safe, pleasant, and well-equipped work environment. |
| **N.** Objective – Improve funding to meet legal mandates and public expectations. |
| **Strategies** |
| **35.** Obtain funding through grants and partnerships that support the Department's mission. |
| **36.** Seek efficiencies and cost savings in all programs. |

# II. HISTORY

Agricultural activity in the Boise and Payette Valleys started in the early 1880s when settlers began filing on arid lands under private irrigation enterprises. By 1900, about 148,000 acres in the area had been placed under irrigation. Under provision of the BOR Act of June 17, 1902, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior authorized construction of the original Boise Project on March 27, 1905, and the construction of Black Canyon Dam on June 26, 1922. Black Canyon Dam was constructed for two years and became operational in 1924. The Boise Project currently furnishes irrigation water in southwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon to 225,000 acres of project lands and 165,000 acres of land under special and Warren Act contracts.

Evidence of human occupation in southwestern Idaho dates to as early as 10,000 years before the present (B.P.). Artifact comparisons with other areas in the region suggest a sequence of prehistoric use of the Montour Valley area from at least 6,000 B.P. to approximately 700 years ago.

Historically, Euro-American fur trapping and trading were well in place in the Payette River Valley (including the Montour Valley) by the second decade of the 1800s. By the 1830s, fur resources in the region were depleted and considered “trapped out.” Gold was discovered in the Boise Basin in 1862, with the Payette River serving as a main travel route to the gold fields, taking gold seekers south of Regan Butte, directly west of Montour.

In the early 1860s, a stage stop was established in the western end of Montour Valley, with four stagecoaches a week traveling up the Payette River through Montour. This stage station became a post office in 1870 and eventually took on stock raising and other functions, becoming known as the Mitchell, Marsh, and Ireton ranch. Prior to 1900, about 50 people lived in and around the valley, relying mostly on logging, mining, ranching, and farming as a way of life. Rail service reached Montour in 1910 (Idaho Northern Railroad), extending through Black Canyon from Emmett to Horseshoe Bend and McCall. In 1911, the town of Montour was platted, and the entire town was built between 1912 and 1915. The town effectively ceased to grow after about the mid-1920s, with ensuing years bringing depression and bankruptcy to the small community (Briggs No Date; Gibson and Kaberline 2002; Morgan 1999).

The rural, small town character of Montour remained virtually unchanged between the late 1920s and the early 1980s. In 1924, BOR constructed Black Canyon Dam to divert irrigation water to crops and orchards in the Emmett Valley, and for power generation. Increased streamflow and sediment buildup within the Black Canyon Reservoir resulted in higher annual water table and annual flooding in the Montour Valley. Subsequent loss of crops and property damage resulted in years of litigation by the local population. In the 1970s, BOR acquired the land within the 100-year floodplain to ensure continued project operations of Black Canyon Dam. Following documentation of the Montour Historical District, the Marsh-Ireton Ranch and other businesses, farms, and buildings were purchased and razed. Many long-time Montour residents moved away from the Valley (Morgan 1999).

The Montour Valley contains streams, valleys, draws, and other natural features that could have served as traditional resource procurement areas for aboriginal peoples in their search for food, medicine, clothing, and other necessities, and might qualify as “traditional cultural properties.” Also, portions of the Valley may have historically served as ritual or ceremonial places, or as locations associated with traditional beliefs and practices; as such, they could constitute places of traditional cultural importance to the Shoshone-Paiute, Shoshone-Bannock, and possibly other tribes, and thus might qualify as “traditional cultural properties.”

Although the area has been explored for cultural resources since the mid-1970s, a good portion of the WMA has not been intensively surveyed on the ground.

# III. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES

The Montour WMA (MWMA) is managed by the Department through a cooperative agreement with the BOR. The current agreement is a 10-year agreement, which expires in 2020.

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 MWMA 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 MWMA. 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 MWMA lands and waters. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department must ensure that historic properties are protected on the MWMA.

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. PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Wildlife managers must recognize that the WMA was established with a priority on wildlife (primarily waterfowl and upland game birds) and habitat values. Thus, decisions regarding management, recreation, and other use levels, types, and locations should be made in context of this priority.

Historically, management at the MWMA has emphasized support for consumptive uses (primarily hunting game birds, both upland game birds and waterfowl). Although there is broad public support for these uses, there are ample opportunities to develop non-consumptive activities (e.g., bird watching and general wildlife observation) and promote nongame, native species. Such a broadened view can better optimize the diversity and sustainability of wildlife and vegetation resources in the area.

Annual public usage on the MWMA continues to both grow and diversify. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 annual user days are spread out through a diverse user group population, including sportsmen and women, paint ball enthusiasts, wildlife viewers, bird watchers, and horseback riders.

The MWMA has an estimated use of between 12,000-15,000 user days annually. A wide variety of user groups come to this WMA.

| Hunting/Fishing | Non-consumptive | Education |
|---|---|---|
| Big game | Dog training | Youth groups |
| Pheasant | Bird watching | Schools |
| Waterfowl | Exercising | Government agencies |
| Quail | Horseback riding | Professional agencies |
| Other game birds | Paint ball games | Media |
| Trapping | Picnics | |
| River Anglers | | |
| Pond Anglers | | |

The current manager has been on the MWMA for 20 years and has discussed a multitude of issues with hundreds of users during the course of that timeframe. An online survey was conducted in 2012 and the MWMA received 95 comments. Several public meetings were held in 2002 and public input was gathered at those meetings. In 2002, an ad-hoc work group was formed to discuss options on the MWMA.

The most recent 2012 survey conducted online indicated 84% of the users were neutral, satisfied, or very satisfied about the MWMA. Small steps are being made toward improving the MWMA; however, with only one full-time employee and one part-time technician, volunteers are absolutely essential when labor-intensive projects arise. A very low annual monetary budget also makes the expanded operation difficult. The MWMA is understaffed and underfunded, which makes operational maintenance the primary goal for the MWMA.

Wild pheasant hunting opportunities have become very hard to find, and private property is generally difficult to access. Because of the loss in pheasant habitat and the associated reduction in wild pheasant numbers over the last 30 years, the MWMA has become one of the only pheasant hunting destinations for many of southwest Idaho's pheasant hunters.

Overcrowding when game-farm pheasants are being released is a shared concern among hunters who have either commented online or with MWMA staff. Comments indicate hunters on the MWMA feel overcrowding makes the experience less enjoyable, dangerous, and will likely lead to reduced time they would otherwise spend on the MWMA.

Regardless, pheasant hunters have expressed a need for more birds to be planted. Because of the large number of hunters on days when pheasants are planted most, if not all of the birds, are harvested usually within one day after the day of the planting. Overcrowding is a common problem when 60-90 pheasants are released and 100 or more hunters are on the area, each of whom are allowed two pheasants. There are not enough pheasants to go around, if the Department's objective is to supply limits. Emphasis on opportunity, not limits, should be the goal.

Deer hunting is popular on the MWMA area, although a limited opportunity exists because of the relatively small area. Archery and rifle hunting is allowed on the MWMA. This big game unit has a short-range weapon restriction, which allows the use of shotguns (slugs or buckshot), archery, and muzzleloaders. Bird hunters have expressed their concerns about hunters in the field hunting with these types of weapons at the same time they are hunting with bird shot.

It appears furbearer trapping effort has also increased over the last three years because of increased fur prices. Trappers can use the MWMA at the same time as hunters. Some bird hunters would also like to see posted, visible notices indicating trapping is occurring on the MWMA.

**Fishing on the MWMA continues to be popular**

A closure on most of the waterfowl production ponds is in effect from February 1 to July 31 to protect nesting birds. This early-spring closure causes anglers to commonly trespass within these nesting area closures. Some of the ponds on the MWMA are open to spring fishing, but a closure of certain nesting areas has been implemented to protect nesting waterfowl.

It appears that people walking dogs and training dogs on the MWMA is increasing. Expanding areas to appease the desires of various dog owners for the purposes of exercising and training could have a negative impact on nesting waterfowl and upland birds. The Department allows training events only in August and September on WMAs only within designated areas.

On the MWMA, hunting has become very competitive. With some of the state's largest metropolitan areas within easy driving distance, we expect use of this area to remain high. Reducing overcrowding will be challenging in the future.

The following is a list of all issues mentioned by members of the public at the open house meetings or in written comments:

- Hunter overcrowding
- Habitat improvement
- Noxious weeds

**Montour WMA Final Draft Public Review**

Final draft WMA plans were made available to the public on the Department website for review and comment during May-June 2014. Their availability was advertised on the Department website, by mailings, and news releases to inform Idaho's citizens of this opportunity to provide additional comment before the plans are submitted to the Department Director for approval and adoption.

We received six website reviews and comments on-line about the MWMA draft plan. Five individuals agreed with the MWMA management plan priorities and the plan as written. One individual disagreed with the plan priorities and was neutral about the plan as written. One specific comment was received which asked the Department to give priority to upland game and a September archery deer season.

Additional written and spoken comment was received that gave general input to all WMA plans. In summary the comments were:

- WMA plans should: prioritize management of noxious weeds and OHV use, road densities, and road locations; expand non-consumptive wildlife opportunities for the public; and utilize best management practices for activities beyond Department control.
- Additional emphasis should be placed on management for: threatened and endangered species, environmental education, WMA expansion to protected critical habitat, activities on adjacent public and private lands that impact or influence WMAs, motorized travel on adjacent lands, livestock grazing standards to protect habitat quality, prohibit the use of sheep and goats for grazing or as pack animals on WMAs with bighorn sheep, pack stock use, lead free ammunition and tackle use, and preventing trapping conflicts with other user groups.

# V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1995 Cattle grazing reduced from 150 pair for eight months to 35 pair for five months.

2001 Installed 90 wood duck boxes.

2002 Cleaned 0.7 miles of main ditch.

2003 Installed 12 goose nesting platforms.

2004 Rebuilt three existing ponds and outflow systems.

2004 Constructed nine-acre waterfowl production pond.

2006 Constructed two foot bridges.

2008 Released 32 Rio Grande turkeys.

2009 Installed five new parking areas.

2009 Discontinued cattle grazing.

2010 Installed gates and closed interior roads.

2004–2014 Removal of 4.6 miles of old fence.

2004–2014 Conversion of annual crops to permanent nesting cover.

# VI. VEGETATION

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Silver maple | *Acer saccharinum* | Teasel | *Dipsacus fullonum* |
| Yarrow | *Achillea millefolium* | Saltgrass | *Distichlis spicata* |
| False indigo | *Amorpha fruticosa* | Wild cucumber | *Echinocystis lobata* |
| Fiddleneck | *Amsinckia* spp. | Tall annual willowherb | *Epilobium brachycarpum* |
| Dense silkybent | *Apera interrupta* | Willowherb | *Epilobium ciliatum* |
| Indian hemp | *Apocynum cannabinum* | Field horsetail | *Equisetum arvense* |
| White sagebrush | *Artemisia ludoviciana* | Equisetum | *Equisetum laevigatum* |
| Showy milkweed | *Asclepias speciosa* | Gray rabbitbrush | *Ericameria nauseosa* |
| Asparagus | *Asparagus officinalis* | Stork's bill | *Erodium cicutarium* |
| Spear saltbush | *Atriplex patula* | Western goldenrod | *Euthamia occidentalis* |
| Japanese brome | *Bromus arvensis* | Green ash | *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* |
| Cheatgrass | *Bromus tectorum* | Catch weed bedstraw | *Galium aparine* |
| Whitetop, hoary cress | *Cardaria draba* | Carolina geranium | *Geranium carolinianum* |
| Douglas' sedge | *Carex douglasii* | Cudweed | *Gnaphalium palustre* |
| Clustered field sedge | *Carex praegracilis* | Curlycup gumweed | *Grindelia squarrosa* |
| Fox sedge | *Carex vulpinoidea* | Common sunflower | *Helianthus annuus* |
| Catalpa | *Catalpa speciosa* | Jagged chickweed | *Holosteum umbellatum* |
| Lambsquarters | *Chenopodium berlandieri* | Foxtail barley | *Hordeum jubatum* |
| Rush skeletonweed | *Chondrilla juncea* | Hare barley, foxtail | *Hordeum leporinum* |
| Green rabbitbrush | *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* | St. John's Wort | *Hypericum perforatum* |
| Canada thistle | *Cirsium arvense* | Yellow iris | *Iris pseudacorus* |
| Poison hemlock | *Conium maculatum* | Povertyweed | *Iva axillaris* |
| Field bindweed | *Convolvulus arvensis* | Kochia | *Kochia scoparium* |
| Canadian horseweed | *Conyza canadensis* | Prickly lettuce | *Lactuca serriola* |
| Straw-colored flatsedge | *Cyperus strigosus* | Common duckweed | *Lemna minor* |
| Herb Sophia | *Descurainia sophia* | Perennial pepperweed | *Lepidium latifolium* |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Clasping pepperweed | *Lepidium perfoliatum* | Golden currant | *Ribes aureum* |
| Great Basin wildrye | *Leymus cinereus* | Austrian yellowcress | *Rorippa austriaca* |
| Beardless wildrye | *Leymus triticoides* | Dog rose | *Rosa canina* |
| Purple loosestrife | *Lythrum salicaria* | Woods' rose | *Rosa woodsii* |
| False Solomon's seal | *Maianthemum stellatum* | Himalayan blackberry | *Rubus discolor* |
| Wild mint | *Mentha arvensis* | Curly dock | *Rumex crispus* |
| Green carpetweed | *Mollugo verticillata* | Coyote willow | *Salix exigua* |
| White mulberry | *Morus alba* | Crack willow | *Salix fragilis* |
| Bay forget-me-not | *Myosotis laxa* | Yellow willow | *Salix lutea* |
| Scribner's panicgrass | *Panicum scribnerianum* | Dusky willow | *Salix melanopsis* |
| Western wheatgrass | *Pascopyrum smithii* | Greasewood | *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* |
| Reed canarygrass | *Phalaris arundinacea* | Tumble-mustard | *Sisymbrium altissimum* |
| Narrowleaf plantain | *Plantago lanceolata* | Climbing nightshade | *Solanum dulcamara* |
| Canada bluegrass | *Poa compressa* | Canada goldenrod | *Solidago canadensis* |
| Fowl bluegrass | *Poa palustris* | Alkali sacaton | *Sporobolus airoides* |
| Kentucky bluegrass | *Poa pratensis* | Tall wheatgrass | *Thinopyrum ponticum* |
| Sandberg bluegrass | *Poa secunda* | Poison ivy | *Toxicodendron rydbergii* |
| Prostrate knotweed | *Polygonum aviculare* | Yellow salsify | *Tragopogon dubius* |
| Polygonum species | *Polygonum spp.* | Broadleaf cattail | *Typha latifolia* |
| Black cottonwood | *Populus trichocarpa* | Wooly mullein | *Verbascum thapsus* |
| Little hogweed, purslane | *Portulaca oleracea* | Bigbract verbena | *Verbena bracteata* |
| Floating pondweed | *Potamogeton natans* | Rattail fescue | *Vulpia myuros* |

# VII. WILDLIFE SPECIES LIST

(*Selected Common Species; additional information available at www.idfg.idaho.gov*)

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Birds*** | | ***Birds (cont.)*** | |
| Cooper's Hawk | *Accipiter cooperii* | Long-eared Owl | *Asio otus* |
| Northern Goshawk | *Accipiter gentilis* | Burrowing Owl | *Athene cunicularia* |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | *Accipiter striatus* | Cedar Waxwing | *Bombycilla cedrorum* |
| Spotted Sandpiper | *Actitis macularius* | Bohemian Waxwing | *Bombycilla garrulus* |
| Western Grebe | *Aechmophorus occidentalis* | Canada Goose | *Branta canadensis* |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | *Aegolius acadicus* | Great Horned Owl | *Bubo virginianus* |
| White-throated Swift | *Aeronautes saxatalis* | Common Goldeneye | *Bucephala clangula* |
| Red-winged Blackbird | *Agelaius phoeniceus* | Red-tailed Hawk | *Buteo jamaicensis* |
| Wood Duck | *Aix sponsa* | Rough-legged Hawk | *Buteo lagopus* |
| Chukar | *Alectoris chukar* | Ferruginous Hawk | *Buteo regalis* |
| Northern Pintail | *Anas acuta* | Swainson's Hawk | *Buteo swainsoni* |
| American Widgeon | *Anas americana* | Western Sandpiper | *Calidris mauri* |
| Green-winged Teal | *Anas carolinensis* | California Quail | *Callipepla californica* |
| Cinnamon Teal | *Anas cyanoptera* | Wilson's Warbler | *Cardellina pusilla* |
| Blue-winged Teal | *Anas discors* | Turkey Vulture | *Cathartes aura* |
| Mallard | *Anas platyrhynchos* | Veery | *Catharus fuscescens* |
| Gadwall | *Anas strepera* | Hermit Thrush | *Catharus guttatus* |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | *Anser albifrons* | Swainson's Thrush | *Catharus ustulatus* |
| Golden Eagle | *Aquila chrysaetos* | Canyon Wren | *Catherpes mexicanus* |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | *Archilochus alexandri* | Semipalmated Plover | *Charadrius semipalmatus* |
| Great Blue Heron | *Ardea herodias* | Killdeer | *Charadrius vociferus* |
| Sage Sparrow | *Artemisiospiza belli* | Snow Goose | *Chen caerulescens* |
| Short-eared Owl | *Asio flammeus* | Lark Sparrow | *Chondestes grammacus* |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Birds* (*cont.*)** | | ***Birds (cont.)*** | |
| Common Nighthawk | *Chordeiles minor* | Common Loon | *Gavia immer* |
| American Dipper | *Cinclus mexicanus* | MacGillivray's Warbler | *Geothlypis tolmiei* |
| Northern Harrier | *Circus cyaneus* | Northern Pygmy Owl | *Glaucidium gnoma* |
| Marsh Wren | *Cistothorus palustris* | Sandhill Crane | *Grus canadensis* |
| Northern Flicker | *Colaptes auratus* | Cassin's Finch | *Haemorhous cassinii* |
| Rock Dove | *Columba livia* | House Finch | *Haemorhous mexicanus* |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | *Contopus cooperi* | Bald Eagle | *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* |
| Western Wood-peewee | *Contopus sordidulus* | Evening Grosbeak | *Hesperiphona vespertina* |
| American Crow | *Corvus brachyrhynchos* | Barn Swallow | *Hirundo rustica* |
| Common Raven | *Corvus corax* | Yellow-breasted Chat | *Icteria virens* |
| Steller's Jay | *Cyanocitta stelleri* | Bullock's Oriole | *Icterus bullockii* |
| Black Swift | *Cypseloides niger* | Varied Thrush | *Ixoreus naevius* |
| Bobolink | *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* | Dark-eyed Junco | *Junco hyemalis* |
| Pileated Woodpecker | *Dryocopus pileatus* | Northern Shrike | *Lanius excubitor* |
| Gray Catbird | *Dumetella carolinensis* | Loggerhead Shrike | *Lanius ludovicianus* |
| Least Flycatcher | *Empidonax minimus* | California Gull | *Larus californicus* |
| Dusky Flycatcher | *Empidonax oberholseri* | Ring-billed Gull | *Larus delawarensis* |
| Willow Flycatcher | *Empidonax traillii* | Gray-Crowed Rosy Finch | *Leucosticte tephrocotis* |
| Grey Flycatcher | *Empidonax wrightii* | Long-billed Dowitcher | *Limnodromus scolopaceus* |
| Horned Lark | *Eremophila alpestris* | Belted Kingfisher | *Megaceryle alcyon* |
| Brewer's Blackbird | *Euphagus cyanocephalus* | Western Screech Owl | *Megascops kennicottii* |
| Merlin | *Falco columbarius* | Lewis's Woodpecker | *Melanerpes lewis* |
| Prairie Falcon | *Falco mexicanus* | Turkey | *Meleagris gallopavo* |
| Peregrine Falcon | *Falco peregrinus* | Lincoln's Sparrow | *Melospiza lincolnii* |
| American Kestrel | *Falco sparverius* | Song Sparrow | *Melospiza melodia* |
| American Coot | *Fulica americana* | Common Merganser | *Mergus merganser* |
| Common Snipe | *Gallinago gallinago* | Brown-headed Cowbird | *Molothrus ater* |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Birds* (*cont.*)** | | ***Birds* (*cont.*)** | |
| Townsend's Solitaire | *Myadestes townsendi* | Vesper Sparrow | *Pooecetes gramineus* |
| Long-billed Curlew | *Numenius americanus* | Flammulated Owl | *Psiloscops flammeolus* |
| Sage Thrasher | *Oreoscoptes montanus* | Common Grackle | *Quiscalus quiscula* |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | *Oreothlypis celata* | Virginia Rail | *Rallus limicola* |
| Nashville Warbler | *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* | American Avocet | *Recurvirostra americana* |
| Osprey | *Pandion haliaetus* | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | *Regulus calendula* |
| House Sparrow | *Passer domesticus* | Golden-crowned Kinglet | *Regulus satrapa* |
| Savannah Sparrow | *Passerculus sandwichensis* | Bank Swallow | *Riparia riparia* |
| Fox Sparrow | *Passerella iliaca* | Rock Wren | *Salpinctes obsoletus* |
| Lazuli Bunting | *Passerina amoena* | Say's Phoebe | *Sayornis saya* |
| White Pelican | *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* | Calliope Hummingbird | *Selasphorus calliope* |
| Gray Partridge | *Perdix perdix* | Broad-tailed Hummingbird | *Selasphorus platycercus* |
| Cliff Swallow | *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* | Rufous Hummingbird | *Selasphorus rufus* |
| Double-crested Cormorant | *Phalacrocorax auritus* | Yellow-rumped Warbler | *Setophaga coronata* |
| Common Poorwill | *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* | Yellow Warbler | *Setophaga petechia* |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | *Phasianus colchicus* | Townsend's Warbler | *Setophaga townsendii* |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | *Pheucticus melanocephalus* | Mountain Bluebird | *Sialia currucoides* |
| Black-billed Magpie | *Pica hudsonia* | Western Bluebird | *Sialia mexicana* |
| Downy Woodpecker | *Picoides pubescens* | Red-breasted Nuthatch | *Sitta canadensis* |
| Hairy Woodpecker | *Picoides villosus* | Red-naped Sapsucker | *Sphyrapicus nuchalis* |
| Spotted Towhee | *Pipilo maculatus* | Pine Siskin | *Spinus pinus* |
| Western Tanager | *Piranga ludoviciana* | American Goldfinch | *Spinus tristis* |
| Horned Grebe | *Podiceps auritus* | Brewer's Sparrow | *Spizella breweri* |
| Eared Grebe | *Podiceps nigricollis* | Chipping Sparrow | *Spizella passerina* |
| Pied-billed Grebe | *Podilymbus podiceps* | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* |
| Black-capped Chickadee | *Poecile atricapillus* | Western Meadowlark | *Sturnella neglecta* |
| Mountain Chickadee | *Poecile gambeli* | European Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris* |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Birds* (*cont.*)** | | ***Mammals (cont.)*** | |
| Tree Swallow | *Tachycineta bicolor* | Silver-haired Bat | *Lasionycteris noctivagans* |
| Violet-green Swallow | *Tachycineta thalassina* | Hoary Bat | *Lasiurus cinereus* |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | *Tringa flavipes* | Sagebrush Vole | *Lemmiscus curtatus* |
| Greater Yellowlegs | *Tringa melanoleuca* | Black-tailed Jackrabbit | *Lepus californicus* |
| House Wren | *Troglodytes aedon* | River Otter | *Lontra canadensis* |
| Winter Wren | *Troglodytes hiemalis* | Yellow-bellied Marmot | *Marmota flaviventris* |
| American Robin | *Turdus migratorius* | Striped Skunk | *Mephitis mephitis* |
| Eastern Kingbird | *Tyrannus tyrannus* | Long-tailed Vole | *Microtus longicaudus* |
| Western Kingbird | *Tyrannus verticalis* | Montane Vole | *Microtus montanus* |
| Barn Owl | *Tyto alba* | Meadow Vole | *Microtus pennsylvanicus* |
| Cassin's Vireo | *Vireo cassinii* | Water Vole | *Microtus richardsoni* |
| Warbling Vireo | *Vireo gilvus* | House Mouse | *Mus musculus* |
| Red-eyed Vireo | *Vireo olivaceus* | Short-tailed Weasel | *Mustela erminea* |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* | Long-tailed Weasel | *Mustela frenata* |
| Mourning Dove | *Zenaida macroura* | Mink | *Mustela vison* |
| White-crowned Sparrow | *Zonotrichia leucophrys* | Small-footed Myotis | *Myotis ciliolabrum* |
| ***Mammals*** | | Long-eared Myotis | *Myotis evotis* |
| Pygmy Rabbit | *Brachylagus idahoensis* | Little Brown Myotis | *Myotis lucifugus* |
| Coyote | *Canis latrans* | Fringed Myotis | *Myotis thysanodes* |
| Beaver | *Castor canadensis* | Yuma Myotis | *Myotis yumanensis* |
| Elk | *Cervus elaphus* | Bushy-tailed Wood Rat | *Neotoma cinerea* |
| Townsend's Big-eared Bat | *Corynorhinus townsendii* | Mule Deer | *Odocoileus hemionus* |
| Ord's Kangaroo Rat | *Dipodomys ordii* | White-tailed Deer | *Odocoileus virginianus* |
| Big Brown Bat | *Eptesicus fuscus* | Muskrat | *Ondatra zibethicus* |
| Porcupine | *Erethizon dorsatum* | Northern Grasshopper Mouse | *Onychomys leucogaster* |
| Mountain Lion | *Felis concolor* | Great Basin Pocket Mouse | *Perognathus parvus* |
| Bobcat | *Felis rufus* | Canyon Mouse | *Peromyscus crinitus* |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Mammals* (*cont.*)** | | ***Reptiles*** | |
| Deer Mouse | *Peromyscus maniculatus* | Rubber Boa | *Charina bottae* |
| Heather Vole | *Phenacomys intermedius* | Racer | *Coluber constrictor* |
| Western Pipistrelle | *Pipistrellus hesperus* | Western Rattlesnake | *Crotalus viridis* |
| Raccoon | *Procyon lotor* | Ringneck Snake | *Diadophis punctatus* |
| Norway Rat | *Rattus norvegicus* | Western Skink | *Eumeces skiltonianus* |
| Western Harvest Mouse | *Reithrodontomys megalotis* | Night Snake | *Hypsiglena torquata* |
| Masked Shrew | *Sorex cinereus* | Striped Whipsnake | *Masticophis taeniatus* |
| Water Shrew | *Sorex palustris* | Short-horned Lizard | *Phrynosoma douglasii* |
| Vagrant Shrew | *Sorex vagrans* | Gopher Snake | *Pituophis catenifer* |
| Columbian Ground Squirrel | *Spermophilus columbianus* | Sagebrush Lizard | *Sceloporus graciosus* |
| Spotted Skunk | *Spilogale gracilis* | Western Fence Lizard | *Sceloporus occidentalis* |
| Mountain Cottontail | *Sylvilagus nuttallii* | Western Ground Snake | *Sonora semiannulata* |
| Least Chipmunk | *Tamias minimus* | Western Terrestrial Garter Snake | *Thamnophis elegans* |
| Red Squirrel | *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* | Garter Snake | *Thamnophis sirtalis* |
| American Badger | *Taxidea taxus* | Side-blotched Lizard | *Uta stansburiana* |
| Northern Pocket Gopher | *Thomomys talpoides* | ***Amphibians*** | |
| Townsend's Ground Squirrel | *Urocitellus townsendii* | Long-toed Salamander | *Ambystoma macrodactylum* |
| Red Fox | *Vulpes vulpes* | Western Toad | *Anaxyrus boreas* |
| Western Jumping Mouse | *Zapus princeps* | Pacific Tree Frog | *Pseudacris regilla* |
| | | Bullfrog | *Rana catesbeiana* |
| | | Columbia Spotted Frog | *Rana luteiventris* |
| | | Northern Leopard Frog | *Rana pipiens* |
| | | Great Basin Spadefoot | *Spea intermontanus* |

# VIII. OTHER PROGRAMS

### Travel Program

Montour WMA is open to public travel use with the following restrictions:

Unauthorized vehicle access is a problem on the Funk, Fingal and Horsch segment. A signing program, barricading and personal contacts are being used to try to reduce this activity. The open topography of the area makes control of unofficial roads difficult.

### Agriculture and Grazing Leases

There are currently no agricultural leases on the WMA; however, there are two existing grazing leases; one is on the uplands at the western edge of the WMA, and one is on the northeastern corner on the north side of the Payette River. The rest of the previous agricultural and grazing leases have expired and no new lease agreements will be issued in the near future.

### Access Easements

The BOR has one access easement with a private landowner for a gauging station.

### Other Easements

The BOR has an 1890 ROW easement that extends for approximately two miles and includes approximately 24 acres along the east side of the Black Canyon Canal. According to U.S. Code Title 43, Chapter 22, Section 945, “in all patents for lands taken up after August 30, 1890, under any of the land laws of the United States or on entries or claims validated by this Act, west of the one hundredth meridian, it shall be expressed that there is reserved from the lands in said patent described a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States” (Cornell Law School website). The BOR exercised that reserved right on this segment of the Black Canyon Canal.

There are no known power line easements on BOR lands at Black Canyon Reservoir. However, large overhead power lines cross the reservoir east of Black Canyon Park that are owned by Idaho Power. No easement documentation related to these power lines exists. It is likely that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the independent regulatory agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, used their jurisdictional authority to place them there because it is federally owned land.

### Permits

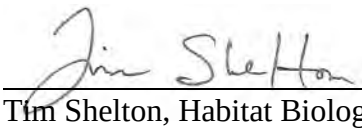
In coordination with the Department, BOR has provided a letter of authorization for allowing dog trial permits within the Montour WMA. These dog trials have taken place after the nesting season between August and September prior to pheasant releases, and have been consistent with WMA management goals and objectives.

# MONTOUR

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

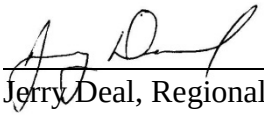
## Approval

**Submitted by:**

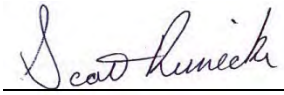


Tim Shelton, Habitat Biologist

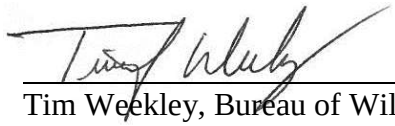
**Reviewed by:**



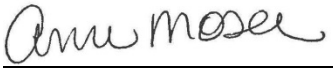
Jerry Deal, Regional Habitat Manager



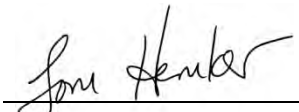
Scott Reinecker, Regional Supervisor



Tim Weekley, Bureau of Wildlife

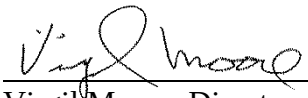


Ann Moser, Bureau of Wildlife



Tom Hemker, State Habitat Manager

**Approved by:**



Virgil Moore, Director